

Seabird Island

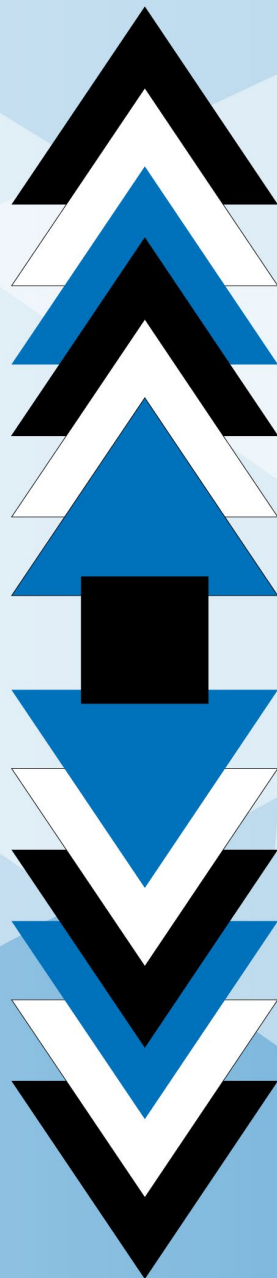
Education



LALME'IWESAWTEXW

YOUTH AND ELDER COLLABORATION

- On November 29th, the elders were invited to show grade 9 students at Lalme'Iwesawtexw how to create Christmas wreaths. The elders guided the students on bending and tying bare branches into hoops and carefully wrapping the cedar branches around the circular bare branches to form a basic wreath. The students listened intently and created beautiful wreaths. While decorating their wreaths with bells, bows, ribbons, lights, etc., the elders shared their life stories with the students. It was a joy to see the elders passing on their experiences with the youths. The Elders coordinator and our high school social studies teacher are hoping that this is the start of regular visits. The elder's coordinator had this to pass on about the experience, "It was so wonderful to have the Youth and Elders together. The elders have expressed they enjoyed it as they don't know the youth because of COVID, and they are excited to get to know and teach them. The elders are looking forward to story telling and bonding further with the youth. It was great to see how the students were so respectful towards their elders, so I raise my hands to them for that."



K4 CLASSROOM

- We have 14 students registered in Jr Kindergarten, who are all eager to learn and discover. This year we are introducing on the land learning to our students. For our first big project we have adopted a deciduous tree. We will be observing and documenting the changes throughout the seasons. We will be investigating the species of tree, taking samples, and finding out how we can be respectful of our tree. We will also be showing our tree some love. After some investigating, we have concluded that our deciduous tree is a Maple Tree. We compared our maple tree to others in the area, noticing that there are many different varieties of Maple trees in our community of Seabird. We will be identifying the specific species of Maple by comparing to a visual chart. Our On the land learning specialist Karla Kay has taught us our trees Halqemeylem name is Q'emó:welhp. We have learned it is important to talk to our tree and call our tree by name. We are encouraged to see how passionate the children have become with on the land learning. Please keep an eye out for our tree and special things to come. It is located directly outside of our classroom. Éy cha te swayel. Have a nice day!

