

"Your knowledge and interest in your heritage inspired me to ask my parents about our heritage".

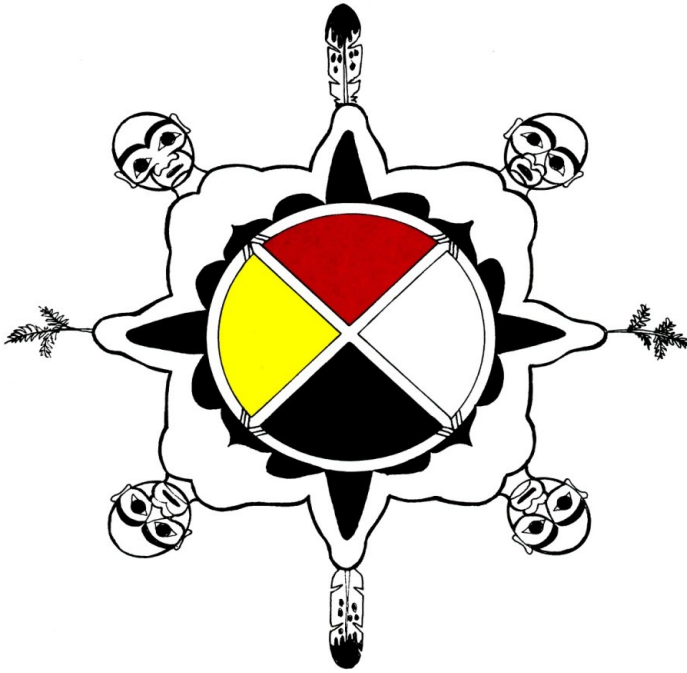
(First Nation Studies 12 student comment)

DID YOU KNOW?



***Some Initiatives Supporting
the Four Goals of the
Aboriginal Education
Enhancement Agreement as
Reported by District Schools***

2009-2010



*We wish to recognize and acknowledge the
Songhees & Esquimalt Nations
on whose traditional territory
we do our work.*

The intention of the Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement (EA) is to improve the quality of education achieved by all Aboriginal students in the Greater Victoria School District and to create a bridge of understanding between district staff, students, parents and the Aboriginal community.



The Four Goals of the EA

Goal 1: To increase Aboriginal students' sense of place, of caring, and of belonging in the public school system.

Goal 2: To honour and improve relationships between the Greater Victoria School District and the Aboriginal community and parents.

Goal 3: To increase awareness and understanding of Aboriginal history, traditions and culture.

Goal 4: To increase success of all Aboriginal students.

Initiatives in Relation to the Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement

Goal 1: To increase Aboriginal student's sense of place, of caring, and of belonging in the public school system

Did you know...

- ANED provides additional support to schools for feasts, recognition ceremonies, guest speakers, workshops, traditional environmental tours and other school based initiatives.
- An Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement Sub-Committee developed the Circle of Connectedness Program to connect Aboriginal students with a champion in each school.
- ANED works closely with the District Learning Connections team by purchasing Aboriginal resources for teacher support and professional development in district schools.
- Schools host salmon barbeques, potlatches, feasts and dinners and recognition gatherings.



- 38 traditional environmental tours and hikes were conducted for students and staff.
- A number of schools have Aboriginal Nations rooms for students and staff.
- Schools celebrate Aboriginal Honour Roll students and graduates.
- James Bay Elementary School hosted the first Aboriginal Science Fair and 10 schools participated.



- Frank Hobbs created 10 travelling Aboriginal bulletin board displays for schools to support the Circle of Connection project.
- Three schools (View Royal, Shoreline, Lansdowne) participated in the Backpack and Homework Clubs designed to take small groups of students for weekly sessions into nature while providing counseling support.
- There is an increase in number of schools acknowledging National Aboriginal Day and Aboriginal Veterans in Remembrance Day ceremonies.
- Feathers were used to acknowledge students at assemblies.
- Sundance Elementary used Aboriginal traditions to problem solve with Grades 2 to 5.
- George Jay provided a minimum of two sessions per class of Aboriginal cultural experiences through Art.
- Schools host lunch gatherings with Aboriginal students to increase connections and provide community and post-secondary connections and updates.
- Rogers created an “Aboriginal Learning Series” which brought students together once a month and provided an Aboriginal-based activity.
- Rockheights piloted an integrated boy’s intervention group for at-risk male students with a traditional “coming of age” focus following The Seven Teachings.

Goal 2: To honour and improve relationships between the Greater Victoria School District and the Aboriginal community and parents.

Did you know...

