

WELCOME BACK!

First Nations Education Services

September 2015

Whoa! Where's everyone at?

Welcome to the 2015-16 School Year. We here at First Nations Education services are here and committed to providing the best we can to improve the education experience of children of Aboriginal ancestry. Meet our Staff:

Loanna Clint, *tla-qua-gilagwa* : Liaison Worker for Kwalkium Secondary and Ballenas Secondary

Linda Ermineskin, *himasaytook*: Liaison Worker for Oceanside Elementary and PASS/Woodwinds

Carmen Forrest: *kwanaxwalogwa* Liaison Worker for Bowser Elementary, Qualicum Elementary and KSS (grade 8)

Rosie McLeod-Shannon: District Principal for First Nations working out of Winchelsea Place

Colleen Manson, *huxwipuxw*: Hul'qami'num Language instructor at Nanoose Bay Elementary and Bowser Elementary

Dallas Phillips, Liaison Worker for Nanoose Bay Elementary and Springwood Elementary

Carrie Reid, *xwantumaat*: District Aboriginal Resource Teacher working out of Winchelsea Place

Roz Shafi, *timothee*: Liaison Worker for Errington Elementary, Arrowview Elementary and CEAP

Pat Strain: Administrative Assistant working out of Winchelsea Place

“The new 5-year Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement for SD 69 is going to be signed on September 30th at the School Board Office at 9:30 am. Highlights of the agreement are inside



Plotting out a smokehouse at Errington Elementary

Goals of the Enhancement Agreement

The goals listed here are broad...and specific content is available if you're interested. Just let us know.

- Support Transition between grades ten and twelve
- Increase numeracy skills for all grades
- Teach Hul'qami'num language
- Increase understanding of indigenous teaching styles and content
- Improve attendance by Exploring flexible learning environments

We do this under these guiding principles:

We believe it is important to:

Honour and acknowledge the traditional teachings of the elders/ ancestors and the wisdom and guidance which are to be found in First Nations, Metis and Inuit culture.

Promote a learning environment where First Nations, Metis and Inuit students feel confident and proud of their ancestry and where all students are aware, knowledgeable and respectful of First Nations, Metis and Inuit culture.

Acknowledge that at this time, the school success of First Nations, Metis and Inuit students may require educational enhancement in the form of the provision of additional resources and educational opportunities.

Develop shared responsibility and mutual respect through ongoing dialogue and strong relationships that recognize the cultural differences and diverse needs of First Nations, Metis and Inuit students.



Stripping cedar this past June...for use in classrooms

Full Moon: September 27

This moon brings with it the cold weather. The leaves fall off the trees. The cranberries ripen. The night-time tides start and clam digging becomes safe again. The winds begin to blow. And it is time to catch clean and preserve salmon.

Did you know?

The 2015 World Indoor Lacrosse Championship will be held, for the first time ever, on Indigenous land. The Onondaga Nation will host the competition in Syracuse. September 18-27. Wilc2015.com

Coming

soon...a list serve where you can receive this newsletter electronically...and in colour :)

Local Place Names:

We want to share these three in particular:

Thuxwiinum: French Creek is known as Thuxwiinum. It is the place where there are lots of coho.

Kwaluxw xum: Big Qualicum River is called Kwaxluxw'um. It is the place where there are lots of dog salmon

Aah Po qum: There was once a spring flowing into the Big Qualicum River (it's mostly dry now) called aah Po qum. It is the place where there are lots of maggots.

What do you notice about the names?

Why do you think it would be a name connoting wealth if there were lots of maggots somewhere?

It's also interesting to note that where Qualicum Beach is...even though it is named for Kwaluxw' xwum...is mis named. There are not lots of dog salmon on Qualicum beach :)

New BC Curriculum

The most exciting thing for me about the new BC Curriculum, is that it has First Nations content at every grade level in most subjects from Kindergarten to Grade 9. It's exciting and so I've been working with teachers at all grade levels to do as much implementation as we can this year. (this year it's optional...next year it's a full implementation.) As a result we are doing "smoke house math" in Errington...designing and building model smoke houses...and a real one. In Bowser there is an initiative to create an outdoor learning space modelled after a traditional long-house. Other activities include developing local social studies resources for Grades one and three. Looking at a unit on Metis culture at Grade four. Grade six has a focus on economy so we've been gathering materials on Dentalium shells. And in grade seven we are developing a unit on Kennewick Man. (the VERY old bones unearthed in Washington state).

Introducing Dallas!

My name is Dallas Phillips. I am very excited to be the new First Nations Liaison Worker for Springwood and Nanoose Bay Elementary. I am Metis and have recently moved to Parksville from Lillooet, BC., located in the Stl'at'imc Territory, where I worked as an Aboriginal Student Support Worker for the last two years. Before that I worked as an Education Assistant for three years. I look forward to learning about the local culture and sharing my knowledge in cultural activities with students. If you see me, please come say 'hi'!

Math?!

This year, one of the goals of our department is to work on increasing numeracy levels amongst Aboriginal children. They have historically been lower than the rest of the school populations. Which isn't quite accurate. They are on par with non-Aboriginal children until about grade 8 and then there is decreasing success.

Our plan is to provide more support to children, parents and teachers.

Games are fun ways to learn math. So we will be providing math puzzles and games in all of our issues of the FNES newsletter.

Examples of math that are culturally connected might include

Fishing:

Two spring salmon weigh the same as two chum and six coho. A chum weighs the same as three coho. How much does a spring way in terms of a coho?

Weaving:

You set your loom bars up to be one meter apart. How many meters of wool will you need to make a warp that is 1 meter wide...if the space between the warp threads is the same thickness as the wool..1 cm?

Picking Berries:

Which will take longer to pick and why? 100 huckleberries or 100 blackberries? Which will take up the largest volume?

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

Colleen Manson...our new Hul'qami'num Language teacher



Answers to math questions:

Fishing: This is how I figured it out. One spring is worth 1 chum and 3 coho. One chum is worth 3 coho. So one spring is worth 6 coho. How did you figure it out?

Weaving: This is how I figured it out: there are 100 cm...and one space and one wool equals 2 cm. So 50 meters...but! The loom has two sides...so it would be 100 metres.

Berry picking: This is how I figured it out: it should take about the same time to pick 100 berries...but the blackberries will take up more space because they are bigger. So more volume

Orange Shirt Day

September 30th, is set aside to commemorate and remember the experience of the thousands of children who were taken from their families and placed in Indian residential schools. Wearing an orange shirt shows a commitment to work towards reconciliation and to celebrate the fact that our children are no longer being taken away to residential schools.

Phyllis Webstad's story of having a brand new orange shirt given to her by her grandmother. When she got to the residential school at six years old, the school took the shirt away. Her powerful story of feeling as though no one cared spurred the movement that began Orange Shirt Day.

Everyone at SD 69 is encouraged to wear an orange shirt on Wednesday September 30th



Dentallium

Dentallium shells are found in the 'wild' on the west coast of Vancouver Island...in the very deepest water. They have been harvested using traditional techniques, by Nuuchah Nulth people since time immemorial.

What makes that so special? Well! The clothes to the left are made of Dentallium. The top is a Sioux cape. Sioux people live in north central U.S. (Brooklyn Museum) The bottom picture is a woman from Oregon State. (Edward Curtis photo). It shows how far the shells travelled.

Dentallium was in fact a form of currency in North America.