



CFN Days at North Oyster Elementary

On May 7th, the smell of bannock wafted through the halls of North Oyster Elementary, as the school and Chemainus First Nation came together to celebrate Coast Salish language and culture.

Throughout the school, groups of students moved between stations, manned by Chemainus First Nation members. The stations were designed to give students a sampling of CFN culture, language, sport, craft, storytelling and

smith Primary and Lady-smith Intermediate. to join in the fun, with members of Chemainus First Nation community generously offering their expertise, time and cultural knowledge.

Pearl Harris and Buffi David taught Hul'q'umi'num' using songs and the *Total Physical Response* method, while Nathan and Chuck Elliott were stationed outside to demonstrate the basics of Lacrosse. At the same time, other students played Lahal under the guidance of Laura Tait with Leslie Harris drumming and singing. Linda and Lennie Louie helped students make a cloth doll and button blanket while demonstrating how to make a cedar bark rose.

Lunch time cooks, Neal Harris, Faye Sampson and Gail MacAdam packed buffet ta-

bles with bannock, halibut, prawns and salads, much to everyone's enjoyment.



Not only were students actively engaged in games, sports, singing and crafts they also listened to Mabel Mitchell, an Elder from Chemainus First Nation as she translated the Three Bears into Hul'q'umi'num'. In the afternoon a team of community leaders from Chemainus First Nations participated in a panel discussion.

A great deal of thanks goes to Charlotte Elliott and her community helpers for bringing this celebration to North Oyster Elementary; and to Diane McGonigle and North Oyster staff and students for honouring CFN and Aboriginal Education.



games.

A great deal of expertise and organization went into making this day interesting and educational for all participants. As hosts of the day, North Oyster invited staff and students from Nutsuma Lelum, Lady-



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Duck Soup for the Aboriginal Soul

For eight years, the Vancouver Island Circle has produced a compendium of Aboriginal student writing and art.

In the 2007/2008 school year, 10 students from SD 68 made contributions to the 'Soup'. Student writings vary from short stories to poetry and non-

fiction writing. Illustration and artwork are included along with the writing.

In the spring of each year, schools are invited to submit Aboriginal student writing to Duck Soup publishers. All students and their schools receive a copy of the compendium. Don't be left out. submit your students writing next spring!

Contributors for 2007/2008

Noah Banman	Gr 4 Hammond Bay
Hollister King-Hunt	Gr 3 Dufferin Cresc.
Tiana Praud	Gr 7 Chase River
Jeremy Wheaton	Gr 5 North Oyster
Justin Joe	Gr 6 North Oyster
Darcy Rabideau	Gr 5 North Oyster
Bernadine David	Gr 5 North Oyster
Lucas Merlet	Gr 3 Hammond Bay
Nicole Dinel	Gr 8 NDSS
Tanya Wyse	Gr 9 Barsy

Aboriginal Graduation “Claynek”

On May 22nd, Aboriginal Education joined with Aboriginal Communities, proud families and schools to celebrate this years Aboriginal student graduates. Claynek (gathering of celebration) allows for communities, families and graduates to come together with educators for an evening of fun and celebration that includes dinner, cultural events and special presentations.

Aboriginal Education staff with the help of Barsby school, decorated the gym in an Aboriginal theme and more than five hundred people attended which goes along way in showing the enthusiasm for this event.

Following a traditional welcome to the Snuneymuxw Territory, our gallant MC’s, Brett Hancock and Chris Jones invited representatives from the communities and the District to say a few word of congratulation.

Highlights of the evening included a speech in Hul’qumi’num’ by a student, Laura-Lynn Johnny, the Bayview Shawl Dancers and

Drummers led by Linda Ermineskin, and the Khowtuzun Tzinquaw Dancers led by Elder Ray Peters. A surprise performance by LSS rappers, “Lil D & Mr John” aka Danny & John Daniels rounded off the entertainment.

One by one, each school group of graduates was danced in by the Khowtuzun Tzinquaw Dancers. Principals and Aboriginal Education staff introduced the grads and they were each presented with a certificate and an eagle pendant. Red salmon appliques added a festive Aboriginal touch to their grad caps and as each group stood at the front of the gym, family and friends snapped pictures and clapped loudly.

