

Aboriginal Nations Education



Greater Victoria School District

Telephone: [250]475-4124 **Fax:** [250]475-4109

Home of the Aboriginal Nations Resource Library
556 Boleskine Road, Victoria, B.C. V8Z 1E8

Dear Parents/Guardians

The Aboriginal Nations Education Division (ANED) of School District #61 provides enhanced learning opportunities for Aboriginal students in the classroom and in their school. The purpose of the enhanced experiences are to increase Aboriginal student's understanding of the rich cultural heritage of Aboriginal people, increase their sense of place and belonging, and to support overall academic success.

ANED also bridges their programs to classrooms and to schools to ensure that **all students** in the Greater Victoria School District have the opportunity to become active participants in the learning of Aboriginal history and culture through our district Aboriginal Curriculum and Cultural Integration Program.

The ANED programs we offer **vary** from school to school. Listed below are some of the current programs that could be offered:

- Victoria Native Friendship Center/SD #61: Education Liaison and Youth and Family Counselor.
- The Circle of Connectedness: The goal is to have each Aboriginal student connected to a volunteer "Champion" at the school level. This person will maintain regular connections with the student and their progress.
- Building cultural bridges for all students by creating a positive learning environment through the introduction of Aboriginal curriculum and cultural learning activities that support the Ministry of Education's Aboriginal Prescribed Learning Standards.
- Aboriginal academic support teachers and Aboriginal counsellors are available at some schools.
- Traditional cultural and environmental tours of the local Songhees and Esquimalt Nations territories.
- Traditional drumming, singing, drum and rattle making.
- Aboriginal Curriculum and Cultural Integration Program and support.
- District ANED Grade 12 Recognition Banquet & Ceremony.
- Aboriginal Student Role Model Calendar (Aboriginal Kindergarten to Grade 12).
- Student publication opportunities e.g. Duck Soup for the Aboriginal Soul.
- Aboriginal Grade 8, 10 and 12 Bursaries and Scholarships (\$75, \$150, \$500, \$1,000, \$1,600).
- UVIC Aboriginal Student Summer Camp and UBC Student Summer Science Programs sponsorship.

The registration form for your child identifies Aboriginal Ancestry; this means that your child will be supported by services through the Aboriginal Nations Education Division and the school.

If, you **do not** wish your child/children to be involved in any Aboriginal programs, please indicate to the school in writing **before September 30th**.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nella Nelson".

Nella Nelson, Coordinator