



# Pacific Rim School District Learning Services Newsletter

November 2023

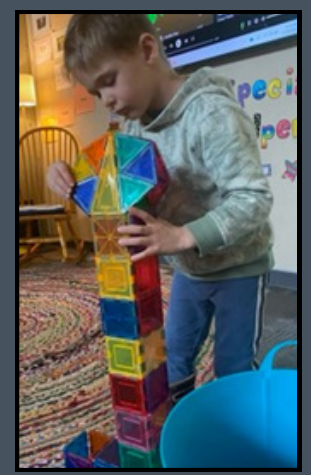
Dear Pacific Rim School District Community,

Our schools continue to be the bustling hubs of learning, growth, and community engagement, and this newsletter provides a glimpse into the wonderful things happening within our educational community this November.

## The Learning Services Division provides services to Bamfield Community School



Pacific Rim School District Learning Services Division, specifically The Inclusive Education Department and The Early Learning and Childcare Department collaborated to offer services to our small K-12 school in Bamfield. Supporting teachers with instructional and social-emotional strategies for inclusive multi-grade classrooms with diverse learners. Team members, School Psychologist, District Behaviour Resource Teacher, Early Learning and Childcare Manager, Indigenous Navigator, and Manager of Mental Health and Wellness traveled together to spend the day at the school. The focus of the team was working with students and meeting with teachers to brainstorm ideas and strategies to further develop staff practices, complementing the already great work staff are doing in Bamfield.

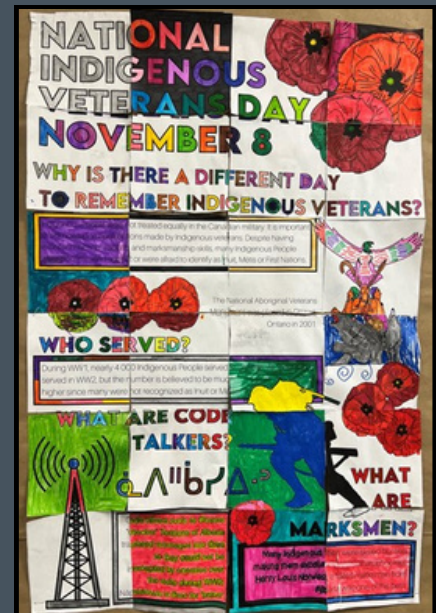


Wickaninnish Community School were very excited to have Darlene Frank, Grace George, and Mark Frank-Perry work alongside staff to commemorate our Nuuchahnulth veterans.



Grace, Darlene, and Mark went into classes to share about the contributions our Nuuchahnulth veterans made to the war efforts, and to make the connections between veterans and their families to students and families. These connections continue to grow, as we have had so many more additions come forward from families and community after we presented this information. We were also happy and proud to share a photo of one of the Tla-o-qui-aht veterans with our local legion. This project has been many years in the making, and we would like to express our gratitude to families and community members who helped contribute to this learning. This work shines a light on our continued commitment to our school and district goal to maintain and enhance meaningful relationships with Nuuchahnulth First Nations and the Metis Society, and to explore even more meaningful ways to connect with our Indigenous community and families.

As a further commitment towards this goal, we worked with the TFN Education team to have staff visit the community of Tyhistanis. This visit gave families a chance to visit with staff and to talk about their children in a community setting. The students were very excited to see our staff and to share some after-school snacks together. Our WEPAC is also planning to have the next PAC meeting on November 28th at the Health Centre in Tyhistanis. We plan to visit Opitsaht in the spring and welcome more opportunities to have staff and families interact in each of our communities. These are just a few examples of the great work that is happening at Wickaninnish Community School.



## School Age Care on School Grounds: Pacific Rim School District Pilot



Pacific Rim School District is piloting holding the childcare license of two School Age Care programs called Howitt School Age Care in room 8 at John Howitt Elementary and The Children's Grove School Age Care in the Children's Grove Early Learning and Childcare building next to Ucluelet Elementary and Ucluelet High School. Pacific Rim School District Education Assistants are facilitating the programs.

As a District, we are always looking at ways we can minimize transitions and support families, and offering School Age Care on School Grounds meets all those needs. Another positive is the continuity children will have from the existing relationships they have with Education Assistants facilitating the program. Not to mention, enrolled families will only have one drop off and pick up location.

At both School Age Care programs, staff provide opportunities where children can strengthen their self-esteem, independence, responsibility, leadership, friendship, and respect for others.

Staff use the following frameworks: "The Early Learning Framework", and "The First Peoples Principles of Learning", to guide practice. As a result, children have many opportunities to:

- participate in experiential activities where they will learn about themselves and the world around them.
- explore, discover, and create indoors and outdoors in our classroom, forests, and outdoor play spaces.
- learn life skills by caring for themselves, their peers, the classroom, and the land.
- to explore and develop their sense of self and place, family identity, and social and emotional skills.
- learn alongside their educator, peers, and families and co-construct knowledge together about the world around them in ways that are inclusive, local, ethical, and democratic.
- acknowledge and celebrate their peers and their own cultural identities.

There are a few spaces available in each program. For Howitt School Age Care in Port Alberni please reach out to Katherin Charbonneau at (250)720-2763 or at The Children's Grove School Age Care in Ucluelet, contact Carrie Nahorney at (250)720-2779.

