

# Aboriginal Program

Langley School District #35



## Donna Robins

### Retires

In June of 2021, Donna Robins retired after more than 30 years of teaching. Donna was born and raised in Langley, the second eldest child of Chief Joe and Maureen Gabriel. Donna has spent her entire life within the education field. After graduating from Langley Secondary in 1975, she pursued her degree in education at SFU. She worked as a teacher with Seabird Island Community School, Murrayville Elementary, and then Langley Fine Arts School. Donna moved into the Aboriginal Program, where for 26 years, Donna has cultivated and nurtured a program of support, respect, belonging, connection and culture. (Taken from SD#35 website article). Our program will really miss Donna, but we are so happy for her and wish her all the best in her well-deserved retirement!

Portrait of Donna Robins taken as part of the Langley Fine Arts School

'This is Kwantlen' Exhibit. (Credit: Elise Muller/Langley Fine Arts School)

### NEW SCHOOL

Named after retired Program Coordinator Donna Gabriel Robins

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### 94 CALLS TO ACTION

Students at Noel Booth Elementary did a wonderful project on the 94 Calls to Action.

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### AAA 2022

Aboriginal Achievement Awards will be held on Thursday, May 19th for nominated Secondary Students



## Board announces new school: Donna Gabriel Robins Elementary

- from Langley SD Website

On Tuesday, December 15, 2020, the Langley Board of Education announced the name of the new elementary school in the SW Yorkson area of Langley. The new school will be named Donna Gabriel Robins Elementary, named for Donna Gabriel Robins who is a recently retired, well-respected, long-time District Teacher in the Langley School District.



"Donna builds people up and strengthens relationships," says Rod Ross, Chair of the Langley Board of Education.

"This is shown in her tireless work to connect the District and Indigenous Communities, her advocacy for the students, families and staff of the Aboriginal Program and the fostering of good will and trust between individual schools and Matsqui, Kwantlen, Katzie and Semiahmoo First Nations, Waceya Métis Society and the Lower Fraser Valley Aboriginal Society."

"Donna has made an incredible impact on our community, supporting our students and staff. I have worked alongside her and learned from her all these years. I have witnessed the difference she has made on the lives of many in our community, including myself," explains Mike Pue, District Principal, Aboriginal Education.

"Donna has been instrumental in helping lead the way on our District's journey in Truth and Reconciliation and ensuring that every student can see their place in the curriculum," adds Gord Stewart, Superintendent of Schools.

"She is a remarkable person who lives and breathes our District Mission, to inspire all learners to reach their full potential and create a lasting legacy for the future. We are so proud and grateful to have her in our community."

Donna was born and raised in Langley, the second eldest child of Chief Joe and Maureen Gabriel. Donna has spent her entire life within the education field. After graduating from Langley Secondary in 1975, she pursued her degree in education at SFU. She worked as a teacher with Seabird Island Community School, Murrayville Elementary, and then Langley Fine Arts School. Donna moved into the Aboriginal Program where, for 26 years, she cultivated and nurtured a program of support, respect, belonging, connection and culture. In June of this year, Donna Robins retired after more than 30 years of teaching.

## "Donna Gabriel Robins Elementary to Open with Owls" - from Langley SD Website



The newest school addition to the Langley School District will be the new 'Home of the Owls.' Donna Gabriel Robins Elementary is unveiling a new logo and mascot and sharing with the community ahead of its opening in September 2021. A small committee made up of school and District staff, and Donna Gabriel Robins herself, helped decide the imagery.

"We are so excited to announce the school, students and staff will be represented by an owl. Having Ms. Robins be a part of this process means a lot. She has given her heart and soul to this District. We are so proud that the momentum continues on with this new logo," said Giovanni.

Owls represent wisdom, guidance, and protection. "The owl will bestow wisdom from the administrators, teachers, and support staff to all students. They will provide guidance throughout the students' educational journey. Every person will play a part in protecting the students at Donna Gabriel Robins Elementary School," added Giovanni.



## Every Child Matters Flags

Shannon Beaudry, the Aboriginal Support Worker at Walnut Grove Secondary School, displays the Every Child Matters Flag outside the Aboriginal Program room at the school. These flags are now displayed at most schools in the district.



