

OCTOBER

First Nations Education Services

October 2015



**September 30, 2015
First Nations
Education
Agreement Signing
See more inside...**

Past Aboriginal Grads of SD 69!

This month we are profiling Mary Galloway, who graduated from Kwalikum Secondary in 2008. Mary belongs to Cowichan Tribes in Duncan. In particular, we want to speak about how Mary left Qualicum and moved to Vancouver...where she has begun a career in acting. She has had spots in TV shows such as **Supernatural**, **The Untold Stories of the ER** and..... In addition, this past September she played the lead in a film called **Fire Song**, which premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival.

In her bio on her Web page (marygalloway.com) she tells the story of how it all began:

One fall afternoon, the sun shining in and about her, excitement in the air, she happened upon a school of acting. Quite un-Mary-like, she paused, pondered: "What do I have to lose? Nothing! What do I have to gain? Everything!" Mary enrolled.

Two wonderful years of an intensive, full-time acting program whipped Mary into shape. Not only did she break out of her shell, she found her voice; now able to admit to herself and confess to her peers what she had secretly dreamed of doing... of becoming a story-teller and actress. Shy, little Mary graduated with a 98% average and more than thirty acting-credits beside her name.

Writer Paul Grenier says:

Mary's passion for a career in the performing arts extends to work on her own projects, not the least of which is a feature film called "Down Beat". It focuses on real world issues faced by young female professionals including those unique to First Nations women across North America.

"My advice for others graduating from SD69 is take what you've learned, be grateful for what you were given but to expand your horizons. I had no idea I could be an actress until I left Vancouver Island. And although I still love it on the island I am happy I left. When you are young there's nothing better you can do than explore the world outside of your comfort zone. Take a leap of faith and don't set any limits on what type of career you want. Find something you absolutely love and do everything you can to make a career out of it. It takes hard work, and your parents might tell you to do something that you can make money at but don't listen to them. You are the one who is going to be doing it for the rest of your life so make sure you pick something you love and get trained in it. Hone your skills so that you can charge a decent rate in order to sustain yourself and you'd be surprised how far you can go. And that you can in fact make a living out of anything you dream of. Just know it will take a ton of hard work and dedication. And don't be lazy about it! Just go for it!"



It's a fishy time of year!

The *Dog Salmon Moon* happens on October 27 this year.

This moon means that it's time to catch, clean and preserve food for the winter. The leaves begin to turn white...and drop from the trees. It is the moon of frost. And most importantly, the dog salmon (or chum salmon) ascend the river.

A dog salmon is called a kwaluxw in Hul'qami'num. The word Qualicum comes from kwaluxw. Kwaluxw'xwum literally meaning the place where there are lots of dog salmon. There are two other Kwaluxw xwums. One near Beecher Bay. And one near Bellingham in northern Washington.

Kwaluxw is particularly important to local First Nations people because it is the fish that is most often dried to store over winter. The meat on a dog salmon is not as oily as the other forms of salmon, so it is less likely to go rancid. Some people call a kwaluxw, 'the big brother'. It is the last and strongest salmon to go up the river...making sure that everything is as it should be for the winter.



Here we see dog fish being prepared for the smoke house



Grade 5 students from Ms Knights's class at QBES toured the Big Qualicum fish hatchery in October, and then went to Qualicum First Nation where they watched a fish being speared. The class finished by walking up the traditional trading trail towards Port Alberni.

Lacrosse

Lacrosse is a traditional First Nations game—originating in eastern Canada. Sometimes it is called the Creator's Game. Originally, lacrosse was played in fields, usually between two settlements. Sometimes the fields were miles long. Today it has evolved into a field 110 metres by 55 metres. Males and females play 2 kinds of lacrosse games: field lacrosse and box lacrosse.

In our area, Ballenas Secondary student Jasmin Shafi plays lacrosse for the girls' Nanaimo lacrosse team and boys' Mid Island Lightning team. Jasmin has played lacrosse for ten years, both box and field. Recently, she scored three goals for her Mid Island team on Saturday against North Island. Way to go Jazzy!

For more information on Oceanside Lacrosse, you can go to their website: omla.com



HELP!

If you have time... we would like to invite families of SD 69 students to be on the Aboriginal Advisory committee. For the most part meetings are during the day...but the committee is flexible.

The committee helps advise the FN Ed Department on a variety of things, working toward the improved education opportunities of our children.

