



Aboriginal Education Department, SD No. 62 (Sooke) District Level Initiatives

The Aboriginal Education Department would like to extend a warm welcome to Mr. David Strange, new Assistant Superintendent, as well as holds the Aboriginal Education/English as a Second Dialect (ESD) portfolios! We look forward to working with you!

Summer Newsletter—
September 2016

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Welcome to Families/Guardians: Aboriginal Ancestry Description and Services

Does your child have Aboriginal Ancestry? The Aboriginal Education Department provides a variety of services for Aboriginal students in their classrooms to enhance inclusive academic and cultural learning in schools.

To have your child(ren) qualify for these enhanced cultural services, please:

- 1) CHECK OFF Aboriginal Ancestry box on the School Registration Form. Self identification requires "no" paperwork or photocopies of Aboriginal Ancestry: First Nations; Non-Status; Status—On Reserve; Métis or Inuit.
- 2) FILL OUT the Aboriginal Education Parent/Guardian Consent Form which you can find on the following link on School District #62's Share Point website and then give to your classroom teacher/school secretary or school principal as soon as possible:

<http://www.sd62.bc.ca/programs/aboriginal-education/>

Local Nations - Elders in Residence

Over the last ten years our School District has had Elder Lavina Charles teach Halq'emeylem at Hans Helgesen to all students, as well as Westshore First Nation Grad cohort students. Lavina's presence has given the School District a sound foundation in working with Scia'new Nation protocols. Not too long ago Elder Shirley Alphonse, T'Sou-ke Nation, joined to instruct Sencoten Language at the Kindergarten level in three schools in Sooke or Milnes Landing with the language curriculum developed in T'Sou-ke Nation. Many students leave Kindergarten in Sooke with a sense of T'Sou-ke Nation. Last year Elder Bill Jones, Paacheedaht Nation, and Elder Henry Chipps, Scia'new Nation, began a pilot "Elder in Residence" Program at Journey Middle School, EMCS, and Belmont Secondary School to continue culturally sensitivity teachings on many subjects, as well as being a grandfather figure in schools to students and adults alike! The new school year will start with new Elders in Residence at Royal Bay Secondary, and EMCS. We welcome Elder Linda Bristol, T'Sou-ke Nation and Rick Peter, Scia'new Nation Elder Representative.

October Orange Shirt Day – September 30, 2015



Orange Shirt Day is a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission residential school commemoration event held in Williams Lake in the spring of 2013. It grew out of Phyllis's account of losing her pretty new orange shirt on her first day of school at the Mission, and it has become an opportunity to keep the discussion on all aspects of residential schools happening annually. The date of September 30 was chosen because teachers have time to plan, and because it is an opportunity for First Nations, local governments, schools and community agencies to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and



Elder Henry Chipps, Scia'new Nation, and Ray Miller, Principal, at Belmont Secondary School

October Orange Shirt Day cont'd

and hope for generations of children to come.

Aboriginal Education Department, SD #62 hosted an Orange Shirt Day event which was held at John Muir School on September 30, 2015, from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. The event began with a Territory Acknowledgement / Welcome by Chief Gordon Planes, T'Sou-ke Nation, followed by a Drum Chant by Chief Gordon Planes and a Blessing by Elder Shirley Alphonse, T'Sou-ke Nation. Scia'new Nation Beecher Bay Youth Drum Group presented a song, then the Esquimalt Drummers shared an Honour Song. Words of Wisdom were gifted by Elder Shirley Alphonse and Elder Bill Jones, Paacheedaht Nation. Elder Alphonse provided a dinner blessing and dinner was prepared by Royal Bay Secondary School Culinary Arts and the salmon gifted by Scia'new Nation was used to make a variety of casseroles; which were enjoyed by all! Dinner activities included Supernatural colouring cards, and the artwork was provided by Artist Darlene George, T'Sou-ke Nation; a smudging station with Elder Shirley Alphonse; a Traditional Tea Table presented by Christine George and Denise Routhier; a Traditional Territory Table and a Grad Fund-raiser table.

