SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 63 (SAANICH)

EDUCATION DIRECTIONS COMMITTEE AGENDA

Committee members:  
Board of Education:  
Trustee Helen Parker, Chairperson  
Trustee Nick Claxton  
Trustee Barb Menzies  
TBA (SAA) – elementary  
TBA (SAA) – middle  
TBA (SAA) – secondary  
James Taylor (COPACS)  
Mark Skanks (STA)  

Keven Elder, Superintendent of Schools  
Mark Fraser, Assistant Superintendent  
Scott Stinson, Assistant Superintendent  
Monica Schulte, Secretary-Treasurer

Tuesday, October 14, 2014  3:00 – 5:00 p.m.  
Board Room, School Board Office

Other Attendees:  
Marlene Dergousoff, Saanich Peninsula Literacy Outreach Coordinator  
Stu Rhodes, Career and Apprenticeship Coordinator

A.  PRESENTATIONS AND QUESTIONS

1.  Saanich Peninsula Community and District Literacy Plan – Marlene Dergousoff  
2.  Trades Presentation and Update – Stu Rhodes and Mark Fraser

B.  ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1.  Enrolment update – Mark Fraser

C.  ITEMS FOR RECOMMENDATION

None

D.  ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1.  Correspondence received from Ministry of Education – Aboriginal Education  
2.  Revised 2014/15 Non Instructional, Early Dismissal and Exam Dates Schedule
3. The following research projects have been approved;
   • ‘Canadian Student Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Survey' submitted by Joanne Thompson;
   • 'Getting the Boys Back in Class: Re-evaluating FSL Pedagogies in the Canadian FSL Programs'
     submitted by Dylan Trerice;
   • 'Implementing New Curriculum: A Teacher's Journey' submitted by Angie Savage;
   • 'Creating Links: Librarian-Teacher Collaboration and Middle School Students' Online Inquiry Skills'
     submitted by Darcy McNee; and
   • 'Being International: A Student Perspective' submitted by Kyle Goy.

E. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Strategic Plan Year 2 Report (November)
COMMUNITY LITERACY PLAN
SAANICH PENINSULA
COMMUNITY LITERACY PLAN
2013-2014
ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

This plan was prepared by the Saanich Peninsula Community Literacy Outreach Coordinator in collaboration with the Saanich Peninsula Community Literacy Task Group.

For more information about the plan, or to find out how you can get involved in Community Literacy on the Saanich Peninsula, please contact:

Marlene Dergousoff, Saanich Peninsula Community Literacy Outreach Coordinator
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Saanich Peninsula Community Literacy Plan summarizes the efforts to promote literacy developed in the communities of the Saanich Peninsula during 2013/2014. Guided by a community vision statement, these ongoing efforts are led by the Saanich Peninsula Community Literacy Task Group (Task Group) and implemented with direct community involvement.

Providing adequate and accessible literacy services to a population residing in four different municipalities (Sidney, North Saanich, Central Saanich and part of Saanich), and within four First Nations communities, scattered over a large geographical area and involving distinctively diverse cultures, continues to offer numerous challenges. These include:

» affordable transportation;
» access to child care;
» communications with hard-to-reach populations who may not be aware of services or may be prevented from accessing services due to other socio-economic issues; and
» engaging the community in literacy discussions.

As described in this report, however, much progress has been made during 2013/2014 through the combined efforts of the Task Group and the public to act on priorities identified by the community. Some of the highlights include: increasing the profile of community literacy and the Task Group; increasing the number of new members on the Task Group; welcoming new members to the Task Group who have the expertise and recognize the needs of the immigrant and new Canadian populations and the adult/senior populations; increasing engagement, momentum and commitment to literacy; creating of a new literacy space for all generations; enhancing communications with and connections to the public and elected government representatives; and supporting, developing and implementing a sustainable intergenerational project that recognizes the special needs of seniors.
VISION

The Saanich Peninsula is a place where comprehensive literacy services are available for all generations.

PLANNING PROCESS

Mandated to establish policy, strategic direction, and accountability on the Saanich Peninsula, the Saanich Peninsula Community Literacy Task Group (Task Group) provides governance to the Saanich Literacy Now Initiative. Open to all interested parties, the Task Group meets regularly, guiding the planning and implementation of literacy development on the Peninsula.

Over the past year, the Task Group members have proven their commitment to raising the literacy profile in the community by creating a literacy location at Sidney Elementary School, hiring a new Literacy Outreach Coordinator, developing an intergenerational project connecting seniors and children together, hosting and representing community literacy at various community events. Results of these ongoing efforts include increased communication, expanded partnerships, a deeper collaboration between and among services and agencies, a climate of optimism for literacy support, new skills and a new action plan to deliver comprehensive literacy services for all generations in 2014-15.

As described in this report, the literacy community on the Peninsula has worked together to take action on many priorities. Efforts are regularly made by the Task Group, that include members from: Peninsula Connections for Early Childhood (PCEC), PCEC “1000 X 5” Children’s Book Recycling Project, Beacon Community Services (BCS), Confederation of University Women (CFUW), the Victoria Inter-Cultural Association (ICA), Saanich Adult Education Centre (SAEC), Sidney/North Saanich Library, Bruce Hutchison Library, Central Saanich Library, Camosun College, the School District and members of the public such as retirees and parents to implement various programs that address the needs of our diverse community. The Task Group works in a most collaborative and supportive way. Each month members report about the work of their agency, service or organization. They also report back to their memberships about the work of the Task Group thus extending our collective literacy reach. The two-way reporting not only informs members but it builds stronger literacy awareness across the community. We act as a “committee of the whole” for much of our work. When new initiatives begin, sub-groups are formed to work on specific tasks such as: web design and implementation, logo development and intergenerational projects, etc. Task Group meetings are held on the first Friday of the month (September to July). Notes from the meeting are circulated by email after the meetings by the Literacy Outreach Coordinator. The Coordinator also creates a summary of work accomplished each month. The Task Group appointed a Steering Committee four years ago that represents a broad range of the membership. The Steering Committee meets three times a year to build and maintain a Task Group, and oversee its operation.
TASK GROUP MEMBERS 2013-14

» **Melissa Austin** – District Vice-Principal, (Indigenous Programs) School District #63

» **Marc Bissley** – Professor, Camosun College

» **Laura Chambers** – Community Volunteer and Parent

» **Marie Cooper** – First Nation Elder, TSARTLIP First Nation

» **Trisha Chestnutt** – Executive Director, READ Society,

» **Krista Couto** – Parent, Sidney Elementary School

» **Marlene Dergousoff** – Outreach Coordinator, Saanich Peninsula Community Literacy,

» **Sonya Emperingham** – President, Confederation of University Women’s Club

» **Fatima Ferreira** – Children and Family Literacy Librarian, Central Saanich and Bruce Hutchison Branch Libraries (GVPL)

» **Mark Fraser** – Assistant Superintendent, School District #63 (Saanich) (steward)

» **Marlene Keanie** – Alberta School Principal (Retired)

» **Kelly Glover** – Parent, North Saanich Middle School

» **Norma Hill** – Retired Professor, Douglas College and Ministry of Advanced Education

» **Janis Johnson** – Coordinator, Peninsula Connections for Early Childhood (PCEC) and Beacon Family Resource Programs.