# Wampum Belts at Peterson Road and Coghlan Elementary Schools

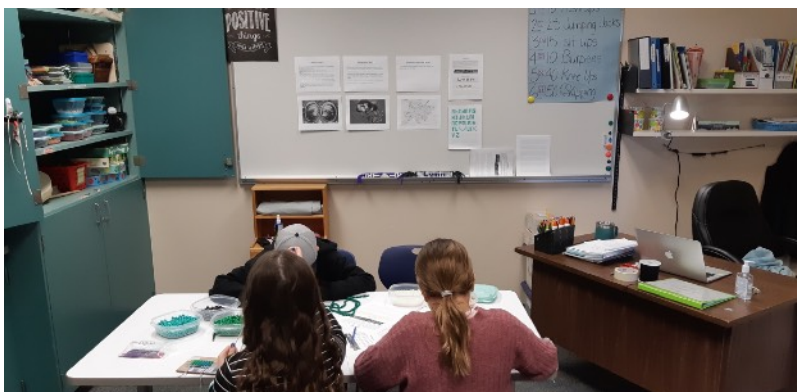
- by Lynn Strandberg

Ever wonder what a wampum belt is? Well wonder no more!

Wampum are tubular purple and white beads made from mollusk shells found on the Atlantic coast. The word wampum comes from the Algonquin language.

Belts made from wampum were used to mark agreements between groups of people. For example, the treaties between Indigenous Peoples and Europeans, some of which are still recognized today.

For the past month, students at both Peterson Road and Coghlan have been learning about wampum belts and enjoying making belts of their own.



## Reading at Douglas Park - by Linda McCullough



Mark Touzeau ▸ Douglas Park Community Elementary School ...

11 hrs · 🌐

Ms. McCullough was in Ms. Schober's class today sharing songs and a story. The story that she read to the class is called "Little Bear's Vision Quest." The story is about learning to be kind to others. ❤️

#thisisdouglaspark #literacyatdouglaspark  
#socialemotionallearningatdouglaspark

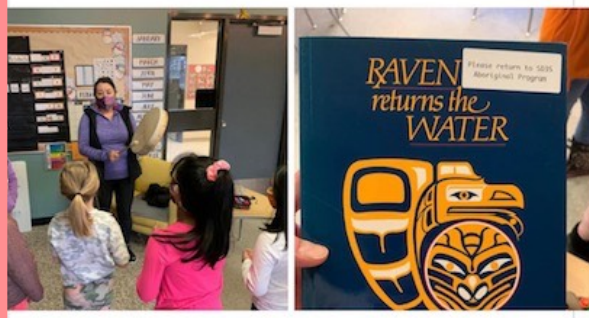


Mark Touzeau ▸ Douglas Park Community Elementary School

14h · 🌐

Ms. McCullough joined Ms. Latreille's class today to teach them about water. The kids read a story, sang songs, and learned about the importance of protecting water. One of the many things that Ms. McCullough teaches our kids is gratitude and respect for the land around us! ❤️

#thisisdouglaspark



Linda McCullough is the Aboriginal Support Worker at Douglas Park Elementary and Noel Booth Elementary. Ms. McCullough visits classes on a weekly basis to read a story and then drum and sing with them.

## ATTENTION ALL DRUMMERS!

Drumming and Singing practices will begin at D.W. Poppy Secondary School on Thursdays after school, starting on Thursday, March 31<sup>st</sup>. New comers are welcome. Email Sheila Jack for information [sjack@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:sjack@sd35.bc.ca) if you are interested.





## Nicomekl Activity -by Kristi Trattle

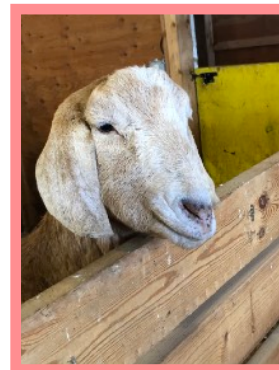
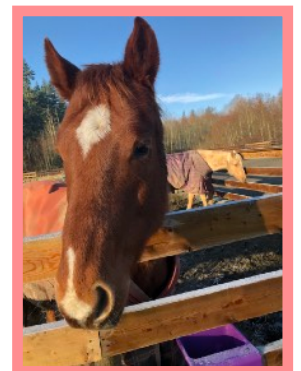
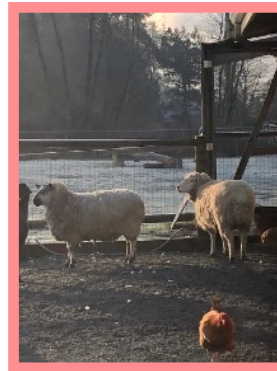
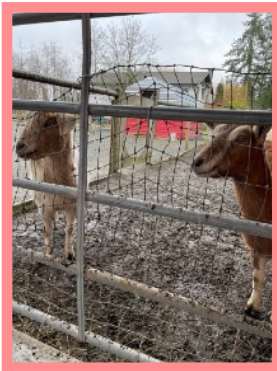


Some students at Nicomekl Elementary School were busy this week making St. Patrick's Day themed beaded keychains.

