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Always growing
Grandissons ensemble

**QUALICUM SCHOOL DISTRICT
EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2024
2:30 P.M.
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING**

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.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AND CLIMATE ACTION

KSS Student Council- Spring Climate Symposium

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.

KSS students provided details about the upcoming environmental symposium, mentioning new activities such as a collaborative mural and guided discussions with topic questions. The environmental symposium is being held for the second time, scheduled for **April 24th, 2024**, at the **Civic Center in Qualicum**. They highlight the goal of empowering young people passionate about climate action to stay informed, take action, stay involved, and use their voice. The speakers list is yet to be confirmed; however, Tzaporah Berman, a Canadian environmental activist, campaigner, and writer, known for her role in creating and leading negotiations for the Great Bear Rainforest Agreement and the Canadian Boreal Forest Initiative will be attending virtually. Her work has contributed to the protection of over 4,000,000 hectares of old growth.

The students provided a glimpse into last year's schedule, featuring presentations, keynote speakers, and guided discussions. The goal is to inspire and motivate secondary school youth to make positive environmental changes by connecting and uniting them. The symposium also includes student groups and organizations with booths and presentations.

**2024 Mid-Island
Youth Climate
Action
Symposium**

When
Apr 24, 2024, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Where
Qualicum Beach,
747 Jones St, Qualicum Beach, BC V9K 1S7, Canada



Last year's symposium achieved positive outcomes, inspiring and motivating secondary school youth to make environmental changes in their communities and schools. The platform provided for students to connect and unite proved effective, revealing that when students join forces, they become a powerful force for change. The sense of unity and shared purpose demonstrated that they are not alone in their cause, leading to increased motivation for taking action.

The school district will help with messaging and networking to help get the word out about this event to other districts and schools. We'll keep everyone posted as this excited event further develops.

Resources:

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

SCHOOLS AND/OR PROGRAMS

CEAP/ PASS

(Collaborative Education Alternative Program/Parksville Alternate Secondary School) at Winchelsea Learning Centre

Principal Autumn Taylor explained the difference between CEAP and PASS. CEAP operates as an online school, following provincial standards for online learning from kindergarten to grade twelve. Despite being named an "alternate program," it is not categorized as such; it was previously a distributed learning model, and the province has since redefined the concept of an online learning school. They are currently navigating these changes, particularly in implementing a blended model for elementary students rather than exclusive online learning. The online school operates independently with separate funding and staff from the alternate school (referred to as "PASS"), which adheres to its own provincial guidelines. The alternate school's mandate is to help students well enough to transition back into mainstream education.

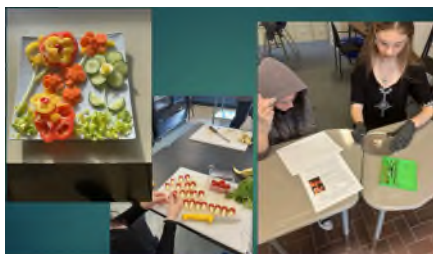
Going Well

- ▶ Truth and Reconciliation
 - Check ins
 - Land based learning – connectedness
 - Exploring Identity
 - Reciprocal Relationships
- ▶ Building a Sense of Community
- ▶ Connecting with Others – CEAP/Ks/Trails/Mosaic
- ▶ Relationship

Autumn highlighted the positive impact of having a diverse group of students in the school, noting that it encourages respectful behaviour among students who may not be accustomed to it. Autumn showcased a presentation by students for younger peers on composting, emphasizing the leadership role students are taking in promoting sustainability. Autumn also shared an example of a student creatively integrating art with the Foods program, showcasing a project of a mushroom forest made for everyone to enjoy at lunch. Additionally, they discuss engaging in activities like eyeball dissections through collaboration with standard schools, aiming to enhance the science and math aspects of their curriculum. Autumn showed two videos, specifying that it's the kids' voices featured in them, not their own. The students spoke highly of the teachers and the PASS program and how learning could be tailored to their individual needs.

Our Next Steps

- ▶ Learning around project based learning
- ▶ Student advisory meetings
- ▶ Plan for Social Emotional topics
- ▶ Partnerships with Standard Schools
- ▶ CEAP High School



The school has a commitment to truth and reconciliation, incorporating it into the curriculum through daily practices like circular check-ins, land-based learning, and fostering connectedness to the community. The focus includes exploring students' identities and nurturing reciprocal relationships, teaching the concept of giving and taking in true friendships. There is an importance of breaking down stereotypes about the school, highlighting the students' growing sense of pride and belonging.

Winchelsea Learning Center (WLC) has a new PAC (Parent Advisory Council) that is thriving. The collaboration between the PACs and the support from Autumn, the school, and the district are highly praised.

Resources:

CEAP - [CEAP website](#)

PASS - [PASS website](#)

Healthy Minds App- UBC

Associate Superintendent Wilson, expressed a desire to show the app; however, she has not been allowed to see the app and a demo run has not been provided yet. It is anticipated that the app will be shown to adults, possibly by UBC, after the completion of the pilot in another week and a half. Presently, access to the app for feedback is limited to the youth. Stay tuned.