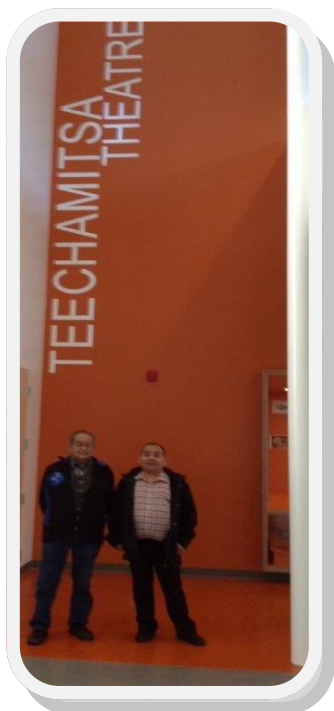
The evening wrapped up with a Friendship Dance lead by Raymond Peter and Bernice Millette and Memento cards were distributed to families upon their departure.

Schools will possibly host this event in 2016–2017.

Teechamitsa Theatre First Nation Acknowledgement Event, January 14, 2016

Royal Bay Secondary School Theatre was gifted the name from Dr. Elder Elmer George, Songhees Elder/Esquimalt Nation Language Teacher, with a process of working with Esquimalt Nation, Songhees Nation, Scia'new Nation Elders and Hereditary Chiefs. The Board of Education has a vision to incorporate the history, culture, and art of the Coast Salish and acknowledge the treaty lands Teechamitsa Royal Bay Secondary School is built on. As well, many schools have been given Douglas Treaty posters as a teaching tool to begin learning in schools. At the theatre opening, gift acknowledgements and appreciation were given to the local Nations including Esquimalt Nation Hereditary Chief Andy Thomas and Elder Butch Dick, Songhees Nation and Elders. Esquimalt singers and Scia'new Nation youth group sang and drummed. Scia'new Nation youth sang Happy Birthday to Chief Andy Thomas! A light meal was enjoyed by everyone after the event, as well as a tour of the new theatre and school. A Friendship dance concluded the ceremony.

Teechamitsa is a traditional Douglas Treaty Territory name.



Dr. Elder Elmer George and Ed Thomas standing in front of the new Teechamitsa Theatre sign.



Scia'new Nation Youth Dancers at the Teechamitsa Theatre First Nation Acknowledgement Event



Elder Shirley Alphonse, T'Sou-ke Nation, saying Prayer, flanked on left by Sharon Cooper, Scia'new Nation, and on the right by Chief Russell Chipps, Scia'new Nation, at IYES OL Belmont Blessing Event at Belmont Secondary School.

IYES OL Belmont Blessing Event —Feb. 24, 2016

The new Belmont School was ceremoniously blessed on Wednesday, February 24th, 2016 from 5:00 to 6:45 pm. This event was hosted by Scia'new Nation and the Aboriginal Education Department, SD No. 62.

Activities included a traditional welcome and territory acknowledgement by Chief Russell Chipps, Scia'new Nation, drummers and singers presented by Beecher Bay Scia'new Nation Youth Drum Group, and Esquimalt dancers. As well, there were speeches by dignitaries, a complimentary light meal prepared by the Belmont Culinary Arts Program, traditional tea tables provided by Métis Nation of Greater Victoria (MNGV) -Romy Prichard and T'Sou-ke Nation - Christine George. Display tables were presented by Scia'new Nation, T'Sou-ke Nation, Pacheedaht Nation, MNGV, Journeys of the Heart, as well as a display table promoting the 2016 Aboriginal Education Recognition Ceremony. Elder Shirley Alphonse, T'Sou-ke Nation, lead a smudging tour of the school and Chief Russell Chipps, Scia'new Nation, Sharon Cooper, Scia'new Nation, Belmont Leadership Class and IYES OL-Committee members followed closely behind, along with the participants of the event.

IYES OL is a Sencoten word meaning **STAY HAPPY!**



Grads being greeted by First Nations, dignitaries, principals, teachers and CUPE support staff, as well as parents and family, as they enter Na'tsa'maht outdoor venue before they walk around the fire pit to receive their grad rings and congratulatory speeches.



