SCHOOL: Bayview Elementary

YEAR: 2024-2025

PRINCIPAL: Sue DeRosa

OUR SCHOOL

Bayview is privileged to be situated on the traditional and unceded territory of the Snuneymeux First Nations. On this territory we listen to and understand local Coast Salish cuture, traditions, values, and language. Bayvew staff, students and community all "paddle together" in a shared vision of safety, belonging, and learning for all. Out students are provided with opportunities for spiritual, emotional, and physical development. Our staff is committed to providing effective instruction that increases student achievement, while also incorporating Aboriginal ways of knowing and being. Bayview continues to be recognized in the Nanaimo-Ladysmith School District for the 2024/25 school year.

Bayview serves a very diverse and complex community which is growing rapidly. Our student population of 220 students across 10 divisions is cared for by 41 staff members. Bayview has one of the highest proportion of Indigenous students in NLPS at 40%. We have also welcomed a large portion of refugee families from Syria, Jordan, Uganda, Ghana, Afghanistan, Ukraine, Mexico, Columbia, and Vietnam. One of the most beautiful things about Bayview is how every child embraces each other no matter where they are from, or what their background is, and we learn about so many cultures together.

OUR SCHOOL GOALS

Student Success

Increase literacy success rates for all students

To improve writing skills among intermediate students including the addition of conventions, detail, and

Student and Employee Wellness

Increase the number of Students who feel welcome, safe and have a sense of belonging in their school

To improve staff and student sense of belonging using school clans, team-building, and creating

Truth and Reconciliation

Increase awareness of and access to resources available to support hul'q'umi'num language learning

To continue to grow the amount of hul'qumi'num that is used in the school on a daily basis.

OUR CELEBRATION STORY

- All decisions at Bayview are done collectively and collaboratively in order to meet the needs of our staff, students, and families.
- We closely follow the Syetsus Reconciliation Framework, First Principles of Learning, and incorporate Sumeymeux ways of learning in our learning and community.
- We have a breakfast, snack, and lunch program run by our CYFSW and ICSSW. It is supported by the Ministry's Food for Schools program, and supplemental grants to meet our needs.
- We have 3 breakout spaces and an amazing invertebrate fish tank which students can access when they need to regulate.
- We have a school wide virtues program focussed around"Bees" and how we need to work as a community to have a safe and happy learning environment. Each week there is a different "bee word" like be responsible, be respectful, etc.. and students are recognized at Friday Gathering through bee tickets earned.
- We have begun a school animal clan cross-grade grouping, to build accountability, connection, networking, and leadership among our students. We do monthly clan activities to promote engagement, have fun, and pass on traditional Indigenous teachings.
- Strong presence of hul'qumi'num in print and oral language. We have a word of the week which is practiced and used in classrooms and the school.
- We have hul'qumi'num classes with our Indigenous Education Teacher for the primary classes, and a language teacher who comes weekly to work with our intermediate students. Students learn words, songs, drumming, and cultural practices.
- We have weekly visits with a local knowledge keeper, Elder Lolly from Snuneymeux, who shares life experiences, knowledge, and stories with our students.
- We have an Indigenous culture club held twice a week and is open to all students.
- We are in our second year of implementing UFLI in our primary classes, supported by our Literacy Coordinator. We currently hold primary wide groupings 3 times a week to meet students where they are at. These groups are fluid and adjust to every child's progress and needs.
- We have a running program where students collect laps and convert them into kilometres. There are milestone km marks where students can earn ribbons and prizes.
- We host a weekly Gathering every Friday morning for the whole school. It gives us a time to connect together, go over a part of the behaviour expectation matrix, introduce a new bee word and honour winners from the previous week, introduce the new hul'qumi'num word of the week, and celebrate accomplishments and birthdays. We end the Gathering with a whole school hul'qumi'num song with our drumming group.
- Every Thursday, for the last hour of the day, our intermediate students participate in Passion Hour. Students can sign up with a teacher who hosts a hobby/passion (ie. knitting, cartooning, leadership, beading, Dungeons & Gragons, etc...).
- Our CYFSW hosts students for a morning regulation group in the gym.
- Classrooms begin every morning with a soft start in order to provide a "low and slow" start, and welcome latecomers as they arrive.
- We have a close working relationship with our PAC, and are currently working together to fund raise for a new playground.
- Strong SEL programming between Zones of Regulation, WITS, social stories, and talking circles.
- VIU 5th and 6th year education practicum students with 4 teachers in the school.
- VIU LPN students who do a winter practicum and teach students about a variety of healthy habits.
- We are working with the community and school district on developing an outdoor learning classroom in the lot next to the school. This will include an extension of our award-winning Indigenous gardens.
- The staff at Bayview lead with their heart and a trauma-informed lens to support all children, regardless of where they are from and what their story is. Everyone is safe at Bayview.
- We are in the second concurrent year of Roots of Empathy facilitated by our counsellor in our grade 3/4 classroom.