Aboriginal Education staff work hard to make this a memorable event for their grads and in the weeks leading up to Claynek, they collect gift items for baskets that are raffled off to happy winners. We’re grateful to the many businesses and organizations who donated these gifts and helped to make the evening a success.



Aboriginal Graduates 2007/2008



Dover Bay

*Cory Bob
Daniel Fortin
Spencer Frame
Stephen Glendale
Amy MacKinnon
Nicole Nordquist
Evelyn Roberts
Joel Salazar
Sarah Sampson
Shelby Scow
Emily Trenchard*

Ladysmith

*Elmer Aleck
Jessica Brown
Julie Busch
Peter Couchman
Dale Crocker
Danny Daniels
James Harris
Nathan Harris
Gordon Humchitt
Earl Jack
Ambrose Jim
Emily Louie
Billy Mawson
Michael Pooghkay
Monda Sampson
Josh Shephard
Tyler White
Aaron Yeryk*

Wellington

*Samantha Bunnah
Tiffany Cannon
Alicia Clish
Andrew Dick
Ashley Hrenyk
Kimberly Parenteau
Krissy Smith
Corey Wilson*

NDSS

*Mark Aleck
Trevor Andrews
Alyssa Bandurka
James Brown
Cheyenne Diehl
Kim Ferguson
Brittany Garneau
Sarah Hand
Jennifer Jackson
Shayd Johnson
David Lind
Alexander Ochs
Vicky Prevost
Ruth Shanks
Natasha Sutherland
Delani Valin
Tatum Wood*

Cedar

*James Boileau
Samantha Busch
Caesar Canchola
David Cramer*

*Jessee Davies-Barton
Sandra Fedorowich
Mark Lauriente
Alicia MacLeod
Makenzie McCreight
Naomi Thomas
Sabrina Wesley
Eli Wyse*

Woodlands

*Jessica Childs
Chase Cody
Earl Donahue
Amy Falkenberg
Brittany Forbister
Sheryl Nelson
Vincent Potskin
Misty Rein
Amanda Rice
Bonnie Tom
Mary-Anne William*

John Barsby

*Jesse Chappell
Roberta Flegel
Samantha Friesen
Jillian Gannon
Billy Good
Alex Hall
Tawnya Heyward
Alison Johnny
Thomas Johnny
Melissa Kneeshaw
Jacob LaRochelle
Jimmy McKay
Rylie Mitchell
Alisha Pirart
Pearl Seward
Steven Shannon
Cody Stewart
Skye Sutherland
Bryan Taylor
Dominic Underhay
Chanttel White
Kate Wilson
Marty Wyse*

Randerson Ridge Leadership Project with Aboriginal Education

Randerson Ridge – Canadian Historical Connections

Grade 6 and 7 students at Randerson Ridge Elementary brought spectators to tears!

Lynn Brown, a teacher, at Randerson Ridge Elementary has opened the doors to Aboriginal content. Lynn's grade 6 and 7 students have just completed a lengthy unit of study on historical events that have resulted in the building of Canada. What was unique about this unit was that Lynn invited me into her class in order to give an authentic voice to Aboriginal people's contribution to Canada.

The unit had some overriding themes. Students needed to become familiar with Canadian geography in reference to immigration and also familiarity with where these immigrants decided to settle in Canada. Next, students had to understand the impact that this immigration had on the Indigenous peoples who were already here. Lastly, these two themes were beautifully woven together with the Aboriginal perspectives of these historical events while also bringing in the relevance of the present day perspectives.

Students were able to demonstrate their knowledge of Canadian history in a variety of ways. All students were members of Literature Circles. Students chose novels of interest to them, read and then talked about



their connections to the stories. The piece that made this opportunity different was that all the novels were of either Aboriginal content or authorship. Students created *character containers* and

tableau's reflective of the characters in these same novels. Students wrote a *critical analyses* of the experiences of Watl'kina, a young boy of the Kwick'wa'sut'eneuk Nation and his memories of the banning of the Potlatch. These were based on a picture book entitled Secret of the Dance which was co-authored by Andrea Spalding and Alfred Scow.

The unit culminated in a full morning presentation based around students "Showing What We Know". Aboriginal adults from different facets of life were invited in to witness this celebration of learning. These visitors found the presentation extremely moving and powerful. I, too found the experience to be profound and what a learning experience for both Lynn and I!