Grads lead by Butch Dick, Songhees Nation, Elder Shirley Alphonse, T'Sou-ke Nation, Rick Peter, Scia'new Nation, Chief Russell Chipps, Scia'new Nation, Elder Bill Jones, Pacheedaht Nation, and Councillor Rose Dumont, T'Sou-ke Nation into Na'tsa'maht venue kicking off the Ceremony.

June 21, 2016 Langford Aboriginal Day Festival

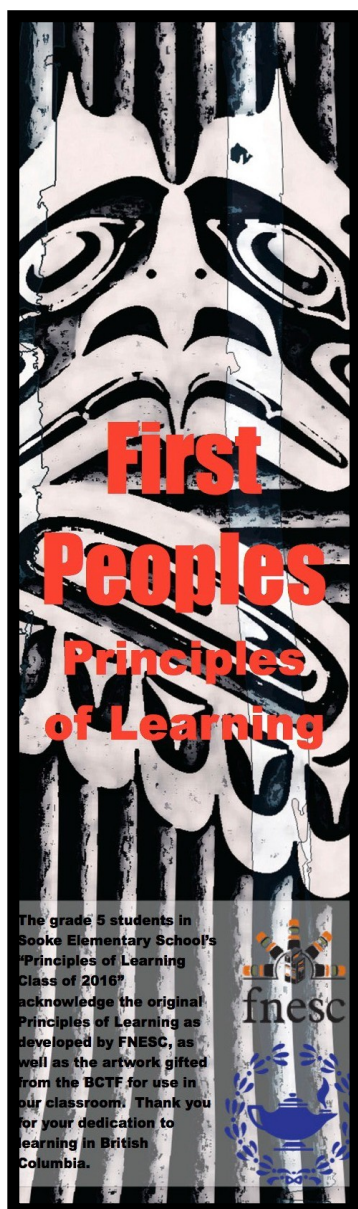
Many of our Westshore schools walked to the National Aboriginal Day event to take part in the festivities, which included performances by Lekwungen Traditional Dancers, Beecher Bay Youth Drum Group, Tzinquaw Dancers, Indian Bay Singers, Esquimalt Singers and Dancers, Métis display tables, Indigenous food samples, artists tables, games, face painting, bubbles and chalk. Everyone was welcome and the attendance was remarkable. The event was held at the new M'akola Group of Societies building!

Aboriginal Recognition Ceremony May 28, 2016

For the past six years parents, guardians, graduates, and the school district staff from EMCS, Belmont, Westshore Centre for Learning and now Royal Bay Secondary have celebrated a Recognition Ceremony at Camosun Lansdowne, Na'tsa'maht outdoor venue providing a culturally focused event. This year there were approximately 92 potential graduates with some adults included. The event began with local Coast Salish protocol lead by our district Chiefs and Elders together. Each student is acknowledged individually with drumming, singing, Elder blessings, and a memento grad ring designed by artist Travis Henry. There are many words of encouragement by school district and Aboriginal partner group officials, including Métis Nation of Greater Victoria. The highlight of the event is student valedictorian speeches. Four students with one from each secondary school share their journeys, appreciation to those who supported them, and words of advice. Each speech is very sentimental with a touch of humour. Each graduate enjoys a fabulous meal with family and friends and partake in group photo opportunities! **Congratulations to our 2016 graduates!**

We would like to extend a warm thank you to the following Sponsors whose generosity assisted us in another successful Aboriginal Recognition Ceremony in 2016:

- BC Liquor Stores' Dry Grad funding from: Sooke BC Liquor Store and Westshore Signature Liquor Store
- Royal Bank of Canada, Colwood Branch
- FortisBC, Langford
- M'akola Group of Societies
- VanCity Langford
- UVIC, Faculty of Education
- Bank of Montreal, Langford Branch
- Camosun College, Lansdowne Campus
- Aboriginal Education Council gifts and support



PARTNERS IN LEARNING

- SD62 Board of Education
- T'Sou-ke Nation
- Scia'new Nation
- Pacheedaht Nation
- Aboriginal Education Council Members
- Camosun College
- Pearson College
- University of Victoria



