



WV Aboriginal Education Committee

School Plans – 2014/2015

School: Cypress Park Elementary School

School FN Committee/Contact Person(s): Kim Grimwood, Andrea Anderson, Bea Sedgwick, Darren Elves, Krista Koke, Claire Stephenson

FN Resource Contact Person(s): Kim Grimwood

FN Education Projects/Programs Planned for 2014/2015:

- Planning to connect with Bob Baker to support the grade one inquiry into the central idea that the strength of a community depends on the contributions of all members.
- Planning to connect with Bob Baker to support the grade one inquiry into the central idea that stories are created to express ideas.
- The grade one teachers are also exploring the new BC curriculum and hoping to develop a new unit of inquiry that uses a lot of First Peoples artwork to explore the theme of “Where we are in Place and Time.”
- Planning to use Aboriginal stories and picture books to support Kindergarten inquiry into “How We Express Ourselves.” They will use the picture book *Totem Stories* to create their own totem to tell a story.
- Planning on making connections to Aboriginal curriculum in grade three inquiry into “Who We Are.” We would like to have an elder visit the class to speak with the students and are hoping to plan a field trip to the UBC Museum of Anthropology. The central idea of this unit is *beliefs, values, and traditions of a culture can be examined and expressed through personal stories*. The grade three class also explores aspects of the First Peoples community during their inquiry into *a community’s needs can be met by working together and adapting to changing circumstances*.

- We would like to begin exploring the history of Cypress Park's land along with the traditional stories about the area in order to learn about the important animals of the region. We hope to involve the whole school in the process and finally select a school mascot. We would then like to work on designing an image to represent the school, the land, and our Aboriginal heritage.
- We have invited Britannia Elementary School to Cypress Park for a holiday party. We will be doing a number of crafts, singing, and watching a movie together.
- We will be using and sharing lessons from *In Our Own Words: Bringing Authentic First Peoples Content to the K-3 Classroom*

Community Partnerships:

- Connection with Britannia Elementary School, our sister school. The schools connect through visits to each others' schools.
- The PAC provides support in terms of need items for the students and school (winter coats, boots, school supplies, books)
- Students will be making and sending holiday cards and letters to Britannia students.

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

- Xwalacktun worked as our school's artist-in-residence for five days. He connected with all of the students and led them through a series of directed drawings. He shared stories and songs with the students. This was funded through our PAC.
- Sahplek visited our school on two separate occasions. He supported the grade one unit of inquiry by sharing stories and discussing the significance of oral story telling. He also worked with the grade three students by sharing music and stories and discussing the connection between culture and story.
- Our students visited Britannia Elementary School and participated in a number of holiday activities together, including ice skating, crafting, and baking. The students strengthened their connections with each other. This was funded through our PAC.

- Beach Day, students from Britannia Elementary School visited Cypress Park for the day. They ate lunch together, did a craft together (tie-dye t-shirts) and visited a local beach. This was funded through our PAC.
- The school librarian purchased First Peoples graphic novels, *The Raven Tales*, along with other First Nations picture books and created a First Nation section within our new Learning Commons. These books were highlighted in a number of lessons and were quite popular with students.

District Support accessed last year

- Bob Baker, Sahplek, visited the school on two occasions and also provided us with copies of his books

Resources needed for this year

- Bob Baker to enhance the First Peoples content of our units of inquiry
- Additional aboriginal stories and books to connect to our units of inquiry.
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