

Indigenous Education School Plan 2023 - 2024

- 1. School: Irwin Park Elementary School
- 2. School Indigenous Education Committee Members:

Alex Bleim, Devan Burke, Dawn Ellwyn, Emily Lane, Megan Roughley, Kirsten Dixon, Heather Spracklin

- 3. School Main Contact Person(s): Kirsten Dixon & Megan Roughley
- 4. Activities, events, speakers, presentations, projects etc. that have occurred at your location last school year:

Whole School:

- Use of Squamish language greeting and acknowledgement in our daily announcements
- Orange Shirt Day & National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
 - Suggested resources shared with teachers
 - Squamish music playlist on announcements each morning of the week
 - Colouring sheets (to use with the playlist now and beyond)
 - Informational announcements
 - o Doni Gratton read: I Am Not a Number (gr 4-7) and Stolen Words (K-7) in library
 - Shared <u>document</u> in the bulletin so they can participate in this important day in the community
 - Orange ribbons ribbons tied to the fence with purpose and reflection
- Indigenous Veterans Day special announcement, Tues Nov 8
 - Encourage teachers to explore this day
- Remembrance Day Nov 2022 invitation and presence of Bob Baker, Squamish Nation Elder, to speak and present Warrior Song in recognition of Indigenous Peacekeepers
- Welcome parents to the planning team (1 mom joined and attended a few meetings with us)
- Promote books share with families (Book of the Month in the bulletin) Family Book
 Club
- Blanket Exercise as a staff on May Pro D
- Indigenous Peoples Day
 - Bannock for the entire school community
 - Classes engaged with resources
 - Team curated a list of ideas for the community to engage with
 - National Indigenous Peoples Day.docx (this file is saved in the Irwin Park Teams)



Classroom/Grade Team Based:

	Jidue Tedili Daseu.
Kindergar	• connected to place through repeated visits to the 'school forest', taking time
ten	to point out FPPL and practice sharing circles, looking closely, etc.
	 explored art/stories celebrating local Indigenous peoples (storytelling
	opportunities using 'loose parts' and exploration of animals)
	celebrated Indigenous People's Day through hands-on activities (e.g.
	bannock-making, art, stories, learning how to count in the Squamish
	language to 10).
Grade 1	Explored culture through literature
	 Isaac Vanderhorst's visit from West Vancouver Museum to make First Nation
	art through printmaking
	Spindle Whorl art inspired by Coast Salish weavers taught by Isaac from
	WVAM
	Orange Shirt Day art and story
	Artist study of Henry Roy Vickers, "The Elders are Watching"
	 Bear claw in the First Nation style inspired by the story "Little Bear's Vision Quest"
	Sea to Sky Inquiry project: learning about local plants like cedar and Sea to Sky Inquiry project: learning about local plants like cedar and Sea to Sky Inquiry project: learning about local plants like cedar and Sea to Sky Inquiry project: learning about local plants like cedar and Sea to Sky Inquiry project: learning about local plants like cedar and Sea to Sky Inquiry project: learning about local plants like cedar and Sea to Sky Inquiry project: learning about local plants like cedar and Sea to Sky Inquiry project: learning about local plants like cedar and Sea to Sky Inquiry project: learning about local plants like cedar and Sea to Sky Inquiry project: learning about local plants like cedar and Sea to Sky Inquiry project: learning about local plants like cedar and Sea to Sky Inquiry project: learning about local plants like cedar and Sea to Sky Inquiry project: learning about local plants like cedar and Sea to Sky Inquiry project: learning about local plants like cedar and Sea to Sky Inquiry project: learning about local plants like cedar and Sea to Sky Inquiry project: learning about local plants like cedar and Sea to Sky Inquiry project: learning about local plants like cedar and Sea to Sky Inquiry project: learning about local plants like cedar and Sea to Sky Inquiry project: learning about local plants like cedar and Sea to Sky Inquiry project: learning about local plants like cedar and Sea to Sky Inquiry project: learning about local plants like cedar and Sea to Sky Inquiry project: learning about local plants like cedar and Sea to Sky Inquiry project: learning about local plants like cedar and like cedar an
	traditional coast Salish practices like fish basket making. Listening to
	Squamish language translations of local plants and animals
	Bus trip to Lighthouse Park to look at local plants
	 Artist study on Roy Henry Vickers with a focus on his children's literature, music and art
	 Indigenous Peoples Day: Bannock baking and Powwow dancing from
	Indigenous educator virtually
	 Interactive storytelling by Squamish elder in the Hiwus Feasthouse on Grouse
	Mountain
	Spindle whorl art inspired by Coast Salish weavers, taught to us by Isaac
	Vanderhorst from WVAM
	Orange Shirt Day: virtual author visit from Nicola Campbell, beading, virtual
	drawing class from Coast Salish artist Andrea Fritz
	Sea to Sky Inquiry project: learning about local plants like cedar and
	traditional Coast Salish practices like fish basket making. Listening to
	Squamish language translations of local plants and animals
	Regular read-alouds of children's lit. by Indigenous authors
	Learning about code-talkers on Indigenous Veterans Day
Grade 2	Lifecycle activities linked to storytelling and identity - the importance of life
	cycle, like Salmon (Will have the salmon in our classroom in the new year) to
	the Skwxwú7mesh Nation
	Using the 6 cedars as a resource
	 Using the 6 cedars book to introduce the posters
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- Use the posters and a form of self-reflection and daily check-ins, making links to the core competencies
- Incorporating the language into the classroom
- Developing awareness of how storytelling in First Peoples' culture connects to family, identity, community and diversity.
- Understanding the oral traditions around storytelling and how some stories are not to be shared
- Incorporating Indigenous culture and traditions across the curriculum (Math, Literacy, Music, Dance)
- Incorporate Indigenous artists into art lessons, making connections to the different regions of Canada (Patterning, significance of animals, colour and materials)
- Consider and incorporate the FPPL in unit/lesson planning
- local First Peoples knowledge of local landforms ie. The Two Sisters
- Coast Salish Seasonal Rounds:
 https://www.ingridscience.ca/sites/default/files/attachments/seasonal round
 d winter up vashon-maury island heritage museum poster 0.jpg
- Weaving
- Baking bannock and discussing its history with our buddy class
- Stories by Indigenous authors such as Sweetest Kulu, Shi-shi etko, Frybread and Thunder Boy Jr. as well as Bob Baker talking about Canoe Culture, Squamish History, and traditional Stories:
 <a href="https://westvancouverschools.ca/aboriginal-education/resources-curriculum-and-classroom-resources/curriculum-
- Outdoor learning activities to connect to the land such as the 'Sit Spot' routine and nature journaling
- Orange Shirt Day and Indigenous People's Day activities

