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NEWS AND EVENTS

**WSB Welcoming Ceremony**

During the evening of September 10th the WSÁNEĆ School Board held a cultural Welcome Ceremony for all WSB departmental staff and post-secondary partnership program faculty members. Over 55 staff and faculty members attended and were gifted a beautiful blanket with our WSB logo. During the event we expressed deep appreciation for the educational commitment staff members have made to our WSÁNEĆ students and families, and we formally welcomed, honored and gifted each and every person that will provide care to our learners throughout the school year.

**Attendance Matters Campaign**

On September 12th LTS, WLSS and SAEC came together to celebrate the kick-off to our 2019-2020 Attendance Matters Campaign. During the upcoming year our organization will focus on achieving 90% attendance throughout our three schools. We began the initiative by gifting green hoodies to all registered WSB learners to thank them for their participation in our campaign. Please see the article from the Peninsula News Review (inside this newsletter) to learn more regarding event coverage.



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## Director's Corner – Kendra Underwood

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### ÍY SŪÁCEL HÁLE.

The 2019-2020 school year is off to a solid start with over 50 learners registered in Adult Dogwood programming this year. Our enrollment has decreased just slightly from last year, due to keeping our satellite numbers smaller to better accommodate classroom facility space in community. Learning is now well underway in all of our programs. Notably, Tseycum's satellite program has expanded to 5 days a week for three hours each morning. In terms of last year's afternoon satellite program in Tsawout, returning students have decided to join us onsite this year, attending the SAEC full-time which is really exciting! We are very happy to welcome these learners to the SAEC, as well as warmly welcome each and every student that has registered with us this year.

### What's new at the SAEC?

The SAEC's newest program partner in Bella Coola has enabled our school to offer a series of courses that are paper-based, all of which lead toward the Adult Dogwood. The following courses are now offered on paper, with direct classroom instruction provided by one of our teachers: English 10 Composition; Digital Photography 12; Career Life Connections 12; and Child

Development & Caregiving 12. We continue to offer Studio Arts 12, Physical Education 12, Work Experience 12 and SENĆOŦEN 11 as instructor-led courses through our SIDES partnership.

### FNSA School Certification

The SAEC is participating in school certification again this year, which is a process that occurs every 5 years for nominal roll purposes. Our team has been through the process 3 times before and looks forward to seeking valuable input from students, staff, Elders Advisory members and Board members through the collection of survey responses. Survey replies will help shape the work of our next 5-Year School Growth Plan, as well as our external assessment in the spring. More details to come in our next newsletter.

### SAEC Van

The SAEC purchased a 10-passenger van this past March for use at our school. On a daily basis, the van makes 2-4 trips assisting students get to and from school for part-time programming. Additionally, the van is now used regularly for small group field trips. We have outfitted the van with car seats and boosters to support students that have young children and might need an early ride home from



time to time. Our SAEC van has been a true blessing and we are so grateful to have a responsive and readily available form of transportation for our learners.

### ÁLENENEĆ Land-Based Learning

Throughout the year we have six trips planned to our traditional homelands in the Gulf Islands. We have scheduled visits to the following islands: Sidney, Portland, Saturna, Mayne, Pender and Salt Spring. Our first trip is to Sidney Island to learn from our W̱SÁNEĆ knowledge keepers and hunters about our efforts to manage fallow and black tailed deer in the area.

I would like to express heartfelt appreciation to the W̱SÁNEĆ communities for their continued support of our SAEC students and programming. As a community-driven school, we always welcome any opportunity to meet with community members to seek feedback, suggestions or learn of a program need that exists in community.

Please feel free to drop by for a visit, connect by phone at (250) 652-2214 ext. 238 or email [kendra@saec.ca](mailto:kendra@saec.ca)

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Kendra Underwood





## Attendance matters for Saanich Peninsula students Achievement depends on attendance, hundreds of students heard

by WOLF DEPNER - Sep. 17, 2019 8:00 a.m.

reprinted from Peninsula News Review



You can't achieve if you don't attend.

This was the message roughly 200 elementary school students, 100 high school students and 40 adult learners heard during an assembly held Thursday in the gymnasium on the grounds of the WSANEC School Board in the 7400-block of West Saanich Road.

Wearing green hoodies with "Attendance Matters" on the back, the students heard from school officials and elders about the benefits of attending class.

*Photo caption: This was the scene last week as roughly 330 elementary, secondary and adult students gathered during a rally to stress the importance of attending class. (Wolf Depner/News Staff)*

The rally was the kickoff to a larger program aimed at students and families to help reach an attendance record of 90 per cent for 100 per cent of students. This means missing no more than 18 school days over the course of a school year.