Sooke Elementary School

6560 Sooke Road, Box 70
Sooke, V9Z 0E4
250 642 5431

<http://sooke.sd62.bc.ca>

Principals of Learning, Grade Five Sooke Elementary

In 2015/16 the grade five class pilot was based on the First Peoples Principles of Learning. Framing the curriculum on experiential learning is a large component of the program and includes sharing knowledge with Elders, our community and the local T'Sou-ke Nation. Students, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, engage in hands on learning activities, in and outside of the classroom, to connect them with their local environment and community. Activities include visiting T'Sou-ke Nation, the local museum, UVic, Camp Barnard, Pacheedaht Nation, as well as collaborating with other classes and schools. We use the Coast Salish Lunar calendar and salmon to guide content selection. Community is the key. The teachers have partnered with Elders/Knowledge Keepers from the surrounding area to expose our students to First Nations culture and knowledge. The students have learned about local indigenous plants, animals, music, stories, canoe building, sustainable gardens/energy and much more. The class utilizes resources in our community to enhance experiential learning.

Aboriginal Service Plan (ASP)

Camosun College offers a program to promote post-secondary opportunities starting within the school system. The Aboriginal Education Department has partnered with Scia'new Nation for three years with a youth drum group. Each year brings more songs, mentors, and increased involvement by youth. Now it is common to see the Scia'new Nation Beecher Bay Youth Drum group at many Sooke School District functions, as well as community events, such as the second annual Langford Aboriginal Day festivities.



Scia'new Nation Beecher Bay Youth
Drum Group

YOXELE – EAGLE

This Spring Assistant Superintendent, Dave Betts was named YOXELE – EAGLE at the Scia'new Nation Longhouse with Elders and community members naming Dave Betts during a "Naming Ceremony".

Witnesses were given the job to share the evening's ceremony in the future. As Dave leaves the school district to retirement he can continue to share his passion for being a champion of Aboriginal Education and stay connected with the local First Nation community.



Dave Betts, Assistant Superintendent, SD No. 62

Local Nations Generosity

Each year our local Nations' Sooke School District enriches and enhances our students' learning experiences with reciprocal additions to our learning environment. The list is long, but here are a few samples of the generosity from Scia'new Nation, T'Sou-ke Nation and Pacheedaht Nation.

The Aboriginal Education Department would like to acknowledge the contributions of our local Nations with the following gifts:

- Scia'new Nation for gifting Sooke School District with 200 salmon that were canned. The salmon was a key component of activities such as lunchtime snacks to event casseroles this past school year.
- T'Sou-ke Nation for gifting schools with T'Sou-ke Solar Tours and guidance on cultural safety and learning about the local First Nations that Sooke School District works with.
- Pacheedaht Nation for hosting monthly Community Club events with an open invitation to the schools the Nation works with, including: Port Renfrew Elementary, Journey Middle School, EMCS and Westshore Centre for Learning.



200 salmon that were canned were gifted by Scia'new Nation to Sooke School District No. 62

Role Model Program

The Role Model Program was created in 2011 by the Aboriginal Education Department (AbEd) with a goal of improving the success for Aboriginal students in SD #62.

Ab Ed creates and maintains the Elementary and Middle to Secondary Role Model binders, providing each school with a copy. Teachers find a Role Model based on subject area and grade level. Teachers send honourarium application forms to the Ab Ed Dept. two weeks before the presentation for processing for payment. Ab Ed sends the honourarium cheque to the respective schools and the Role Models are presented the honourarium cheques directly after their presentations.

Role Model presentations include: plants and cultural uses, Douglas Treaties, Indian Act and Residential Schools, oral legend story-telling, art lessons, and Métis Enhancement Program, - year five.

This year's Role Model program reached over it's maximum of 900 presentations (978) by mid-April, which was one month and a half early (program runs from beginning October to end of May). Since it's inception in 2011 the program has increased from 181 presentations to over 978 presentations in 2015 -2016.



