



Yath ċisum
Always growing
Grandissons ensemble

**Qualicum School District
Education Committee of the Whole Report
Tuesday, April 16, 2024
Via Video Conferencing
10:30 a.m.**

Facilitator: Trustee Julie Austin

Mandate:

To discuss and make recommendations to the Board on aspects of teaching, learning and educational equity. We will strive to have all students receive whatever they need to develop to their full academic and social potential and to thrive every day.

SCHOOLS AND/OR PROGRAMS

Ballenas Students' Field Experiences to Europe During Spring Break 2024

Two separate trips from Ballenas Secondary happened over spring break, one to London, Paris, Barcelona, and Rome, and another French immersion to France. Students shared how amazing it was to see places like the Roman Forum that can reveal layers upon layers of history, both socially and physically. Seeing Pagan temples buried under later constructions, then modern buildings atop them, highlights the diverse cultures that have thrived in the same geographic area over thousands of years. This experience can be 'mind-blowing', especially compared to regions where only a few cultures have left their mark. It's a testament to the richness and complexity of human history in a single location. Emma, a Grade 12 student from Ballenas Secondary school, shared the actions they took during their Europe trip to reduce their carbon footprint. They focused on walking extensively, averaging around 18,000 to 24,000 steps per day, used trains instead of flying whenever possible, prioritized locally produced food and small restaurants, and chose hotels in downtown areas to minimize commute times. Overall, these efforts likely reduced their carbon footprint by 10 to 20%. Greg, who led the trip, added that they flew with Air Canada, a carrier known for offsetting carbon emissions, and mentioned the distance they walked during the trip.



The French Immersion trip was also educational, serving as a Capstone Project for the student who took the lead in organizing the trip. It provided firsthand experience of French culture and history, boosting confidence in speaking French and fostering cultural appreciation. Students gained insights into history, particularly through visits to war memorials, understanding the real impact of historical events. They also implemented the "[Eden Project](#)" initiative, which supports reforestation projects worldwide. In 2021, this initiative contributed to planting 3,000,000 trees in Madagascar and Mozambique. The partnership with Eden was chosen due to fair wages and long-term ecological impact. Despite the effort and energy required, the trip was incredibly meaningful, thanks to the support of peers, teachers, and organizers.

CENTRE JUNO BEACH

*Un musée engagé pour la mémoire et le développement durable
A museum committed to memory and sustainable development*



educators-in-charge, Greg Muirhead and Ashley Lamoureux, also thanked the students for making their trip so great!

Educators-In Charge, Greg Muirhead and Ashley Lamoureux, also thanked the students for making their trip so great!

Hockey Program



Andrew Lee, Paul Wright (teacher coach of the Hockey Academy), and 2 students from Grade 8 gave a presentation planned about a board-authorized course, related to the hockey program that has been offered at Ballenas for the past 8 years. The Hockey Academy at Ballenas is focusing not just on skill development but also on building a strong team dynamic and fostering camaraderie among peers. They've implemented strategies to promote engagement and involvement, recognizing that when students are passionate about something and feel connected to their team, overall improvements are observed. The program has been

flexible and responsive to students' needs, evolving from the initial expectation of high-caliber players to accommodating various interests, including goalies, female players, and those who simply love hockey. The program has seen significant growth, with an increase in student participation, especially after the challenges of COVID-19.

This year they ordered custom jerseys and socks with students' names and numbers, organized a successful trip to watch a major junior hockey game in Victoria, and arranged competitive games with a neighboring program in Port Alberni, which received positive feedback from both students and parents. Additionally, they held a teachers versus students hockey game, which the students won for the first time in five years, showcasing the program's potential and the students' enjoyment of playing and improving their skills together.

This year the cost of the program was \$500.00. The Hockey Academy at Ballenas is committed to ensuring financial accessibility for all students who want to participate. They utilize funds from grants, school support, and a portion of the student fees to provide subsidies and make sure no student is excluded due to financial reasons.

The Hockey Academy course would be worth four credits, distinct from other courses that may fulfill both Grade 12 and elective credits. The decision to offer this course is driven by student interest and their desire to continue with regular PE classes while also participating in the hockey program. Students would still take PE classes in grades eight, nine, and ten, along with active living 11 and/or 12, and the hockey course would be an additional option once all requirements are met.

Resource:

Qualicum School District Programs of Choice : [https://www.sd69.bc.ca/Programs/Education/Programs/Pages/Secondary.aspx#/=](https://www.sd69.bc.ca/Programs/Education/Programs/Pages/Secondary.aspx#/)

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AND CLIMATE ACTION

Brant Wildlife Children's Festival – Arrowview Elementary School



GIVING

A public celebration of learning orchestrated by Arrowview Elementary students and teachers together with the Qualicum Beach Streamkeepers.

GROWING

The Brant Wildlife Children's Festival underscores our community's passion for collaboration and the environment.

LEARNING

This event provides insight into our youths' devotion for preserving nature, while paralleling the community groups' endeavors

BELONGING

Bridging the gap between classrooms and the community, fostering a collective sense of responsibility for the environment together.

