



Aboriginal Education School Plan

School: Chartwell Elementary

School Aboriginal Education Committee:

- Doni Gratton
- Linda Haddow
- Anita Dhillon
- Dave Grender
- Angela MacDonald

School Contact Person(s): Aron Campbell

Activities, events, speakers, presentations, projects etc. that have occurred at your location over the past two years:

Action Plan for 2015/2016

- **Connections to BC Curriculum (new document)**
 - Constant reference to the First Nations Curricular Resources and Topic Document created by our Teacher Librarian Doni Gratton
 - [K-7 Indigenous Peoples Activities Link to Connect to LA/SCI/SS Scope & Sequence](#)
 - [K-7 Scope and Sequence of First Nations Learning Outcomes related to Big Ideas](#)
- **First Peoples Principles of Learning (how will you embed these in your work with students this year?)**
 - Each classroom teacher has embedded within their annual year plan / scope and sequence a section devoted to the integration of First Nation learning objectives and guiding questions. Click [here](#) to access.

- **Parent Education (Native and Non-Native)**

- Invitations to First Nations Cultural Performances and Inquiry Exhibitions involving First Nations learning
- TBC

- **Community Partnerships**

- Lunch and Learn with **Lynne Tomlinson** , *District Director of Curriculum and Learning* (First Nations Portfolio) and liaison with First Nations resources in the field
- Click [here](#) for link to resources shared with teachers

FN Education Projects/Programs Planned for 2015/16

- 1) A **school wide cultural performance** through Sun Ergos Company Of Theatre and Dance
 - a. sun Ergos will visit Chartwell on Wed March 9th, 2016 to perform [LEGENDS: Stories from the Buffalo Hunters](#). In this production, themes of environmental care, responsibility, and empowerment from the Plains First Nations Peoples and the importance of cooperation, and living in harmony with all living things.
- 2) **Once monthly instructional blocks** with Prep Teacher **David Gredner** for all students in Grades Gr 3, 4 and 5 . Mr. Gredner will be touching upon Aboriginal themes taken from the BC Curriculum and will build upon existing concepts and contents taught by classroom teachers within their units of study. Pls see the attached Scope & Sequence of instruction by clicking [here](#)
- 3) **First Nations Literature and Art Study at the Grade 3 level**
 - a. An examination of First Nations Cultural Heritage and tradition as well as how heritage is passed along from generation to generation
 - b. An investigation of the role of the environment and how animals play an important role in First Nations traditional stories; this was capped off by a Block Printing project in cooperation with **Isaac Vanderhorst** from the West Vancouver Museum focused upon aboriginal animal designs.
 - c. Digital Storytelling Project in cooperation with Digital Literacy Instructor **Cari Wilson**, focusing on First Nations Legends. Students will write their own legend and create an iMovie to portray the legend digitally.
- 4) **Enhancement of the First Nations collection** in our library; inclusion of graphic novels (multiple copies of Raven Tales for literature circles), multimedia (cds and dvds to accompany stories-some in first language), and more material that is accessible for all

students (via both First Nations and Human rights collections). This is being conducted in direct cooperation with our Teacher Librarian, Doni Gratton.

- 5) **Monthly First Nations stories during library time.** These read-aloud picture books address First Nations issues, myths and cultural connections: Residential School (Shi Shi Etko), sharing/Potlatch (Secret of the Dance), new beginnings (Raven), virtues (Salmon Twins, Eagle Boy, Frog Girl).

