

Successes

June 18, 2025 Board Meeting

Claremont

- The Claremont Music Program, including their Concert Band, Jazz Band, and Choir, attended the Whistler Con Brio Festival last weekend and achieved a level of 'Excellence' in all competitive categories! Claremont's Music Program achieved the following at the Con Brio Festival in Whistler – Concert Band with Silver, Choir with Bronze, and the Jazz Band with Gold!
- Thanks to the great work of Mrs. Chapman, Claremont once again hosted their yearly Blood Donor Drive with impressive results: 99 people attended (which represented 94% booked to capacity for the day) and 79 people successfully donated, which was 98% on the proposed target of 81 units of blood. One Grade 12 student was actually giving blood for the 7th time!
- The community garden has undergone a massive restructuring thanks to the great work of Mr. Pama and a variety of staff and students, along with some wonderful parent/guardian donations. The goal is to produce multiple harvests that will support healthy options for food programs including the Spartan Store and Cafeteria.

Sidney

- Grade 3 students at Sidney Elementary recently participated in an exciting egg drop activity. Each year, these young scientists are challenged to design and create methods to protect eggs using recycled materials, carefully considering which materials and designs will yield the best results. Traditionally, our facilities crew have assisted by dropping the inventions from the school roof. However, this year, the Sidney Fire Department stepped in, and students had their inventions dropped from heights of 25 feet, 50 feet, and even 100 feet. In the end, everyone had a fantastic time, and three teams of students successfully designed inventions that protected their eggs from a 100-foot drop!

SIDES

- SIDES is thrilled to celebrate a gold medal win by a Grade 12 student at the BC Track and Field Championships in the Senior Boys Javelin event. We believe this is the school's first-ever championship medal.

Indigenous Education

- On May 7, ten Indigenous students from across Saanich Schools attended the annual NA'TSA'MAHT Grade 12 gathering hosted by Sooke School District in partnership with the YMCA and T'Sou-ke Nation. Students travelled to Camp Thunderbird for a day of Indigenous-focused activities, including drumming, Coast Salish art, cedar harvesting, archery, Métis beading, and canoeing. The skies were sunny and the wind was calm, and students had an opportunity to engage in traditional activities, while connecting with other Indigenous students from across the South Island Family. It was a special day of culture, connections, and celebration of the end of these students' K-12 journey.



- The Ministry of Education and Child Care has announced approval by FNEC for the CELÁNEN LTE BAA 10-12 course to meet the Indigenous-focused graduation requirement. We are deeply grateful for the efforts of Sally Morgan to co-create this course with the W̱SÁNEĆ community. This course is the product of ongoing collaboration and cooperation between Saanich and W̱SÁNEĆ, and we're proud of both the course and what it represents. It will be offered at Stelly's in the 2025/26 school year, with the expectation that it will eventually be offered in other schools throughout the district.
- The Indigenous Education department is excited to announce the release of the [Live It Earth](#) W̱SÁNEĆ Moons documentary, produced in partnership with Saanich Schools and the W̱SÁNEĆ Nation. We held an official launch and a live online Q&A chat with W̱SÁNEĆ Elders and Knowledge Keepers on May 22. The documentary is available to all Saanich School staff via Focused Education. There is a wide array of educational resources to accompany this film.

Prospect Lake

- Each class participated in Science Venture workshops, sponsored by our PAC.
- There were many opportunities for staff professional development this month, including Janice Novakowski's math workshops for K-1 teachers, K-1 workshops hosted by the district Early Learning and SLP team, and Intermediate literacy workshops for grade 3-4 teachers.
- The June PAW CLAW assembly focused on diversity. Each child chose a word that makes them unique and wrote it on a PAW CLAW t-shirt. The display of all 12 t-shirts showcased the words that make our students "remarkably them."



- Indigenous People week activities included Lahal facilitated by our Indigenous Education staff, an Indigenous story walk, Métis dot painting, and a whole school viewing of the new W̱SÁNEĆ Moons film!

Royal Oak

- A Fantastic Pride week happening at ROMS! Monday we're raising the Pride Flag, Wednesday is Rainbow Day at ROMS with lunchtime activities/music/games and dress in rainbows, and the finale is a school-wide Kahoot at lunch time on Thursday!