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## Funny Farm - by Kristi Trattle

Every Thursday afternoon Ms. Trattle the Aboriginal Support worker and Ms. Hundal the Youth Worker from Nicomekl take a group of students to the "Funny Farm." It is a family owned rescue farm in South Langley where they take in animals and the students can come and visit the animals and help feed and brush them etc. There are goats, sheep, horses, chickens, bunnies, Guinea pigs, and a mini pony. It is a nice place to visit.



# 94 Calls to Action at Noel Booth Elementary

- by Linda McCullough

I am so grateful for Brittany Anderson and Keira Wass, grade 6 and 7 teachers at Noel Booth Elementary for taking on this huge project with their students. Having this displayed right outside my room is a constant reminder that we still have lots of work to do to carry out the Truth & Reconciliation Commission 94 Calls to Action. It also warms my heart that I work alongside such wonderful allies who are teaching our future generations.

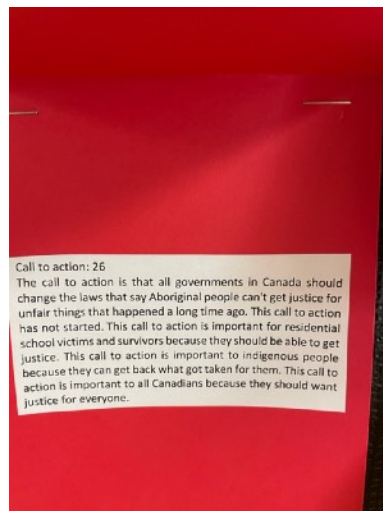
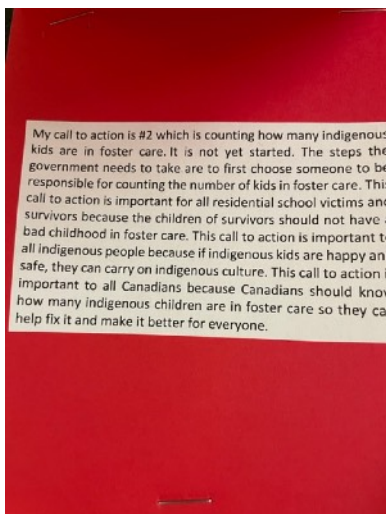
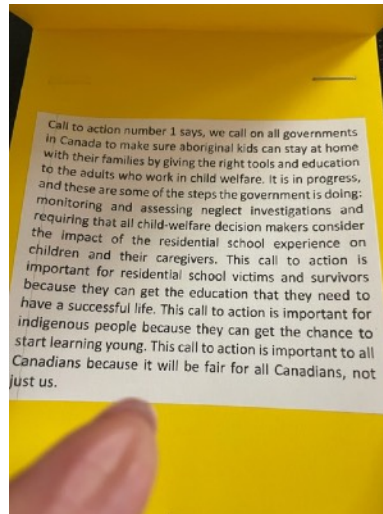
Here is an article written by student Yoo Jung:

We students felt that these 94 Calls to Action were very crucial for others to learn about and be aware of. Furthermore, we were ecstatic for the opportunity our teachers had presented for us to show our learning and work on a project that would allow us to raise awareness of these Calls to Action. Additionally, though most students are not a part of the Aboriginal community, we all wish to understand and empathize with our neighbours and classmates who are a part of this community. We also wish for there to be equality throughout our country as well. Our hope is that if could raise enough awareness about this serious subject, we could get more Calls to Action on the road to completion. Each student received one or two calls to action to research. We used the [CBC's Beyond94](#) website to check the status of our calls to action and [Spirit Bear's Guide to Truth and Reconciliation](#) to build our understanding. We each wrote about the importance of our Calls to Action to different communities including survivors and victims of residential schools, indigenous people and all Canadians. We students and our teachers learned a great deal from this collaborative project. We are hopeful that our school and wider community can learn from this project as well.