» **Bonnie Kemble** – Teacher, ILC in School District #63

» **Diane Kirby** – Teacher, Saanich Adult Education Centre (SAEC)

» **Henrietta Langran Desbrisay** – Teacher Leader (English Language Learners), School District #63

» **Winnie Lee** – Director, Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria

» **Daphne Macnaughton** – Project Leader, PCEC “1000 X 5” Children’s Book Recycling Project

» **Jean McRae** – Executive Director, Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria

» **Judith Turner** – Retired ESL/ELL Volunteer

» **Elaine Venables** – Director of Children’s Programs and Counselling Services

» **Sharon Walker** – Manager, Sidney/North Saanich Public Library (VIRL)

» **Wendy Walker** – Vice Principal, School District #63

» **Keray Wing** – Retired Principal,

» **Diana Wiseman** – District Instructional Support Teacher (Literacy), School District #63.

COMMUNITY CONTEXT
SAANICH PENINSULA

The Society represented by this literacy plan includes communities located in the traditional territories of the WSANEC First Nations and with the geographic area represented by the boundaries of School District #63 (Saanich), extending from Royal Oak to Swartz Bay on the Saanich Peninsula on southern Vancouver Island.

The area encompasses the Town of Sidney, the rural municipalities of Central Saanich (including the villages of Brentwood Bay and Saanichton) and North Saanich, the northern tip of the urban municipality of Saanich and the four First Nations communities: PAUQUACHIN, TSARTLIP, TSEYCUM, and TSAWOUT.

These communities, scattered over a large area, are home to a branch of the Vancouver Island Regional Library, two branches of the Greater Victoria Public Library, a variety of cultures and a diverse aging populace.

Approximately eighty-seven per cent of the population is older than 15, the median age is 50.9 and approximately 10 per cent speak a language other than English or French.

The local School District, School District #63, (Saanich) includes eight elementary schools, three middle schools, three secondary schools, a children’s development centre (K-8) and an international student program. Alternative educational programs and services are provided through South Island Distance Education School (SIDES), Individual Learning Centres (ILC) at Saanichton and Broadmead, and in collaboration with other community organizations and agencies. In particular, literacy programs offer assistance with learning, language, reading and speech challenges, hearing and vision impairment and English Language Learning (ELL) support.

A grad rate improvement team, consisting of teachers, education assistants, principals, vice-principals, assistant superintendents, District Vice-principal of Indigenous Programs, Indigenous teaching staff and students, convenes regularly to develop ways to improve grade to grade transitions and the percentage of high-school graduates. Eighty-seven percent of students will graduate from Grade 12 within six years of starting from Grade 8.

Local First Nations’ students are under the auspices of the WSANEC School Board (WSB) and about 270 students attend the Tribal (LÁU,
WELNEW) Elementary and High School (to Grade 12), located in the TSARTLIP Village. The WSB also supports the Saanich Adult Education Centre (SAEC) and a child development centre, serving the PAUQUACHIN, TSARTLIP, TSAWOUT and TSEYCUM First Nations. The WSB has offered other programs, partnering with the READ Society, Literacy Victoria, Camosun College and the University of Victoria.

**ACTION PLAN FOR 2013/2014**

The Task Group completed a one-page summary outlining the work to be accomplished from the 2012-2013 Report. Concrete plans were put in place to enhance the processes of decision-making, allocating funds and improve communication with members of the Task Group to make literacy work on the Saanich Peninsula more cohesive.

The Task Group focused on four goals and achieved the following results:

> improved communications and increased membership on the Task Group;
> supported and connected senior and adult literacy and learning opportunities;
> supported and connected English language learners and immigrant populations;
> supported early learning through *Peninsula Connections for Early Childhood* (PCEC); and
> developed sustainable funding, programs and relationships.

**SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIONS FOR 2013/2014:**

> Increased membership on the Task Group.
> Recruited new members who have expertise in adult and senior learning needs as well as English language learners, new Canadian and immigrant population needs.
> Created a one-page summary to explain community literacy and what goals and actions the Task Group is using to achieve those goals.
> Shared the new website in off-line mode with the Task Group to provide first time feedback.
> Created a new logo with widespread input from Task Group.
> Developed a local multi-generational literacy 'hub' called the *Literacy/Learning Connections* location at Sidney Elementary School, where members of the Task Group display materials that represent their organizations.
> Hosted an Open House in April for the public to visit our new *Literacy/Learning Connections* location at Sidney Elementary School and meet the Task Group members.
> Acquired a Settlement Worker in the Schools (SWIS) through leadership of the Inter-
Documented an intergenerational project entitled, *Extended the Care... Seniors and Children Learning Together*. This was a collaborative effort between Island Health, School District #63 (Saanich) and Saanich Peninsula Community Literacy Task Group.

» Garnered a great deal of in-kind support to assist with the general operation of the Task Group.

» Purchased a story tent to create new opportunities for literacy activities and increase the profile of Saanich Peninsula Community Literacy.

EXPANDED GOALS, ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIONS FOR 2013/2014

**BETTER COMMUNICATION**

Raise awareness of the resources available and determine how to offer them on the Peninsula in creative and accessible ways, thus making the connection between literacy and lifelong learning.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIONS**

**INCREASED MEMBERSHIP**

Increased membership of the Task Group (tripled in size) has helped improve communications and the ability to reach a much broader spectrum of people across the Peninsula. A new ‘hub’ called *Literacy/Learning Connections* has also provided space for resources both human and material that are now more accessible.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIONS**

**WEBSITE**

Discovering local literacy resources and links has been difficult. No single place existed and the information was scattered among many organizations. Even though a website was ready for Task Group approval over a year ago, the Task Group saw the new website in offline mode in June 2014 for the first time. Members are currently updating old information and are excited to know that the website will go “live” this fall (2014). The website will display a wealth of information including new
initiatives, services, opportunities, calendar of activities, research articles and connections to other organizations’ websites on the Peninsula that are trying to move the literacy agenda forward for all generations. [www.saanichpeninsulaliteracy.ca](http://www.saanichpeninsulaliteracy.ca) Members of the Task Group are pleased to share information about their service/organization as well as upcoming events and happenings.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIONS**

