



# GEORGES P. VANIER SECONDARY



4830 Headquarters Rd, Courtenay, BC V9J 1P2

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Dear Students, Families and Faculty

Hello, Gilakas'la, Yo, Wachiy, Tansi, Angai, and Kwey-kwey!

Welcome to Georges P. Vanier's 2022/2023 school year! We are happy to introduce ourselves to you as the Indigenous Education team at GP Vanier this year. We would like to say that it is a great privilege to live and work on the traditional unceded territories of K'omoks First Nation. Returning this year are Savannah Seigler (H – N), Jeannine Walker, and Brittany Bjorenson (O – Z). The newest addition to our team this year is Jackie Morgan, who will be working with our A – G students.

Savannah Seigler started at Vanier in September 2021 and is looking forward to another exciting year at Vanier. Her traditional name is Ma'idzas, which means "stomach full of oolichan oil." Her mother is Melanie (Umefilakw) from; Ligwilda'xw (Cape Mudge) Muska'makw Dzawada'enuxw (Kingcome Inlet), and Lyackson (Coast Salish), her father is George Seigler from; Germany and England. Born and raised here in the Comox Valley, Savannah has always appreciated the easy access to outdoor adventures, particularly up Mt. Washington. She has been an active member of the Kumugwe dancers for 13 years and seeks out any opportunities to immerse herself in her culture. Savannah has also recently reignited her passion for Northwest Coast art, transitioning from painting to digital media. She recently completed her Bachelor of Arts Degree from Vancouver Island University, where she majored in Criminology. Savannah has also been a member of the Courtenay Volunteer Fire Department for 8 years, with 5.5 years of responding to emergency incidents. She is so grateful to have grown up on the land of the K'omoks people, and to have created such strong bonds with the community over the years. Savannah likes to take advantage of any opportunity to get involved with community events, to give back to the community that has given her so much.

Tanisi kitatamskatnawaw kahkiyaw. Brittany nitisyihkason Quesnel ochi niya maka mekwac niwikin Merville. Greetings, Brittany was born and raised in Quesnel BC and currently lives in Merville. Brittany's ancestry is nīhithawīwin (Woods Cree) and íslensku (Icelandic). Her mother's family is from Fort Chipewyan Alberta. Brittany is a status member with Mikisew Cree First Nation. Her family mostly resides in Northern BC and Alberta. She lived on Vancouver Island during adolescent years and has been living in Merville for the last couple of years. Brittany spends most of her time on her farm, caring for livestock and cultivating seasonal crops. For several years Brittany has been active in the community as a support worker, her education is Disability Studies from Bow Valley College in Calgary and University of Victoria in Social Policy and Community Degree. Brittany's goal is to tie in her passion of inclusiveness and cultural support as an ISW. Brittany arrived in May last school year in the school district. She is eager to learn, reconnect with her culture and create new relationships. Brittany is grateful to live, work and farm on the land of K'omok's first Nation peoples.

Also returning to Vanier in her role as an Indigenous Support teacher is Jeannine Walker. In addition to teaching regularly scheduled classes, you can also find Jeannine in the Indigenous Education room supporting students, ISW's, and staff. We are very grateful to have Jeannine back as an invaluable member of our team.

Boozhoo, Aniin, my ancestral name is Aabawasige, my given name is Jeannine, and I am happy to be an Indigenous support teacher at Vanier. My ancestral roots branch from the Anishinaabe peoples in Tootinaowaziibeeng, MB as well as from the Cree peoples in Cote, SK and I am also Norwegian, Scottish and Irish. I am very grateful that my journey living on Vancouver Island has included being adopted Musgamagw Dzawada'enuxw and Wuikinuxv and that these profound moments in my life have given me a deeper understanding of cultural practices and connection to the land we stand on. I look forward to teaching B.C. First Peoples curriculum this year and getting to know all of our students and their families. Miigwetch.

Although not new to Vanier, Jacqueline Morgan is the newest addition to the Vanier Indigenous Education Support team. Since the start of her SD71 career back in the late 90's, she has held several different placements including InEd (early 2000's), general in class Educational Assistant, as well as a few specialized programs. She is looking forward to continuing her career in InEd, supporting Indigenous students and their families throughout their journey in the education system.

