



2022 Year End ABED Review

What a year for Indigenous Education at Salmo Elementary School!

We, at our school, acknowledge, respect and honour the First Nations in whose traditional territories our school operates and all Aboriginal people residing within the boundaries of SD8. Many First Nations groups have stewarded this land since time immemorial, and we are so grateful to live, learn, and play here.

At #sd8abed, we believe that an equity-centered, relevant, inclusive and engaging learning experience is necessary to maximize the success of Aboriginal learners. At the district level, overall graduation rates for Indigenous Students are on the rise, and while students at SES are still young, we hold the vision of DIGNITY, PURPOSE and OPTIONS for all children at graduation.

Our Aboriginal Education department has four district goals which are used to guide programming:

1. Hold high hopes and expectations of success for all Aboriginal learners
2. Provide opportunities for students to share their individual stories of Aboriginal history, culture and diversity: “The truth about stories, is that is all we are” T. King
3. Aboriginal students, families and communities guide Truth before Reconciliation
4. Nurture holistic Aboriginal resilience and brilliance through belonging, pride, and identity.

Each year, our SES AbEd team creates an action plan which states REAL ways to move forward towards these goals. This year, some of the key cultural enhancement, Reconciliation and awareness programs and services we shared were:

- Metis Awareness Month
- Orange Shirt Day/Truth and Reconciliation Day
- wuqanqankimik Reconciliation Run/Walk
- National Indigenous Peoples Games Day
- SD8 Youth Powwow
- Moosehide Campaign/Red Dress Day/MMIWG Awareness
- Medicine Wheel Teachings

Each classroom participates in some aspect of the programming, and every student-Indigenous and non-Indigenous- shares in the teachings. At the same time, teachers collaborate frequently as they pursue greater indigenization of their curriculum delivery and classroom lens. With the pandemic rules ended, I hope for more outside interaction-with elders and knowledge-keepers, land-based teachings and group gatherings next year (fingers crossed for an in-person Pow Wow in 2023!).

I look forward to learning with students and colleagues at SES as we all continue to share in more awareness of Indigenous issues, history, stories, and culture, and continue on the path towards Reconciliation and a brighter future for all Indigenous people.

Feel free to contact me if you have Indigenous teachings to share (or know someone who does) if you would like any resources, or if you just want to talk about Indigenous Education! Thank you for your continued support for our school!

Kari-Lynn Hatt

Indigenous Academic Success Teacher
Grade 3/4 Teacher
Salmo Elementary School
karilynn.hatt@sd8.bc.ca