

## Successes – November 27, 2024, Board Meeting

### North Saanich

- North Saanich hosted Creatures of Habitat for a day of invasive species removal.
- The NSMS community raised over \$600 for cancer research to commemorate Canadian cancer activist Terry Fox and his Marathon of Hope.
- Over \$500 was raised for the local food bank during the annual 'We Scare Hunger' initiative.

### Bayside

- The Coastal Jam was a huge success, thanks to the incredible efforts of the Bayside Indigenous Leadership team. The event featured over 20 talented drummers and 80 vibrant dancers, creating an unforgettable atmosphere. We were thrilled to welcome over 200 family members of our WSÁNEĆ students, who came together to celebrate WSÁNEĆ culture. Additionally, funds were raised for a beautiful art piece by Chaz Elliot, which will be created by the leadership students with Chaz for the cultural room. A larger Coastal Jam will be held in the new year and inviting the entire Brentwood Community. The Coastal Jam truly showcased the strength and unity of our community.



### Prospect Lake

- The annual Remembrance Day Assembly was held at Prospect Lake. We were pleased to welcome Lieutenant Commander Heather MacDonald, Royal Canadian Navy, Trustee VanWell, Constable Dion Bertwhistle, Saanich police liaison officer, and retired teacher Mr. Chris Bocking to play his bugle for The Last Post. A highlight of the ceremony was the honouring of Indigenous veterans with cedar wreaths handmade by Prospect Lake students with the support of Bailey Philips, Indigenous Support Liaison.
- Guest speakers Gina Martin and Vanessa Pettinger from the organization Diverse Abilities presented to the intermediate classes, helping to foster a deeper understanding of inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility. They educated students on the best ways to assist, interact, and communicate with persons with disabilities. They discussed apparent and non-apparent disabilities and helped students with appropriate language and tools through an interactive, engaging, and hands-on presentation.

## Indigenous Education

- Members of the W̱SÁNEĆ community filmed an upcoming educational documentary about W̱SÁNEĆ culture, told through the cycles of the W̱SÁNEĆ moons. The finished film will be made available on the Live It Earth website, where it can be seen by Saanich students and learners from around BC. The team arrived at the start of PEKELÁNEW (the moon that turns the leaves white) and began filming at Goldstream, where Indigenous students from Brentwood, KÉLSET and Bayside fished for salmon. The students were guided by Elders and other community members. The fish were taken back to Bayside, where it was prepared and smoked in the onsite smokehouse.

A key component of the project is a student workshop. Four secondary students from Stelly's picked up cameras and shadowed the crew as they filmed Elders talking about traditional cultural practices, such as reef net fishing, hunting, and longhouse, as well as how some of those practices still take place today. Filming has taken place in all four communities. This work is funded by a grant received by the Indigenous Education Department, and has been facilitated by teacher leader Darcy McNee, as well as Indigenous Support Liaisons, Muriel Morris, Landon Underwood, and Ambrose Underwood. The documentary is expected to be completed in the spring of 2025, around the time of SXÁNEŁ (the bullhead moon.)



## Parkland

- A Parkland Grade 12 student has been shortlisted for the prestigious Loran Scholarship.
- Parkland has a weekly drum circle every Wednesday at lunch.

## Cordova Bay

- A wonderful, student-led Remembrance Day ceremony was held at Cordova Bay. A great start to a spindle whorl project with W̱SÁNEĆ artist, Roger Charlie. Mr. Charlie came for 2 mornings to show the students and staff the materials, drawings, and tools involved in the creation of a spindle whorl. With support from the Sheldon Gilmour Foundation, Mr. Charlie has been commissioned by the school to create a spindle whorl that will serve as a welcome symbol mounted at the front of the building.

## Stelly's

- The Outdoor Pursuits 12 class went on a 4-day canoeing trip to the Sayward Lakes, which included backpacking, tenting, hiking, canoeing, cooking all their own meals. It provided the opportunity to practice and learn outdoor skills and leave-no-trace principles.

- Indigenous Leadership students had the cultural learning opportunity to attend an Elder's Luncheon in Tsawout community, with visiting Elders from other communities throughout Vancouver Island. The students assisted, socialized, listened, learned, and supported the community and visitors.
- The Comparative Cultures 12 class visited several centres of faith and worship in the area as part of their study of religions of the world. It was an excellent opportunity for students to get a better understanding of different beliefs and practices from several religious leaders while also seeing diverse expressions of religious art, iconography and architecture, and experiencing the places connected to worship.