

Indigenous Education Update

A Word from your Indigenous Support Workers

Dear Parents,

We are so very happy to be back at the school working with your children. We continue to work with the entire school, encouraging inclusivity in the Indigenous education classroom. We receive program funding to support the Indigenous students in our school to reach their potential. Every child is different so the needs and support for your children are unique, just like them. Please reach out to us if there is something we can assist you with or advocate for your child. We welcome everyone into our space and encourage questions, curiosity and learning of the first peoples of Canada and Canada's history. We love inviting guests into our space. If you feel you can enhance our learning surrounding your own cultural practices, please reach out. We would love to integrate this in our learning. If you have any questions or concerns please reach out to us, your classroom teacher and/or principals.

Reconciliation Week & Orange Shirt Day

During the weeks leading up to Orange Shirt Day (National day for Truth and Reconciliation) we were fortunate enough to share some very deep and meaningful conversations and learning surrounding this tough and very heavy subject. Phyllis Webstad's Orange Shirt Story was shared school wide, as well as other stories specific for each age group. Each student received an orange paper feather to write their name on, then on the other side they wrote or drew a reason why they matter (why is it important that they are here?) to reinforce Phyllis Webstad's message of "Every Child Matters" there were many beautiful and meaningful words. We then fastened these beautiful feathers with beads and twine to two big hoops to create a mobile. The school wide drone video footage of all students in the school field shaped into a giant orange t-shirt was also a success. If you missed the video, you can view it here. <https://fb.watch/fYODTn5Jxi/>

Lunch groups

The indigenous classroom is often open to students to drop in at recess times during the week, Monday, Wednesday and Fridays. Next month we start inviting whole classes to join us for lunch in our classroom, they bring their lunches and we usually watch "Raven Tales". <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt1229461/episodes?season=1>

Tuesdays and Thursdays, older students grade 5-7 join us in the indigenous classroom for games, activities and to eat. We have started the very popular soup program at Puntledge. On days when we have soup available, we offer students soup from the Lush Valley healthy food program. This gives students the opportunity to try new foods that are homemade and healthy. This also gives students from each class the chance to help make soup too! This is a nice option with the colder weather coming.

Kapix'i art Group with Lauren and Amanda

Amanda Crocker and Lauren Riley the schools youth and family support worker have started a (Kapixi) Art group for students to express themselves creatively and artistically. This happens on Tuesday and Thursday during the first morning recess, open to all students who are interested.

Open Gym

Open gym with Dean is Monday, Tuesday & Thursday morning, starts at 8:00am



Indigenous Education

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Indigenous Teachings, Stories and More



ḵəp̓ix'i Art Group

(link on how to pronounce the

<https://www.firstvoices.com/explore/FV/Workspaces/Data/Kwak'wala/Kwak%CC%93wala/Kwak%CC%93wala/learn/words/>

ḵəp̓ix'i

"gather a group of people or things together, to "



Bracelets made for orange shirt day by students in Art group



School wide orange feather project for Reconciliation week. Ninoxsola (Elder in residence)Annie



Wooden hearts by Martin Hartig's class



Painting hearts and feathers at Puntledge



The Role of an Indigenous support worker (ISW)

Indigenous support workers (ISW's) act as an advocate/role model/mentor and perform a variety of tasks to accomplish this. Indigenous Support Workers connect and build meaningful relationships with students and families to support their individual needs whether it be advocacy, academic, identity, well-being and/or cultural.

An ISW supports Indigenous student academic success, behavioral change and personal growth while recognizing the importance of their cultural heritage and traditions.

4 Goals of the Indigenous Education Enhancement Agreement

1. To increase every Indigenous student's sense of belonging, cultural identity and self-esteem.
2. To increase the academic success of all Indigenous students through personalized learning.
3. To increase the awareness and understanding of First Nations, Metis, and Inuit history, traditions and culture for all students.
4. To increase Indigenous students' skills, qualities and confidence in leadership.

The ISW works daily to support student success through the 4 goals. This is accomplished in many ways; often connecting with students covers more than one of the goals.

Your school's Indigenous Support workers



Amanda Crocker
Monday-Friday



Dean Quiring
Monday-Friday
(Mornings in the Indigenous
education K/1 program)



Lauren Simmons
Wednesday-Friday