Boo'zhoo, Aniin, Jacqueline Morgan nindishinikaz. Ojibwe'winzowin Anjii Manido Kwey. Wab'anong Tootinaowaziibeeng, Manitoba ndonji. Ningabianong K'omoks nogom daya. Miigwetch diked Unceded Pentlatch, Ieeksun, gaye K'omoks nibabamadiz, minawa chi'odaminwan gaye anoki-an oma aki.

Hello, my given name is Jacqueline Morgan, and my ancestral name is Anjii Manido Kwey. My ancestral roots on my mother's side come from Tootinaowaziibeeng, Manitoba and Cote, Saskatchewan. I also have Scottish and Irish ancestry on my father's side of the family. Today I live in K'omoks. I acknowledge the Unceded Pentlatch, Ieeksun, and K'omoks Peoples for allowing me to live, work and play on these lands.

Returning to our school again, Vanier's Elder in residence Evelyn Voyager, the Wise One. There will be an update to when Evelyns visits will occur. Please see Evelyns biography on the next page.

Also returning to our team is SD71s Indigenous Secondary Curriculum Support Teacher Lelaina Jules. Lelaina's ancestry is Hesquiaht, Ahousaht, Danish and Estonian. She splits her time between all our high schools, alternative schools and middle schools. Lelaina is very happy to support teachers with weaving Indigenous content into the curriculum.

Vaniers Indigenous department focuses on cultural activities, academic, personal support and leadership for our Vanier Indigenous students. We are excited to continue to work out of the beautiful room 133a complete with a full kitchen, office and large communal space for our students to study, socialize, partake in activities and enjoy their lunch and snacks.



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The Indigenous students will be offered a range of opportunities that they can participate in. There will be tutoring as required, student lunches, cultural activities, field trips, and presentations from Indigenous role models, artists, guest speakers and Leadership.

The schools' vision for the Indigenous students is to have a balance between academic performance, Indigenous culture and identity and to foster the value of lifelong learning. The goals of the Enhancement Agreement are to "Increase a sense of belonging", "Improve academic achievement," "Increase cultural awareness" and to "Enhance leadership skills."

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child you can call us at 250 334.2428 extension 40973 (Savannah), 40113 (Jackie), and 40972 (Brittany). Or reach out to us by email at [savannah.seigler@sd71.bc.ca](mailto:savannah.seigler@sd71.bc.ca), [Jackie.morgan@sd71.bc.ca](mailto:Jackie.morgan@sd71.bc.ca), [Brittany.bjornson@sd71.bc.ca](mailto:Brittany.bjornson@sd71.bc.ca), and [Jeannine.walker@sd71.bc.ca](mailto:Jeannine.walker@sd71.bc.ca)

Room 133a is currently open from 830am – 315pm daily.

Kind Regards,

Savannah, Brittany, Jackie, and Jeannine



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## DR. EVELYN VOYAGEUR ELDERS IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM



Despite going to St. Michael's Residential School at age ten, Dr. Evelyn Voyageur is a fluent speaker of Kwakwaka'wakw and an active matriarch in the Kwakwaka'wakw culture and traditions. She has dedicated her life to improving the health of Indigenous peoples through her more than five decades in the nursing profession.

As a registered nurse with a PhD in psychology, Dr. Voyageur has worked extensively in community- and hospital-based health care in across Alberta and British Columbia. She has worked with the Indian Residential School Society, where her work focused on supporting former students healing from the trauma of residential schools. She is also an educator who has taught and developed nursing curricula at the University of Victoria and North Island College.

Dr. Voyageur has received many awards for her contributions to Aboriginal nursing, including a 2018 Indspire Award for Health. This award acknowledged her promotion of Indigenous health in a number of capacities, most recently as BC representative for the Aboriginal Nurses Association and member of the board of St. Joseph's General Hospital in BC. Dr. Voyageur was also recognized in 2017 in two ways by the College of Registered Nurses of BC when she received the Lifetime Achievement award and was one of 150 nurses across Canada chosen for excellence in nursing. Also of note, she was one of the first recipients of the Award of Excellence in Nursing from Health Canada's First Nations and Inuit Branch.

Dr. Voyageur has been active in the Canadian Indigenous Nurses Association (formerly Aboriginal Nurses Association of Canada) since 1980, serving as the BC representative, vice-president, and president (2010 to 2012). She also founded the Native and Inuit Nurses Association of BC (NINA) in the early 1980s to help educate those who work with First Nations communities.