**NEW LOGO**
The Task Group was concerned that the previous logo did not represent a community feeling; therefore a new logo was created through a number of meetings and was received very positively. It now visually reflects the expanded membership and the group’s dedication to literacy on the Peninsula.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIONS**

**CREATED A MULTI-GENERATIONAL ‘HUB’**
As part of an earlier community-planning event in 2011, participants identified a need for a central focus or literacy hub, beyond just a website, on the Saanich Peninsula. Through the generosity of the Board of Education in School District #63 (Saanich), this goal is becoming a reality. In April 2014, a ‘hub’ called Literacy/Learning Connections opened at Sidney Elementary School. Several events were held in April and May including a Task Group Meeting, sub-committee meetings, work bees, organizing activities, a Books for Breakfast event, and an Open House for the community to meet members of the Task Group. Though still in its early stages, we have a vision to slowly build and grow services, informal programs and events offered not only in this space but also reach out to other areas/spaces in the community. By working together, we hope to offer support for all generations on a variety

“At the Literacy/Learning Connections location, we will continue to build on the ‘hub’ of connections and relationships that already exits on the Peninsula. We are mobilizing literacy opportunities not only at Sidney Elementary but in other locations in the community.”

– Task Group Member

**Did You Know?**
As we increase all students’ knowledge and appreciation of Indigenous cultures, we continue to see an increased sense of belonging and pride in Indigenous students.

– School District No. 63, (Saanich), WSANEC, Other First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Enhancement Agreement.
of literacy issues, such as finances, health and computer use. Other ideas include special library programs, informal ESL/ELL sessions, early learning activities and programs as well as activities with seniors.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIONS

TASK GROUP OPEN HOUSE

The Task Group held an Open House for the public to visit the new Literacy/Learning Connections location. Each Task Group member provided a display of information for the public to view in the room. The displays remain in the room and continue to visually represent the Task Group members’ organizations, services and agencies. This is a shared space: School staff, parents and community members see the information that advertises the work we do collectively in the community.

SAANICH SCHOOL DISTRICT #63

Community/District Literacy Plan provides a way for School Districts to work with community partners to support literacy learning for all. Through the process of developing the Community Literacy Plan, members gain deeper understanding of the various aspects of literacy within the community.

District Literacy Plans are not intended to duplicate information already contained in The Saanich School District Achievement Contract, 2013-2015, and The School District No. 63, (Saanich), WASNEC, Other First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Enhancement Agreement. These documents can be found at http://www.sd63.bc.ca.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIONS

K–GRADE 12

Overall Saanich students perform well in literacy. Early development of reading is a strong indicator of school success. Many school plans have a focus on literacy. Goal Two of the 2012-2014 Saanich School District Achievement Contract is to improve literacy achievement. Specific goals and objectives are addressed in the District Achievement Contract. This document may be found at http://www.sd63.bc.ca.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIONS

DISTRICT LITERACY INITIATIVES

» The Changing Results for Young Readers (CR4YR) Ministry of Education initiative expanded in Saanich School District to include teams from each elementary school. The initiative was established to focus on evidence-based reading instruction for all students, in-class collaborative support for learners, self-regulated learning, social emotional learning and embedding Indigenous principles of learning. The primary goal of CR4YR is to “increase the number of BC children who are engaged, successful readers.”

» Reading Recovery® – a short term early literacy intervention for children in grade one
» **Family Read In** – family members are invited to school to read with students.

» Author visits supported by Parent Advisory Councils (PAC).

» **Red Cedar Book Club** supported by PAC and Times-Colonist *Raise a Reader* funds.

» **Family Literacy Day** brings community members into the schools to share stories with students.

» **The Momentum Program** provides literacy and numeracy intervention for secondary students through outdoor and experiential experiences.

» The District partnered with Sidney’s StrongStart facilitator to provide a program, Music Under the Moon based on the Saanich Moons Project at Sidney, Lochside, and Brentwood Elementary Schools as well as the Language Nest at the WSANEC School Board.

» Reading Club at Brentwood Elementary School involves students from Bayside Middle School and Stelly’s Secondary School who act as big reading buddies for the younger students.

» A lunchtime SENCOTEN Club for all students has been initiated at Brentwood Elementary School.

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIONS

#### DISTRICT EARLY LEARNING

» Saanich School District has three **StrongStart Centres** located at Brentwood, Lochside and Sidney Schools.

» **Ready Set Learn** Open House events take place at all elementary schools each January. Resource packages include information from Island Health, Libraries and PCEC.

» **Before and After School Care** is offered at each elementary school. The programs are operated by non-profit, fully-licensed organizations independent of the School District.

» **Little Spartans** Child Care Program is located at Claremont Secondary School and continues to support staff requiring child care. This partnership with *Kids Klub* serves up to eight children.

» **School District’s Documentation Project** – connects early childhood educators and primary teachers through collaboration, conversation and the documentation of learning stories.

» **Island Early Years Network** – connects early years educators on Vancouver Island. The network jointly planned and hosted a conference, “*Dynamic Learning Environments,*” attended by over 225 teachers and early childhood educators.

» **Teen Education and Motherhood** (T.E.A.M.) programs at Stelly’s Secondary and Saanichton Individual Learning Centre (ILC) continue in partnership with Beacon Community Services, the School District, and community.
ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIONS
PCEC EARLY LEARNING

Peninsula Connections for Early Childhood (PCEC) is the local early years community table on the Saanich Peninsula, sponsored by Beacon Community Services. Now in its 10th year of operation, PCEC is comprised of representatives from local family-serving agencies and services as well as enthusiastic, dedicated community volunteers who meet monthly to connect and network on behalf of Saanich Peninsula children and their families.

The focus is to improve conditions for young children and their families. Through a variety of events and projects we advocate for the importance of the early years, stress the importance of literacy development from infancy, and strive to connect families with the resources they need. PCEC network members offer professional development opportunities for early learning and care providers, and Kindergarten teachers, thus enhancing the learning opportunities for young children in daycare, preschool environments and Kindergarten classrooms.

» The PCEC “1000 X 5” Children’s Book Recycling Project was established in April 2008. Since then, over 80,450 books have been collected for distribution to Saanich Peninsula families with young children (birth to 5 years old). Please see Literacy Highlight Sheet #2 for information about “What difference is the project making?”

» Professional learning evenings for ECEs, StrongStart facilitators, Kindergarten and Grade One teachers continue to be hosted by PCEC. In addition to the professional program and networking opportunities, participants leave with a free children’s book to add to the collection at their centres or classrooms.

