



## Stz'uminus Education Society Punxwemun (May) 2022 Newsletter

The monthly teaching for punhwe'num: Hiiye'yutul tst 'u to' mukw' stem 'i 'u tun'a tumuhw

(Everything in nature is a part of our family, we are all relatives)

~Time when the blue camas blooms~

### HAPPY Punxwemun (May)

'uy' skweyul, siiem, nu sul-hween, nu siiye'yu (good day, respected ones, my elders, my friends). Liimus (April) was another exciting month for all staff with the SES. Spring is such an exciting time of the year! One of our most favourite things is being out in nature and seeing all of the beautiful wildflowers! In particular. My favourite would be the White Fawn Lily. Such an important part of our traditional foods and so beautiful! We are still busy planning for the 2022-2023 school year, and, after listening to the voices of smuneem and community members, we are excited to sharing some unique programming at our schools. Please stay tuned for some exciting announcements very soon.

During liimus, our students played volleyball, started ultimate frisbee club, continued with soccer sessions with a Hope and Health, and the junior NBA program. The day before Easter break the whole school came together for a surprise Easter lunch provided by Nourish Cowichan! It was amazing having us all together in one space. We have a group of students that have been going on the school bus to Cobble Hill to the Humble Hooves farm to participate in a program called equine assisted learning. What an amazing opportunity to build confidence and communication skills while navigating horses through a variety of obstacles. Grades 9, 10 and 11 went to VIU on a field trip to visit their trade programs and learn about opportunities they could take it vantage of in the future. We also had some guests coming in working with students in a workshop called money sense. Another cool opportunity for the great 12s was having a guest come in and make drums with the class. All the drums were made from the same hide. Lastly, the whole school community participated in a literacy assessment called DART. This is a busy born literacy assessment focussing on what students can do. This information will help drive our practice, and better support students and meeting them where they're at and helping them be the best they can be.

Looking ahead, the monthly teaching for punhwe'num (May), the monthly teaching for punhwe'num is Time when the blue camas blooms. With our monthly teachings to guide us and with Covid restrictions lifting as well as the gorgeous spring weather, we are planning many land-based learning activities and field trips across all grades, we can't wait to be a part of all the amazing lifelong memories to be made and deeper learning to come.

huy tseep q'u, Colleen Mullin and Kelly Hall

## **HUL'Q'UMI'NUM' AND CULTURE UPDATES**

- Huy tseep q'u sul-hween for your continued support and guidance in hul'q'umi'num' and language. We are truly grateful.

### **Important dates:**

- May 5<sup>th</sup>, Missing Murdered Indigenous Women's Day.
- June 22, 2022, National Indigenous Celebration Day, our students will be gearing up to perform a spring concert on this day. Please stay tuned for further information.

## **GRADES 7 TO 11 COURSE SELECTION 2022-2023**

- Grade 7 to 11 students will participate in course selection for the 2022 – 2023 school year mid-April. We are excited to share our new school electives and school schedule soon!

## **JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN AND KINDERGARTEN 2022-2023**

Spring registration for 2022-2023 school year

- The junior kindergarten and kindergarten registration for Stz'uminus Primary school opens on April 4, 2022.
- We are planning a few events for the spring to support the transition of our day care students to the junior kindergarten programs and for new families to our primary programs. Please look out for events and dates that are coming soon.

There will be a new September schedule for our Jk and K programs for 2022-2023

- September 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> there will be no classes for junior kindergarten or kindergarten students.
- The week of September 12 will be a gradual entry.

## **UPDATE FROM JUSTIN MAGNUSON, EDUCATION ADMINISTRATOR**

Hello Stz'uminus First Nation!

First, thank you to all the community members who joined SCS grade 12 students for their fundraising bingo! It was a great success and amazing to see the Grade 12s baking, planning, and organizing skills on display for our community. Our new Education Administration building is nearing complete. During construction we identified several cedar trees that posed a risk to our new building. We were successfully able to remove these trees and trade them for a higher-grade lumber. Our students and programs will benefit from this barter, and we thank the community for putting our students' opportunities first.