Bertha Landrie, Role Model,
Métis Nation of Greater Victoria



To continue to build the intellectual, emotional, physical and spiritual strengths of Aboriginal students from their early years, leading to a Dogwood Diploma, and preparing them for post-secondary education, by providing safe, flexible, and culturally responsive learning environments



One Spirit Goal

To continue to develop awareness and knowledge of local First Nations, Métis, and Inuit: languages, cultures, histories and contemporary practices created through community collaboration and authentic resources founded on the First Peoples' Principles of Learning



caawidk means "do together" in the Nuu-chah-nulth language Ditiid7aax
Na'tsa'maht means "one mind and one spirit" in the Coast Salish language SENCOHEN
Peyak mimwayr Peyak ispri means "one mind one spirit" in the Michif language of the Métis

NA'TSA'MAHT 2016-2021 Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement, School District #62 (Sooke)

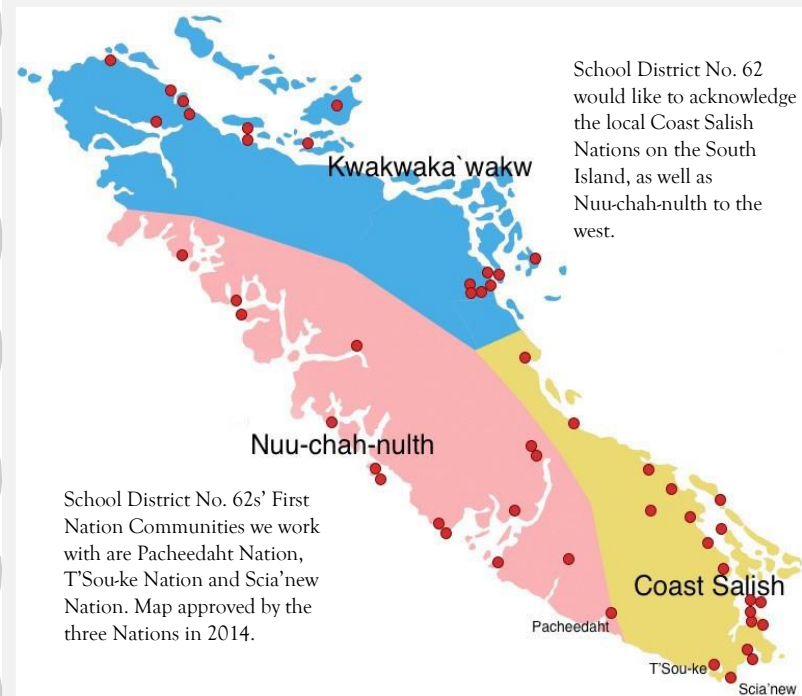
Lead by Jon Carr, Aboriginal Education Enhancement Coordinator, with input and guidance from the Aboriginal Education Council, First Nations Advisory Team, First Nations communities (T'Sou-ke Nation, Pacheedaht Nation and Scia'new Nation), Métis Nation, Sooke School District, Kathleen King-Hunt-District Principal, students and Elders, the 2016-2021 NA'TSA'MAHT Enhancement Agreement (E.A.) has reached fruition and is ready for final approval and a cultural Signing Ceremony.

In the developmental stages of the E.A., community input identified that the goals set out in the first E.A. should continue in the 2016-2021 E.A. The goals in the previous E.A. were: "Sense of Belonging"; "Language"; "Aboriginal Ways of Knowing"; and "Achievement". The new goals: "One Mind" and "One Spirit" intertwine with the previous goals giving us the tools to continue working toward the success of Aboriginal students in our school district.

The "Invitation Only Signing Ceremony" was held September 14, 2016, at T'Sou-ke Nation Administrative office and was co-hosted by T'Sou-ke Nation and the Sooke School District No. 62.

For more information on the NA'TSA'MAHT 2016 - 2021 Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement, SD62, please visit: <http://www.sd62.bc.ca/about/aboriginal-enhancement-agreement/>

TRADITIONAL TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



Pacheedaht Nation



T'Souke Nation Canoe



Beecher Bay Longhouse

See Local First Nations links:

- Nuuchahnulth – some SD62 schools are built on the following territories:
 - ◇ Pacheedaht Nation: pacheedahtfirstnation.com
- Coast Salish - some SD62 schools are built on the following territories:
 - ◇ T'Sou-ke Nation: tsoukenation.com
 - ◇ Scia'new Nation: www.beecherbaybc.com
- Coast Salish Territory – some SD62 schools are built on the following territories:
 - ◇ Esquimalt Nation: www.esquimaltnation.ca
 - ◇ Songhees Nation: www.songheesnation.ca



Scia'new Nation Canoe



Dignitaries



Participants



Na'Tsa'Maht Planning Group

NA'TSA'MAHT ENHANCEMENT, S.D. 62 2016–2021 SIGNING CEREMONY

On Wednesday, September 14th, 2016, held at the T'Sou-ke Administrative Office, the Na'Tsa'Maht Enhancement Agreement, School District No. 62 (Sooke) 2016– 2021 Signing Ceremony was held, jointly hosted by T'Sou-ke Nation and the Sooke School District No. 62.

