



WV Aboriginal Education Committee
School Plans – 2014/2015

School: Irwin Park School

School FN Committee/Contact Person(s)
Jody Billingsley & Cathie Ratz

FN Resource Contact Person(s)
Sahplek (Bob Baker)
Faye Halls
Lynne Tomlinson

FN Education Projects/Programs Planned for 2014/2015

As aboriginal education becomes more embedded within the new BC curriculum, Irwin Park is making a conscious effort to continue to authentically incorporate Aboriginal education on a daily basis. As such there are a variety of events, projects and plans outlined for the 2014-2015 Irwin Park school year. The hope is to continue with indigenizing the curriculum and to have a seamless approach where the aboriginal education is seen a more transdisciplinary manner. The follow are plans for the school year:

1. Sahplek (Bob Baker) to come into the school to work with early primaries to teach circle talks and using a talking sticks
2. Sahplek (Bob Baker) to offer a historical perspective for the Grade 7 Middle Ages Inquiry, which only gives an European perspective. We are looking at oral language and looking at comparing how First Nations were living in North America during the Middle Ages.

3. Representative from Squamish Nation to come in and teach Squamish language using a “gestures - type” of program for students to learn Squamish Vocabulary
4. Have representative of the Squamish Nation come in to work with various grades with weaving - using a looms
5. Ensuring families of Aboriginal background at Irwin Park are encouraged to attend the Family Feast in the spring
6. Planning with the District Squamish Liaison, we are looking at having a structure erected around the school sign along with planning indigenous local plans.
7. Sahplek (Bob Baker) to come in and do “the journey of the salmon” and to do a blessing around this for grade 2 science
8. Learning commons has designated an area to highlight books and resources of aboriginal content and to display First Nations Art (Continue to label books for easy identification).
9. Grade 1s to go on field trip to Grouse Mountain to the Hiwus First Nations Culture Program.
10. Planning to book First Nations culture event for the school.

Community Partnerships

Irwin Park prides itself on reaching out the local community partnerships. As such, we will be working with local plant companies and purchasing indigenous plants to be planted around our Irwin Park sign with support from the District. This will be in collaboration with our Squamish cultural liaison to ensure that the plants are authentic.

We will once again be working with the West Vancouver Museum, linking with Isaac Vanderhorst, linking First Nations art with our grade four students. Students will examine First Nations primary resources with a focus on art and weaving.

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

1. Irwin Park representation at the yearly Family Feast
2. Weaving club
3. K/1 Talking Stick
4. Teddy Anderson - First Nations Hoop Dancer
5. Whole School Performance – Raven meets the Monkey King
6. Legend of the Polar Mend – Welcome Dance – Grade 4s with Bob Baker
7. New library resources purchased and special labels made to indicate aboriginal literature.
8. Salmon Blessings by Sahplek (Bob Baker)
9. Cedar Trees- along with Squamish Nation – In front of the school (four cedar trees)

District Support accessed last year

Sahplek (Bob Baker)
Lynne Tomlinson

Resources needed for this year

1. Member from the ministry to come into the school to teach Squamish language to grade 4 and grade 7 students
2. Materials for making talking sticks for primaries
3. List of First Nations cultural events to help with selecting school booking
4. Working with Sahplek (Bob Baker) on a variety of cultural initiatives as mentioned above