## 94 Calls to Action cont....





## Alex Hope Elementary - Red River Jigging

- by Alicia Hiebert

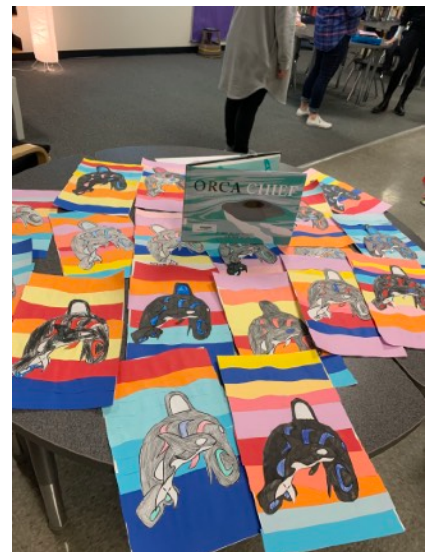
This week our school celebrated "Multicultural week" and highlighted how important it is to learn about, share, and respect other cultures. In collaboration with ISPARC, we were honoured to welcome Metis Auntie Jeanette, a Jigging Instructor to our school to share Metis Jigging to ALL 538 students and staff! Together we hosted a fantastic all-day workshop and celebrated Metis history, music, and dance. I highly recommend ISPARC for sports workshops or activities. It was an amazing experience to share with the students and was the first large event in a long time.



## North Otter- "Meaningful Mondays"

- by Alicia Hiebert

Meaningful Mondays is a collaboration project with the Learning Commons Teacher, Jennifer Peach, where we come together to share Indigenous teachings through storytelling. This month we have been reading Orca Chief by Roy Henry Vickers & Robert Budd, learning what the orca teaches us about family values, working together, protection, and taking care of the environment. After we shared teachings and the stories, students made these colourful Orca Chief inspired art pieces to display on the library board.



## 7 Sacred Teachings

Students in Grade 5 from Mr. J. Kufske's classroom, learned the 7 sacred teachings. Here is what each student said about who they connected with.

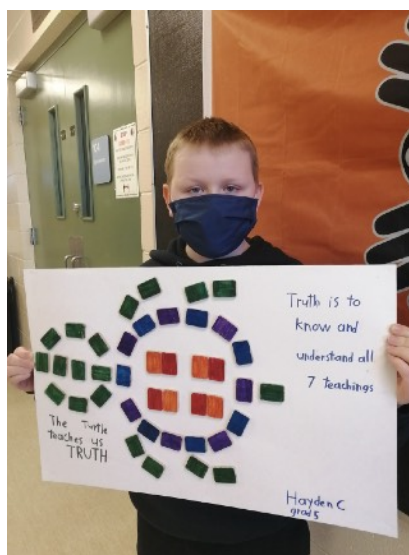


### **Carter Vandekerkhove**

Carter connected with the Wolf "Who carries Humility, everyone is equal".

### **Hayden Carson**

Hayden connected with the Turtle "Who carries Truth, to know and understand all the 7 sacred teachings".



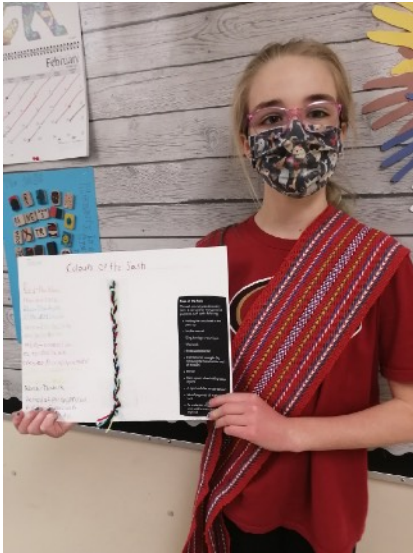
### **Rane DuBois**

Rane created a Sabe foot picture because "I connected to the Sabe who carries Honesty, from the 7 sacred teachings".



## Metis Sash

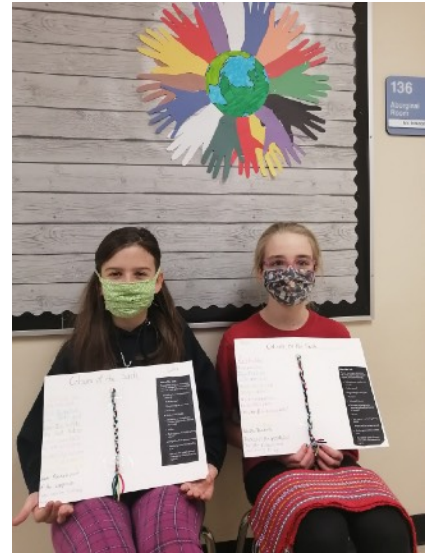
Here are a couple of students from Mr. Kufske's grade 5 class at Parkside. Scotia Fleming and Jordyn Elliott learned about the Metis sash, the uses of the sash, and the meanings of colours of the Metis sash.