Grade 3

- Oral storytelling traditions (Eg. Raven Steals the Sun, Raven and the First Humans)
- How in the past, BC's coastal Indigenous People relied upon their immediate environment (and the natural resources found there) to meet their basic needs for survival (food, shelter, clothing).
- Art native animal prints -led by Isaac Vanderhorst from West Van. Museum
- Lifecycle activities linked to storytelling and identity the importance of life cycle, like Salmon (Will have the salmon in our classroom in the new year) to the Skwxwú7mesh Nation
- Using the 6 cedars as a resource

as well as retelling stories orally

- Using the 6 cedars book to introduce the posters
- Use the posters and a form of self-reflection and daily check ins, making links to the core competencies

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	HOOL DISTRICT premier place for learning.		
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	 to family, identity, community and diversity. Understanding the oral traditions around storytelling and how some stories 		
	are not to be shared		
	Incorporating Indigenous culture and traditions across the curriculum (Math,		
	Literacy, Music, Dance)		
	Incorporate Indigenous artists into art lessons, making connections to the		
	different regions of Canada (Patterning, significance of animals, colour and materials)		
	Consider and incorporate the FPPL in unit/lesson planning		
Grade 4	Explore First Peoples' initial contact with explorers and the effect of first		
	contact on First Peoples' lives and culture. Focus on different perspectives.		
	• First Peoples' role in the fur trade. Did it benefit them or further impact their		
	way of life?Impact of settlement and colonization on First Peoples' culture and traditions		
	 Impact of settlement and colonization on First Peoples' culture and traditions First People's interaction with nature and how their way of life naturally 		
	protects biomes (importance of nature in the culture)		
	Residential schools discussions		
	Art using Coast Salish styles		
Grade 5	Government: Look at Indigenous rights past and current		
	Simple Machines: Look at how Squamish culture used simple machines		
	(paddle level, wedges, etc)		
	Immigration: Isaac did lesson on West Van Cannery, spoke about treatment		
	of Indigenous workers		
	 Oral history of (Cannery field trip) Natural Resources: Talk about First Nations sustainability efforts (past and 		
	current)		
	Art: Weaving		
	Coast Salish online Art lesson- sea otter/Orange Shirt Day - Andrea Fritz		
	L.A I can make this promise - class novel study		
Grade 6	Incorporating Squamish Language lessons into our units and having the		
	language visible in the classroom		
	 https://www.kwiawtstelmexw.com/category/language resources/ Weaving the FPPoL into all that we do (and having them visible in the 		
	classroom)		
	 Studying the TRC guide for children as part of Orange Shirt Day 		
	 https://vimeo.com/518281693 		
	https://fncaringsociety.com/sites/default/files/child_friendly_calls_to_action		
	<u>web.pdf</u>		