» The 10th annual “Children Count!” Early Childhood Resource Fair is sponsored by PCEC, School District and Community Partners. This is an opportunity for Peninsula parents/caregivers and children to learn about community resources, School District services and for

Did You Know?
PCEC volunteers for the PCEC “1000 X 5” Children’s Book Recycling Project meet weekly to sort and package donated books. Books are distributed to families across the Saanich Peninsula. On average between 300–500 different families receive book bags (3 books) per month. Last year, the project placed 12,000 books into the hands of young children (from birth to 5 years old).

Did You Know?
Even the very youngest of babies will benefit from being read to regularly.

Did You Know?
The Roots of Empathy Program enhances social and emotional literacy in young children and has been proven, through research, to significantly reduce violence and bullying. PCEC works to expand the program in the Saanich School District.
children to participate in singing, story time, crafts and related literacy activities. Every child goes home with a free new book for their home library.

- *Parent-Child Mother Goose* programs run throughout the year. Three 10-week series (with weekly sessions for babies and for toddlers) are held in both Sidney and Brentwood. More than 100 families are registered for each series. This is one of the most successful early literacy initiatives on the Peninsula.

- PCEC, in collaboration with VIRL and Saanich Peninsula Community Literacy Task Group, hosted a *Books for Breakfast* event in the new *Literacy/Learning Connections* location. More of these popular sessions are planned for fall.

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIONS

#### BEACON COMMUNITY SERVICES

Services are offered in partnership with School District #63, and with the BC Transit Commission, public libraries, Panorama Recreation, Island Health, Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR), and Licensing. Services and programs are located at various sites on the Saanich Peninsula in aid of taking the services to where they are most needed.

Beacon Community Services (BCS) – Services and programs include but are not limited to:

- *Best Babies* on Salt Spring Island (SSI);
- *Best Babies* on the Peninsula (operating for 17 years);
- PCEC “1000 X 5" Children’s Book Recycling Project;
- *Parent-Child Mother Goose* – offered both in Sidney and Brentwood Bay;
- *Sidney StrongStart*;
- Car Seat Safety;
- *TEAM* programs offer licensed infant toddler care for the past 25 years;
- *TEAM* 1 is located at Stelly’s and *TEAM* 2 is located at ILC Saanichton;
- *Otter-Be-Fun* Licensed Out-of-School Care – Brentwood Elementary;
- *KELSET* Care Licensed Out-of-School Care – KELSET Elementary;
- *Soups ‘n Stories* – offering food literacy and nurturing connections at ILC Saanichton;
- *Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) Key Worker* – services offered from Sidney to SSI to Sooke;
- *Roots of Empathy®* – 9 programs offered at the Kindergarten level across the School District;
- *Youth Employment Program* – offering employment readiness;
- *Spring Board to Success*; and
- *Triple P®* and *Pasta and Parenting* – parenting programs.
Early years services also include Beacon’s Peninsula Connections for Early Childhood – a community table which is credited with commitment to early years’ services, support and advocacy for Peninsula families.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIONS
CANADIAN FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN
Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW), Peninsula Chapter, is working on developing links to the community. As a part of this initiative we became an active member on the Saanich Peninsula Literacy Task Group for the first time. On the Peninsula we are pleased to contribute in moving literacy forward by hosting an annual book sale to fund bursaries for young women. We also make donations to the PCEC “1000 X 5” Children’s Book Recycling Project. Two evening sessions supported literacy by hosting guest speakers on topics such as adult literacy and learning and the Early Development Indicator (EDI) research.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIONS
SIDNEY/NORTH SAANICH LIBRARY

FOR CHILDREN
» Summer Reading Club – children receive reading records to keep track of books read in the summer. Special events, contests, prize draws, medals and more! (Ages 0-12 years)
» Good Morning Rhyme Time – children from birth to 5 and their parent/guardian sing songs, read stories, and learn rhymes.
» Lego Stories – children listen to a story and build Lego creations based on a theme.
» Reading Buddies – teens are paired with children grades 2-4 for reading practice and fun.

FOR ADULTS
» Hot Reads for Cold Nights Adult Reading Program – read books, write reviews, win prizes, attend cozy book chats.
» Writers Group – member-led, library supported group meets for learning, networking, critiquing. Special activities: Open Mic; Community Writing Contest.
» E-resource support – library staff support customers to use the library’s downloadable resources including e-books, music, magazines, video.
» Homebound delivery – staff prepares materials for customers who are unable to visit the library in person; volunteers deliver materials to customers.
» Outreach/Partnerships – school visits; PCEC “Children Count!” Resource Fair; ArtSea Festival; Sidney Family Day Lego Event; Sidney Summer Market; Books for Breakfast; Sidney Literary Festival; World Oceans Day, Community Literacy Task Group Member and Open House participant at the Literacy/Learning Connections location.
ADULT AND SENIORS’ NEEDS

Given its aging population (15,000 people over the age of 65), the issue of seniors’ literacy is important to the community of the Saanich Peninsula and a focus for the Task Group.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIONS

INTERGENERATIONAL PROJECT

The Task Group encourages senior participation in literacy programming. It recognizes that any community programs should address seniors’ specific needs, including understanding any barriers, such as negative memories of school, insecurities about attending school and participating in activities with younger people, believing that they are too old to learn, as well as the lack of transportation and learning materials geared to their needs. This year the Task Group supported an Intergenerational Project entitled, Extending the Care… Seniors and Children Learning Together. It involved collaboration among Island Health, School District #63 (Saanich) and Saanich Peninsula Community Literacy Task Group. The Recreation Therapist and the Activation Team at the Saanich Peninsula Extended Care Facility wanted to provide rich learning opportunities for their residents. They approached KELSET Elementary School and in 2013 started visitations. This year a more comprehensive program was planned and implemented. It involved eight seniors ranging in age from 83 to 99 years who shared learning experiences with thirty 9 and 10 year old students. The Literacy Outreach Coordinator volunteered to support the project, assist with the planning, organization, volunteer with the outings, and document the project so that it may be replicated at other extended care and or other senior care facilities and schools. It has the potential of becoming a sustainable program to be shared with others. While seniors and schools have worked together for years, rarely is this the case for those elderly people in residential care facilities who face many everyday challenges and who have compromised health conditions. More information about this sustainable project is outlined in the Literacy Highlight #1 at the end of this report.

“During the second school visit, one senior hugged herself and said, I just LOVE it here!”

– Irene, 91 year old

Did You Know?

