# STRATEGIC PRIORITY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

# Goals

Deepen integration of Indigenous ways and knowing

## Actions

Work in partnership with IEC to implement and celebrate the Indigenous Education Agreement

Embed TRC recommendations throughout district

Display tri-language signage at all sites and facilities

Increase communication with IEC

Embrace established Indigenous protocols

# Goals

Foster relationships with community, parents and educational partners

## Actions

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Continue the Re-Imagine
Organizational Culture

Continue to foster a positive working relationship with Community Collaborative and Early Learning Partners

## School District No. 71 (Comox Valley)

Board of Education of School District No. 71



Office of the Superintendent of Schools

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### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

#### **GOALS: DEEPEN INTEGRATION OF INDIGENOUS WAYS AND KNOWING**

#### FOSTER RELATIONSHIPS WITH COMMUNITY, PARENTS AND EDUCATIONAL PARTERNS

#### **Arden Elementary**

How can we enhance our sense of school community through developing positive relationships and authentic connections between students, staff, parents, and our local community?

 During Covid19 donations in the form of \$100 dollar gift cards were handed out to Arden families in need

Connecting with our local R.C.M.P. through programs such as "Life Outside the Box"

Many of these connections did not continue after COVID-19

#### **Aspen Park Elementary**

Build School Culture by Participating in School Community Events

- All students in grades 1 to 7 placed in multi-aged teams for the first week
- Reviewed the 7 Habits as well as taught about our school roles and responsibilities
- Terry Fox Run
- Tour de Rock
- Orange Shirt Day
- Chanie Wenjack
- Exploratories
- Aspen Park Spelling Bee
- Musical Showcase of Learning
- St. Paddy's Day BBQ

#### **Community Connections**

- The Views
- Berwick
- Tour de Rock Cops for Cancer
- Terry Fox Foundation
- Lions Monarch Service Group
- Comox Valley Public Health
- Comox Legion
- CV Therapeutic Riding
- JumpStart Charities
- Dr. Clair Vanston



- Parent education around healthy families
- School wide, multi age events

#### **Courtenay Elementary**

Can we empower vulnerable students and create a strong, caring, engaged community by using fine arts?

- Music and Drama Dance teacher have worked together to promote a very engaging yet caring culture. Students have fun, take some risks in communication, and find some strength in performance
- Before and after school clubs and classes Breakfast club and before school clubs started the second day of school. After school clubs started towards the end of September

#### **Denman Island Elementary**

How can we develop understanding and empathy for the historical perspective of indigenous peoples who have been affected by residential schools?

Shi-shi -etko and make woven bags with students which they fill with meaningful items

Activity was completed by grades 2,3 and 4

Including indigenous ceremony, knowledge, and language into our planting of our native plant species

 participated in planting indigenous species of plants and we did a drum ceremony to encourage the seeds to grow

Indigenous community member to make a drum with students

 An indigenous community member has visited about 5 times to drum with students at all age levels

#### **Ecole Puntledge Park**

To provide opportunities and reinforce the relationships between staff members, students, parents, and the community

- Courtenay and Councillor visit to discuss UN Tress for Cities Challenge
- Cabane à sucre
- Supporting Terry Fox Cancer Research Fundraising Campaign
- Filling and delivering Christmas Hampers
- The Way to School campaign supporting sister school in Uganda
- Everybody Deserves a Smile (EDAS) school wide initiative to bring comfort to the homeless
- RECONCILIACTION Food Bank Walk

#### **Hornby Island Elementary**



- As a small school, connecting with local organizations will provide our learners with greater opportunities to diversity learning
- Started several great community collaborations this year
  - Planted bulbs in the fall with the Natural History Stewards
  - Worked with a UBC Education Professor with ties to Hornby on a plan to create a labyrinth
  - The Hornby Island Arts Council (HIAC) also has begun to offer more opportunities that we can take part in

#### **Huband Park Elementary**

PAC and Parent Engagement

- PAC parent group and really focused on improving communication to the community
- Welcome back breakfast and reading program in September
- · Parent teacher interview day with Scholastic book fair
- Santa's breakfast community building event
- Salad bar and hot lunch volunteer drives
- The school closure we organised a community drive through "wave parade."

