

April 2024 School District 83 Indigenous Education Update to the Quelmúcw Education Council and the Board of Trustees



Storytelling Event at Silver Creek Elementary

On Monday, March 1, 2024, Jaden-Lee Herrington hosted an outdoor school-wide story telling event around a campfire with Silver Creek Elementary School students and their families. All were invited to learn about Indigenous culture and the importance to respect the land and others. The PAC provided apple cider, snacks and bannock for everyone to enjoy while listening to stories about the spring equinox. A special thank you to Silver Creek parents for delivering firewood. The weather was perfect for the event!



Visit From Bev Lambert, Affectionately Known as “Metis Bev”

Bev Lambert spent a week (April 15-19) in School District 83, visiting North Shuswap Elementary, Carlin Elementary Middle, Salmon Arm West Elementary, Bastion Elementary, and Rancho Elementary. Katie Taber, Success Teacher from AL Fortune, was key in organizing Bev’s visit to Students and staff all appreciated her workshops that were highly interactive, interesting, and informative. If funds permit, we would love to invite her back in the next school year.



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Carving with John Sayers at Salmon Arm Storefront

John Sayers, long-time Indigenous Education employee and Knowledge Keeper, spends a couple of days a week at Salmon Arm Storefront as a Knowledge Keeper in Residence. One of the ways that John connects with students is through art. John and several Storefront students helped to carve this beautiful sign that will be installed at the DESC and officially unveiled during the Storefront Graduation in June. John was honoured by the Storefront staff last year during the 2023 Graduation Ceremony. For a variety of reasons in his youth, John left school before graduating, but after having worked alongside you, and having the privilege of being in the same district as you, but through his quiet and humble way of connecting with and supporting students, he has helped innumerable students stay in school to reach that goal, and have taught more to educators in this district than we can ever list.

The sign is approximately four feet wide and two feet high, and will be a very visible representation of the commitment our district has to Truth and Reconciliation. This is yet one more meaningful and lasting contribution that John has made to School District t83, and we are so incredibly grateful that he continues to work with us, many years after his “official” retirement.



Medicine Wheel Outdoor Learning Space at Shuswap Middle School

Indigenous Education Workers, Theresa Johnson and Kaeli Hawrys, worked with SMS students to design and build a new outdoor learning and fire pit space at Shuswap Middle School. The space will be used by all students in the SMS community for learning Indigenous teachings, reading, and as an outdoor classroom.



The idea was inspired by a group of students in Ms. Penner's class. Earlier in the year, Theresa and Kaeli facilitated experiential activities through the historical exercise and the beaded timeline. These activities illustrate how colonization has affected groups of Indigenous people in the past and present. Students then designed their own beaded timeline, adding their researched information on traditional knowledge systems, as well as how they hope to see Reconciliation in action in the future. Students wanted to do something that demonstrates how we all have a role to play in the process.

The result was a learning space for all, designed around the traditional concepts of the Medicine Wheel. Students worked and fundraised, Pedro's gave discounts on the rocks, and Terra Traxx owner/operator Craig Volpatti provided machinery and materials at cost in order to see this vision come to life. A big "thank you!" to all involved.

The Quelmúcw Education Council and the Board of Trustees are very welcome to attend the official opening of the Medicine Wheel Outdoor Learning Space on May 13 at 10:30am, at Shuswap Middle School Please RSVP to Theresa or Kaeli if you would like to attend.



Red Dress Day to Remember Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls

Many schools are recognizing Red Dress Day around the district, but we would like to highlight one event in particular. On Friday, May 3, JL Jackson and Salmon Arm Secondary have partnered to create a gallery walk around McGuire Lake Park in remembrance of and to bring attention to the disproportionate number of murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls in Canada. There will be an official opening in the field just below JL Jackson at 10:45am. Following the opening, students, staff, and

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community members will have time to walk around McGuire Lake to take part in an art exhibit. There will also be an Awareness Booth set up in the park. The exhibit and booth will be open all day until 3:00pm.

The Quelmúcw Education Council and the Board of Trustees are very welcome to attend this event. We ask that everyone wears red on this very significant day. If you would like to learn more, please contact Fawn Herrington, the Indigenous Education Worker at JL Jackson.

Anti-Racism Summit at TRU on May 6-7, 2024

Youth Voice has been revived! Before the pandemic, we had a very active Indigenous student leadership group called Youth Voice. With staffing changes and being unable to gather together, we have had a bit of a hiatus, but the group is now active again, and we are ready to expand in the next school year.

This year, students from Shuswap Middle School, Salmon Arm Secondary, and Pleasant Valley Secondary will be attending an overnight field trip to Thompson Rivers University to take part in a ten-district Anti-Racism Summit. The purpose of the Summit is to consult with Indigenous students about the implementation of BC's Ministry of Education and Childcare Anti-Racism Action Plan.

Important Dates to Note:

- May 3: Recognition of Red Dress Day (May 5 is the official day)
- May 9: Jointly Convened Annual Meeting for FNEEC and the MOECC
- May 10-11: Network of Inquiry and Indigenous Education Symposium
- May 13: Medicine Wheel Outdoor Learning Space Opening
- May 15: Quelmúcw Education Council Meeting
- May 21: May Board of Education Meeting
- May 29: Indigenous Graduation at Splatins Centre
- June 3: TRC Allies Collaborative Planning Meeting
- June 13: Department Meeting and Lunch (Quelmúcw members invited for lunch)
- June 14: Knowledge Keeper Tea/Lunch
- June 18: June Board of Education Meeting



MAY 3

Red Dress Reflection Ceremony & Walk

FRIDAY 3 MAY 2024

10:45am Welcome & Opening Ceremony
J.L. Jackson School Fields

11:15am Reflection & Remembrance Walk
McGuire Lake Park in Salmon Arm

The Art Exhibit & Awareness Booth at McGuire Lake will be open to the public until 3pm on May 3
Any Questions? Contact: fherrington@sd83.bc.ca

PLEASE WEAR RED



The Indigenous Education Department is on FaceBook!

If you are a FaceBook user, we invite you to follow our department FaceBook page. We have been working on keeping that page updated and current, with important information for staff, students, communities, and families.

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