Cordova Bay Elementary students connected with seniors from the Cordova Bay 55+ Seniors’ Centre related to several intergenerational projects including: photography, playground games, storytelling, cooking, arts, crafts, card games, genealogy, drama and cycling.
ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIONS
CAMOSUN COLLEGE
On the Saanich Peninsula, Camosun is involved in a number of literacy initiatives and programs. In addition to providing academic upgrading programs (fundamental to intermediate levels) at the Saanich Adult Education Centre (SAEC) in partnership with the WSANEC School Board, Camosun also partnered with the TSAWOUT First Nation and the Cowichan Campus of Vancouver Island University to deliver *Introduction to First Nations Culinary Arts*, an Aboriginal Community-Based Delivery Partnerships Funded Program. Camosun’s role was to provide the academic upgrading tailored to individual students’ needs so as to enhance their success in the culinary arts program which was delivered by Vancouver Island University.

Camosun is currently offering a *BEST 041*, a career exploration course, at TSEYCYM First Nation, again in partnership with SAEC, and it is hoped that students completing that program will transition to SAEC in the fall and continue their educational journeys.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIONS
SAANICH ADULT EDUCATION CENTRE
Saanich Adult Education Centre (SAEC) is part of the WSANEC School Board. It is located at 7449 West Saanich Road on TSARTLIP Reserve and offer programs for First Nations people from the TSYCUM, TSARTLIP, TSAWOUT and PAUQUACHIN Nations as well as other First Nations people wanting to return to school. SAEC is welcoming place for First Nations adults to return to learn. We offer courses for people to attain their Grade 12 and Dogwood Certificates. People can come back at any level of education that they have. Quite a few of our students didn’t have much success in school when they attended and there may have been a variety of reasons such as: undiagnosed learning disabilities, residential school effect, illness, disinterest, post-traumatic stress, substance abuse, or just not the right motivation. It doesn’t matter how old a person is; what matters is that they want to

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**Success Story**
Lisa Marie Elliott came back to work on her education at the Saanich Adult Education Centre two years ago and is now, only two courses away from her grade 12 Dogwood Certificate. Her daughter attends Brentwood Elementary and Jacob is at the daycare at the Adult Centre. Lisa works hard at her school work and feels her favourite role model is her daughter. Lisa believes that reading and learning have taken a much bigger place in her family’s life since she came back to school. She says school and an education will be essential to her and her family’s future. She says the encouragement and support of her family and the people at SAEC have made her feel worthy of success so she’ll meet that challenge and work on. This year she participated in the Digital Photography course and discovered a whole new side of herself that expressed more than words could. She in turn has encouraged and supported others in her community to come back to school, too. Her uncle and brother will be attending in the fall of 2014.

“To change your life, you need to change your priorities.”

— Lisa Marie Elliott
better themselves and reach a goal they have set for themselves. It may take time, but we can help.

This past school year, we offered courses such as:

» First Peoples English 11 and 12;
» Mathematics from Basic to Grade 11;
» Biology 12;
» Art 11 and 12;
» Family Studies 12;
» Foods and Nutrition 12;
» PE 11 and 12; and
» SENCOTEN 11 and 12, Literacy Grammar and Writing.

We also had an amazing Digital Photography course in partnership with the University of Victoria and the Victoria READ Society highlighted by a show of students’ work on the 25th of June.

SUCCESS STORY

Donna Henry is a proud Coast Salish woman. She is proud of who she is and not ashamed of her colour. She says she had procrastinated getting her education but now she has her foot in the door. Her goal is to get her Grade 12. She has been a student at SAEC for a year and a half. She started part way through a school year and when asked why, she said that if she didn’t start right then when it was in her head she wouldn’t come in September. Her courage has paid off. Donna said it took time to trust the teachers but they have become part of her extended family. They have encouraged her to reach for her potential. This year she completed four courses, is raising her two sons, working part-time on-call and taking courses to get work skills and certification. She hopes she is being a better role model for her boys and as long as she went to school, her son made sure he went, too.

“I just want to encourage everybody out there to face your fears and make your mind strong and go back to school. It’s never too late to come back.”

– Donna Henry
SCLC is centrally located on the Saanich Peninsula at 1649 Mt. Newton X Road. Partnerships and programming focus on addressing comprehensive and holistic literacy services for the early years (birth to 5 years), for school-age students (14 - 19 years) and for adults (19 years and beyond). Our partnerships and programs delivered at the SCLC that are strengthening community resiliency include:

- Beacon Community Services  **TEAM 2 (birth to 5 years);**
- Peninsula Connections for Early Childhood;
- PCEC “1000 x 5” Children’s Book Recycling Project;
- Community Kitchen;
- **Soups ’n Stories;**
- **Young Parenting Group;**
- TSAWOUT Community/United Way/and Children’s Health Foundation of Vancouver Island -  **Gathering Strength;**
- WSANEC Board of Education;
- Camosun College  **Trades Awareness, Skills and Knowledge (TASK);**
- Vancouver Island University  **Hairdressing Program;**
- Native College of Education  **English 081/091;**
- Early Childhood Education (first year and laddering into 2nd year at Camosun);
- Canadian Federation of University Women  **Post Secondary Bursaries for Young Women;** and
-  **Power-to-Be Outdoor Wilderness program for 13 - 15 year olds.**

Individual Learning Centre—increasing graduation rates reflective of innovative, creative programming and partnerships, as well as creating culturally relevant opportunities for First Nations learners through programs such as CINEVIC Film literacy program.

Saanichton Community Learning Centre has developed a sustainable financial model through its acquisition of continuing education funding through the Ministry of Education. This allows community the opportunity to identify learning needs and for SCLC to respond in support of a potential sustainable funding model. Examples of support have included SENCOTEN at Stellys, Culinary Arts at TSAWOUT, International Foods 12 and Media 12 at Parkland and PE 12, Planning 12 and Film 12 in the TSAWOUT community. SCLC is able to be responsive to community literacy and learning needs through SD63 Continuing Education.

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**Did You Know?**
The Saanich Community Learning Centre is responsive and innovative. Our belief statement is “never say never.”
ESL AND ELL FOR NEW CANADIANS AND IMMIGRANT POPULATIONS

Establish partnership with services and agencies that support immigrant populations and those who provide services to enable people whose primary language or languages of the home are other than English.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIONS

PARTNERSHIPS AND RELATIONSHIPS

Two new members joined the Task Group this year who speak for the needs of new Canadians and the immigrant populations. Since this area continues to be a focus for the Task Group, these new members and their expertise and community connections are welcome.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIONS

INTER-CULTURAL ASSOCIATION (ICA)

Established a partnership with the Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria (ICA) and Jean McRae, Executive Director, is a member of the Task Group this year. ICA participated in the Open House at Sidney Elementary where visitors could talk to the representatives present about programs available to immigrant populations.