By Laura Tait, District Aboriginal Support Teacher

District Review



As a result of the District Review, Aboriginal Education enjoyed special mention as a strength for SD68. Amongst a team of educators from around the province, Opal Canter,

District Principal of Aboriginal Education in Merritt (shown here with Terri Mack, Stella Bates and Laura Tait) commented on the number and depth of programs we have here in the District. Strengths of Aboriginal Education included, school based projects, communication and working collaboratively with our Aboriginal communities.

Minister Bond Visits Snu'ney'muxw First Nation

In a recent visit to Snu'ney'muxw First Nations, Minister of Education, Shirley Bond, along with her Deputy Minister, James Gorman, was presented with a paddle by Chief Viola Wyse. The Minister's visit included a tour of the SFN school and day care center, and a luncheon with Elders, Chief and Council, Education staff and parents. Minister Bond. Over lunch, Minister Bond listened to the Educational concerns and hopes of SFN, including the desire to expand their school, receive special needs funding, establish an infant development program and purchase a new bus. Minister Bond is seen here with Deputy Minister James Gorman and Chief Viola Wyse.



Aboriginal Kindergarten Program

The Aboriginal Kindergartens are located at Bayview and Georgia Avenue Elementary Schools. Students take part in a full day of Kindergarten. They have their regular program in the morning, and then participate in the



Aboriginal Kindergarten Early Learners Program (KELP) in the afternoon. This program supports the goals in the Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement. The Agreement is divided into four focus areas: Culture and Language, Academic, Learning Environment, and Individual Development.

The KELP program differs from the morning Kindergarten program in that we teach from a First Nations perspective as much as possible. Many wonderful resources are available in the FN section of the DRC including books, readers, dvds, cds, teaching units, art posters, and games.

Some of the highlights from the KELP are:

Culture and Language

Goal: To improve Aboriginal students knowledge of history, culture and language in order to enhance a sense of pride in aboriginal heritage



The Friendship

Circle - The students understand the significance of the circle having no beginning and no end. The talking stick is passed from child to child as each one shares something from his or her life. The students are learning speak-

ing and listening skills as well as understanding that they show respect for the speaker who holds the talking stick.

Hulq'u'min um - Yutustana:t (Mandy) comes to our class for 30 minutes each week to teach the traditional language of the Snuneymuxw Nation. Through storytelling, games, and songs, the students' vocabulary has been growing rapidly as we have covered numbers to 10, greetings, animals, days of the week, and colours.

Field Trips - Bayview students have participated in two visits to the Snuneymuxw Reserve. In the fall we went to have a look at a large elk that had been hunted and was hanging from a tree.

We learned about respect for animals and using all parts of the animal (the meat for eating, the skin for drum making, etc.). A few weeks later we had the opportunity to sample the elk after it had been prepared into sausage and jerky.

Our second trip was to visit a smokehouse as part of a salmon unit.

Storytelling - There are so many fantastic books available that tell First Nations stories...too many to list here... and we read (and re-read!) them regularly. Raven is always a favourite and the students know the story of "Raven Steals the Light" by heart. A success for passing along the oral tradition of storytelling! Other stories that have been popular have featured bear ("Little Bear's Vision Quest"), wolf ("Gray Wolf's Search"), coyote ("Coyote Steals the Blanket"), and salmon ("A Salmon for Simon").

Academic

Goal: To improve academic success of Aboriginal students

Reading Groups - A series of First Nations readers are available through the DRC, some of which feature photos from Campbell River. "The Big House", "My Grandpa" (featuring a grandparent in traditional activities such as trapping, hunting, and drumming), and "The Button Blanket" are a few examples.

Numeracy - Some examples of ways to incorporate Aboriginal education into academic curriculum include baking scow (a type of bannock) and patterning with beads. Baking is something we do fairly often and is always a favourite with our class. We're learning about measurement, having fun, and eating a tasty treat all at the same time! Patterning with colourful beads was an activity we did when we decorated our talking stick. The Button Blanket bin, available at the DRC, is an excellent math resource for counting, estimating, and patterning and sorting.