Jordan Elliott



Scotia Fleming

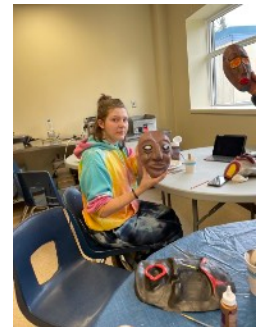
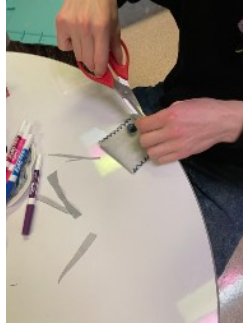
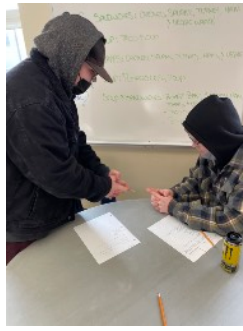


## Vanguard Secondary - Cultural Events

- by Leah Bull

The students at Vanguard had a wonderful time experiencing many different cultural teachings from the Aboriginal Program cultural presenters that were able to come in and share with the students. Every Child Matters t-shirts were available for Orange Shirt Day. On the next page are some of the great pictures that were taken during the presentations!





Orange Shirt Day T-shirts - Bannock Making - Inuit Presentation with Lynn Heyes (next 4 pictures) - Soapstone with Lynn Heyes - Medicine Pouch Workshop (next 3 pictures) - Medicine Wheel Workshop with Ernie Cardinal (next 2 pictures) - Weaved Money Pouch, Mask-making, Drumming with Lekeyten.



# Honouring MMIWG

## Honouring MMIWG2S+ February 14, 2022, at Langley Fine Arts School

This content may cause distress and trigger strong emotions for anyone who may have been impacted by Residential Schools or experienced related trauma in their lives. For crisis support call the National Indian Residential Schools Support Family Crisis Line at 1-866-925-4419.

What began as classroom curriculum became a day of Heart Learning for hundreds of students at Langley Fine Arts Secondary. On February 14, 2022, students at Langley Fine Arts School took time to witness and learn the history and stories around MMIWG2S+.

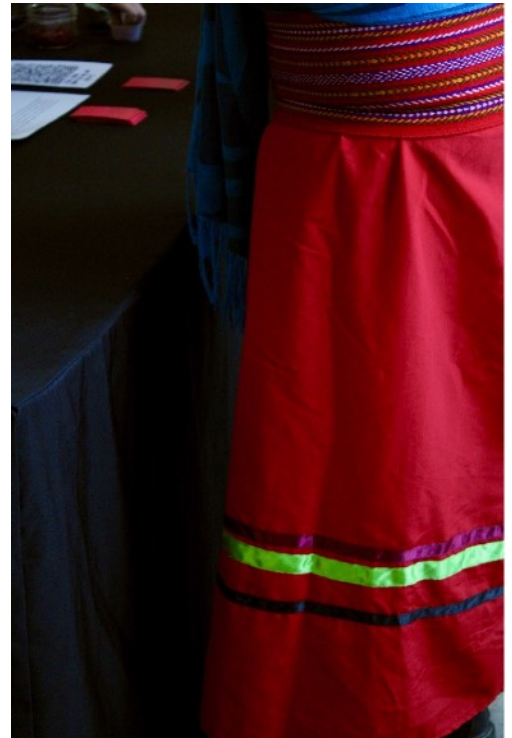
After learning about MMIWG2S+, in BC First Peoples 12, one student was moved to ensure that more students could learn and understand. With the addition of invaluable input from our Indigenous Student Leadership team, it grew into a weeklong vigil and memorial to honour the lives of those lost and of the families that remain.

An interactive display, honouring MMIWG2S+, was set up in the student lounge and connecting hallways while empty red dresses hung throughout the school on doors and walls. Our senior classes were asked to witness and interact with the memorial which included paper "Jingles" with the names of over 850+ MMIWG2S+. The "jingle" was then pinned on a skirt, as a symbolic gesture, meant to replicate the metal jingles on a Jingle Dancer's dress; sending our prayers to those who have been lost and to their families. Students were invited to make a beaded pin, to take with them, and received a card with the teachings of being an Ally, Accomplice or Co Resistor (from the Indigenous Ally Tool Kit). The display included QR codes to link students to videos about the Red Dress Project, Jaime Black, CBC photos of 300+ MMIWG2S+, the Calls to Justice for Canadians and Kairos - The 231 Calls to Justice. In the afternoon, a gathering was held during lunch, where witnesses were asked to join our circle as students drummed and sang, sharing healing medicine for the families and our school community. Throughout the day, Indigenous music videos streamed on a large screen, chosen in honour of MMIWG2S+ enhancing learning, witnessing cultures, traditions, storytelling, song and art.