SWIS – ICA was able to secure funding from Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) starting in August 2014 for three Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS) to be available to support newcomer immigrant and refugee children and youth as well as their families in all the schools in Districts 61, 62, and 63. Workers will liaise with school staff and help immigrants access community-based resources.

Diversity Summit – The Community Partnership Network Diversity Summit was held at the Mary Winspear Centre in Sidney in November 2013. Members of the Task Group attended a lively day with speakers who were informative and dynamic as well as watching a performance from ICA’s Arrival: Mask and Movement along with police and community workshops which were eye-opening and engaging. Everyone who participated had the opportunity to learn, share, and connect on how to welcome and foster diversity in businesses and organizations.

Did You Know?

The Saanich School District’s English Language Learning (ELL) program numbers are approximately 235 Kindergarten–Grade 8 students who receive these services.
ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIONS

DISTRICT ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING

This year the Saanich Peninsula Literacy Task Group expanded to include an English Language Learning (ELL) teacher leader from the School District. The Task Group has started to explore how to use of the Literacy/Learning Connections location to assist families and community members in furthering the informal development of their English language.

The School District hosts a yearly potluck for all district ELL students and their extended families. Board members, school staffs, and District staff are invited as are community organizations such as:

» the Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria;
» the Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society;
» Panorama and Commonwealth Recreation Centres;
» Camosun Dentistry;
» Saanich Peninsula Community Literacy; and,
» Beacon Community Services.

Over 200 people attended the celebration.

This year Lochside Elementary School started a Reading Buddies program with their students and Claremont Secondary School students. They met weekly for an hour after school from February through mid-May and were provided snacks and opportunities to read together. The program was so popular that it will continue in the fall and perhaps expand.

FUNDING

The Task Group developed a list of in-kind support from various services, organizations and the School District. The amount of funding received in this way is impressive. The Task Group strongly believes this type of support is crucial for the sustainability of our community literacy initiatives. One example of such donation occurred through the auspices of the Saanich School District. Some of the supports include, but are not limited to: provision of space for Literacy/Learning Connections, space for PCEC “1000 X 5” Children’s Book Recycling Project, space to meet for monthly meetings, computers, some secretarial assistance, duplicating costs and shared purchasing power. This support is much appreciated as it assists the Task Group with general operations and provides several locations to host programs, and events and services based on our key priorities.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIONS

FUNDS ALLOCATED

Funding was allocated in various ways:

» Peninsula Connections for Early Childhood – to create an example of a Story Walk for one of the ECE Professional Development evenings;
» Task Group – to purchase and create a display board and materials to represent the Task Group at community events such as Sidney Family Day, Children Count! Fair, KELSET Elementary, Saanich Peninsula Extended Care Unit and the Task Group’s Open House;
» *Literacy/Learning Connections* location – materials and supplies for the space and for Open House expenses;

» Creativate Design Studio Ltd. – website preparation and training, and publishing the *Saanich Peninsula Community Literacy Plan*;

» KELSET Elementary – transportation of students to Saanich Peninsula Extended Care Facility;

» EZ Up Tents – purchase of a story tent and the signage; and,

» *Here!* Magazine – a quarterly magazine that aims to support immigrant women new to the Victoria region. Task Group members will make the magazine available to immigrant women who access their organizations.

**INDICATIONS OF SUCCESS**

**THE SAANICH PENINSULA COMMUNITY LITERACY TASK GROUP REPORTED:**

» increased membership on the Task Group – tripled in size and this has led to greater understanding of resources available in the community, resulting in a much deeper collaboration between and among groups.

» restored and built new relationships. Meeting turnout has increased; engagement is strong.

» strengthened a sense of team and feeling of community among Task Group members.

» met with MLA for Saanich North and the Islands, Gary Holman (December 12th) and MLA for Saanich South, Lana Popham (January 10th) to garner support for sustained literacy funding.

» recognized the importance of consistent leadership – greater communication and organization.

» developed a climate of optimism and trust – engagement, momentum and excitement resulted.

» acknowledged that things are happening (e.g., website, story tent, *Literacy/Learning Connections* location, new logo, Intergenerational Project and Open House, etc.).

» developed a one-page summary of the *Saanich Peninsula Community Literacy Plan*, *What is Community Literacy?* This summary focused attention on goals for the year and provided information for the Task Group, MLAs, organizations, services and the public.

» raised the community profile – more Task Group members represented at community events. People are starting to know who we are and what we do. This exposure has garnered requests for support in terms of programs and services.

» acquired more in-kind support – an asset that has assisted in the day-to-day operation of the Task Group and the work we accomplish.
CHALLENGES

THE SAANICH PENINSULA COMMUNITY LITERACY TASK GROUP REPORTED:

» sustaining membership engagement;
» sustaining stable year to year core funding;
» building greater connections with the business community and the municipalities;
» broadening the community literacy profile;
» determining the current needs in the community;
» addressing misconceptions about people with lower literacy skills;
» activating the website and keeping it current and accurate; and,
» inviting and encouraging services/agencies to use the Literacy/Learning Connections location for events and informal sessions that meet the goals of the Saanich Peninsula Community Literacy Plan.

PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR

THE SAANICH PENINSULA COMMUNITY LITERACY TASK GROUP RECOMMENDED:

» Literacy/Learning Connections location – Explore additional ways to develop the use the space.
» ELL and Immigrant population needs – Continue building partnerships to support, facilitate and connect these populations with services available on the Peninsula.
» Seniors’ needs – Continue with a senior focus. Support the expansion of Intergenerational Projects to include new locations and explore ways to collaboratively support seniors who are beginning readers.
» Communication – Host a “Visioning” event (it has been four years since the broader community contributed to the direction of community literacy on the Peninsula). Connect with the business community and municipalities; continue to build a community literacy presence on the Peninsula; explore additional ways to share and use the story tent.
» Reading Room – Explore ways to develop and implement a portable outdoor Reading Room in collaboration with other community tables, organizations, businesses and municipalities.
» Early Learning – Continue to find ways to support families with young children (from birth to five years) in terms of the community literacy mandate.
» First Nations – Continue to foster relationships with the First Nations communities.
» Website – Activate the “live” site; keep the site current and accurate.
» Budget Review – Review and update the “Terms of Reference” regarding the spending of limited remaining funds.
MEASURES OF SUCCESS

THE SAANICH PENINSULA COMMUNITY LITERACY TASK GROUP RECOMMENDED:

» collect examples of collaboration amongst members of the Task Group and the services and agencies that they represent;

» collect information about the Task Group’s involvement at community events;

