



## Indigenous Education School Plan 2024 – 2025

**School:**

Irwin Park Elementary

**School Indigenous Education Committee Members:**

Alex Bleim, Doni Gratton, Megan Roughley, Dawn Ellwyn, Emily Lane, Devan Burke

**School Main Contact Person(s):**

Alex Bleim

1. What is the focus of your Indigenous School Plan for 2024/2025?
  - a. **Place-Based and Land-Based Learning:** Emphasizing student connections to nature and the new school community garden.
2. If you have students with Indigenous Ancestry attending your school, what Indigenous Student Outcome(s) are you working to improve? (Student Attendance, Developing Sense of Belonging, Literacy, Numeracy, Culture....)
  - a. **Sense of Belonging:**
    - i. Linked to the school-wide FSEL goal
    - ii. Goal - To foster a sense of curiosity and pride in Indigenous identity by creating opportunities for students to explore and connect with their cultural heritage, develop an understanding of their Nation(s) and community, and celebrate the richness of Indigenous ways of knowing, being, and doing. Through culturally responsive and relational approaches, we aim to nurture their sense of belonging and confidence in their identity.
    - iii. Support from Admin and Sylvia King
3. How does your plan connect to the Enhancement Agreement and/or the Equity in Action Goals found in the 2024-2025 Indigenous Success Plan?
  - a. **Human and Social Development:**
    - i. Enhance sense of belonging to promote student success and positive mental health
  - b. **Career Development:**
    - i. Support meaningful transitions from Grade 7 to Grade 8



4. Highlight a few of the cultural learning activities, events, speakers, presentations or cultural projects that you have done or are planning to do this year.
  - a. **Cultural Teachings**
    - i. Visits from Bob Baker and Sylvia King (3 sessions planned).
    - ii. Additional visits with Sylvia King.
    - iii. Grade 3 Canoe Talks.
    - iv. Grade 7 Canoe Experience (Term 3).
    - v. Elder visit (tentative: Angie Dawson, Term 3) to discuss Indigenous plants and medicines.
    - vi. Have also reached out to Leigh Joseph.
  - b. **ArtStarts – Green Thumb Theatre Presentation:**
    - i. *The Mixolydian* (Term 2), focusing on Indigenous culture, tradition, and identity.
  - c. **Ongoing Professional Development:**
    - i. Staff Book Club: *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer.
    - ii. Grade 6/7 "Green Guardians" class, led by Alex Bleim and Doni Gratton, focusing on Indigenous knowledge, place-based learning, and garden literacy.
  - d. **Language and Acknowledgment Practices:**
    - i. Skwxwú7mesh sníchim.
    - ii. Use of Squamish language in announcements and assemblies.
    - iii. Personal land acknowledgments inspired by Len Pierre's work.
  
5. What are you most proud of with respect to your Indigenous School Plan?
  - a. Strong focus on **reciprocity and relationships**, exemplified by the care and learning centered on the school garden.
  - b. Integration of resources like *Held by the Land* to educate staff and students about Indigenous plants.
  - c. Encouraging transformative land acknowledgments written by students and staff (inspired by Len Pierre's work).
  
6. School Plan by Grade Team
  - a. [Indigenous Ed Year Plan IP 24-25.docx](#)

*Please send a copy of your Indigenous School Plan Ian Kennedy by December 01, 2024*