Bayside

- Bayside celebrated remarkable success at the Track and Field City Championships on June 3rd, with five Bayside Sharks earning the title of City Champions in events such as triple jump, high jump, and hurdles.

KELSET

- Our Indigenous Ed team and Gr. 5 teachers planned a beautiful event for our Thunderbird canoe to be placed in the ocean at Tulista Park last week.
- Our intermediate classes organized a full day of activities in honor of Indigenous People's Month.
- Our 5 intermediate classes rotated through each class for the day where they engaged in indigenous learning.



Keating

On June 3, Keating Elementary unveiled a beautifully carved Welcome Pole by local W̱SÁNEĆ artist Bear Horne. Featuring two ravens and a human figure, the pole symbolizes a warm welcome to all. Bear collaborated with students during the carving process, teaching them about the cultural and spiritual significance of cedar. This experience deepened students' appreciation for Indigenous traditions and artistry. The unveiling ceremony included a blessing and song by May Sam and her son Scott Sam. The pole now stands proudly outside Keating Elementary, reminding everyone that this is a place of respect, learning, and belonging.



Parkland

- Parkland's IB Program is expanding. Next year, we will add an additional IB English 11 block to accommodate the increasing demand for IB courses. This growth is primarily driven by the rising number of students applying for an IB Certificate in subjects they plan to study at university.
- Parkland Sailing Academy placed third at the annual City Regatta.
- Two students won silver at the BC Beach Volleyball Tournament in Parksville.
- Colleen McNamee and Kal Russell were honored with a blanket ceremony at a special assembly celebrating National Indigenous Peoples Day and Month.

- The GAS Club welcomed the NSMS GAS Club with a special cake.



Sidney

- Sidney Spring Fling had another fantastic year, featuring the inaugural Peninsula Annual Mascot Exhibition Race. Although the Sidney Bee didn't buzz across the finish line first, he gave it his all and represented Sidney bee-eautifully! Thanks to PAC President Harninder Jacquot's incredible enthusiasm and creativity in dreaming up this race, we are all eagerly awaiting next year's P.A.M.E.R!



Stelly's

- A group of 25 Grade 9 students recently explored Québec City on an immersive cultural trip. They walked through Old Québec, toured Château Frontenac, and learned about francophone history. At a cabane à sucre, they enjoyed maple-themed foods, folk music, and group activities. The trip strengthened their French skills, built friendships, and created lasting memories, despite the rain and wind!
- Stelly's Senior Drama recently staged four fantastic performances of "The Bold, The Young, and The Murdered," a murder mystery comedy. The Drama class infused their performance with comedy and suspense, delivering it with enthusiasm and spirit! We are incredibly proud of our students, the sound and audio team, the set crew, and Ms. Bartlett and Ms. Froehler. Their countless hours of hard work made it all come together beautifully. Great job, everyone!

- HÍSWŪKE to Bruce Underwood and Carl Olsen for hosting a drum-making session for Stelly's students! It was an incredible opportunity for everyone involved. Students and staff thoroughly enjoyed learning from Bruce and Carl, who generously shared their knowledge and experience. Some of the finished drums were even given as gifts to district staff.



Lochside

- The Bike Bus program has successfully motivated students to cycle to school in groups, led by trained parent volunteers. This initiative not only promotes physical activity and environmental responsibility but also helps students develop independence and teamwork skills. Additionally, regular biking has positively impacted students' emotional and mental well-being by aiding in self-regulation. Just before Spring Break, Lochside students received bike training and road safety lessons from the Saanich Police Department. Students ride from Carolwood/Royal Oak Drive through the Broadmead neighborhood, picking up fellow students along the way. This past Tuesday, Mayor Dean Murdoch joined our students for a ride to school.
- Six Grade 5 students from Lochside participated in the Youth Forum on Global Citizenship. Inspired to enhance their environmental stewardship, they collaborated with their teacher, Ms. Sherisse Norris, and Teacher Librarian, Mrs. Laura Molloy, to develop an action plan. They also created a presentation and hosted information sessions to inspire their peers at Lochside.