The Event kicked off with a Traditional Territory Welcome/Prayer by Elder Shirley Alphonse followed by drumming and singing by the T'Sou-ke Nation Drummers.

Following the Traditional Protocol, the Signing of the Enhancement Agreement unfolded with the respective partner groups, including representation from: Pacheedaht Nation, Scia'new Nation, Island Métis Family and Community Services Society, Sooke Teachers' Association, Sooke Principals' and Vice-Principals Association, T'Sou-ke Nation, Métis Nation of Greater Victoria, Ministry of Education, CUPE Local 459 and Sooke Board of Education.

After the Signing of the Enhancement Agreement, Words of Wisdom were offered by Rose Dumont, T'Sou-ke Nation; Chief Russell Chipps, Scia'new Nation; Bob Phillips, Trustee Chair, School District No. 62; Jim Cambridge, Superintendent of Schools, School District No. 62; Elder Bertha Landrie, Métis Nation of Greater Victoria; Kaleb Child, Representative, Ministry of Education; Ian Johnson, President, Sooke Teachers' Association; Margurite Clark, Representative, CUPE 459; Debra Stoutley, Representative, SPVPA and Terry Honer, Representative, SPVPA.

A delicious complimentary luncheon, prepared by Community of T'Sou-ke Nation was offered after a Food Blessing by Elder Shirley Alphonse.

Following the luncheon, a Special Acknowledgement was given to the Na'Tsa'Maht Planning Group, which

included: Chief Russell Chipps, Elder Shirley Alphonse, Michelle Thut, Elder Bill Jones, Elder Bertha Landrie, Dave Betts, Elder Phyllis Charles, Kathleen King-Hunt, Leslie Morison, Christine Camoso (student), Weyla Chipps-Roy, Charlene George, Elder Henry Chipps and Jon Carr.

The Signing Ceremony ended with a closing Drum Song by the T'Sou-ke Nation Drummers. Upon leaving everyone was given a gift.

After the Signing Ceremony, from 1:00 to 3:00 a Workshop on Enhancement Agreement Document Implementation was led by Marlys Denny, Aboriginal Education Department Curriculum Coordinator, and everyone was welcome.



Brought to you by:









LANGFORD ABORIGINAL DAY FESTIVAL

Cultural Performances
Aboriginal Artists
Face painting, games,
and prizes!

June 21, 11am-3pm
550 Goldstream Ave,
Langford
(No parking onsite)











Please share:

This poem was written by Talia Peters who is currently in grade 11 at Belmont. Last year, while in Ms. Davis's English class, she was inspired by Elder Henry Chipps from the Scia'new Nation. Elder Chipps shared a story book with Talia during the class and this planted a seed of inspiration. The poem is about a little girl who was embarking on leaving her home to go to Residential School. Her dad made her a tiny canoe necklace so that she wouldn't lose hope. This poem won the BCTELA Student Writing Journal Contest. Talia will be reading her poem later next month to a group of English educators from around the province.

Elder Chipps visits Belmont once a week. He visits various classrooms during his time or can be found having a visit over coffee with staff and students. We are lucky to have Elder Chipps in our school community.

THE CANOE OF HOPE

Born 7 pounds 3 ounces, a necklace lay on my neck forever.

Dad made me a canoe, put it on a chain,

Something that will carry my memories, look cool,
and give me lots of hope. But for one day I will dread,

not speaking to my sis, silent for a year,
hard labour in a farm everyday, small meals,

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL,

I hold my chain tight, hoping to see my family once again,

I sleep every night, however, there is a beacon of hope around my neck.

By Talia Peters

Grade 11 student at Belmont Secondary School

Scia'new Nation
Canoe

