

The Aboriginal Full-Day Kindergarten Program

2011-2012

Craigflower School

2766 Admirals Road, Victoria BC V9A 2R3

Tel: 384-8157



**IT TAKES A COMMUNITY
TO RAISE A CHILD**

The **ABORIGINAL Kindergarten** is an all-day program designed to integrate Aboriginal values with the provincially prescribed Kindergarten curriculum.

Our goal is to keep the academic, cultural and developmental needs of the child balanced.

DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS

Health and Nutrition:

Craigflower offers a Hot Lunch Program that provides the children with the kind of food they need to grow and learn. Students who are not on this program are encouraged to bring a healthy, bagged lunch. Please leave pop, candy and chips at home, although we will have some "Treat Days". We'll talk about health-giving foods and being active. We also talk about keeping hands clean, visiting the dentist and other general health habits.

Social:

Kindergarten is an important time to develop personal interaction skills. What this means to us is how to make and keep friends. We talk about sharing, taking turns, talking problems out, finding something nice to say about someone, and showing respect.

Whole Child:

We know your child is more than just a student waiting to be filled with knowledge. They are young people with thoughts, emotions and needs. It's important to keep the communication open between your child, yourself and us about all your child's needs. We hope you will find your way to our class.

CULTURAL LEARNING

To develop pride and self-esteem, we focus on personal identity, and who we are as Aboriginal people. We also integrate Aboriginal themes in our teaching units, with a focus on Eagles, Salmon, the Potlatch and the Bighouse.

Alex Clark shares Aboriginal stories and art with the students. We hope that sharing the stories also imparts values and social responsibility. **Respect, Pride and Honour** are the values we focus on.

We include the use of the circle into our daily activities. During circle, the students learn to speak proudly. They say their names, which nations they're from and how they're feeling.

The children learn about nature, how things in our environment were used traditionally and how we keep that integrated connection today.

Community involvement and participation are encouraged in our class, and people from different nations have come to the class to share music, bannock, stories, art, dance, and drama.

Vivian Varon Scheff will work with the children to build self-esteem.

ACADEMIC

Literacy is a major goal, and to meet it we'll need your help. In class we have book time, chart time, Guided Reading (for pre-reading and beginning reading) and Phonemic Awareness (listening to sounds in words). You can help at home by participating in the Home Reading Program.

In Math, students will learn their numbers, how to count out loud and to count objects. Using things like pencils, paper clips and cups of water, they'll learn how to create patterns and how to measure length, and weight.

In Science we are as hands-on as possible. We raise salmon in the class and take lots of fieldtrips. Join us if you can.

Art, Drama, P.E. and Music are also important parts of Kindergarten learning.

And most importantly: **PLAY!** There are lots of "play" centres as well as fun "learning" centres.

About our Staff:

The First Nations Kindergarten has four staff members connected to the program who are:

Francine Spahan
(Kindergarten Teacher)

Krystal Cook
(Teacher Assistant)

Alex Clark
(Aboriginal Nations Art Teacher)

Paul Thomas
(Aboriginal Nations District Counsellor)

For more information please contact:

Francine Spahan, Kindergarten Teacher or Lynne Moorhouse, Principal at
CRAIGFLOWER SCHOOL: 384-8157

Other important numbers:

Aboriginal Nations Education Office 475-4124