» keep consistency in literacy leadership (four LOC’s in five years);

» count participants at various events;

» track the use of the Literacy/Learning Connections location;

» track website traffic;

» collect narratives;

» collect information about Task Group member participation in literacy activities other than monthly meetings;

» encourage and increase First Nations involvement in the Task Group;

» develop and document strategies that represent the outcomes of the “Visioning” event; and,

» develop initial research and plans to create an outdoor Reading Room.
LITERACY HIGHLIGHT #1

INTERGENERATIONAL PROJECT
Extending the Care... Seniors and Children Learning Together

Saanich Peninsula Community Literacy Task Group identified senior literacy and learning as a priority. From the end of January until the middle of March, the Literacy Outreach Coordinator and the Task Group members were involved with the Saanich Peninsula Extended Care facility and KELSET Elementary School in a project called, Extending the Care... Seniors and Children Learning Together. The Task Group supported the work of the Recreation Therapist and the teacher by assisting with planning, organizing, documenting, writing, recording, volunteering and providing funds for transportation. It was a fabulous opportunity to purposefully bring together different generations for ongoing, planned activities. This collaborative initiative made it possible for everyone to learn from each other, to develop new relationships that fostered caring and empathy, to experience an enhanced feeling of self-worth, to know that the skills and contributions of all participants are valued, to achieve specific goals and to enjoy the unexpected positive outcomes.

Over five visits both seniors and children alike enjoyed many activities together. Activities such as:

» **Introductions** – Getting to Know You activity was designed so each student to meet each senior.

» **Connections** – Students moved into permanent groups. They bonded and connected with their senior buddies (3 to 4 students per senior) very quickly.

» **Tour of School** – Students hosted their senior buddies and proudly toured them around their school.

» **Interviews** – Students interviewed seniors and recorded interesting facts and data.

» **Artifact activity** – Seniors and students shared an artifact that represented something important in their lives.

“I enjoyed our visits so much, I always wanted to be a teacher but the high school was too far away and I had to quit school.”

– 99 year old Helena

“Thank you for the bookmark. I love mine and I will cherish it for years to come.”

– Daniel, writing to his senior

“If you’d told me in the beginning that I was going to enjoy coming to a school, I wouldn’t have believed you.”

– Lorne, senior buddy

“Lovingly, your oldest buddy.”

– 99 year old Helena, when asked how she would like to sign her letter to her younger buddy
» **PowerPoint presentation** – Students created a PowerPoint presentation for each senior based on the information they learned from interviewing and talking with their senior buddies.

» **Timeline activity** – This activity demonstrated the expansiveness of the decades between the students and seniors (age span: 9 years old to 99 years old).

» **Then and Now activity** – Pictures were presented from the “olden” days that represented a time when the senior buddies were of similar age to the students. Pictures included clothing, cars, grocery prices, newspapers, cars, buildings, schools, sports uniforms, etc. This activity provoked a great deal of interest and discussion.

» **Games and demonstrations** – Math games, reading games, computer demonstrations were enjoyed by all.

» **Artwork** – Students presented beautiful paintings to seniors (seniors have them displayed or in a special place in their rooms.

» **Tour of Extended Care Facility** – Students toured parts of the Extended Care facility, played card games, ate cookies and visited with their senior buddies.

» **Bookmark Gift activity** – Seniors created and presented handmade bookmarks to their younger buddies in appreciation of their time together.

» **Cookie Making** activity – Seniors made and shared cookies with the students during the last visit.

» **Letters and Postcards** – After the visitations were over, students wrote follow-up letters first and then postcards from camp later in the year; the seniors happily responded to their younger buddies.

To see how quickly and deeply the connections formed between the seniors and the children was amazing. The look on their faces as they searched for one another and as they found each other transformed from looks of anticipation to recognition and sheer delight! The school principal remarked, It warmed my heart to see the magical moments between the seniors and the students.

The seniors were very appreciative of the teacher and how she managed to get the children so well-prepared for each visit. They were impressed with how polite, considerate, careful, friendly and respectful their younger buddies were to them. The principal and the teacher commented on how the students demonstrated their school’s values and beliefs through their interactions with the seniors. It was remarkable that the senior buddies remained healthy enough to attend all five sessions over the two-month period. Hospital staff reported how absolutely delighted and happy the seniors were when they returned from each visit and they talked about their buddies and their time at the school in the days and weeks following.

Many thanks to Saanich Peninsula Extended Care Unit (especially Anne Casey and the Activation Department for having the courage and creativity to initiate this project), to the seniors (ages 83 to 99 years) who actively participated in the activities and to those at KELSET Elementary School for their ongoing support (especially to the teacher, Sara Postlethwaite and her students).

Now that this project is documented, the goal is to share it with other extended care and senior care facilities and schools so more seniors and schools may have the opportunity to work and learn together.
LITERACY HIGHLIGHT #2

PENINSULA CONNECTIONS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD, “1000 X 5” CHILDREN’S BOOK RECYCLING PROJECT

The PCEC “1000 X 5” Children’s Book Recycling Project was established in April 2008. Since then, over 80,450 books have been collected for distribution to Saanich Peninsula families with young children (birth to 5 years old). The project is sponsored by Beacon Community Services/Peninsula Connections for Early Childhood to serve families in the municipalities of Central Saanich, North Saanich, Saanich, the Town of Sidney, and Salt Spring Island.

On a rotating basis, gift bags of books are distributed through: Strong Start Centres at Sidney, Brentwood, and Lochside School, Sidney Lion’s Food Bank, Beacon Community Services programs (e.g., Mother Goose), Libraries—Sidney/North Saanich, Central Saanich, Bruce Hutchison Branches of VRL and GVPL, Ministry of Children and Family Development (Saanichton Office), NIL/TU,O Child and Family Services, Peninsula Co-op Food Centre, Peninsula Health Unit Public Health Nurses, PHU Infant Development (QA Outreach), Saanich School District Kindergartens (at 8 schools) and the School Board Office, Salt Spring Island Family Place, Teen Education and Mothers (TEAM) Programs at Stelly’s and the Saanichton ILC, TSAWOUT Aboriginal Head Start Program, Individual copies of books are distributed at PCEC- sponsored events and given to Jeneece Place. Some families receive a number of books during a year from the same or various locations; on average, 360 different families receive books each month, year-round.

“I love you whoever the books are from. I am going to read them everyday.”
- Kindergarten Child

“Coming from an upbringing of a single mother with a very limited income, I don’t think I can recall a time in my childhood that I received a book. I wish someone had thought of this concept of recycling books sooner..”
- Anonymous

“By providing books and focusing the joys of reading, you are instilling in them a love of literature that will last them a lifetime.”
- School Principal
WHAT DIFFERENCE IS THE PROJECT MAKING?