Maryann Gladstone, principal of Lau'welnew Tribal School, said students with an attendance record of less than 90 per cent risk scholastic failure down the line because they won't be able to achieve various milestones. "If they are not reading fluently by Grade 3, they are at risk of not completing high school," she said.

To encourage students as well as parents, the campaign includes various incentives, such as the hoodies, extra recess, and public recognition, for students, as well as parents.

"The parents provide the guidelines to their children," added Gladstone.

Last year, 30 per cent of students at Lau'welnew Tribal School achieved an attendance record of 95 per cent or above. While the new figure of 90 lowers the goal, Gladstone said the old figure did not need to be that high. Overall, Gladstone said the commitment of students impressed during the recent rally.



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## *Update from Robert Louis*

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ÍY SẺÁĆEL HÁLE. Good day everyone. I hope the first part of the school year has treated you all well. This year has brought about an exciting start to my time with SAEC. I have really enjoyed working with the Elders Advisory, as they are a great support to me in my language and culture role here. My SENĆOŦEN class is doing really well, with students speaking and writing as they advance in the Dr. Greymorning methodology. Additionally, I am providing SENĆOŦEN exposure programming in the daycare rooms now, which the young children really enjoy. I wish you a wonderful holiday season and a happy new year!

Robbie Louis  
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## *Indigenous Micro-Transit Research Project*

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The SAEC (WSB) and Camosun College have been in partnership for over 40 years. Adult students from our WSÁNEĆ communities attend classes at Camosun College campuses, and at various community partnership sites. Transportation is a major challenge for many of these students. Many post-secondary students live in poverty and cannot afford to own their own vehicles. Even if they can, parking, gas and maintenance might be beyond the means of our students. Public transit does not serve these students well either. Unfortunately, it is not uncommon for a student to be on the bus 90 minutes each way and/or face a 30-40 minute walk between their home and the bus stop.

The SAEC/Camosun survey project ('case study') will gather data from students who attend or have attended Camosun classes during the last 3 years. The students will be asked about their challenges with transportation and their capacity and willingness to engage with technology-based ridesharing opportunities. Surveys were circulated in November- more details to come in our next newsletter.

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## *New Camosun Program*

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Camosun College's Indigenous Health Care Assistant (IHCA) program is set to begin in January 2020 with a cohort of 12-14 community members. This is an 11.5-month certificate program that is incredibly holistic in nature with an array of job opportunities for graduates upon conclusion of the practicum. We are very excited to welcome this new Camosun program to our Centre in January.

**We still have a few open seats in the program if you know of anyone that might be interested. New this year: the program has been structured to assist with course requirements, therefore students can enrol with English 033, 050 or 092.**

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## *Elders Advisory and SAEC*

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Once again we are blessed to have a group of Elders who meet with our Administrative Team of the SAEC, they are: Dan and Lila Sam, Skip and May Sam, Doug and Kathy Horne, Helen Jack and Marilyn Olsen-Page. Our Elders have provided wonderful support to the Adult Centre. Throughout the school year our Elders have offered advice on many school fieldtrips and program planning and hold bi-weekly circles with our students. Our next meeting will be in the New Year!





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## Update from Bobbilee Copeland

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### Introduction

Hello. My name is Bobbilee Copeland and I am from T'it'qet band within the St'at'imc territory. I have been living in WSÁNEĆ territory for eight years. I have experience working as a Child Day Care Teacher, as an English as a Second Language Teacher, and as an Adult Literacy worker. I have also worked in both elementary and high schools, and I currently teach English for Camosun College. I am pleased to be joining the SAEC team this year while Diane Kirby is on leave. I spend time supporting students with their homework on Monday mornings, as well as Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.



### TSEYCUM Satellite Program

Tseycum students spent much of the first term with a full course load, taking classes in Tseycum. They spent Mondays taking the Building Employment Success for Tomorrow (BEST) course with Valerie Neaves, where they learn about True Colours, Myers Briggs, Job Skills and Career Opportunities. On Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays students worked on their English and Math courses. Highlights in the English course included taking field trips to the Sidney and Brentwood Bay libraries, where students picked their own reading material. Students have written a Narrative, worked on the writing process, written descriptive Paragraphs and worked



on free writes in their journals. In Math, students completed their course orientations and are working on place value and graphing. Several students are also taking Camosun College's Basic Computer Skills course with Wendy Seward on Wednesday afternoons. On Friday mornings, they study SENĆOŦEN with Robbie Louis. We are proud to announce that as of late November, the Tseycum students have transitioned to taking their classes full time at the SAEC, where they will finish the year. We are excited they have joined everyone at the SAEC.

