



Seabird Island

# Education

Quarterly update for  
April 2022

During the presentation out of respect for those presenting and those who are in attendance, we will be muting everyone's mics, until the presentation is complete.

*Thank you for your understanding.*



# LALME'IWESAWTEXW

## Meeting the challenges of staffing shortages

- Staffing has been an undertaking in the last few months with COVID spread peaking in January and February. We have been shuffling staff around to ensure students are still being provided with learning opportunities while teachers and EA's have been away.
- Thankfully, the vaccination policy Seabird adopted helped to prevent serious illness due to COVID.
- We are grateful for the “can-do” attitude of our staff who place supporting children as our top priority.

### **During these challenges, our focus remains on the following:**

- keeping students and staff safe, as well as those in the community.
- Maintaining in-person instruction.





# Learning Academy

- To support our students (especially the youngest ones) we pursued and received funding for an after-school learning academy. The program runs from 3:05 – 4:05 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. The goal of the learning academy is to offer after school support to students who have been severely impacted by learning loss related to COVID. We have 15 students attending from grades 1 – 6. These students engage in various activities related to literacy education, including readings, writing and speaking. Our plan is to run the learning academy for the duration of the school year.

# SAMPLING THE TRADES

- On March 28, 2022, Seabird Island Community School partnered with UFV to offer a Trade Sampler program to eight grade 12 students and four Adult Dogwood students. This program is taught by UFV instructors and industry experts and will provide students with exposure to six different trades: Carpentry, Electrical, Plumbing & Pipefitting, Welding, Automotive and Culinary Arts, through a variety of classroom and hands-on learning experiences.
- The goal of the trade sampler program is to provide senior students with an opportunity to earn up to 12 credits toward graduation while doing hands-on work that will help prepare them for a potential future career. The hope is that their experiences in this program will help lead them toward a job in the trades after high school.

# COVID SAFETY AT SCHOOL

- Day-time custodial wipe downs and bathroom cleaning are completed throughout the day
- We continue to encourage all staff & students to complete a personal health assessment each day before attending school that includes Omicron symptom updates (BA2).
- Hand sanitizing dispensers are in every classroom and public spaces in our buildings
- All classes are provided with cleaning supplies to clean their desks during the day.
- In mid-February we distributed rapid antigen tests to all staff as well as all students. We have received an additional supply of these tests and will be sending one kit home with each student prior to the Easter long weekend.
- Morning protocol (prayer, drumming and singing) continues to be virtual.
- Given the updated guidance on mask wearing from the Ministry, we are requesting that all staff and Students wear non-medical masks when using shared hallways. Masks are also required when travelling on the bus.
- Disposable masks are available on buses, in classrooms and at our front desks.



# CULTURE AND LANGUAGE

- Since 2019, we have made considerable strides in educating our staff to a minimum standard in Upriver Halq'emeylem. At that time, (2019) the percentage of staff (teachers, EAs, admin) trained in the language was 10% or less. Today the percentage of our staff that have at least the basic Halq'emeylem 101 course (delivered by UFV) is more than 70%. Our instruction time in the language has also increased from an hour to 2.5 hours (elementary) and from 2 hours to 5 hours (high school) per week.
- 17 teachers and staff will complete Upriver Halq'emeylem 101 in partnership with UFV by the end of April.

# The College at a Glance

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Education Assistant Program

- Students are currently in schools completing their practicums and gaining hands-on experience in various classrooms.

### Certificate in Ecological Restoration

- In March, the college began a partnership with Royal Roads University to offer a Certificate in Ecological Restoration. Ten students have registered for this program that is employment focused and filled with practical training. Ecological Restoration is the practice of restoring degraded and damaged ecosystems that have been impacted by industrial activities, urban sprawl, climate change, and other factors like atmospheric rivers. The goal of ecological restoration is to take damaged ecosystems and restore their ecosystem functions to the highest degree possible. The program has a considerable focus on restoration issues relevant to SIB and adjacent Nations and is heavily field-based.

### Systematization Efforts

- The staff continue drafting their prospective position manuals with a target summer completion.
- Efforts are in place to strategically document key processes and procedures with a goal of developing systems for the college operations.







# Yalh Yuxw Kwa s Hoy

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