- Sharing suggested activities for families to do on September 30 for the first TRC day, in an email newsletter (Div. 3 and 4)
- Using the Circle of Courage to guide group discussions and solve problems as a class
- Studying the Indigenous governments in Social Studies
- Following and incorporating Indigenous curriculum content into inquiry units (for example: First Peoples Perspectives on Space)
 - Look at star constellation artwork by Indigenous people in BC.
 compare various Western European and Native beliefs pertaining to star constellations, the moon, etc.
 - Listen to a podcast on <u>https://www.sciencefriday.com/articles/indigenous-peoples-astronomy/</u>
 - This was about relearning the star stories of Indigenous peoples
- Explore Indigenous authors and stories and/or stories with Indigenous characters in Language Arts
- Sharing seasonal picture books
- Focus on Indigenous artists during art
- Access the website https://trc57speakerseries.ca to promote conversation towards rebuilding relationships with Indigenous peoples and the Land.
- Participating in the Circles Restorative Justice program
- Current event conversations and article close reads on Indigenous communities and cultural celebrations
- Looking into guest speakers, community partnerships, and field trip opportunities
- Attending the WVML Garden Ceremony with the Squamish Nation

Grade 7

- Visit from Sa7plek Lanakila to discuss the role and importance of the canoe in Coast Salish culture.
- Grade 7 Canoe Experience: Ridge Wilderness trip where students connect
 with Sa7plek Lanakila and connect the lessons learned about earlier in year
 to an experience in canoes. Focus was placed on working together, being
 respectful of place, self, and others. Stories were shared by Sa7plek Lanakila
 throughout the experience.
- Weaving Indigenous themes through discussions of in
- Social Studies, Math, and Language Arts:
 - Discussions around Paleolithic lifestyles (SS), Small Number (SFU Numeracy resources), and cross-curricular articles (LA).
- Book club with Indigenous authors/voices available.
- Oral storytelling with a focus on the First People's Principles of Knowing.
- Haida formline art project study Robert Davidson's style of art. Focus on style elements, stories from the Haida nation that informed his work, etc.

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Inclusive	LST		
Education	Stories/read alouds, application of First Nations principles		
(ELL/LST)	ELL		
	 Supported classroom teachers and students with new vocabulary and ideas. Provided visual aids, simplified sentences, sentence stems and small group instruction focusing on vocabulary and simple stories and comprehension, etc. 		
Physical Literacy	Acknowledging First People's Principles and how they connect physical literacy (av. learning involves nations) and time)		
Literacy	 literacy (ex: learning involves patience and time) Hockey & Field Hockey - acknowledging the ingenious history of these games Scoop & Throw as pre-req to Lacrosse 		
Library	 Monthly read-alouds, videos and conversations around Indigenous plants and land-based knowledge, art, storytelling, language and national days of recognition Activities to promote Indigenous artists, including Coast Salish/northwest 		
	coast elements of art, Squamish songs, Indigenous authors, Indigenous plants/tea		
Music/ Band	 Coast-Salish Anthem Singing the Coast Salish Anthem, keep the steady beat in hands or on hand drums 		
	YouthBeat App: https://youthbeat-lessons.rcmusic.com/intro/?section key=ORANGE SHIRT		
	 "Heartbeat Pattern" was recreated in the app by Elders Nk'xetko. Students used the app to create their own heartbeat pattern and shared with one another. 		
	"We Won't Forget You" Music Video		
	 Incorporating First People's Principles of Learning (ex. Learning takes patience and time) 		
	 Attended Indigenous workshop at the BC Music Educators Conference 		
	Land acknowledgement at all music events		
	 Continuing to remove songs (ex. My Paddle) from the traditional music 		
	repertoire as they are no longer deemed appropriate.		
	Connecting darbuka drum playing to Indigenous story telling - moving away		
	from traditional written notation with a focus on aural teaching		