### Tuesday and Thursday Study Block

I am currently available on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons at the SAEC to assist students. Students can visit me in the Art room to ask her for help or even just to bounce ideas off for projects. I can also assist students with different studying techniques like designing flash cards to help them remember the grammar rules and help prepare them for their tests.



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## *Update from Kevin Monkman*

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### Week of Welcome

After a successful start to the 2018/2019 school year, we decided to start the 2019/2020 school year again with a Week of Welcome. During the first week back to school, students and staff spent time getting to know each other through several activities. We started the week by gathering all of the students taking classes at the SAEC (Adult Dogwood students, Camosun students, and Uvic students) in the cultural building for a welcome and introductions. We also spent time goal setting, by creating vision boards. It was so nice to have that week together before classes officially started.



### Stories Through Sound

This year, we are so excited to be partnering with Uvic research project and a recording engineer/musician to offer an exploratory course called Stories Through Sound. So far students have learned how to use a variety of Digital Audio Workstations (DAWs) to record, mix, and produce audio projects on the theme of storytelling. We have created a collaborative group project, and students are now working on individual/group final projects that we will present at the end of the course. Students have been courageous in their work, and based on what we have seen so far, the final projects will be amazing!



### Climate Strike Walk Out

On September 27th, some of our SAEC students travelled to the Legislature lawn in Victoria to attend the Global Climate Strike. People from all over the city gathered in an attempt to apply pressure the government to speed up its efforts to fight climate change. It was humbling to see so many youth out, making their voices heard.

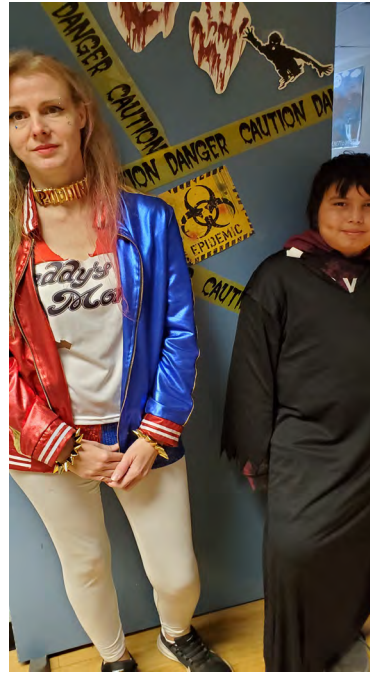
### Halloween

The SAEC held its annual Halloween festivities on October 31st. We spent the morning carving pumpkins and handing out candy to the elementary school and daycare students. Just before lunch we held a costume contest and a pumpkin carving contests. Our 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in both contests received cash prizes. We then spent the afternoon watching a terrifying movie.





*Halloween at SAEC*





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## *Update from Kim Linkert*

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### **Math Department**

We have had a great start to this new school year! We have lots of new students and lots of returning ones as well.

We have been able to offer a brand new math course called LF Math Level 3, 4 and 5. It has been a bit challenging with the three week strike in Saanich, but students have been very flexible and have made the most of it. We are happy to report that the strike is over and we are getting back on track!



### **Camping Trip**

We had another amazing camping trip to Goldstream this year. We really love staying at the huge group site because it gives lots of room to explore and have fun. It was a big turnout, we ate great food and we had lots of laughs. We would like to thank Caroline for setting up such a great art project for us to enjoy. The night was capped off with lots of junk food and our very popular campfire game called Mafia. We will be going again in the spring so please join us!

### **Skating**

Skating is a popular activity with our students and we have five sessions booked this year. Our students and staff always have a great time. Many people are very reluctant to try but once they are out there all you see are huge smiles!

### **Orange Shirt Day**

Orange Shirt Day events are designed to witness and honour the healing journey of residential school survivors and their families, and to commit to the ongoing process of reconciliation.

We were very fortunate to attend a great ceremony at Camoson College. A visiting elder shared a video that included stories of her residential school experiences and how she persevered. It was very moving and inspirational.

### **Inspirational Student Panel**

Our students always impress us with their stories of how many responsibilities they have and how many challenges they face. Everything from raising children, part time jobs to learning challenges, students have had to overcome many obstacles in order to be successful in school.

This fall we decided to ask three post-secondary students to come into the school and share some of their educational experiences with our students. Blake, Robbie and Shana were absolutely amazing at proving to all of us that no matter what you are faced with, there is always a way forward. They shared their struggles and successes, who helped them along the way and where to find help when things seem hopeless. It was very inspirational and everyone felt very uplifted at the end of the discussion!