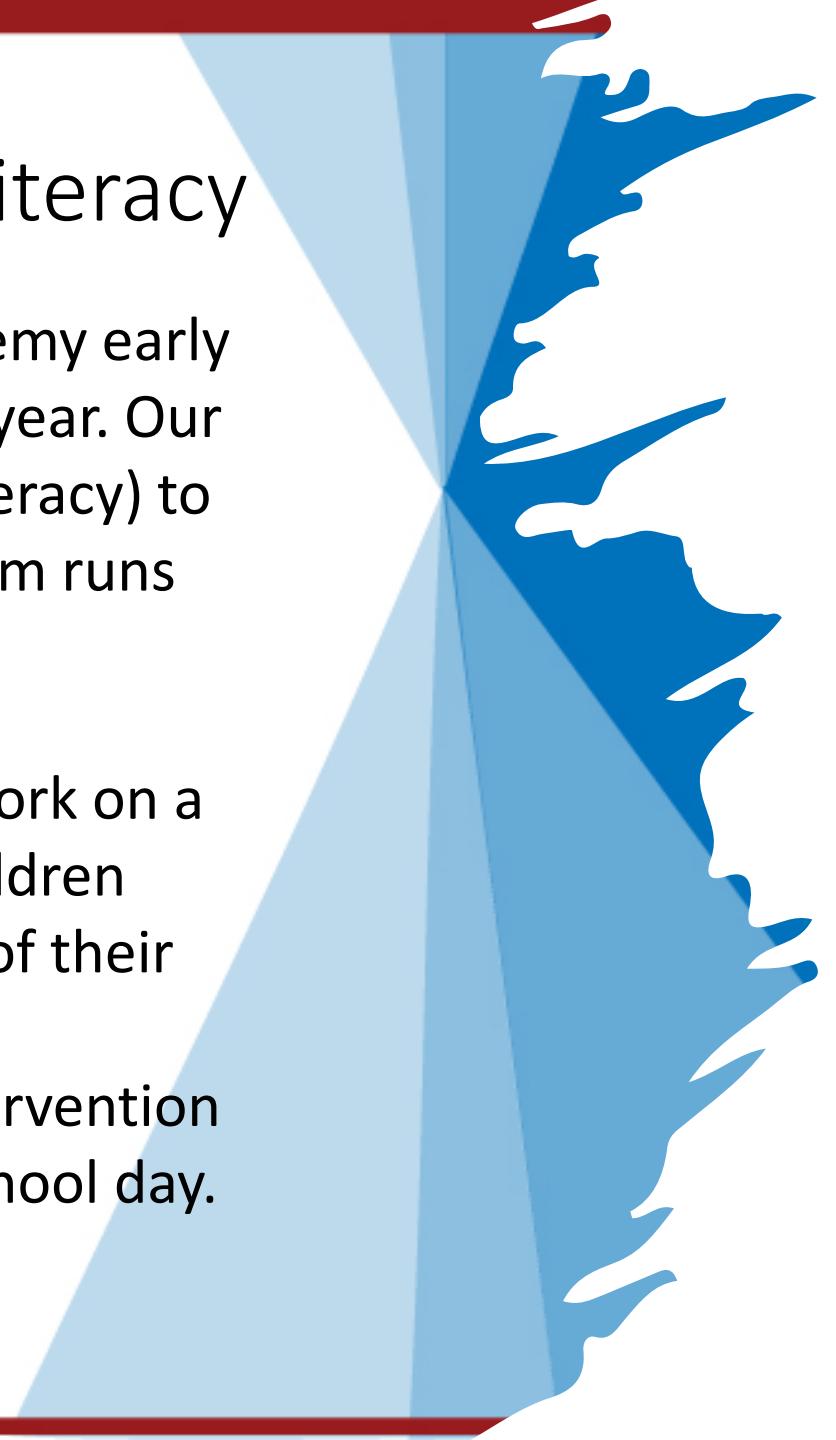


CONTINUED COVID VIGILANCE

- In this COVID-19 recovery year, with RSV and increased influenza challenges, public health guidance is focusing on vaccines, health checks, hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette. Fraser Health sent out a back-to-school letter for the region with several links for parents and we forwarded that letter to parents/guardians.
- We have daily custodial wipe downs of high touch areas in the school buildings and staff are reminded to stay home if they are ill and so are children.
- We continue to encourage staff to wear their masks if they have an underlying health condition and reiterate that it is their choice. Our Health & Social Development department had a mini COVID-19 vaccine clinic at the school on October 19th for students aged 12+.

Covid Recovery - Supporting Student Literacy

- Here at Seabird, we began our afternoon Learning Academy early in October and this will continue throughout the school year. Our goal is to provide extra learning support (especially in literacy) to those students who are the farthest behind. This program runs Tuesdays – Thursdays from 3:05 -4:05 each week.
- We met with representatives from SD78 in October to work on a start-up plan for a literacy intervention group for our children attending off-reserve schooling. SD78 is focusing much of their efforts on grades 3 and 4 students who have suffered considerable learning loss due to Covid. This literacy intervention program is integrated into the morning session of the school day.



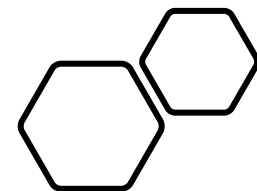
The background features an abstract geometric design. On the left, there are several overlapping triangles and polygons in various shades of blue, ranging from light to dark. A prominent dark blue triangle points upwards. To the right of this, there are more complex, multi-colored shapes in lighter blues and whites. A solid red horizontal bar is positioned across the middle of the page, intersecting the blue shapes. The overall aesthetic is modern and geometric.

CULTURE AND LANGUAGE

- This year's Orange Shirt Day phrase is xóthmetchet te stá:xwelh meaning, "We protect the children of the past, present and future." The words are also written backwards and in-reflection demonstrating that we are reflections of our ancestors. The thirteen hands on the back represent our children's time here; they are with us for 13 moon revelations
- 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.
- This fall, 29 staff that have not yet taken Halq'emeylem 101 have enrolled and will be completing the course this summer; we also have 5 staff taking advanced level courses.
- Fall Burning occurred on Sept. 25, 2022, at the cemetery burning site with 14 plates.