5. Action Plan for 2023/2024

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Possible items to consider:

- Connections to BC Curriculum
- First Peoples Principles of Learning (how will you embed these in your work with students this year?)
- Parent Education



- Community Partnerships
- Student Support Success Teachers/Counselors
- Developing Sense of Belonging
- Numeracy

Whole School:

- Orange Shirt Day (School Wide Plan)
 - Resource share-out to staff by Indigenous Ed. Committee via email:
 - Mr. Campbell's T-Shirt design contest
 - promote the design contest over announcements (after Terry Fox Run)
 - All teachers promote participation
 - A bulletin board will be created outside the office for all the design entries
 - "How School Should Feel" Bulletin Board
 - Classes discuss the questions "how <u>should</u> school feel?" followed by a grade appropriate lesson about residential schools (and how they did not feel this way)
 - Indigenous Ed team will leave Indigenous hearts (created by Hawlii Pichette) in mail boxes
 - (She has other <u>beautiful colouring pages</u> she is offering for free)
 - Intermediate classes can do a heart or design words to answer the questions "how **should** school feel?"
 - Indigenous Ed Team will create display with all the hearts and words
 - Resource List & Events to share with families
 - https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qbdrSKgcqq6M8oKz-cpd8xlTmD7fJ14gzZua64wiULI/edit
 - List of events shared in e-bulletin
 - Staff are encouraged to add events and resources to the list!
- Indigenous Veterans Day special announcement, Wednesday Nov 8
 - Encourage teachers to explore this day
- Remembrance Day Nov 2023 invitation and presence of Bob Baker, Squamish Nation
 Elder to speak and present Warrior Song in recognition of Indigenous Peacekeepers
- How Raven Stole the Sun performance by 3Crows Productions (through Art Starts) Oct 2023
- Pro-D (Dec 4) workshop:
 - o Indigenous Plant Walk/Workshop led by Indigenous Educator, Senagwila Wyss
 - o Indigenous Tea and Bannock sampling from Hummingbird Tea Co.
- Desire to redo the garden beds on the south side of the school with Indigenous plants, possibly tie into the Grade 7 Legacy Gift
- Indigenous Peoples Day plan activities for the school to engage



- o June invite in to celebrate contemporary Indigenous culture
- Working with Jackie Gladstone Indigenous Success Teacher
- Would like to do a better job investing in the First Peoples Principles of Learning and how we can use PRIDE acronym to connect those principles with our Values.
- Would like to unpack and have Principles of the Month or school wide explorations of the FPPL
- Consider Monthly Assemblies around student recognition for K-3 and Gr 4-7 to recognize Panther Pride and FPPL

Kindergarten We would like to continue to explore the local trees, especially Cedar and Douglas Fir trees as a place-based learning experience through opportunities to connect using our senses, storytelling, different materials and artistic mediums, as well as mathematical and scientific connections. Possibly a connection to the plants (e.g. seaweeds) at the beach as well. The specific First Peoples' Principles we intend to focus on include: Learning is embedded in memory, history, and story. *emphasis on story o Learning is holistic, reflexive, reflective, experiential, and relational (focused on connectedness, reciprocal relationships, and a sense of place) *emphasis on sense of place Learning involves recognizing the consequences of one's actions *we work on this all year through a variety of different approaches We would love to have the chance to have a visitor, perhaps an elder, who could help us to further our understanding of the relationship to the land. We would also like to find a botanist, or other 'expert' who could help us further our understanding and exploration. Numeracy –we would love to find more ways to incorporate Indigenous knowledge into our numeracy teachings. Unpack story structures from Indigenous stories (e.g. does a story always have to have an ending?) Grade 1 Share/explore Indigenous stories and forms of storytelling Indigenous art project with Isaac Vanderhorst Exploration of Indigenous forms of art **Sharing Circle** Invite local Indigenous storyteller Sea to Sky field trip with connections to Indigenous land/plant/animals Orange shirt day stories, videos, reflective activities