Community Partnerships:

- Ms. Anjeanette Dawson, Home School Counselor for Squamish Nation
- Mr. Bob Baker, School District Liaison with Squamish Nation
- Ms. Faye Halls, School District Liaison with Squamish Nation
- Ms. Wendy Charbonneau, Local storyteller and weaver

Activities, events, speakers, presentations, projects etc. that have been done at your location over the past two years:

1. A **school wide cultural performance** through Art Starts agency and Red Sky Productions, Canada's leading company of world Indigenous performance in dance, theatre and music Red Sky will visit Chartwell on Thursday Feb 26th, 2015, to perform MISTATIM. In this new production, themes of environmental care, responsibility, and empowerment are such as respect for the natural world, and the importance of cooperation, and living in harmony with all living things.
1. **Grade 2 Classroom Social Studies Unit**
 - Focused on community that wove in First Nations history and their history on the North Shore
 - Science Unit on animals integrating learning specifically about animals that were an important part of First Nations culture (Wolf, Orca, Hummingbird, Bear, Raven, etc)
2. **Grade 3: Classroom Field Trip and Visual Arts Study**
 - Annual field trip in September to Vancouver Art Gallery for the students to attend the school art programme and workshop on the works and pottery making of Emily Carr.
 - Parents are invited to accompany the class so that they can also gain an understanding and of our BC cultural heritage.
 - This year the class met the Northwest Coast master carver Charles Edenshaw as an introduction to the Haida traditions and legacy. For the past 2 years grades 2 and 3 have

had a 6 - 8 week Art program to learn the story of weaving and have created their own woven bag with the instruction from First Nations artists.

3. Unit of Inquiry into First Nations Studies at the Grade 4/5 Level (Social Studies)

- Involves 2 Divisions and extensive collaboration amongst classroom teachers in planning and execution
- Planned field trip to Grouse Mountain - Hiwus First Nations Cultural Program and Fort Langley, appreciating and experimenting with First Nations food, dance, and art,
- Inquiry into First Nations issues such as the Enbridge pipeline, residential schools, reservation lands, and First Nation's rights,
- Reading of First Nations literature across K-4 classes.
- An exploration of First Nation's potlatches and a staging of a potlatch in classrooms,
- Role Drama - asking students to act as different stakeholders - First Nations, European settlers, land surveyors, government agents, etc - and solve the program of land ownership through drama, discussion, and a Town Hall Meeting

4. Twice monthly instructional blocks with Prep Teacher Kesley Woodley for all students in Grades K-5. Ms. Woodley will be focusing upon Aboriginal themes taken from the BC Draft Curriculum and will build upon existing concepts and contents taught by classroom teachers within their units of study.

5. First Nations Literature and Art Study at the Grade 3 level

- a. An examination of First Nations Cultural Heritage and tradition as well as how heritage is passed along from generation to generation
- b. An investigation of the role of the environment and how animals play an important role in First Nations traditional stories; this was capped off by a Block Printing project in cooperation with **Isaac Vanderhorst** from the West Vancouver Museum focused upon aboriginal animal designs.

6. In Class Workshops:

- Visits from in Grade 4/5 combining storytelling and music with Wendy Charbonneau
- Visits from the First Nations artist **Trinity Bissett** as part of the [Surrey Art Gallery First Nations Contemporary Art Outreach program](#)

District Support accessed last year:

- Use of District grant to cover costs associated with Field Trips and library resources
- Use of Krystal Farina in her role as Aboriginal Success Worker as well as Aboriginal Resource Coordinator

Resources needed for this year...

- Access to First Nations Specific Art Instruction
- Would like access to a list of contacts as to groups that are able and willing to visit schools in the Lower Mainland to share the rich history of First Nations culture and traditions.
- Continued interaction with Lynne Tomlinson and Mr. Bob Baker, District Liaison, more specifically to embark on a collaborative project that would look into a First Nations carving that would represent the Cougar, Chartwell's mascot.
- Discussion with Mr. Bob Baker regarding a possible renaming project for Chartwell in regard to its position geographically in relation to the Squamish Nation peoples and how this area was used as a vantage point overlooking the Burrard Inlet
- Access to Aboriginal Grant support for our school to continue to pursue the agenda shared above
- Storyteller, elder to visit classes, or primary students en masse in an assembly like presentation.
- More resources and books, especially at the primary level