This is a difficult question to answer because there is seldom a single causal factor that can be isolated as the reason for success or lack of impact. Since the Project began, other initiatives were already underway or have been concurrently implemented. For example:

The Peninsula Connections for Early Childhood (PCEC) network has been active for over ten years. The work of this community-based early learning network has focused on the importance of the early years and done much to promote literacy development.

StrongStart Centres were introduced in BC in 2006. Three centres were established in Saanich District schools (at Sidney Elementary in 2007, Brentwood in 2008, and Lochside in 2009).

In 2010 and 2011, full-day Kindergarten was introduced in School District No. 63 schools and across the Province.

Since 2004/2005, Kindergarten teachers have used the Early Development Indicator (EDI) scales to rate the vulnerability of individual children related to five development areas (physical health and well-being, social competence, emotional maturity, language and cognitive development, and communication skills). Data reported by Saanich District Kindergarten teachers indicate significant decreases in vulnerability on the two scales most-related to early literacy development—Language and Cognitive Development and Communication Skills. Setting aside unexplained fluctuations and the possibility of inter-rater reliability, see the ratings for children in four neighbourhoods on the Saanich Peninsula related to these scales.
Numbers Indicate % Deemed Vulnerable

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<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deep Cove/Dean Park</td>
<td>Language &amp; Cognitive Development</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Communication Skills</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cordova Bay</td>
<td>Language &amp; Cognitive Development</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Communication Skills</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Saanich/Keating</td>
<td>Language &amp; Cognitive Development</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Communication Skills</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sidney</td>
<td>Language &amp; Cognitive Development</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Communication Skills</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>12%</td>
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With all caveats considered, it seems clear: In conjunction with the work of PCEC, the Strong Start facilitators, and Kindergarten teachers, the PCEC “1000 X5” Children’s Book Recycling Project is contributing to the early literacy development of young children on the Saanich Peninsula.
July 7, 2014

Melissa Austin
District Vice-Principal, Indigenous Education
School District No. 63 (Saanich)
Email: maustin@sd63.bc.ca

Dear Melissa:

Thank you for submitting both the School District No. 63 (Saanich) Wydneć, Other First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Education Enhancement Agreement Year 5 Report (2012-2013) and the Summary Report (2008-2013). It is obvious that the School District has learned much from the implementation of the first Enhancement Agreement (EA) and has used this information in the development and implementation of the second one. Of particular note is the understanding that all of the goals are inter-related and that there is a need to focus on all aspects if we are to increase success for our students.

I was pleased to see the increase over time on teacher involvement and interest to integrate Indigenous themes into cross-curricular areas. I also saw that this is still a challenge in some areas and that it will continue to be a focus for the implementation of the second EA. We are seeing this as a provincial trend as well, with many districts believing that this is an important leverage point for system change.

I would encourage you, if you haven’t already, to begin to analyze your data through cohort tracking. In reviewing the data for Goal 2 - Sense of Identity and Belonging, it is possible to track a cohort of students over three years and see if they improved as a group, rather than comparing one cohort to another when they pass through a grade level. Other districts are using this method and are finding that it provides them with greater ability to focus resources where they have a larger impact. If you would like to talk more about this, please let me know or contact our Aboriginal Education team at the Ministry.

I noted that the structures in place to support the implementation of the EA, including Key People, the Graduation Improvement Team and the EA Committee, are having a positive impact in creating success and dealing with challenges. You have identified areas of concern, such as the pass rates in grade 9 and 10 courses leading to graduation and successes, parent involvement, and increased presence of language learning opportunities. I am confident that Saanich School
District is well positioned to continue to successfully implement their second Enhancement Agreement and that the positive trends you have identified will continue.

We will post your Year 5 Report on our website at http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/abed/annual_reports/welcome.htm, and I encourage you to look at the other reports from school districts to see what they are doing to improve student success.

Please extend my congratulations and thanks to the staff, parents and families for their work in making this EA a success. On behalf of the Aboriginal Education team at the Ministry I look forward to working with you and your partners in the coming school year.

Sincerely,

Ted Cadwallader
Acting Director/Field Director
Email: Ted.Cadwallader@gov.bc.ca

pc: Nancy MacDonald
Superintendent of Schools
School District No. 63 (Sannich)
Email: nmacdonald@sd63.bc.ca

Scott Stinson
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Colleen Hannah
Enhancement Agreements Coordinator
Aboriginal Education, Learning Division
Ministry of Education
Email: Colleen.Hannah@gov.bc.ca
2014/15 Non Instructional, Early Dismissal & Exam Dates Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOOL</th>
<th>1 Hour Early Dismissal (4) for all schools to facilitate parent-teacher interviews that relate to student progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brentwood Elementary</td>
<td>Oct 16  Nov 5  Nov 6  Feb 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cordova Bay Elementary</td>
<td>Oct 28  Oct 29  Oct 30  Feb 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deep Cove Elementary</td>
<td>Oct 22  Oct 23  Nov 20  Feb 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keating Elementary</td>
<td>Nov 4  Nov 5  Nov 6  Mar 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KELSET Elementary</td>
<td>Oct 7  Oct 9  Nov 19  Apr 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lochside Elementary</td>
<td>Nov 4  Nov 5  Nov 6  Feb 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prospect Lake Elementary</td>
<td>Oct 8  Oct 9  Feb 18  Feb 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sidney Elementary</td>
<td>Oct 8  Oct 9  Nov 20  March 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bayside Middle</td>
<td>Oct 15  Oct 16  Feb 12  May 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Saanich Middle</td>
<td>Oct 8  Oct 9  Feb 4  March 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royal Oak Middle</td>
<td>Oct 28  Oct 29  Feb 4  May 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claremont Secondary</td>
<td>Oct 2  Nov 27  Feb 5  April 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parkland Secondary</td>
<td>Oct 2  Dec 4  Feb 26  May 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stelly's Secondary</td>
<td>Oct 2  Nov 27  Feb 25  April 29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Non Instructional Days (all schools)
1. Friday, October 24, 2014 – Province Wide
2. Friday, November 7, 2014 – School Based
3. Monday, November 10, 2014 – School Based
4. Friday, February 20, 2015 – Individual
5. Friday, April 24, 2015 – School planning day

Secondary School Schedules:
Semester One: September 2, 2014 to January 30, 2015
Semester Two: February 10, 2015 to June 26, 2015

Provincial Exam Dates:
February 2 through February 6, 2015 (5 days)
June 18 through June 25, 2015 (7 days)

Revised October 14, 2014