



Indigenous Education School Plan 2020 - 2021

1. School: Bowen Island Community School

2. School Aboriginal Education Committee Members:

BICS Staff:

L. Buchan; C. Fairbank; T. Kopoulos; S. Haxby; B. Lloyd; C. McKay; A. Pasternak; M. Roughley; S. Slater; S. Spracklin

BICS Parents/Guardians:

A. Cooper; S. James; T. Kretschmar; J. Miller; C. Rolfsen; F. Simmons; M. Yasue; B. Yu

3. School Main Contact Person(s):

Scott Slater (Principal)

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

2019-2020

Student Learning

Orange Shirt Day

- Recognized Orange Shirt Day by encouraging staff and students to wear orange shirts and having students make paper shirts with the inscription, "I will _____ because every child matters."
- The Indigenous Education Committee shared age-appropriate lesson ideas with teachers to use in classrooms as well as websites and books with parents/guardians to teach about truth and reconciliation at home.



'Pre-Contact' Learning

- BICS Grades 4-5 students participated in the two day Cultural Program at the Cheakamus Centre Longhouse in October. The program supported many of the First People's Principles of Learning; particularly with respect to learning involving "generational roles and responsibilities," "patience and time," and learning being "holistic, reflexive, reflective, experiential, and relational (focused on connectedness, on reciprocal relationships, and a sense of place)."

Language Learning

- The Squamish-English Dictionary (2011) was made available to staff to incorporate some basic words in instruction.

Ongoing Professional Learning

- Our 2019-2022 FESL focuses on place-based learning with the intention of helping students understand their place, and their place in the world. The First Peoples Principle of Learning, "Learning is holistic, reflexive, reflective, experiential, and relational (focused on connectedness, on reciprocal relationships, and a sense of place)," guided our work in this area.
- Teachers explored the [DRAFT Indigenous Education Resource Inventory](#) from the Ministry of Education (in association with FNEESC, BCTF, and Métis Nation British Columbia)

2018-2019

Professional and Community Learning

On September 21st, 2018, our professional development day at BICS focused on Indigenous Education. The day started with all education staff participating in the Blanket Exercise. Following this exercise, teachers and education assistants explored a variety of online resources from FNEESC, ERAC, and DeltaLearns to



better understand the many indigenous resources now available. Resources related to the story *The Six Cedar Trees* were also shared and the accompanying posters which highlight the six Core Competencies (created by DeltaLearns) were given to teachers to put up in their rooms. All 15 classrooms at BICS will use common language and imagery from *The Six Cedar Trees* to teach about the Core Competencies.

On October 13, 2018, we screened the film *Indian Horse* free of charge for the community of Bowen Island. Sahplek, Bob Baker, introduced the film and shared some of his experiences in the residential school system. He also led participants in singing “Eagle Song” following the film which was quite a hopeful and powerful conclusion to the evening. In promoting the event, we shared authentic indigenous resources about how families can learn about the Indian Residential School system with our school community via newsletter and in the local paper.

Student Learning

Orange Shirt Week

BICS recognized Orange Shirt Day October 15-19. Students wore cutouts of orange shirts to recognize that “Every Child Matters.” The shirts read, “I will _____, because Every Child Matters.” The intention of the inscription was to demonstrate that each person has a responsibility to ensure that all people are valued; we each have a role in ensuring that every child matters.

We had two assemblies: one for intermediate students with specific information about residential schools as shared by students; and second, a school-wide assembly featuring information and videos from the Orange Shirt website noting the intentions of Orange Shirt Day as described by Phylis Webstad.

Pole Carving + Raising

Throughout the year, artist and BICS parent Winadzi (Simon Daniel James), carved a Welcome Pole in our outdoor learning classroom. Students had a chance to visit



and learn more about the carving and its Kwakwaka'wakw association. As Winadzi is not a Squamish artist, a ceremony to commence the artwork led by Xwalacktun (Rick Harry) of the Squamish Nation was held in September which gave students an opportunity to learn some of the relevant protocols.

The pole was unveiled during a ceremony, also led by Xwalacktun, involving dozens of students, parents, and community members and included meaningful participation from many of our students with indigenous ancestry as they learned and practiced some of the protocols of the Squamish Nation.

5. Action Plan for 2020/2021

Student Learning

Goal #1: Develop students' appreciation for the Squamish culture and language as well as know the meanings and pronunciations of some basic words.

- Students will learn the Coast Salish Anthem in K-7 Music Class
- The Indigenous Education Committee will provide classroom sets of basic words to label various classroom items and offer [some basic language lessons](#) to incorporate Squamish language in classrooms.
- We are hoping to organize an opportunity for students, staff and parents/guardians to learn some of the Squamish language. This may, depending on the thoughts of the teacher/facilitator, include students and families learning, virtually, synchronously.
- Students in Grades 3-7 will work with Sahplek to learn about the Spirit of the Canoe; traditions and protocols; and songs for the canoe
- We are hoping, COVID-guidelines permitting, to meet as a School on the large Bowfest fields in Snug Cove to be led in song and dance by Sahplek for our traditional Whale Day celebration, acknowledging the potential



transiting of Whales around Bowen Island as part of their migratory routes and hunting grounds.

Professional Learning

Goal #2: Decolonizing Pedagogy

- In conjunction with our School's Diversity Group, our Committee will support teachers with decolonizing pedagogy and decentering whiteness. Some members of the Committee will attend workshops and read books on this topic and share with staff. We will continue to bring in diverse books, including authentic indigenous resources.
- Two members of our Committee will participate in the District Circle Meetings and will share their learnings with our group.

Community Learning

- As part of Orange Shirt Day, Scott Slater shared a message with families about what learning looked like for students and encouraged families to follow up with students at home. Parents/guardians were encouraged to commit to several actions related to reconciliation.
- Our group may select and virtually screen an indigenous film this year and create breakout rooms to discuss the film.

6. District support and resources needed this year. Please be as specific as possible in your requests.

- Support in finding a member of the Squamish Nation to provide virtual language lessons for students, staff and parents.
- Continued connections with Sahplek and Yeltsilewet to foster students curiosity and appreciation for the Squamish culture.