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	 students to make science booklets on local plants/animals including Indigenous names and uses learning about local Indigenous communities Explore local area (plants & animals) Use the Squamish greeting in the morning Continuing to highlight and share Indigenous literature First Nation principles of learning is understanding consequences of one's actions *we work on this all year through a variety of different approaches 	
Grade 2	 Invite a Squamish artist to the classroom or Grade groups Using a Squamish greeting during attendance Gratitude activity using wooden canoe cut-out (given permission to share by Lisa Lewis) Exploring Indigenous place names during our exploration of Canada in Inquiry Highlighting Indigenous stories from across Canada during our study of each province/territory Spending more intentional learning time outdoors Indigenous artist study Indigenous Veterans Day Continuing to highlight and share Indigenous literature Using Math Catcher Using Mathology's resources that connect to Indigenous content 	
Grade 3	 Land based learning Outdoor sit spots Learning about Indigenous uses for plants Can tie into unit about cycles Orange Shirt day Learning about residential schools at an age appropriate level Art Coast Salish art Masks Literature/Canada As we learn about Canada we will use stories written by Indigenous authors to learn and celebrate We will draw connections and notice differences between different communities across BC Weaving 	
Grade 4/5 (combined	 Connect FPPoL to each unit Circle meetings weekly Government 	



classes	this
year)	

- Residential School and Indigenous Rights unit during Government and Orange Shirt Day
- o Land Acknowledgment Lesson
- o Remembrance Day Indigenous Veterans lesson
- Health and Human Body
 - o Squamish medicine plant walk
- Immigration
 - o Museum of Vancouver visit with Indigenous ed ties
 - Suitcase projects -> we are settlers
- Natural Resources
 - Explore Indigenous stewards of the land
 - o Connect to garden?
- Simple Machines
 - Look at 6 simple machines in Squamish culture (canoe, paddle, wedge etc)
- Math
 - Explore FNESC resource
 - o https://www.fnesc.ca/math-first-peoples/
- LA
- Explore digital storytelling resources -> bring Indigenous voices into the classroom, explore creation stories
- o I Can Make This Promise class novel study
- Whole class Read Aloud: The Barren Grounds (Misewa Saga), by David A. Robertson
- o Explore 'Canoes; publication and others in our database
- Art
 - Revamp weaving lesson...
 - Would like to have a guest come in
 - Weaving across cultures
 - o Indigenous artist study?
 - o Go to art museum in the spring connect with Isaac

Would be happy to present pre-approved and pre-planned Math or Science that connect to Indigenous People.

Grade 6/7 combined classes this year

- More place based (outdoor learning)
- Gr. 7 Legacy gift idea Indigenous Plant Garden?
- Explicitly drawing upon the FPPoL in units
- Look at different version of Turtle Island stories
- Promotion of restorative justice throught PMP with NSRJ
- Explore Indigenous authors and stories and/or stories with Indigenous characters in Language Arts

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	 Sharing seasonal picture books 		
 Sharing seasonal picture books Focus on Indigenous artists during art 			
Oral storytelling			
	 Access the website https://trc57speakerseries.ca to promote 		
	conversation towards rebuilding relationships with Indigenous peoples		
	and the Land.		
	Look into math connections through UBC		
	We would love to connect with an artist or an elder to share stories, art		
	forms, etc. We were thinking of inviting a knowledge holder into our		
	cohort to make drums and, ideally, to perform the waking ceremony.		
	Reaching out to Jada and Sa7plek to see if this is feasible this year and		
	what kind of preparations we will need		
	Explicitly connecting the First People's principles to new subject areas and		
	assignments.		
	Oral storytelling		
	Haida formline art project - study Robert Davidson's style of art. Focus on		
	style elements, stories from the Haida nation that informed his work, etc.		
	Connecting content and ways of knowing through subject areas [math		
	(SFU resources - Small Number), Literacy, and social studies]		
Inclusive	LST		
Education	More explicitly explain and discuss First Nations principles and how they		
(ELL/LST)	connect to our learning		
	 greater reflection for students and increase connectedness of students by group conversations 		
	 Stories/read alouds - still to find specific ones 		
	ELL		
	 Simple stories and graphic novels written about and by Indigenous 		
	authors.		
	 Continue to support classroom teachers and students with new 		
	vocabulary and ideas. Provide visual aids, simplified sentences, sentence		
	stems and small group instruction focusing on vocabulary and simple		
	stories and comprehension.		
Physical	• Lacrosse		
Literacy	Indigenous Games for Children		
Library	Additional activities I would like to add this year:		
	Visit by Indigenous author to tell the backstory behind their book, read		
	aloud, share writing or art techniques		
	Visit by Sahplek, Xwalacktun, Becky, Bucky or Clarence to reinforce		
	importance of local/ regional stories, music, language, art		
	More land-based activities with local knowledge keepers		
Music/Band	Indigenous Drum Making Workshop & Ceremony		