CULTURE AND LANGUAGE



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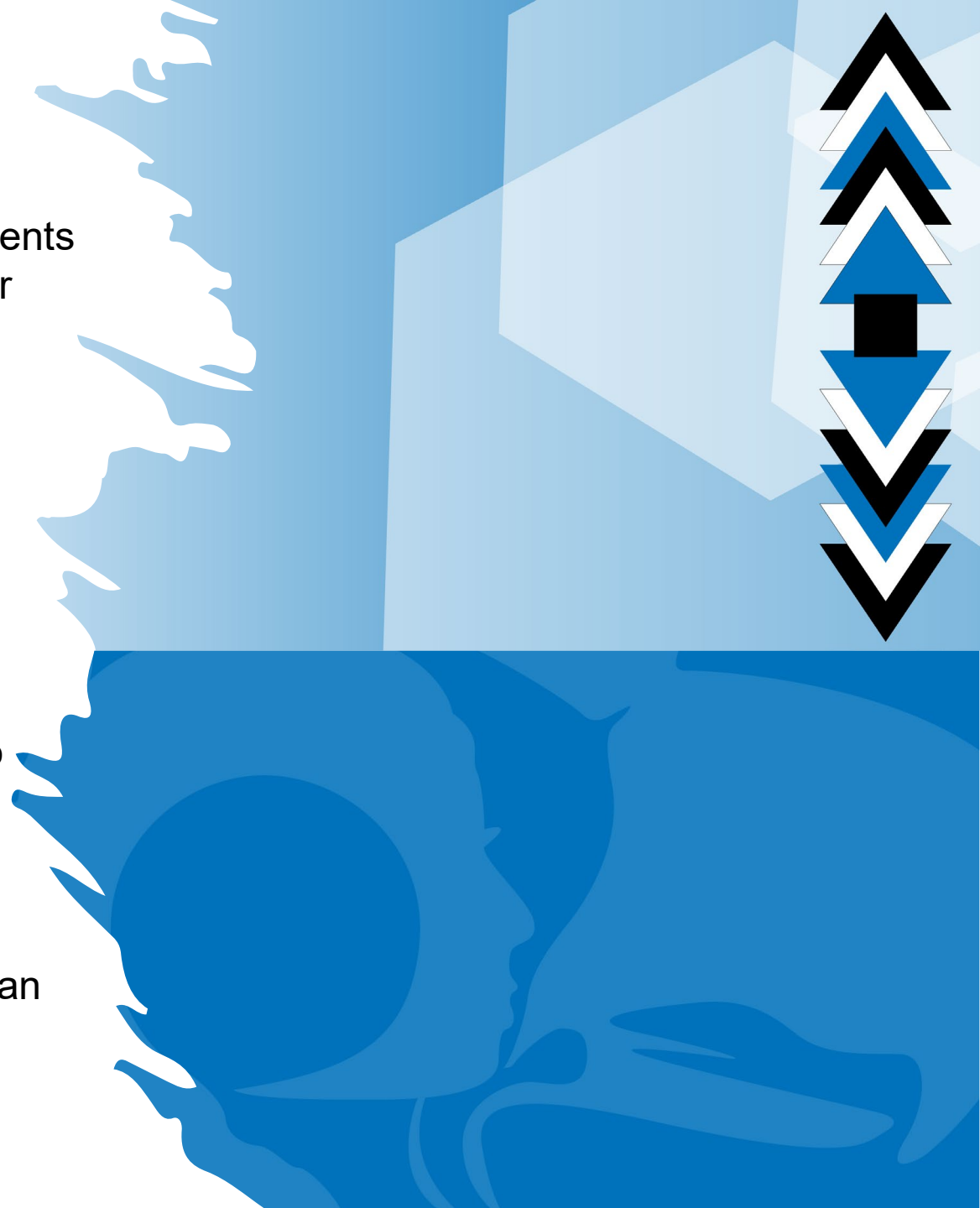
TRADES SAMPLER

On February 6, 2023, students in grade 12 as well as students in the Adult Dogwood Program will begin the trade sampler program, in partnership with UFV. This will be the second sampler that is being put on by Seabird Island Community School, Seabird College, and UFV, and includes some changes based on the feedback from our first cohort.

First, the sampler is starting earlier to allow students time afterwards to apply for post-secondary, prepare for graduation, etc.

Second, they will also be working through Spring Break so that they can be complete by the end of April. This will give them additional time to work on transitioning out of high school and preparing for graduation.

Third, students will be spending more time at UFV. The plan is to have the first two weeks on-site at Seabird, and the remaining 10 weeks at UFV.





STUDENT COUNCIL

Students in the high school have started a student council this year. Under the guidance of Mr. Greg, students from grade 8 – 12 meet weekly to discuss and plan ways to improve the student experience at Seabird Island Community School.

The student council has begun strong and have seen support among their peers with initiatives such as spirit weeks, beautification projects, increasing student privileges (such as using the basketball court), and working to increase lunchtime activities

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MODULAR COURSE – CNC AND DRONES

Thanks to a grant from FNEESC, students in grade 11 and 12 will have the opportunity to participate in a modular course – that is, a short term, high engagement course with support from an industry expert that our students would not normally have access to. Early in our second semester, these students will work twice a week for six weeks alongside an industry expert in CNC machining and drone technology. Students will learn how to program the CNC machine and use it to design and fabricate their own micro-drone. Students will then learn the basics of flight and come to understand how the drone works.

At the end of the modular course, students will be able to take their drones home and be granted high school credits for graduation. As a note, these drones will not be required to be registered and the students will not need to be licensed because the drones will be under 200 grams.