



THE CORDOVA BAY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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School District No. 63 (Saanich) resides on the traditional territory of the W̱SÁNEĆ people encompassing the five local communities: BO,́KE,́CEN (Pauquachin), MÁLEXEŁ (Malahat), W̱JOŁEŁP (Tsartlip), W̱,SIKEM (Tseycum), and S,TAUTW (Tsawout). We acknowledge and thank the W̱SÁNEĆ people on whose traditional territory we live, learn, and teach. The W̱SÁNEĆ people have lived and worked on this land since time immemorial



February 18, 2022 Pro- D Day - No School

February 21, 2022 - Family Day - No School

February 24, 2022 - Early Dismissal 1:48 pm



Chinese New
Year 2022:
Feb. 1
Animal Sign:
Tiger

Chinese New Year 2022 falls on Tuesday, February 1st, 2022, and celebrations culminate with the Lantern Festival on February 15th, 2022. Preparations for the new year begin on January 24th, 2022, and last until New Years Eve. Celebrations last up to 16 days, but only the first 7 days are considered a public holiday (January 31st–February 6th, 2022). Chinese New Year officially begins on February 1st, 2022, and ends on February 11th.



HEALTH & SAFETY UPDATES

The Provincial Health Office has directed school districts to remind parents of the following information:

- All students should be wearing masks if possible on school buses and in classrooms. Masks are required for Kindergarten - Grade 12. Any requests for mask exemptions should be shared with school administration.

Parents, guardians, students and staff are being reminded to wash your hands regularly and perform a Daily Health Check. You can download the K-12 Health Check App at bc.thrive.health.

Please stay home if you are not feeling well.

JERSEY DAY

Friday, February 4, 2022

Wear any kind of Jersey to school. If you don't have one, and want to participate, you can borrow a Cedar's Jersey from school!!

We will be playing floor hockey in the gym in celebration of the ice hockey tournaments that take place during Carnival.

Also...year two of Ice Sculptures!! We will be making ice sculptures on the school grounds and they will be larger than last year with more classes contributing to the same one! See photo below for an example of a smaller scale from last year. If you are able, please bring blocks of ice to school on February 4th. Please release from the container you froze it in and bring it in a plastic bag. The ice can be clear, or colored and a variety of sizes!



Monday, February 7, 2022 is dress like a Lumberjack Day. Wear your plaid, jeans, suspenders toques etc!

W SÁNEĆ Clam Garden Restoration Project

Last week's Friday bulletin shared information about the Cordova Bay area from a local Saanich News article. This week we highlight clamming, referenced in the article, which is a key activity of the W SÁNEĆ people. We are deeply grateful to the W SÁNEĆ people on whose traditional territory we live, learn and teach. We also thank them for their ongoing commitment to the inter-tidal zones of the Saanich Peninsula, including those areas that are part of our beautiful community:

ØESTEWEĆ - Cordova Bay beach "a beach exposed to the weather"

ŦELIŁĆ - Cordova Bay where the creek is "growing defeat"

ŦEL,IŁĆE - Cordova Bay sand bar "place of the defeated"

How clams came to be, shared by John Elliott: (Long before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada identified the revitalization of Indigenous languages as a key to reconciliation, regional efforts were taking steps toward this goal and perhaps no one personifies these efforts better than John Elliott, a First Peoples' Cultural Foundation board member and SENCOTEN language teacher and speaker.)

One day the creator XÁLS was changing people into places, lands and beings. Some people did not want to be changed, and when they heard the creator was coming, they went down to the beach and dug some holes and hid themselves. The creator overheard them and came to where they were hiding and asked why they were hiding. They told him that they did not want to be changed. The creator said that if he was to change them, that it was for the good of all people, and then changed them into clams. The people that tried to run away from XÁLS were changed into ŁÁU,ĶEM- Mussels, and ŦEXŦEX- oysters, they were attached to the rocks. SŦLO,EM- the Cockle clam means enough of the little ones. The SQŁÁ,I, Littleneck clams were provided for hunger and, S'OXE, butter clams question why do you go there, this is the meaning of the word clam. ŚW AAM, the horse clam, tried to dig himself deeper into the sand and still does today. The word XÁLS meaning creator is contained in the word for digging clams. ĶEXÁLS, digging clams is a word that reminds us of the origin, I am going to dig, caused by the creator- a gift from the creator. We are reminded that the creator's choices are his choices and within this he has given us a teaching, in life there are things that we have no choice over- who comes and who goes, even if it hurts. All clams have stories of how they came to be and how they relate to the "reverence for life". It is a sacred law given to us by the creator to look after the islands, we address the islands as our relatives, we are to look after them like our relatives, and in turn they will look after our people. This is the law of the people. XÁLS and the ways of the sea told us how to live with others, eat well and prosper through sharing and trade. - John Elliott

Illustration by STOLØEŁ (John Elliott)