Reclaiming spaces, taking action and bringing awareness to this devastating and ongoing, genocide was an emotional day for all involved. Many students told us that they did not know the stories of MMIWG2S+ and were deeply moved by the information and their experience. Our intention was for it to be experiential, to invite people into the space to listen, to learn, and to interact with the memorial, without traumatizing, but to encourage them to seek more information, leave with a better understanding and with hope, that they could be someone that can help support change. Many students told us that they appreciated the ability to interact and engage in a way that was relevant to them, while learning about their role as an Ally within our community.

Special thanks go to all the students and staff who volunteered their time, knowledge, and ideas. To Penny Carnrite for her continued guidance, knowledge, and encouragement to take on education that is incredibly difficult, sensitive, and painful, but that which is also deeply profound, awakening, and moving. Lastly, to our Indigenous Leadership Students, for their wisdom, guidance, courage, and heart to make positive changes in this world. I am forever grateful and humbled by what you already know.

## MMIWG - LFAS - Pictures



## Honouring MMIWG - LFAS



The Aboriginal Program welcomes input and questions from parents.  
To learn more about our services please contact:

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[mpue@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:mpue@sd35.bc.ca)

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**Rhonda Philpott, Learning Support Teacher**

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**Fern Gabriel (Sesmelot), Language Teacher**

[fgabriel@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:fgabriel@sd35.bc.ca)

### **Secondary Aboriginal Support Workers:**

Vance Sanderson	- Aldergrove	Thomas Bousquet	- Brookwood
Sheila Jack	- D.W. Poppy	Danica Hansen-Hughes	- Langley Education Ctr.
Tara Helps	- Langley Fine Arts	Amy Poirier	- Langley Fund. Mid/Sec
Danielle Smith	- Langley	Sam George	- R.E. Mountain
Leah Bull	- Vanguard	Shannon Beaudry	- Walnut Grove

### **Middle School Aboriginal Support Workers:**

Hailey Peters	- Betty Gilbert	Brenda Matthews	- H.D. Stafford
Luke Dandurand	- Peter Ewart	Luke Dandurand	- Yorkson Creek

### **Elementary Aboriginal Support Workers:**

Alicia Hiebert	- Alex Hope/North Otter
Bea McLeod	- Parkside
Carlyn Andres	- Blacklock
Carmen Majdanac	- James Kennedy/R.C. Garnett
Chloe Stanage	- Simonds/U-Connect
Deanna Miller	- Wix-Brown
Kathryn Heyes	- Alice Brown/Langley Meadows
Keysha Kingston	- Dorothy Peacock/Fort Langley
Kristi Trattle	- Nicomekl
Linda McCullough	- Douglas Park/Noel Booth
Lynn Strandberg	- Coghlan/Peterson Road
Mabeline Akai	- Richard Bulpitt/West Langley/Willoughby
Myrrhanda Brunelle	- Glenwood/Topham
Patsy Elson	- Shortreed
Roanne Gibbons	- Donna Gabriel Robins/Gordon Greenwood/Lynn Fripps
Shannon Adams	- Belmont
Tina Maphoso	- James Hill/Uplands

## Program Links

- [Aboriginal Program Website](#)
- [Aboriginal Program Brochure](#)
- [Learn hən̓q̓əmin̓əm̓](#)
- [Aboriginal Program Consultation Form](#)

## Dates to Remember

Friday, April 15 <sup>th</sup>	- Good Friday Stat Holiday
Monday, April 18 <sup>th</sup>	- Easter Monday Stat Holiday
Thursday, May 19 <sup>th</sup>	- Aboriginal Achievement Awards - (nominated secondary students)
Friday, May 20 <sup>th</sup>	- Professional Development Day
Monday, May 23 <sup>rd</sup>	- Victoria Day Stat Holiday
Tuesday, June 21 <sup>st</sup>	- National Indigenous People's Day
Wednesday, June 29 <sup>th</sup>	- Last instructional day before summer break
Tuesday, September 6 <sup>th</sup>	- First day back after summer break

