



Pacific Rim School District Learning Services Newsletter

October 2023

Dear Pacific Rim School District Community,

Welcome to our October edition of our monthly newsletter. As the fall season unfolds, we are excited to share the latest happenings in our district, from the classroom to the community. October has been a month filled with excitement, growth and collaboration.

Pacific Rim School District is excited to share our professional learning with Carole Fullerton. Carole is an educational consultant who works with schools and districts around math instruction through problem-solving. Carole promotes teaching math by using big math ideas as a framework for supporting diversity and facilitating assessment for learning. Carole has also authored many teacher resource books that our schools are currently using.

This is the third year that our teachers have worked closely with Carole to continue their numeracy and math professional learning. Most recently, Carole worked with both primary and intermediate teachers to look at planning a year, building math fluency for students and engaging ways to build number sense across all grades. Teachers will have two more opportunities this year to learn with Carole.



Penguins!!

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Pacific Rim School District recognized Truth and Reconciliation Day by learning about the Survivor Flag and raising both our Canadian Flags to full mast and raising the Survivor Flag at each school district facility.

The school districts' Canadian Flags remained at half mast at the request of the ̄aah̄uup̄camis Council, our Elder's Council, after the findings of 215 unmarked graves in Kamloops.

The request was to leave the flags at half mast until the ground penetration and findings could be completed in Port Alberni at the old Alberni Indian Residential School.

With the guidance of the ̄aah̄uup̄camis Council and advice from survivors' groups of residential schools it was agreed that the last week of September would be a good time to raise our Canadian Flags to full mast and to raise the Survivor flags. It was also suggested that students and district staff be taught the significance of the Survivors' Flag and plaques be created so those who pass by schools can also learn about the Survivors' Flag. It was requested to have survivors, or their family members raise the flags and have them share with schools about residential school.



Throughout the week of September 25-28th, flag raising ceremonies were done throughout the district. On the 25th the flags were raised at the board office, September 26th in Bamfield prior to the board meeting, September 27th at the west coast schools and on September 28th at the valley schools. Each school had representatives from local Nations and had survivors raise the flags. It was very impactful and the messages from the survivors were reminders of what they experienced and how this history should not repeat itself for any child as we see the trauma that still impacts Indigenous people from this experience.

Thank you to all students and staff who participated in these events and continue to learn of the history of residential schools and their impacts on Indigenous people.



Pacific Rim School District Accessibility Plan

In 2021, BC passed the Accessible BC Act, a commitment to increase awareness of people living with a disability, visible and/or invisible, and have the right to equitable access to services, including education. As outlined in the Accessible BC Act 2021, BC Public Boards of Education are required to support equitable access to the population served by the district in three ways:

1. Develop a District Accessibility Plan
2. Create a District Accessibility Advisory Team
3. Develop a public feedback mechanism to receive information about our district's accessibility.

Pacific Rim School District has developed an accessibility plan for students, staff, families, and visitors who access the districts buildings and services. In addition to the district plan, a feedback form is provided for the individuals to share their accessibility experience within our district. This feedback form offers individuals the opportunity to let our district know how we are doing around accessibility and where we can make improvements to be more accessible to students, families and staff in our communities.

This feedback form is comprised of questions to seek information from an individual regarding experience with accessibility within Pacific Rim School District. The information received through this form will be processed and shared with management staff at the school district and with the District Accessibility Advisory Team, which is made up of community members and school district staff. Below is a link to Pacific Rim School District's Accessibility Feedback Form.

Follow the link to share your accessibility experience in Pacific Rim School District through our feedback form, [Accessibility Feedback](#) Or you can reach us by email at: daat@sd70.bc.ca

You can view the Pacific Rim School District Accessibility Plan at this link: [Accessibility Plan](#)

Thank you in advance for taking the time to share your feedback on your experience.





Siri Curliss fills Pacific Rim School District's new position for Manager of Mental Health and Wellness.

Siri brings a wealth of clinical and community collaboration experience from her work in both urban and remote rural settings over the past two decades. She has worked with some of British Columbia's most vulnerable children, youth, and families holding positions such as: Indigenous high school counsellor, sexual abuse intervention specialist, PEACE counsellor, Child Protection and Community Living social worker, Family Justice Counsellor, and Child and Youth Mental Health Clinician. Additionally, Siri remains passionate about supporting first responders by providing trauma debriefing, consultation, training, and counselling to firefighters. In her spare time, Siri loves spending time on the ocean fishing with her family or in the forest hiking with friends.



Pacific Rim Children and Families is the early learning branch of Pacific Rim School District. It is a team effort of Pacific Rim School District, Pacific Rim Children and Families staff, community partners, and families working together to create a positive impact through the sharing of time, money, expertise, staff, volunteers and space. We recognize that every path is the right path for families, and through various onsite and outreach programming we strive to enhance connections, with families, early care and learning professionals, primary educators and community partners. We are breaking down silos to best serve the families in our communities.



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