

First Nations

Education Services

Helping?!

We come from generous people. We come from people who believe that both giving and receiving are valuable. And so helping people at Christmas feels like an important thing to do. And there are ways to give that require no money at all...and yet help people who have less than they need.

Teaching children to be generous can be difficult, especially as we live in such a materialistic society. Children are used to 'having' now and are often not happy with 'giving'. I took a 5 year old shopping last week to buy a gift for her grandmother. It was so hard for her to do that. "Putting things away for Christmas isn't very fun" were her exact words. (she bought her Gramma toys you see...).

We live in a world where 'having more' is seen as more important than giving more. It goes against our traditional beliefs but the idea is sold to us everywhere we go: to have a bigger house; our own bedrooms; the latest gadgets.

Finding the balance between traditional values and contemporary culture is a challenge I believe we're up to. (see next page for ideas)



Schedule

Last day before holidays is December 18th. And the students and staff return to School on January 4th.

Nanoose Bay Elementary

Student Kyrrah



Cieara Bennett and Maya Lloyd- Walters having fun at Errington while they were making owls.



with the dreamcatcher she made

The heart mind online people...did some research and discovered that “Students who regularly perform kind acts can expect to be more accepted by peers and to increase their general sense of well-being”. Here are some ideas:

1. Pick a bouquet of winter greens (cedar boughs, salal boughs, holly berries) and leave them on someone’s porch when they are not home.
2. Give “Santa gifts” to you children that are of less value than the gifts families give. That way, for children with low income homes, there is not a sense that Santa treats some kids better than others.
3. Make “happy message’ cards and hand them out to strangers on the street.
4. Smile at people.
5. Have children go to homes of elders and do simple chores. They can offer to do dishes. Or weed a garden. Or make them a cup of tea and have a visit. The old value of serving our elders often gets lost in a world that is so busy.



Moon of Shining Ice

December 25 not only Christmas this year...but the Moon of Shining ice. It’s cold outside. Steelhead begin their journey up the river. Lingcod and ravens lay their eggs. It is a time to stay warm inside preparing for the next year.



We’re happy to announce Our new website profile is up and running!

When you go to sd69.bc.ca— click on programs and services at the top right. Click on the First Nations line. And voila...out new website where we have the opportunity to post announcements; a calendar; newsletter sign ups...and things that you feel are important.

Scroll to the bottom of the page...enter your email if you would like to receive our newsletters via email. (they look so much better in colour!)



Cassie and Natasha (PASS) helping us laminate new locally developed resources out of Winchelsea Place



This argillite spearhead was found and still lives at Qualicum First Nation. Argillite (the stone) is only found on Haida Gwaii. It would have been brought here by raiding parties who canoed down from Haida Gwaii!



**Beading Flowers
at
Springwood
Elementary**



Happy Birthday in Hulqaminum!

Iyus skweyul un shqwun
Iyus skweyul un shqwun
Iyus skweyul
Iyus skweyul
Iyus skweyul un shqwun

It literally translates to mean
Happy Day when you were born!



Past Grad Melanie Bob speaks to gt 6-7 at Springwood El

Past students: Matraca Paquette and Lance Dodding

Lance Dodding is from Qualicum First Nation and graduated from KSS in 2005. After completing he went on to take a chef training program at Vancouver Island University where he graduated in 2007. He is currently working towards his Red Seal. He is working as a chef at Rimrock Casino as a chef.

Matraca Paquette is Metis and graduated from Ballenas in 2009. In 2013 she graduated from her Community Support Worker program where she specialized in social services.

Matraca and Lance recently bought a home in Port Alberni...where they last year welcomed their son Ryker to the world.

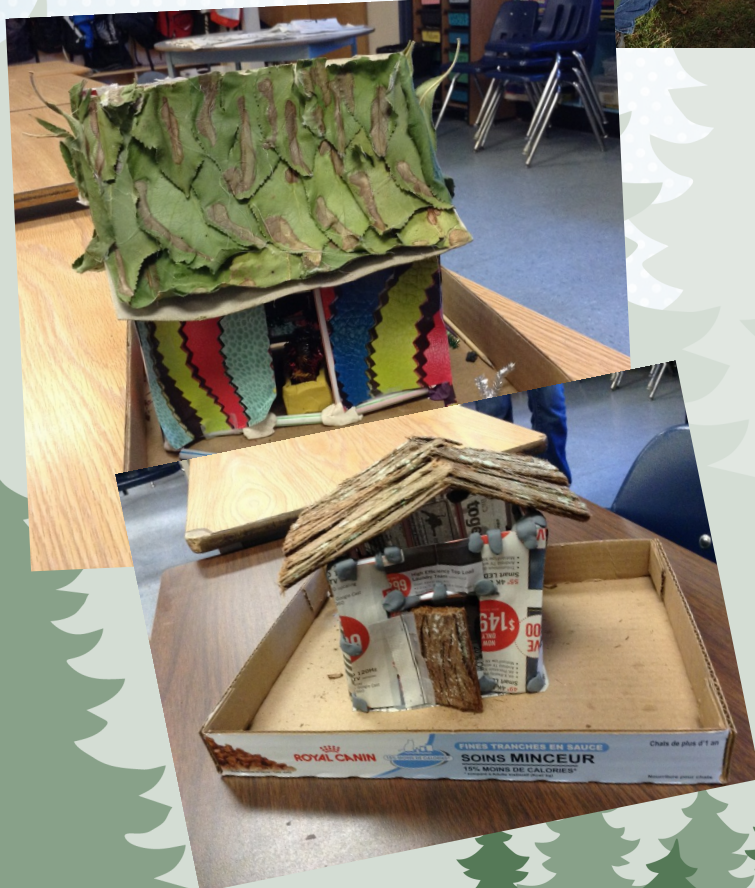
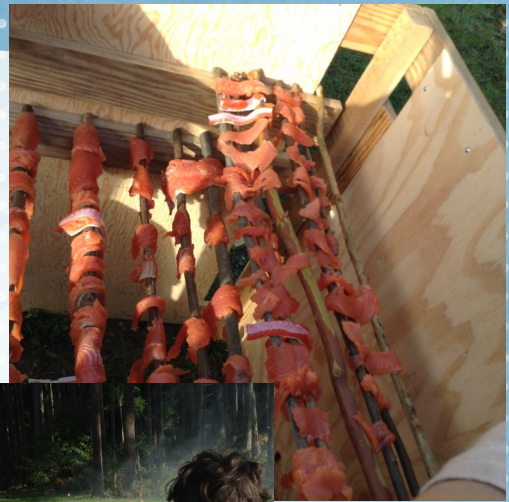
Lance's message to students today: "I would tell myself and all the new graduates I wished I learned better in school and got myself a job that had bankers' hours because I had no life. I didn't go out. I have not yet had a vacation, but that was the past. Now I have a wonderful child and it's great but I wish more than ever I had learned more in school because I really don't see him much because of the hours and it's my choice but since I have everything....it cost too much to keep lol."

Matraca says: always follow your dreams and never give up. Always celebrate the little victories and little things. They matter the most.



We built smoke houses at Errington Elementary!

Grade 6-7 students, in Ms Armstrong and Ms McLaughlin's classes at Errington did a math unit this fall. The unit they worked with was developed by the Yupik people in Alaska. Studying measurement and geometry, most students built small models in the classroom. 8 students built an actual smoke house.. And then 4 other students smoked fish in it! The class experimented with different brines. Anyone I asked said they liked both kinds!





**Weaving Cedar
Bracelets in
Ms Hodgson's grade 2-3
class at
Springwood
Elementary**