Principal Jennifer Fuhrmann presented on the second annual Brant Wildlife Children's Festival hosted by Arrowview Elementary. It was a great success with over 400 participating. There is a strong emphasis on inclusivity and hands-on learning in the program. The little fox display and the inclusion of the Hul'q'umi'num' language and definitions demonstrate a commitment to diversity and cultural

awareness. Students engage with various sea life, including kelp, which offers a tactile and fascinating experience. The program's engaging nature extends beyond the classroom, fostering connections with local volunteers who help coordinate activities and tables. This collaboration creates a sense of belonging and community involvement, encouraging others to participate and marking the event as a highlight for students and attendees alike.

REMINDER:

Kwalikum Secondary School Climate Action Conference April 24, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre

The Mid-Island Youth Climate Symposium is a thought-provoking event for students, with the goal to educate about the effects of climate change. This educational gathering will take place on April 24, 2024 at the Qualicum Beach Civic Centre.

It will feature engaging keynote speakers, interactive presentations, and discussion groups. We hope this event will empower young people passionate about climate action, to stay informed, stay active, and use their voice.

Resources: KSS Climate Symposium 2024 website: <https://youthsymposium2024.wixsite.com/home>

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY

District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) Correspondence re: Pride Month



There's a call for the district to show strong support for the community by pushing for initiatives like banners, public statements, rainbow crosswalks, and flag poles that represent inclusivity and diversity. The idea is to proactively lead and set a positive tone rather than reacting to negative feedback or incidents. This proactive approach would empower schools, principals, and vice principals to take action and demonstrate solidarity with the community, showing that the district is ahead on these important issues. There was discussion about the importance of representing inclusivity and diversity in schools and the district. Flying flags, including the pride flag, has been a topic, with considerations about how to handle feedback and protocol regarding flag flying. There's a desire for proactive and positive messaging from the district to show ongoing support, not just on specific days or events but throughout the year, to ensure that every student feels welcome and represented every day. The focus is on creating an environment of inclusivity and acceptance continuously, rather than as a temporary gesture.

Senior staff is discussing what we can do as a district and talking to school principals and vice-principals so they know they are supported.

Associate Superintendent Wilson noted that the McCreary Report provided insights into the changing demographics and identities within the community, specifically in terms of sexual orientation and gender identification. The report revealed a decrease in the percentage of students identifying as straight, indicating a shift in how students perceive and express their identities. This data is crucial for understanding the evolving needs and experiences of students and emphasizes the importance of inclusivity and equity initiatives in schools. By utilizing this data, the district can better address the needs of all students and create a more inclusive environment for everyone. The McCreary Report from The BC Adolescent Health Survey (BC AHS) is a province-wide survey administered to youth in Grade 7 to 12 since 1992. The survey gives an evidence base of youth health trends, emerging issues, and risk and protective factors for healthy development.

DPAC and the Qualicum SD are hosting the return visit of LGBTQ+ Trainer, Strategist & Collaborator, Mischa Oak, on May 22 at 6:00pm in the Ballenas theatre.

Resources:

McCreary Centre Society: The BC Adolescent Health Survey https://mcs.bc.ca/about_bcahs

Mischa Oak <https://www.lgbtqcorporatetraining.com/mischoak.html>

SHARED LEARNING

Learning Rounds

The learning grants presentation is scheduled for June 17th at Sunrise Ridge. More details will be provided later, but it's good to have it in the calendars as a heads up.

Rudy updated us on the literacy series for grade nine teachers that stemmed from the fall assessment of all grade nine students. The three-part learning round series involved fifteen teachers from all four high schools, providing an opportunity for observation, collaboration, and sharing of effective teaching practices. Building on this, the district is launching a numeracy series this spring with Carol Fullerton, focusing on topics like multiplication, division, problem-solving, and fractions. Additionally, there's a dinner series open to all teachers to discuss numeracy across various subjects, such as social studies and science, to enhance students' numeracy skills. These initiatives show a commitment to continuous learning and improvement within the Qualicum School District.

Summary of Inclusive Vision for Education

Gillian and Rudy gave an update on the significant progress in developing an inclusive vision for education within the Qualicum School District. The process involved a full-day session with Kale Burke, including teachers, the MATA(Mount Arrowsmith Teachers' Association) president, and administrators from both elementary and secondary levels. The focus was on defining observables and creating a clear understanding of what inclusive education means in the community, emphasizing the importance of equity and individualized approaches for each student. The work also includes aligning this vision with the district's strategic priorities to ensure that inclusivity is integrated into all aspects of education. The next steps involve refining the draft document and bringing it back to the group for further discussion and feedback.

INFORMATION

Coffee with Trustees – Next one is Wednesday, May 1 at Kwalikum Secondary at 3:00pm

COFFEE WITH TRUSTEES SCHEDULE	
KWALIKUMM SECONDARY	MAY 1 @ 3:00
BOWSER ELEMENTARY	JUNE 5 @ 2:48

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION TO MOVE TO THE BOARD MEETING

Board Authority/Authorized (BAA) Course - Hockey Skills 10-12

UPCOMING TOPICS

- Outdoor Programs
- Technology

NEXT MEETING DATE

Tuesday, May 21, 2024 at 2:30 p.m. via Microsoft TEAMS