



WV Aboriginal Education Committee School Plans – 2014/2015



School: Bowen Island Community School (BICS)

School FN Committee /Contact Person(s):

- Jennifer Pardee, Principal
- Scott Slater, Vice-Principal
(Principal, January 2015)
- Sarah Haxby,
Community School Coordinator

Additional FN Committee members:

- Liz Watson, Primary Teacher
- Laura Magrath, Intermediate Teacher
- Carmen Yamashita, Teacher-Librarian
- Nathan Blackburn, Learning Support Teacher
- Gary Fields, parent

FN Education Projects/Programs Planned for 2014/2015

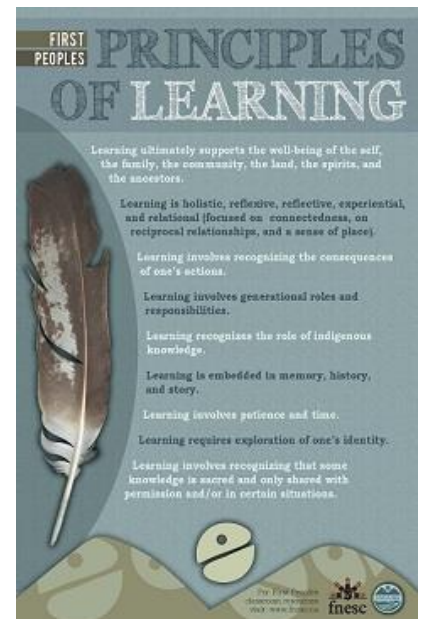
Each year BICS creates an Aboriginal Education Whale Day learning project that focuses on a different theme or topic. These projects are created in partnership with District support, representatives of our Squamish host nation, as well as BICS staff and community volunteers.

Whale Day 2014-2015: BICS teachers will look at elements of the current and new draft curriculum to collaboratively explore the concept of elders and ancestors.

On the last Friday in May we traditionally hold a Whale Day assembly to gather as a whole school to recognize and celebrate the BICS Whale Day Aboriginal Education project of the year. This year our Whale Day will be held Friday May 29, 2015.

Our overall goal is to be guided by the First Peoples Principles of Learning. Each year, we focus on two or three of the principles in order to deepen our understanding. This year we will particularly focus on these principles :

- First peoples' learning ultimately supports the well-being of the self, the family, the community, the land, the spirits, and the ancestors.
- Learning involves generational roles and responsibilities.
- Learning involves patience and time.



For Whale Day 2014/2015 we will look through the First Nations lens to foster and to deepen our understanding of:

- The concepts of First Nations elders and ancestors;
- Our understandings of ancestors and elders at a grade appropriate level (by comparing and contrasting);
- The roles and responsibilities of elders;
- The historic and contemporary links to elders and ancestry and what conditions have fostered or challenged these links;
- Perspective Taking (through our work with critical thinking) and how this is important as we learn about the concepts of ancestors and elders.

Teachers will be presented with this plan at a staff meeting in November. Teachers will work independently and/or collaboratively to decide best how this connects to their curriculum and how to integrate these themes into their classroom. Whale Day itself will be shaped by the ideas developed by the teachers and their students.

The plan will be shared with Bob Baker and Faye Halls for input and possibly to invite them for class visits to share their understanding of the concept of First Nation elders and ancestors with students. Representatives of the BICS FN Committee will meet with Bob and Faye either at BICS or at Eslha7an to further develop this plan (meeting date TBC: December or January).

We are mindful of adhering to the \$500 budget this year, and that with every new project, that plans will evolve based on staff feedback and the interests that arise during this learning process.

District, Community and Other Partnerships and Resources:

- District support contact: Lynne Tomlinson
- Squamish Host Nation/ District partnerships: Bob Baker and Faye Halls
- Outside45 is working with Delmar Williams to learn an array of First Nations' skills
- Bowen Island Fish and Wildlife Club (salmon hatchery as a potential link to primary curriculum)
- **Community Connections:** The Community School Coordinator connects with local seniors as well as a staff committee to create the Grandfriends Program at BICS which is an intergenerational program that creates opportunities for seniors to visit BICS and BICS to visit seniors at the co-op. There may be a nice community link as classes explore the concept of ancestry and elders.

District Support accessed last year:

\$500 towards the BICS Whale Day Stories and Legends project

The West Vancouver School District Aboriginal Education Enhancement Committee worked with Principal Jennifer Pardee and Community School Coordinator Sarah Haxby to develop and support the Whale Day Project with Ms. Lynne Tomlinson, Director of instruction, Mr. Bob Baker (Sa7plek Lanakila) as our school district's Aboriginal Education Worker, and Ms. Faye Halls (Yeltsilewet) as our school district's Aboriginal Education Facilitator.

Resources needed for this year:

- Continued resources and connections through Bob Baker and Faye Halls
- Connection to information and book resources specific to the subjects of elders and ancestors
- Additional funds to cover the expense of the ferry

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

- **Stories and Legends: Whale Day 2013 - 2014: a celebration through legends and storytelling**
Working in partnership with our Squamish host nation, Whale Day 2013 - 2014 looked at our cultural and ecological connections to whales and being part of the Salish Sea through the First Nations lens of myths, legends, and traditional storytelling. This project was inspired in part by the story that Faye Halls shared with us at the 2013 Whale Day. The project took an inquiry based approach asking these kinds of questions:
 - What significance does the whale and the sea play in the past and present of First Nations' culture and mythology through storytelling?
 - What are some of the whale and sea stories of the Squamish Nation that connect us?
 - After looking through a First Nations' lens and deepening the understanding of First Nations' legends and stories, what understanding and response to the stories, are students inspired to create and share?
 - How can we learn more about whales, and our marine environment through traditional and contemporary First Nations legends and the tradition of storytelling?
- **Kulelakum: Whale Day 2012 - 2013**, a year-long, whole-school-participation inquiry based project that culminated in a whole-school assembly unveiling and celebrating the 8' x 20' Kulelakum Whale Day mural mosaic with the Eagle Song Dancers and a sharing of a whale story by Faye Halls.
- **First Nations and Friends Art Club** (annual, monthly, extra-curricular program)
- **Andrea McKay First Nations Collection**: a collection of books, resources and artifacts that was unveiled in June 2012. The collection is housed in a dedicated book case with new and donated FN resources in the BICS library.