Science - Our class at Bayview did a mini-unit on the salmon as an extension to Book 1 in "The Learning Journey Series" (see below). The students learned about the life-cycle of the salmon in simple terms - the salmon lay eggs, the eggs hatch into fry, and the fry grow into salmon. We also had a demonstration of how to clean a salmon by Gena Seward-Wilson. Gena explained to the students step by step what she was doing and why, as well as pointing out the gills, the spine, and insides of the fish. We then baked the salmon and had a salmon feast. (Continued on P. 7)



Tillicum Lelum Coast Salish Days at Westwood Lake

Westwood Lake is the perfect setting for most outings, and especially so for Coast Salish Days hosted by Tillicum-Lelum Aboriginal Friendship Centre. For three days in late May, Tillicum provided students from Bayview, Randerson Ridge, Frank J Ney, Georgia Avenue, and Mt. Benson with the opportunity to learn more about Coast Salish culture.



listening to cultural teachers and playing lahal.

Although the weather was wet, students were attentive and appreciative and enjoyed the day. Some went home wet, but everyone went home wiser about Coast Salish Culture.



The cultural events sponsored by our community

partners are so important in raising awareness and knowledge regarding Aboriginal culture throughout the District. Our local First Nations willingness and ability to share their culture is most appreciated.



Thanks to Pedro Corpuz, and a group of dedicated helpers, students and staff were treated to a range of activities including: a paddle in a traditional canoe, learning the basics of lacrosse,

Special Thanks to:
 T James Seward – (canoe group)
 Florence Elliott (cultural teachings)
 Brian Elliott (cultural teachings)
 Aaron White (lacrosse)
 Alex Jules (lacrosse)
 Rebecca Harris (lahal plus helper)

SFN Days at Snuneymuxw Long House



Snuneymuxw Education recently hosted a two day event at their Longhouse to share their culture and history with our schools. Students from Bayview, Cedar Secondary and NCI were invited

to the Longhouse to listen to the teachings of Elder Ellen White. Elder White told of her experiences as a young girl, one of which was helping in the delivery of a baby when she was only nine years old. She also shared how the elders in her time shared the teachings of the Longhouse and she graciously shared two songs with the students that were passed down through the generations. Ellen, now 86, recently retired from Malaspina where she was an elder in residence. After the cultural teachings students were taught about

weaving and canoes and were treated to a snack that included bannock bread and jam.

Thanks to Michelle Sokoloski and all her helpers for hosting this day.

(Paul Wyse and Garry Seward – canoes, Stephanie Thomas – weaving, Tom Jones – lahal, Denise White – cook, Aunt y Ellen Chief Viola Wyse, Geraldine Manson.)



Aboriginal Kindergarten Program (Continued from Pg 5)



Learning Environment

Goal: To improve Aboriginal students sense of belonging

Teaching and learning from a First Nations perspective is our goal in the KELP program. Therefore, each

day is infused with relevant language, culture, and traditions. Examples include daily greetings in Hul'qumi'num, listening to First Nations cd's (songs and drumming) during snack time, appreciation of First Nations art - recognizing the totem animals as special symbols, using the drum to signal "stop and listen" and understanding it's significance in First Nations culture, and sitting in our Friendship Circle and using our talking stick to show respect for the speaker when sharing events of our lives.

Individual Development

Goal: To improve Aboriginal students ability to achieve educational and personal goals

At Bayview, we have started a new program called "The Learning Journey Series". This program teaches children to resolve life problems in a positive way. The stories in the series use Aboriginal animals and drawings as many of the teachings compare animal life characteristics to human life problem-solving skills. The stories introduce culture, science, social and language skills, all in an effort to reduce bullying. An example of the lessons is from the first book about working together.

This story features the salmon and encourages children to use their "salmon wisdom" (inner knowing, self) when problem solving. Salmon medicine honours every encounter in life as a gathering of wisdom. It teaches that even when the flow of life seems to push you back, you tap the hidden resources of your human spirit and inner self. The Lesson: Like the salmon, everyone is special, everyone works together.



This is my first year working in Aboriginal Education and I have enjoyed it immensely! I have learned so much during the course of year, right along with my students. It has been exciting to watch them make connections between their home life, their life in the



First Nations community, and the Bayview School community. I know it has been a success when I can see it all coming together for them in a way that compliments their prior knowledge and expands on it. The smiles on their faces show me that they are proud to be First Nations!

*Barbara-Anne Davie
KELP Teacher, Bayview Elelemetary*

Honour Your Health Challenge



The Honour Your Health Challenge team (HYHC) for 2008: Patti McCarthy, Stella Bates, Laura Tait and her mom Fran Tait, Terri Mack, Connie Kulhavy, Vivian Aarset, Karen Baxter, Michelle Swecera, Stephanie Stephens, Annette Favelle, Bea Cardinal, Roxanne Harris and

the two lone male participants—Brett Hancock and Brian Cardinal.