If you are interested in helping out with this, please contact Rosie at 250-954- 3041

Or Carrie at 250-954-3045

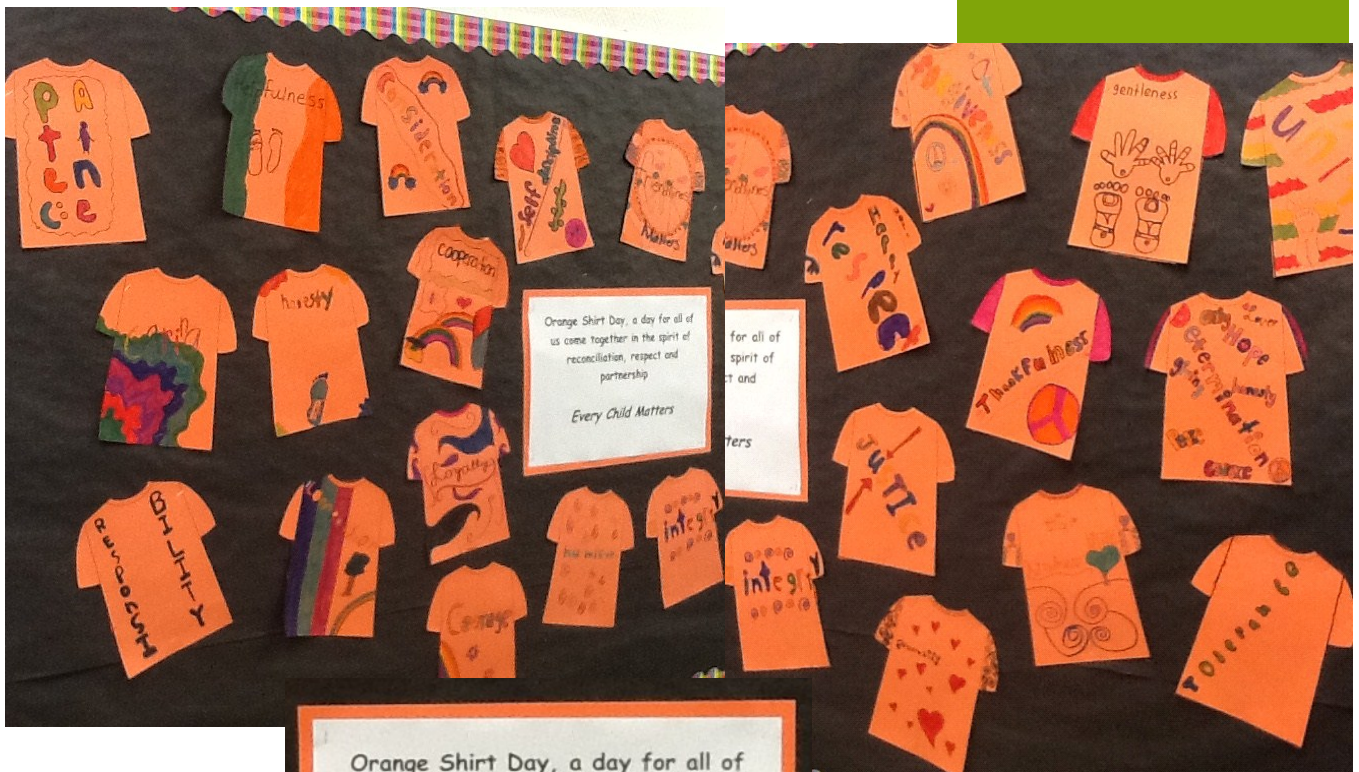


Signing the Agreement!

The Signing of the First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Education Enhancement Agreement went off without a hitch on Wednesday September 30th.. The event was MC'd by Jesse Recalma (past grad) and attended by representatives from Qualicum and Nanoose First Nations, the School Board, MATA, CUPE, parents, and other welcome visitors. Rosie McLeod-Shannon organized the day, which included a traditional witnessing ceremony and several speakers. A welcome song as sung by Sean, Bryant, Reid, Leroy and Jesse. Students Jaime and Maggie Couckell, Sarah Waterhouse, Bryant Gordon, Zak Myers (past grad), and Jamie Coots (past grad) all spoke of their experiences being Aboriginal and attending sd69. Rollie Coop spoke on behalf of SD 69. Mike Recalma, chief of Qualicum First Nation and Pattie Edwards, representative of Nanoose First Nation also took the opportunity to speak to the event. First Nations Advisory Chairperson Donna Kennedy took time to acknowledge the work done and welcomed everyone to the proceedings. A meal following the signing was served where a spontaneous drum jam happened...followed by amazing food prepared by Indigenous chef Laurie Montour!



Friendship Bench being built by elder Dave Wells at Qualicum First Nation. The bench will be used at Oceanside Elementary School.



Orange Shirt Day, a day for all of us come together in the spirit of reconciliation, respect and partnership
Every Child Matters

From Ms. Waters grade 5 class at Arrowview Elementary