Parks Canada Partnership

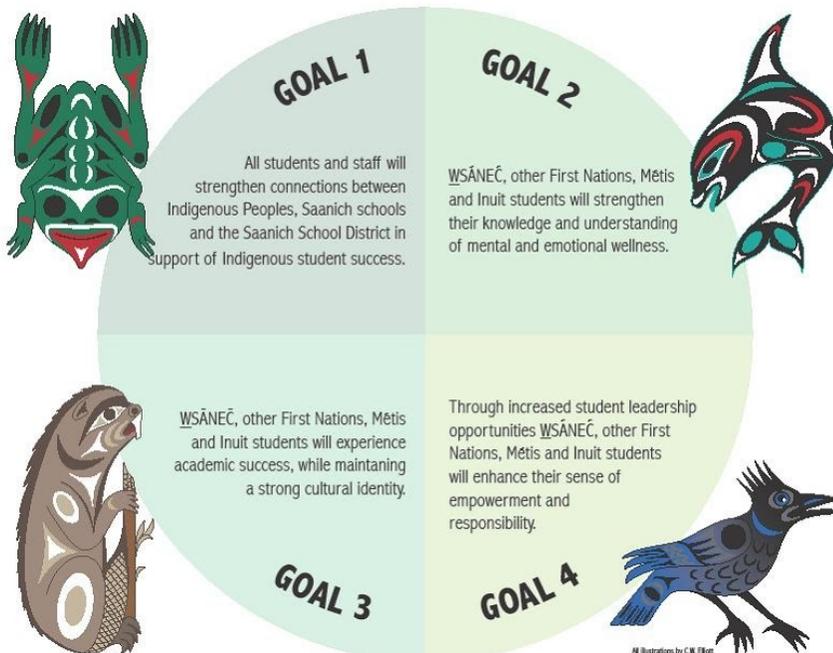
In 2014, the W SÁNEĆ people entered a partnership with Parks Canada with the goal of creating and implementing a project that would ecologically and culturally rebuild two clam gardens in the Gulf Islands National Park Reserve (GINPR) situated in W SÁNEĆ territory. This project was initiated in order to create a thorough record of W SÁNEĆ clam garden management and care practices that could then be used for future restoration projects and teaching purposes. Over the next five years, knowledge holders from the W SÁNEĆ communities; S̄TAU, TW, WJOŁEŁP, W SÍKEM and BOKEĆEN, contributed essential knowledge regarding their responsibilities and care relationship with clam gardens and species that live in the inter-tidal zones.

Building the Wall

W SÁNEĆ families built clam garden retaining walls in inlets and bays in order to increase optimal habitat for clam production and increased habitat for other sea creatures. In order to build the walls, W SÁNEĆ people moved large, head sized boulders into a line at low tide. It is important to make sure that the wall is not placed too far up into the inter-tidal zone where clam species live, to avoid suffocating them and limiting their space. As the tide comes in, sediments collect in the inter-tidal zone. Within a few years this deepens and widens the habitat providing more space for clams and other shellfish for harvest. As the rock wall continues to be built up, so too will the clam garden. The wall is the foundation of a clam garden. The creation of the wall is an example of how W SÁNEĆ people's management was actually a symbiotic relationship with the landscape, increasing biodiversity and increasing food sources not only for themselves but for other animal species.

W SÁNEĆ harvesters continue to recognize that a healthy clam garden depends on consistent care and harvesting activity. W SÁNEĆ presence is necessary in order to protect the rights of their community, their elders and the children generations to come.

Thank you



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Á,LEÑENEÇ ŁTE – OUR HOMELAND

The WŚÁNEĆ People are Salt Water People. The Sea was very important to our way of life. Traditionally the WŚÁNEĆ People had homes throughout the San Juan Islands and on the east and north coasts of the Saanich Peninsula.

Our land went east through the Gulf Islands and San Juan Islands and northeast across Georgia Strait to Boundary Bay. Our territory included the Saanich Inlet and deep into the forest lands on its west side. On the Saanich Peninsula itself, our land went south as far as PKOLS (Mount Douglas), and from there across to WQENNELEŁ (Mt. Finlayson) and SELEKTEŁ (Goldstream).

WŚÁNEĆ (Saanich Peninsula) was the headquarters because this is where the WŚÁNEĆ People built their permanent winter homes.

Article originated from:

<https://wsanec.com/history-territory/>

WŚÁNEĆ Culture

Our people lived as part of everything. We were so much a part of nature, we were just like the birds, the animals, the fish. We were like the mountains. Our people lived that way. We knew there was an intelligence, a strength, a power, far beyond ourselves. We knew that everything here didn't just happen by accident. We believed there was a reason for it being here. There was a force, a strength, a power somewhere that was responsible for it. That is the way our people lived. They lived according to that belief, according to that knowledge. The universe lies before you..."

-David Elliott Sr. (Saltwater People, School District 63 (Saanich, 1990))



February
2nd



Family Day Activity Idea - February 21/22

Play dough:

Ingredients you will need:

- 1 cup plain flour (or gluten free)
- 1/2 cup salt
- 2 tbsp cream of tartar
- 2 tbsp vegetable oil
- 1 cup of water
- Food colouring
- Large saucepan
- Spoon



How to make play dough:

Step one

Add the flour, salt, cream of tartar and vegetable oil to the saucepan.

Step two

Add some food colouring to a cup of water, then pour into the saucepan.

Step three

Stir over a medium heat, until the mixture becomes a sticky, combined dough. Allow it to cool.

Step four

Remove the dough from the saucepan and knead into a smooth ball of play dough.

Step five:

Have fun!!