All team members committed to the *initial challenge* which was to complete a 6-week program which promoted healthy lifestyles and choices (which you benefitted from as well – healthier snacks and drinks at our January and April Pro-D's).

Some of our activities included: a dragon boat session, 10 pin bowling, participation in the 5K Alzheimer's Walk and attendance at a Heart & Stroke workshop. Our *overall goal* was to train individually and as a group in order to Run/Walk in the 2008 Vancouver Sun Run on April 20th. All members trained

with the assistance of the on-line training program offered through Act Now BC /Sports Med BC which was partially facilitated through Aboriginal Health.

All 15 members were successful however due to the unexpected snowfall in April only 10 members made it to Vancouver and participated in the Sun Run – Stella, Patti, Vivian, Connie, Terri, Brian, Bea, Brett, Stephanie and Michelle.

As members of the Aboriginal HYHC Corporate Team we were 1100 strong – the biggest Aboriginal team ever and placed fifth out of all the Corporate Teams. It was a sunny day, albeit a little cool in the morning, in Vancouver and I think I speak for everyone who attended that it was a great sense of accomplishment and can't wait to do it all again next year!

Next year we hope to make our team stronger and will be recruiting for new members from Aboriginal Education

*Patti McCarthy
District Assistant
Aboriginal Education*



Dover Bay Aboriginal Student Exchange to Toronto

In May 2008 Dover Bay's Aboriginal Youth Leadership Group participated in a student exchange through The Society for Educational Visits and Exchanges Canada (SEVEC). SEVEC covered the cost of airfare and provided administrative assistance, however, the students, their families and the group leaders were responsible for



time shopping at Eaton's Centre, checking out the rides at Canada's - Wonderland, watching a Blue Jays game and playing 'tacky tourists' at Niagara Falls! Our hosts complimented the experience by including some Parkdale flare, such as dinner at Mitzi's Sisters and a movie at the Parkdale Revue. Although, the Dover students were sad to leave their new friends and host families, there was a sense of relief knowing that in only a week's time, the Toronto group would be coming to visit us.



fundraising for all activities and local transportation costs. The result of all this hard work was an amazing experience that was culturally unique and created an opportunity for the participants to not only recognize the differences but more importantly the similarities they share.

For several of the Dover students this was their first time on an airplane and their first time east of Alberta. The four months of planning and fundraising had finally brought us to Parkdale, one of the oldest communities in Toronto, to meet our twin group. We were welcomed with an amazing potluck of traditional foods from all over the world. The next 6 days we explored what Toronto had to offer. Spending time riding street cars and the TTC was a great way to get to know one another. While touring Toronto we visited the Royal Ontario Museum, the CN Tower, the Hockey Hall of Fame, the Ontario Science Centre, the University of Toronto (including the First Nations House), and the Toronto Zoo. We also spent

Upon returning home, we finalized our itinerary and planned for the Parkdale students' arrival. Showcasing Vancouver Island was no easy feat as there is an abundance of beauty in every direction. We decided to spend a day on the West Coast visiting Tofino and Long Beach, a day to the south brought us to Victoria, for some shopping, a visit to the Royal Museum of BC and the Parliament Buildings. Heading to the North we organized an overnight trip to Alert Bay. This once in a lifetime experience included a walking tour of the small, but culturally rich community, a visit to the U'mista Cultural Center, a cultural sharing at the Big-house by the T'sasala Cultural Group and a BBQ Salmon dinner. The students

stayed overnight at the newly constructed band school and also had the opportunity to go whale watching, and spend time with community members as they prepared a salmon BBQ and worked on their carvings in their workshop. The Dover and Parkdale students also played basketball, volleyball and soccer with local students late into



the evening. The trip to Alert Bay offered an authentic Northwest Coast First Nation cultural experience which seems to have instilled in our Dover Bay students a sense of pride in their ancestry.

The SEVEC exchange has impacted our Dover Leadership group in many ways. Significantly, students have expressed a desire to travel again to meet new people, to do well in school, and to get more involved in their school and home community.

*By Wendy Beaton
AEA at Dover Secondary*