- Focus on celebrating Indigenous artists
- Connect learning with First People's Principles with increased intention (focus on one principle a month/year?)
- Re-focus on place based learning, returning to soundscapes etc/nature rhythms etc.
- Lahal Bone Game
- Find a way to incorporate circle meetings in music/band class

6. How does your plan support the goals of the 2020-2025 <u>Indigenous Enhancement</u> Agreement?

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

We hope our plan uses Indigenous Ways of Knowing and Perspectives to inform and empower our teaching. Our action plan at each grade team level, specialist group and school-wide aims to strengthen our understanding of Skwxwú7mesh Nation History and Culture. We want our Indigenous Students to feel proud to share their knowledge, culture and perspectives, and we want to better involve them in our decision-making and plans for the school. The IP Indigenous Education Committee is really hopeful that we can build trust and stronger relationships with our Indigenous families, and want to include them in our planning for the year. We are hopeful that our December Pro-D day will be a starting point to strengthen these relational ties with some of our families who have expressed disappointment in past years. We have already seen the impact that creating Indigenous opportunities has provided for our Indigenous students. They have felt empowered when a performance spoke about Turtle Island. One student is proud to be a member of the "Panther Press", our school student newspaper. Her role on the Panther Press is Indigenous Perspectives, which she proudly shares in each edition.

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

Our plan is to create opportunities to ease the transition for Indigenous Students between grades, and when moving to secondary school. This year, our class configuration has resulted in a number of combined classes, as well as some teachers who have moved grades. As such, we have been able in some instances to ensure that strong student-teacher relationships between our Indigenous students and their classroom teachers can be supported. We are hoping to connect with the Indigenous Success Teacher at WVSS to see if there is an opportunity for our Indigenous students to connect with some of the older students up at the secondary school, or perhaps have some secondary students come and speak with our Indigenous Education Committee, or be involved in some of our school projects. We haven't fully unpacked what this could look like yet, but we are hopeful to create some connections.



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

We are so pleased that our Indigenous students will have additional opportunities to connect in person with Jackie Gladstone, Indigenous Success Teacher. This goal of the District Indigenous Enhancement Agreement aligns so well with our school FESL, which focuses on healthy bodies, healthy minds, healthy relationships. Our school is working hard on focusing on creating a sense of belonging for all students, that having an emphasis on this with our Indigenous students would be very authentic. We will be collecting school-wide student data for our FESL around sense of belonging and if students feel they know who their trusted adults are on staff. We can look specifically at the results for our Indigenous students.

7. How does your plan support Indigenous Equity? Have you considered the following questions:

How can we create opportunities for increased parent/family and student voice?

As mentioned above, we want to be able to create opportunities over the course of the year to build trust and our relationships with our Indigenous families. We are hopeful that our December Pro-D Day, beginning with an Indigenous Plant Workshop led by one of our family memebers will be a positive experience for everyone and a starting point to build and foster these relationships. We are excited at the prospect of including both Indigenous student and family voice in our Indigenous Education Committee planning, as well as by directly inviting our Indigenous families to share their expertise, thoughts and perspectives throughout the year. We are very pleased to have Indigenous Success Teacher, Jackie Gladstone, working with our students and we hope that we can find the time to connect with her as a committee as well.

How can we create opportunities for families to be welcomed in our schools?

Open communication from classroom teachers, and the school as a whole will be important in making our families feel welcome at Irwin Park. By checking in via email or a phone call, this will hopefully open the lines of dialogue moving forward. It will also be important to consider the learning that is taking place and whether it might be an opportunity for families to join us. Thinking specifically about the possibility of redoing the planter boxes out front with Indigenous plants, this is perhaps an opportunity to invite families to be involved either formally through consultation with Indigenous Educators or informally if they would like to be involved in the process in another way.

How can we create opportunities to improve K-12 transitions?

As mentioned in Question 6, we want to connect with the Indigenous Success Teacher, Maria Dawson, to see if there may be an opportunity to do some work between our two schools with



our Indigenous Students. This is an exciting prospect, but we have yet to reach out to Maria. We are hoping to do so in the new year. Communication will be important for students as they transition between grades or join our Irwin Park community. There needs to be clear and timely communication made between the school, the classroom teacher, families, as well as the Indigenous Success Teacher so that we can ensure our students are all being supported in the way that best suits them.