



## **Aboriginal Education School Plan 2020-2021**

**1. School:** Westcot Elementary

**2. School Aboriginal Education Committee Members:** All WE teaching staff

**3. School Main Contact Persons** Cathie Ratz Stepahnie Gorgichuk Julie Hunt

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

- Isaac Vanderhorst - Artifacts/Kits from West Vancouver Museum
- Faye Halls - First Nations Government/Residential Schools
- Bob Baker - Talking Sticks and Storytelling - Grade 1
- Bob Baker - Song and stories - Kindergarten
- Bob Baker - Squamish Anthem, Support School Wide Musical
- Xwalacktun - directed drawing storytelling - Grade 2, 4, 6
- Soap Stone Carving - Grades 2 and 3
- Weaving - Grades 4 and 5
- Medicine Wheels - Loose Parts - Grade 1
- Grade 2, 6 to WVPD participate in Xwalacktun`s carving at WVPD
- Class set of Looms - Study of Weaving Grade 2, 4, 6, 7
- Grouse Mountain First Nations Hiwus Program - Grade 4
- Westcot Gardening Committee - choosing, nurturing and creating a learning space inspired by Indigenous plants, adding the Squamish names for the plants and sharing how these plants were and are being used

**5. Action Plan for 2020/2021**

- **Connections to BC Curriculum**



Full implementation of BC Curriculum recognizing that FPPL are embedded in all curriculum, attention to the authenticity of resources and materials

6 Cedars - Core Competency Connections as an addition to the reflective student practice currently in place

Focus on the place based connections, continued work with salmon, our new courtyard gardens with Indigenous plants

Planning for a Whole School Indigenous Day (June 2021) involving WE staff, District staff, Parents, Community Partners, students

Grade 2 Museum of Vancouver Cedar and Sealskin

Grade 4 and 7 Canoe Journeys and storytelling

Grade 3 and 7 Learning Through the Canoe with Bob Baker

Grade 4 Indigenous Legends Film Festival

Staff Book Club (Braiding Sweetgrass as Book 1, From the Ashes Book 2))

- **First Peoples Principles of Learning (how will you embed these in your work with students this year?)**

Asking questions is the place where learning starts. Our Westcot staff continues to seek guidance about protocols unique to our Squamish learners. We model the openness to learn and reach out to our partners in the Nation to help us with our work. We share as a group and continue to learn through experience.



With the support of our TLs we choose stories and resources that authentically reflect First Peoples using materials recommended by the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) and First Nations Schools Association (FNSA).

We understand that a deep understanding of the FPPL is first necessary, and this understanding takes time to develop. Continued touchback and shared learning will continue this school year.

- **Parent Education**

Fresh Grade as individual classes share their learning and understanding

Assemblies as we recognize we have the privilege of learning on the territory of the Squamish Nation

Social Media as we share events, presentations, learning

Displays within our school (our name, our Orange Shirt Day reflections)

Sharing of our work and plans with our WPAC

Learning Story Co Created with Jada Harry on display in school entry and on school website

Providing Stories of our Learning with our Garden Initiative

- **Community Partnerships**

Families of our Westcot Aboriginal Students

West Vancouver Museum Partnership



North Vancouver Museum Resources

Grouse Mountain First Nations Hiwus Program - Grade 4

Warriors Lacrosse Team

Meetings with Squamish Nation to facilitate open discussion and planning

Garden/Plant Connections

- **Student Support – Success Teachers/Counsellors**

Early Learning Team providing visual supports to Grade K - 3 classrooms

Ongoing support of our School Based Team to meet the needs of our Indigenous Learners

Ongoing work with Aboriginal Success Teacher Jada Harry

Open dialogue with Advocates from the Education, Employment and Training Department of the Squamish Nation

## **6. District support and resources needed this year:**

- funding and construction of a large school loom for our Learning Commons