Resources:

Healthy Minds Project - <https://blogs.ubc.ca/healthyyoungminds/about/>

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY

February 20, 2024 – World Day of Social Justice

SHARED LEARNING

McCreary Centre Society's BC Adolescent Health Survey

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. Gillian provided an overview of a youth mental health report comparing data from 2018 to 2023 in our district. The report is based on assessments administered by health authorities in schools. Highlights include:

1. **Post-Secondary Plans:** A notable decrease from 81% planning to attend post-secondary in 2018 to 68% in the latest survey.
2. **Healthcare Access:** Concerns about accessing healthcare resources, with comments about waitlists for community supports impacting timely access.
3. **Mental Health Ratings:** A high percentage (poor and fair) in self-rated mental health, indicating concerns.
4. **Vaping:** A focus on vaping concerns, especially in bathrooms, and an emphasis on addressing this issue.
5. **Eating Disorders:** A rising concern about body image and eating disorders among both male and female students.
6. **Substance Use:** Data on substance use, including vaping, with attention to the age (as young as 13) at which students first engage in these behaviors.
7. **Sexual Health:** Statistics on the age at which students first engage in sexual activity, highlighting the need for sexual health education.

Throughout the presentation, Associate Superintendent Wilson emphasized the importance of addressing these issues and tailoring interventions to specific age groups. She also touched on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on post-secondary plans and notes the broader trends in decreased interest in post-secondary education nationally and internationally. The presentation aims to inform discussions around student well-being and support strategies.

Asked about the E.N.I.T.Y. [(Educating New Ideas Towards Youth) program, a partnership between Qualicum SD and Island Health that ran for a number of years in our district as a peer-to-peer education program], the committee was informed of challenges such as short staffing that have impacted the ability to fully resume the program. Associate Superintendent Wilson emphasized the importance of having adequate staff to run the program effectively. Soft starts to reintroduce the program are currently in progress, including connections with Grade 8 students, visits to Family Place, and awareness of the Youth Clinic. Pilot projects, such as pop-ups in high schools, aim to address the impact of not having the E.N.I.T.Y. program in schools. The plan is to gradually reintroduce the program, with peer education becoming a focus in the following year.

Resources: The BC Adolescent Health Survey (BC AHS) https://mcs.bc.ca/about_bcahs

INFORMATION

ISP (International Student Program) Summary

Gillian provided updates on the following programs and initiatives:

1. **Summer Program:** A summer program is scheduled at Springwood Elementary School for 45-50 international students from Japan, Taiwan, and Kazakhstan. The program includes English, social studies, and participation in the global GISP program.
2. **Student Exchanges:** Three local students are participating in exchanges with Germany, Mexico, and Japan, fostering relationships with schools in those countries.
3. **Student Ambassador Program:** Funded through a program development initiative, this program facilitates exchanges between students from different countries.
4. **Soccer Program Development:** There is interest in developing a soccer program, considering past success with soccer initiatives.
5. **Science and Technology Program:** Kevin is collaborating with Carl Savage at Ballenas to explore opportunities for expanding science methodology programs, catering to international students interested in science.
6. **Recruitment for Next Year:** The recruitment process for the International Student Program (ISP) is underway, including adjustments to fees in alignment with other districts.

There are efforts to diversify and enhance international programs, addressing academic and extracurricular interests to attract students from various countries. Additionally, it highlights collaborations with educators and experts in specific fields to provide enriched experiences for international students.

Resources: Qualicum SD ISP - <https://schoolincanada.ca/>

Tribune Bay Outdoor Education Centre Update



Secretary Treasurer, Ron Amos, reported on the suspension of operations or programs at Tribune Bay Outdoor Education Centre. The decision was made by the society overseeing it, considering financial implications and resource limitations. As a result, the Outdoor Education Centre will not be operational for the current year.

Secretary Treasurer Amos, and the past Secretary Treasurer of the Comox Valley School District, including the BC Parks Manager and the Director of Operations from Comox Valley School District, plan to visit and review the site for future planning. BC Parks expressed a desire to maintain the property for outdoor education, whether under the school boards or another responsible entity.

Trustee expressed sadness over the closure, acknowledging that efforts have been made over the years to find additional uses and revenues for the site. Despite the closure, the property remains with BC Parks, providing an opportunity for continued public use. The future of Tribune Bay Outdoor Education Centre is uncertain, but there is hope for new energy and opportunities to replace it.

Resources: Tribune Bay Outdoor Education Centre <https://www.tribunebayoutdoored.ca/>

Responsive Framework – Literacy and Numeracy

The responsive framework for literacy and numeracy, led by Rudy Terpstra, Director of Instruction, has been adapted from work done in Vernon. The project focuses on curating resources available in the community, involving the District Resource Centre (DRC), teacher librarians, learning teams, and the Indigenous Education department. The project will come before the board at some point and emphasize the importance of keeping them informed.

Coffee with Trustees – Next one is Wednesday, April 3rd at Ballenas Secondary



COFFEE WITH TRUSTEES SCHEDULE	
BALLENAS SECONDARY	APRIL 3 @ 3:05
KWALIKUMM SECONDARY	MAY 1 @ 3:00
BOWSER ELEMENTARY	JUNE 5 @ 2:48

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION TO MOVE TO THE BOARD MEETING

None

UPCOMING TOPICS

- Outdoor Education Programs
- Technology

NEXT MEETING DATE

Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 2:30 p.m. via video conferencing