



Early Childhood Development Strategic Plan Update

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Quarterly Report 2021-2022: 4th Quarterly

Reflecting the Strategic Plan

LEADERSHIP

GOAL: SELF-GOVERNMENT BASED ON THE CULTURAL AND TRADITIONAL IDENTITY OF SIB.

- 17 teachers and staff are currently enrolled in Upriver Halq'emeylem 101 through UFV. It is expected that all staff will successfully complete this level by May 16.
- Since 2019, we have made considerable strides in educating our staff to a minimum standard in Upriver Halq'emeylem. At that time, 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. Although we could not gather as we have in the past, *X'wiyex'wiyám qas te s'iwes* (Stories and teachings) were shared in a virtual space. Adhering to Health Orders, our school team found alternative methods of cultural practice by utilizing zoom. In this way, we were able to express culture and hear elders' voices from all over Salish territory. Our high school piloted the Stó:ló Shxweli S'olh level one program based on experiential learning while our Elementary classes have focused on sound and vocabulary development.

(Quarter 2 – Ongoing)

- The school begins each day with culture and language at its centre. Staff and students give breath to the language at the start of the day by praying in the language. This is followed by drumming and singing.
- In addition to Culture and Language classes that we offer to the 3s and 4s program (at the Early Childhood Development Centre) we offer Language classes to our students from K4 to grade 12. Cultural Arts classes are also offered to our students.
- The school is prioritizing having staff enroll in Halq'emeylem courses to expand the knowledge base of teachers and EAs so that more language is used in classroom and in the school. Since the fall of 2019, 17 staff members have taken a variety of Halq'emeylem courses from UFV (101 to 301). The Halq'emeylem courses are sequenced as 101,102,201,202, 301 etc. This fall any teaching staff that has not yet taken Halq'emeylem 101 has enrolled in the course. We are working with UFV to adopt a costing framework more aligned with language revitalization.
- The school has also extended the resources of our Language Developer to assist the band in coordinating cultural work and ceremonies.
- The school is also shifting from independent School status and engaging in the FNEC/FNSA School Assessment and Certification process: to be FNEA (First Nations Education Authority) certified. This is a five-year cycle of review and follow-up. The first year involves a review of the following areas: school programming, administration structures, student outcomes data and survey input from governing authority members, students, parents/guardians, and school staff.

MEMBERSHIP

GOAL: ENGAGED, EMPOWERED AND SELF-SUFFICIENT SQ'EWQELO:MEXW

- 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.
- 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.

(Quarter 2 – Ongoing)

- To promote Halq'emeylem among our Seabird youth, we hire recently graduated “language warriors” to work alongside our language instructors in the classrooms so that they can take up more of the language and act as role models for younger students.
- The school is working toward graduating our high school students with a Dogwood and a trade so that they can, upon graduation, go into the workforce and become self-sufficient. This initiative helps our youth remain engaged in high school and empowers them with skills that they can immediately use to gain employment.

ENVIRONMENT

PROTECT AND ENHANCE S'ÓLH TÉMÉXW, INCLUDING LAND, WATER AND AIR CONSISTENT WITH TÓMIYEQW

- We are working with Public Works to secure backup generators for our school buildings to limit future damage due to brown outs and power failures.
- We are joining with all departments of the organization on Earth Day, April 22 to clean up areas near the school.
- 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.

(Quarter 2 – Ongoing)

- We use recycling bins at the school as well as compost bags for food waste in our kitchens and classrooms.

CULTURE, HEALING, HEALTH & WELLNESS

GOAL: ÁY:MEXW – HEALTH PEOPLE, PHYSICALLY, MENTALLY, EMOTIONALLY AND SPIRITUALLY.

- 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 and staff prior to the Easter long weekend.
- Over the past month, Seabird Island Community School students have been showing off their kindness skills and challenging themselves to complete ‘1000 Acts of Kindness’. And now, the staff and students of SICS are challenging YOU to be a Kindness Warrior! Help spread love and kindness throughout the community with your own ‘1000 Acts of Kindness’. When you see an act of kindness within the community, follow the link to report who completed the act of kindness and what they did. Every entry will count toward Seabird Community’s ‘1000 Acts of Kindness’ goal. Our children want to know: do you have what it takes to be a **Kindness Warrior?!**
<https://forms.gle/mrnYPfdCTqMs7Ce69>

(Quarter 2 – Ongoing)

- We are working on becoming a trauma informed school where students feel a sense of belonging and are provided with a safe, consistent, and caring environment within which to learn.
- We have at least one professional development day dedicated to learning about trauma informed practices each year.
- We also set aside one professional development day to focus on staff health and self-care rooted in cultural knowledge.

INFRASTRUCTURE

GOAL: AN ECONOMICALLY STABLE COMMUNITY THAT MEETS THE INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS FOR FUTURE GROWTH.

- We began work to complete the upstairs of the high school to increase our classroom capacity. The work is nearing completion and we expect to begin using that area by the end of April.
- Fraser Valley Roofing is coordinating with CJB Restoration to peel back the roof Tuesday and Wednesday for CJB to repair the rot in building 14 at the college.
- In building 6, floors are completed and the reno’s to the bathroom are under way. Once this building is complete, reno’s will begin in building 3.

(Quarter 2 – Ongoing)

- We are partnering with the Model Schools Literacy Project (A Martin Family Initiative) to create a library in the elementary school building. Covid-19 delivery delays has slowed the project and a completion date is not yet projected.