#### Miracle Beach

School Culture: How do we develop a school culture of inclusiveness that encourages a sense of Self Belonging and that improves student Health and Wellness

Embedding Indigenous Education in the classroom/school

- To increase the use of accurate, authentic, and relevant Indigenous resources in the classroom
- Introduction to the Wellness Wheel.
- 6 Cedars and Traits
- Class set of drums made by 5/6 class
- Metis Week- Story tellers
- Bead Timeline created specific to Miracle Beach
- Teaching District Indigenous song in music classes
- To integrate reconciliation and Indigenous ways of knowing across all grades for all learners
  - o Downie Wenjack Project- Residential School Tiles project

#### **Environmental Stewardship**

- To educate and empower students to embrace an environmentally healthy and socially just lifestyle
  - o Student lead and run composting program.
  - o Hay bail garden
- To reduce the schools carbon footprint in the short term and achieve carbon neutrality in the long term



- Environmental Sustainability Committee formed with teacher, support staff and parent
- o Starting in March we did not provide one use utensils from the office
- o Cloth Library Bag program started
- School wide Composting program

#### Health and Wellness

- Develop educator understanding of the inter- connectedness of Well Being and Achievement - 1. Safety 2. Regulation 3. Belonging 4. Positivity 5. Engagement 6. Identity 7. Mastery 8. Meaning
  - Staff completed Book Study on the Third Path in February

#### Sense of Belonging

- How are we as a staff making the school environment welcoming to students and families?
  - Lessons on body language, adjusting tone, voice a chosen word
  - o Creation of a grade 7 leadership program
  - o Diorama Project to create teamwork
  - o Starting a boards game club for students with social interaction issues
  - o Classroom lessons on Empathy

#### **Queneesh Elementary**

School Culture Community Engagement Practices. As part of our school culture we do the following:

- Paint night
- Games night
- Geo-cache
- Weekly Newsletters
- Volunteer coordinator
- Community partners (living hope, hospital foundation)
- Treasure Sale

#### **Valley View Elementary**

Held a Grade 7 Celebration for students only (with social distancing)

- Students received a Valley View pen, a certificate, a chocolate medallion, and a cupcake
- A collage of the ceremony was mailed out to them

Welcome to Kindergarten event. WTK was held at the front of the school with the two kindergarten teachers as well as the music teacher and one administrator

- We took their pictures
- They picked up their Welcome to Kindergarten bags



A PowerPoint and video were sent home

Completed Community Links Form – Used Community Links money to support school programs

- Coffee and Muffins for the Open House at the beginning of the year taken from Community links funds
- Our tea trolley program provided real life experience for our special needs students
- Supported families through Thrifty's gift certificates and Lush Valley Recommendations
- Supported one family specifically with breakfast, lunches school supplies and clothing

#### **Cumberland Community School**

- Connect with Cumberland businesses
  - Classes access the museum for history on the village
  - Film year end award announcement for Grade 9 All Around Lamp winner in the museum with Mayor Baird
- Access the public library
  - Kindergarten and Grade 1 classes visit the public library and get their own library card
  - School advertises and encourages the summer reading program at the public library
- Connecting to the Cumberland Bakery
  - o Class visits to the bakery
- Connection to Firehall
  - o Fire department participates in one fire drill a year
  - Classes visit fire hall
- Cumberland Wilderness Society
  - o Provided "Bear Safety" training for classes using the community forest
- Invite entrepreneurs from the community to share their experiences with Grade 7
  - Entrepreneurs from Cumberland came and shared their experiences of taking a passion and making it a business
- Programs with Cumberland Recreation
  - o Grade 2/3 classes used CRI gym
  - o After school programs
- Connect with Cumberland Lodge
  - Classes spend time with residence of Cumberland Lodge

Connect with Preschools and Day Cares for smoother transitions to school

- Dinner meeting with Cumberland and Royston Preschool Educators, StrongStart Facilitator and School Kindergarten Staff
  - Make connections with Early Year Educators to create smooth transitions to school – Kindergarten