A kind reminder that Chief and Council are no longer involved in the day-to-day operations of the education department. Should you have any questions or complaints please reach out to the Society directly. The Stz'uminus Education Society now reports to the Chief and Council quarterly to align with the Nation's priorities. As we navigate this change, we thank the Stz'uminus membership for their patience as we make these changes to pursue increased success for our learners within the Nation.

We are excited to continue our partnership with Hope and Health to provide summer day camp activities at SCS. In addition to the great work our community centre offers every summer, Hope & health will do daily leadership, sport, arts, gardening and other fun activities with any of our youth who come to join.

There are many exciting things happening at all our facilities, please watch our Facebook accounts and other communications for exciting opportunities for our community to participate in our programming and facilities. Thanks again for the ongoing support,

Justin Magnuson  
Education Administrator  
Stz'uminus Education Society

## SPORTS

Current after school activities,

- Wednesdays 2:45 – 4:45 Grade 8 – 12 Ultimate Spirit – Ultimate Frisbee Club – The ultimate Spirit group is running until June for 10 sessions. This is an Indigenous focused program they share the game of ultimate frisbee, but their program is set on 5 pillars: growth mindset, community, connection, inclusion, and spirit. There is hope to form a team and meet with other schools to play Ultimate. All grade 8 – 12 students are welcome to participate. \*\*If you would like to come check this program and be a supporter, please let me know.
- May 9<sup>th</sup> - JK - Grade 12 swimming day in Duncan at the Cowichan Aquatic Centre.
- Our School has been awarded an equipment grant from ISPARC. This will go towards more equipment for the primary school.
- Planning for next year has already started. Are you passionate about soccer, volleyball, basketball or any other sport? Is there an activity that you really enjoy and would like to lead a group of students?
- Stz'uminus Athletics is looking for enthusiastic coaches for: Soccer, Volleyball, basketball.
- The boys' soccer season starts in the fall multiple coaches are needed for this team.
- Girls' and boys' volleyball coaches are needed for next season, their season starts in September
- Boys and Girls Basketball these teams need additional support.
- If you are interested in coaching or leading an activity, please contact the Community School or come and see me directly at the school.



This is the celebration ceremony for the Junior NBA Basketball program. Players learned the fundamentals of basketball after school on Thursdays. Each player who attended received a certificate, Jersey, Basketball and an ice cream sandwich.

The program ran for 12 sessions separated by spring break and other disruptions.

We had 2 groups

K-3, Huychqa to coaches Ferg, Kylie, Kara, Roxy and Constable Glen Martin

Grade 4-7

Coaches: Kelsey, Constable Martin and myself

We also had high school coaches: Teagan (grade 8) Roy (grade 10) Mathias (grade 11)

Big Huychqas to our bus driver, I believe Larry drove both groups home each week.

Huy'tseep'qu

Brad Toporowski

Athletic and Movement Coordinator

## JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN

April has been a busy and exciting month for Junior Kindergarten. We had a chicken called 'Boo' come to visit our classroom. Boo's owners taught our class about Boo's habitat, her diet, and how they take care of her. Our class loved holding and petting Boo. We have been on nature walks in our school forest, enjoying the beautiful spring sunshine. We said goodbye to our wonderful nursing students, Yebin and Lauren. Our class enjoyed baking and eating banana bread. We went on a field trip to Yellow Point Farms with our friends in kindergarten. Our students had big smiles on their faces while they held the baby goats and chicks. All the animals on the farm were very cute and friendly. Our class was very gentle with the animals. We got to learn about what farm animals eat, and what we use animal products for. Farmers Justin and Becca were very welcoming to our students and gave us an excellent tour of the farm. We highly recommend a visit to the farm with your family. We are excited to go to the library and the swimming pool in May.