- Schools host Aboriginal parent functions and community feasts.
- Aboriginal parents are on school Planning Councils and PACs.
- SD #61 in partnership with the Victoria Native Friendship Centre and Songhees First Nations have established Education Liaison positions to support students.
- Monthly meeting space was supplied to provide MCFD Child Protection and Mental Health teams to better share resources and further a working relationship.
- Surrounded by Cedar & Family Services hosts an annual Back to School Picnic. In 2010, more than 700 back packs filled with school supplies were distributed to our students and packages were also given to post-secondary students.
- Strawberry Vale implemented the four beliefs of the Circle of Courage into their calendar and virtues. They also held a play and potlatch to acknowledge Butch Dick who created their school cougar logo.



- The school district meets monthly with the Songhees Nation Local Education Committee.

- Craigflower Elementary has a formal transition program between Songhees Nation preschoolers and Kindergarten.
- Central Middle School provided support for VNFC programs and staff with weekly men's groups and YFC meetings with students.
- George Jay Elementary provided space for the Journeys of the Heart Program twice a week.
- Quadra Elementary presents the Raven Lacerte Award to an Aboriginal student each June.
- Two Aboriginal students from Spectrum had their stories published in the BC First Nations Health Council Book.
- ANED in partnership with UVIC, Camosun College, Saanich Indian School Board and the Victoria Native Friendship Centre hosted 2 Career Fairs.
- École Shoreline provided teachings from Aboriginal Elders, historical and cultural videos, recordings and listening to stories; and outside community involvement with Saanich, Esquimalt and Songhees Nations.
- Spectrum Community School BC First Nations 12 class planned a trip to Tahsis to experience a potlatch. The students also went on a boat trip to Friendly Cove and toured the area with a First Nations guide.
- The ANED Coordinator is a guest lecturer at UVIC, Camosun College and in district classrooms.
- The Aboriginal Nations Education Council meets on a monthly basis with the community.
- Surrounded by Cedar Child & Family Services provides cultural workshops for students on Pro-D days, spring and summer break.
- Journeys of the Heart, Victoria Native Friendship Centre, Métis Community Services and ANED work together to connect parents with community services and the school system to host the FAB FOUR gathering for 3 and 4 year olds preparing to enter the school system in Feb. 2010.

- Parents have been involved in sharing their traditional knowledge in areas of art, traditional food preparation, residential schools, and traditional teachings with students.



- ANED participates on the Aboriginal Advisory Councils at the University of Victoria, Camosun College, Surrounded by Cedar and Hulitan Social Services.
- ANED is an active member of the Vancouver Island Aboriginal Education Regional Circle.



Goal 3: To increase awareness and understanding of Aboriginal history, traditions and culture.

Did you know...

- ANED has developed and published a variety of curriculum resources. 27,500 curriculum resources have been sold throughout Canada and the United States over the past 16 years.
- The ANED office has an extensive in-house resource library of over 4,500 catalogued Aboriginal resources for staff, student and community use.

- In the 2009-10 school year, 1160 Aboriginal resources were checked out of the library, an increase of 347 over the previous year.
- The ANED district program provides Aboriginal Curriculum and Cultural Integration Programs to district schools. 43 out of the 47 district schools participated in the program in the 2009-10 school year.



- ANED staff provide cultural in-service training to teachers, CUPE, UVIC pre-service teachers, Camosun College and the community.
- ANED and the Languages and Multiculturalism Department have worked together to translate 7 books into French.
- ANED, in partnership with the VNFC, provides cultural awareness through the “Box of Treasures” program in the classrooms and at the Royal BC Museum.
- ANED is working with the Métis community to provide opportunities for Métis Cultural Awareness sessions in the schools.
- At Arbutus Global Middle School the entire grade six population worked together on a six-week long unit on Aboriginal Culture and also released salmon into Mt. Doug creek with a focus on the Aboriginal heritage of the area and the significance of the salmon.
- Cloverdale Traditional School hosted a transition potlatch to honour all Grade 5 students who were moving to Middle School.

- South Park Elementary was involved in a whole school project called “Inspirational Canadians”, where one week was dedicated to Aboriginal themes.
- Sundance Elementary participated in talking circles on a weekly basis for Grades 2-5. Also, music units were dedicated to Aboriginal drumming K-5.
- Glanford Middle School grade six team experienced eco-rowing which brought a connection to and respect for First Nations culture.
- Spectrum had an Aboriginal Nations Female Drumming Group who met to learn songs and traditional knowledge associated with drumming.
- École Macaulay students performed traditional dance at the Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival and at school assemblies.
- École Shoreline provided Aboriginal History Walks as a transition activity for Grade 8 students.
- View Royal Elementary continued to include the oral tradition of storytelling into their Network of Performance Standards Project.