- Kindergarten teachers, StrongStart facilitator and local daycare/preschool educators met over dinner to generate ideas of how to work together for smooth transition to Kindergarten
- Invite Preschool and Day Care Educators to Welcome to Kindergarten
  - Have Cumberland Daycare and Preschool Facilitators help/join Welcome to Kindergarten event to help families and students feel comfortable and supported in the transition to meeting school staff
- Participate in Climate Change BBQ
  - Invite all Cumberland residence to participate in the Climate Change BBQ hosted by our Community Leadership class. Great turnout
  - o Sold environmentally friendly shopping bags designed by the class
- Share food with the community
  - Provide families and community members with left over food from Turkey Lunch
  - o Snow Day open school for community members to come get salad
  - When extra food is accumulated in lunch programs it is shared out to families in the community
- Learn from an Elder in Residence
  - o Weekly visits from Sheila Buchanan Elder assigned to CCS
- Work with Cumberland Mayor and Council
  - Have Mayor and Council members at events and accessible to students and staff
  - Mayor and Council to support Climate Change event with seed money
  - o Mayor and Council will attend BBQ
  - Mayor and Council will help advertise event
  - Mayor and Council members are invited to serve turkey lunch and eat with classes.
  - o Mayor and 2 Council members judge school spelling bee
  - Community Leadership class meets monthly with the Mayor of Cumberland to talk about student involvement in the community

#### **Glacier View Secondary Centre**

Embrace invitation from Courtenay Rotary to celebrate Glacier View's Student of the Month

 Accepted 2 invitations during the school year to honour Glacier View's Student of the Month

Seek a supportive relationship between Cobb's Bakery in Courtenay and Glacier View

 Reached an agreement with Cobb's Bakery whereby their bakery would donate 'day old' baked goods to our school for our students

Seeking a supportive relationship with Value Village to provide free clothing to students in need

 Every 2 weeks a staff member stops by Value Village to pick up a few boxes of clothing



#### **Highland Secondary**

Build partnerships with North Island College to better assist students transition to post secondary school

 NIC counselor on site every couple of weeks to meet individually with our students

#### Mark R. Isfeld Secondary

Ensuring Sustainability is a priority in our school

- Climate Change lessons provided to all teachers
- Organized District Environment and Sustainability club
- Created a Mark Isfeld School Sustainability Team
- Oceans plastics unit district committee
- Youth Climate Action Conference

Providing extra supports to ensure students are successful

- Homework club
- French Immersion Tutoring
- Case management was discussed during the COVID environment to ensure regular contact

#### Peer tutoring program

Peer tutors created a mental health support

#### G.P. Vanier Secondary

To provide opportunities for students to grow as global citizens through curricular and extra curricular activities (Contributing to Community Engagement)

- Globally, students planned international trips, embraced our ISP students, hosted a global lunch.
- Locally, students went on work experience in the community, the senior band played in the Remembrance Day ceremony in Cumberland as well as a Christmas concert in Comox, formed partnerships with feeder schools to share expertise, etc
- Visited the daycare as part of the curriculum and did small practicums
- Continued the tradition of supporting the Terry Fox Run, and Christmas Hampers

#### Navigate/NIDES

Learning that is promoted through the personal passions of the child (sparks) and collaboratively guided by the parent and the teacher

 Parent Workshop series provided by staff and organized through PAC to support parents during COVID-19 and beyond



 How to support your home learner in Math. How to support your home learner in Language Arts. How to support the mental health of your home learner. How to provide good nutrition to your home learner

Interventions for students who are not progressing: Patient, persistent, wraparound support; Ensure student feels safe, respected, and valued

- Took several steps to enroll students with significant special needs in our Compass and ENTER programs. Two of three of these students were successful
- LSTs were just starting to contact more frequent and more pro-active SBT meetings for students

Transitioning from our program successfully

 Transition from FAe program is ad hoc and risky for parents. We have moved ahead with reducing grade range of the FAe program to K-7 so that these students may transition consistently to Vanier as their catchment school in grade