



Westcot Elementary School

Indigenous Education School Plan 2021-2022

1. School: Westcot Elementary

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

3. School Main Contact Persons Cathie Ratz Stephanie 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
- Bob Baker - Talking Sticks and Storytelling - Grade 1
- Bob Baker - Song and stories - Kindergarten
- Xwalacktun - directed drawing storytelling
- Soap Stone Carving Grade 3
- Weaving with Cease Wyss - Grades 5 - 7
- Squamish Language with Alice Guss Grade 4 and 5
- Medicine Wheels - Loose Parts - Grade 1
- Class set of Looms - Study of Weaving Grade 6
- 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



- Garden Meetings with Jared Van Somer
- Meetings with Squamish Nation Education Team and Advocates

5. Action Plan for 2021/2022

- **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

K – 3 **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 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 7 **Tayaka Tours**

Grade 3 and 7 **Learning Through the Canoe** with Bob Baker

Grade 3 Blessing of the salmon released to Brothers Creek

Jared Van Somer – stories from our garden

Grade 4 Indigenous Legends Film Festival

Royal BC Museum



Grade 4 and 5 Squamish Language with Alroy Bucky Baker K'erxmtn

Staff Book Club (Braiding Sweetgrass as Book 1, 5 Little Indians, The Breaker)

K - 7 Revisit the name CH"TL'AAM to ensure all students know and connect with the story and name

- **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 TMs 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**

Classroom Land Acknowledgments we recognize we have the privilege of learning on the territory of the Squamish Nation - shared on Gathering Tree

Signage in our Salal Welcome garden – honouring the lives of 215 children lost

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

Westcot Learns Squamish Language Bulletin Board outside the gym

Providing Stories of our Learning with our Garden Initiative

K – 7 Google Classrooms

- **Community Partnerships**

Families of our Westcot Indigenous Students

West Vancouver Museum Partnership

North Vancouver Museum Resources

Grouse Mountain First Nations Hiwus Program - Grade 4

Warriors Lacrosse Team

Squamish Nation Education Team

Ayas Menmen

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 Indigenous 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:

- Speakers from Squamish Nation to share meet with our Grade 6 classes about Government



To enhance the educational success of our First Nations, Metis, and Inuit students, and focus on the three main goals to ensure they are supported intellectually, culturally, and emotionally.

To use Indigenous ways of Knowing and Perspectives to inform and empower our teaching, learning and decision making



To enhance student success by facilitating transitions and pathways throughout the K – 12 Journey.



To create a sense of space and belonging for Indigenous students that is inclusive to all.





Engage, Empower and Connect Toward Further Reconciliation

How do we as a staff at Westcot promote deeper understandings as we work toward meeting the demands of the TRC Calls to Action in our school and classrooms?



Westcot Book Club 2020–2021

As a part of our Westcot Indigenous Ed Plan, as a commitment to Truth and Reconciliation Call to Action #57 Professional Development for public servants, as front loading for January 29th Pro D Day focused on Indigenous Learning, as a connection to the work going on in our courtyard garden, because Karen recommended it, for fun....

I know a few of you have read this book, if you have and have a copy and can pass it on please do. I ordered 5 copies and have 1 left in the office. 4 staff are currently reading. Let me know if you would like the book I still have or if you would like to waitlist one of the copies. We are thinking January for our first book talk?



How will our work as a staff at Westcot, learning through stories told by Indigenous authors, fiction, non-fiction and children's books, impact the stories we share in the classroom?

WHAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lit circle focusing on Canadian Indigenous literature • YOU get to choose what to read!
WHO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absolutely ANY member of Westcot staff
WHERE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual teams meeting
WHEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once a month from September - June
WHY	<p>Here are some of the most important reasons WHY:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Share learning and reflections on Indigenous literature 2. Honour our Indigenous Education Plan in a meaningful way 3. Collaborate on different ways to incorporate Indigenous perspectives into our daily teachings
HOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guiding questions • Designated facilitators • Collaboration, open-mindedness and respect



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