- The district offers a unique course titled “Introduction to The Healing Arts 12”. It is a Ministry approved Board Authority Approved (BAA) course.
- 5 Healing Rooms at schools have been established to support the district Healing Arts course.
- There has been an increase in the purchase of Aboriginal themed books for school libraries and classrooms.

- Schools continued to expand literature with Aboriginal content for purchase at all grade levels.
- There has been an increase in school staff participating in the traditional tours of the Coast Salish territory.
- The GVTA formally acknowledges the local traditional territory before all meetings and in their publications.
- Attendance, attachment and achievement data was disaggregated for Aboriginal students for staff review and interpretation.
- Increased acknowledgement of the traditional territory of the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations at assemblies and in the classrooms.
- Weekly Coast Salish curriculum was presented to all K-5 Students through the Aboriginal Support Teacher and Aboriginal Education Assistant at Craigflower and this was their first year of being a Positive Behaviour Support school.
- There is an increase in classroom lessons that focus on history, science, language arts, by weaving traditional knowledge, storytelling, songs and dancing into the lessons.
- Rogers Elementary grade 4 and 5 classes studied Aboriginal PLOs in their Social Studies and Science curriculums.
- Assistance was provided for teachers implementing Aboriginal learning outcomes throughout the curriculum.
- Aboriginal students submitted art to show in the Douglas Street Art Gallery and also the Ogden Point mural project.
- ANED participated in the Youth Combatting Intolerance camp for students.





Goal 4: To increase success of all Aboriginal students.

Did you know...

- The Greater Victoria School District was successful in securing a Human Rights Special Program Exemption to assist in employing more Aboriginal teachers in the school system in 2007-08. 9 new teachers have been hired since 2007.
- There are 32 Aboriginal teachers in the Greater Victoria School District.
- Weekly meetings of Aboriginal staff with school administration.
- Rockheights Middle School developed an attendance tracking and intervention plan for each student missing more than 10% of school.
- View Royal created a “Guardian Angels-Champions” program amongst staff.
- Schools are working on systemic changes in both teaching and assessment strategies that will be of value to students e.g. project-based learning, collaborative learning and assessment for learning.
- A District Aboriginal Grade 12 Recognition Ceremony is hosted annually for 300 family and community members.
- The transition rate of students moving from Grade 11 to Grade 12 increased from 58% to 73% in 2007-08.
- The Dogwood Completion rate for 2009-10 is 41%.
- In 2009-10, **72** Aboriginal students wrote English 12 or English 12 First Peoples exams and **14** students wrote Communications 12.
- Esquimalt, Vic High, and Spectrum Secondary Schools teach BC First Nations Studies 12.
- Esquimalt and Vic High Secondary Schools launched English 12: First Peoples course in 2009-10.

- Esquimalt High School offered First Nations Earth Science 11 and First Peoples 10 as linear courses to increase completion rates.



- ANED fundraised \$6,000 to host the annual Recognition Dinner through the Student Role Model Calendar.
- Seven scholarships are awarded to students at the Grades 8, 10 and 12 levels. A total of \$8,700 is presented to students for their post secondary education.
- ANED worked with the Languages and Multiculturalism Department to develop and pilot English as a Second Dialect in 5 of our schools.
- The District English as a Second Dialect team has developed a primary assessment tool that is culturally fair and presented at a provincial conference.
- Oak Bay Secondary provided a "Learning Through Lunch" tutorial program for students who needed extra help and focus on their academics.
- Computer programs were set up to provide students who struggle with reading to receive a minimum of 30 minutes/week of computer instruction.
- ANED facilitates the production of student writings and art through Duck Soup for the Aboriginal Soul, an island wide publication for students. 49 students' art and written works were published in 2010.

- ANED provided support for the Positive Behavior Support Program (Special Education).
- Teachers at Macaulay Elementary were involved with the Learning Connections team which focused on the SMART framework and best teaching practices.
- Secondary Schools facilitate UVIC and Camosun College Aboriginal Advisors visits to students for post secondary and career planning.
- Facilitate student entries into the First Nations Math and Science Awards sponsored by the BC Chiefs' Health Committee.
- 2 Aboriginal students participated in the painting of the Ogden Point Murals through the Victoria Harbour Authority.
- School credit given for community based cultural activities.
- ANED sponsors students to attend the UVIC Mini Summer Camp and the UBC Summer Science Camp.



For more information visit our website at www.sd61.bc.ca and go to: Programs/Aboriginal Nations
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