**KINDERGARTEN**

Kindergartens and junior kindergarten classes went on a field trip to Yellow Point Farms on Thursday April 28<sup>th</sup>





## GRADE 5

Stz'uminus Community School has been invited to Ahousaht for a cultural feast that is happening on June 9, 2022 in Ahousaht. The feast is starting at 8:00am with breakfast and then a lunch to follow and start introduction and protocol to follow. Maaqtusiis School send 5 people to come and officially invite at SCS on April 14, 2022. SCS was ready for the invite. George Harris Sr and chief Roxanne were at SCS to officially accept the invitation to attend the event in June in Ahousaht.

The grade 5 class along with the Young Wolves Dance Group will be attending the event in Ahousaht in June. There is a list of potentially 20-25 students that will attend along with 6-7 chaperones that will go to Ahousaht to honour the invitation.

Fundraising is under way and students and chaperones will be doing several fundraisers to attend the potlatch in Ahousaht. We had a successful 50/50 draw. Thank you for your support in making it successful and please watch out for future fundraising happening here at the school. The chaperones will post on facebook and cards/tickets will be sent home with students that are going to attend the cultural feast.

We are so excited to prepare for this event with practices in the song and dance weekly. The dance group will practice 2-3 times a week closer to the date of the event.

Francine Frank,  
Stz'uminus Community School Grade 5 teacher

## GRADE 6 SCIENCE

Pig heart dissection





## GRADE 12

- Grade 12s are going to Tofino on May 1-2, 2022
- Grade 12s will be going to Strathcona park lodge outdoor education retreat June 13-17, 2022
- Graduation date is June 25, 2022, 1 pm to 4 pm at the SCS gymnasium

## STZUMINUS TRAIL PROJECT



The Stz'uminus Trail Project is going great with many forward steps. Recently a very successful field trip occurred when the Grade 4 class visited Penelakut Island to see some of the amazing trails that have been developed. We were hosted by the Penelakut Elementary Grade 4 class with Teacher Joan James, and it was awesome to see all the youth getting to know one another.

Recently Arthur Jim has been instrumental in helping to explore the territory and expand on future trail route ideas. A youth group called the Warriors Protectors Team has also been formed and has been working on the trail and other special projects

Riley McIntosh

## LIBRARY

'uy skweyul from the SES Library! My name is Meg Ross, and I am the new librarian. I am very excited to be here at this wonderful school with such kind and welcoming students. Rebecca Harris and I have been working full-time in the library for the last month, and we are very excited to see it start taking shape. We've sorted through almost all the books and are beginning to put them into a system for organization. We are hoping to finalize things with a software vendor within the next month, which will enable us to start cataloguing books. Once we have that done, we can begin lending them to students and staff!

We've found a few wonderful things as we were sorting through the books that made us smile. One was this beautiful note inside *Yetsa's Sweater* by Sylvia Olsen that reads: "Big Sister, call me when you are finished with the sweaters so I can pick it up right away". The other was this book of stories, written by Grade 7 students at Stz'uminus Community School in 2010 or 2011. Both books will be in the collection if you want to come and check them out once we are up and running!

Until then, we're encouraging students to share with us what they'd like to see in their library. Whether it's more books, graphic novels, comics, or manga, we want to make sure our library is filled with stories that our smun'eem want to read. Students can come by any time during class hours to give us suggestions.



## *Punxwemun (May)*

**IMPORTANT**  
**dates to remember**

- May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, Grade 12 trip to Tofino
- May 4<sup>th</sup>, Grades 1 and 2 are going to Hamilton Hobby Farm in Qualicum
- May 5<sup>th</sup> and May 6<sup>th</sup>, SPS and SCS Pro D days – NO SCHOOL (for students)
- Thursday May 5<sup>th</sup>, 6pm, at SCS library Parent/guardian presentation and conversations with Leroy Sla  
title of workshop is ""Life Raft- A Student's Journey""
- May 9<sup>th</sup>, SPS and SCS to Cowichan Aquatic Center to swim!
- May 12<sup>th</sup>, Earthquake Drill 10 am
- May 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>, ISPARC movement literacy workshop with Dwayne
- May 23<sup>rd</sup>, Victoria Day (Holiday)
- May 25<sup>th</sup>, SPORTS DAY ay SPS
- May 26<sup>th</sup>, Athletic Banquet (athletes, volunteers and drivers)