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*Goldstream Camping*

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*School Events Gallery*



Clockwise from top left:

- Orange Shirt Day
- Skating
- Inspirational Panel
- Students at Climate Strike





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## Health and Wellness Update from Ang Hamilton

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### Honour Your Health Challenge

We are starting an “after the holidays let’s bring in the new year with a big ole walk around the world challenge” and we want your participation! Last year we set out late in the school year with the intention of collectively walking around the world, using pedometers and walking apps. We had a great time tracking the counties we walked through, yet we just didn’t have enough time to complete walking the whole world. With your help, enthusiasm, and starting in January we want to accomplish our goal this school year.



If you are interested in walking, partnership, prizes, workshops and fun please let Diana or myself know. We would love for you to join us! Call 250 652 2214 ext 237.



In conjunction with walking programs, PE, and other various land based outings we strive to serve healthy lunches daily with a salad bar at lunch. Some words from our student Augustina Bill regarding eating salads daily:

“I get 90% of my vegetables from being here at school. I love having salads with my lunches they make it more substantial and satisfying.”

Happy Holidays!

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## Language Revitalization from Tye Swallow

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ÍY SẄÁĆEL MEQ SAN (Greetings everyone!) Here is an article about the exciting work being done in the WŚÁNEĆ community:

WŚÁNEĆ Leadership and Gulf Island representatives launch climate action project

The TĚTÁĆES Climate Action Project was launched in May 2019 at gathering of WŚÁNEĆ First Nation elders and leaders together with Southern Gulf Islands community leaders and cli-mate activists. What is both unique and innovative about the TĚTÁĆES Project is that it weaves current climate science with WŚÁNEĆ Traditional Knowledge to provide a holistic approach to climate action education.

A 15 member team worked through the summer to develop the following three climate action courses to respond to the climate emergency for the Southern Gulf Islands and beyond:

Indigenous perspectives on eco-cultural revitalization (Feb. 10-14)

Youth Leadership for climate action in the Southern Gulf Islands (March 2-6)

Climate change in the Salish Sea archipelago (Feb. 17-21)



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Language Revitalization from Tye Swallow (continued)

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The curriculum frameworks for these courses were reviewed at a 2-day symposium at Poets Cove Resort in October by 23 representatives from the WSÁNEĆ First Nation and 23 from Gulf Island communities. The feedback from the symposium has been incorporated into the curriculums to reflect community input and guidance.

Each course will be 5 days long and be delivered at Poets Cover Resort next to Hay Point Re-serve land on South Pender - S,DA'YES in February and March 2020. This project is being administered through the Southern Gulf Islands Community Resource Centre (SGI CRC) in co-operation with the WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council and the WSÁNEĆ School Board.

Ancient and current Indigenous Traditional Knowledge tells us that the nature of our relationship with the land, water and all that are part of nature will determine our ability to effectively meet the challenges of climate change on these islands. As Tsawout Chief Dr. Nick Claxton points out:

The SENĆOŦEN word for these Islands, TETÁĆES translates as “Relatives of the Deep” reflecting our creation story for the Islands. The Islands, our relatives, have provided a way of life for our people for thousands of years and WSÁNEĆ law creates a reciprocal relationship of care between WSÁNEĆ and TETÁĆES. — “This responsibility is absolute; we are obligated to care for these islands, not only through our own actions but by protecting the islands against harmful actions by others”.

The TETÁĆES Climate Action Project will adopt the WSÁNEĆ reciprocal stewardship world view to guide the strategies to meet the challenges of climate change. Initial funding for this project has been provided by the CRD, the SGI CRC's Edu-tourism project and the WSÁNEĆ School Board. Additional grant funding is being sought for course delivery and to support capacity for WSÁNEĆ participation.

Tye Swallow, project co-coordinator with the WSÁNEĆ School Board noted:

The WSÁNEĆ School Board fully supports this initiative because it is based on an equitable partnership with full recognition of WSÁNEĆ Traditional Knowledge and respect for the implicit cultural values and practices. This project offers an exemplary path to reconciliation on a community-to-community basis searching for meaning and solutions through true collaboration to meet the challenges of the climate crisis together.

For more information on the TETÁĆES Climate Action Project visit the SGI CRC Website at <https://www.sgicommunityresources.ca> or contact:

Paul Petrie SGI CRC project co-coordinator

250-589-5436 [pmpetrie@shaw.ca](mailto:pmpetrie@shaw.ca)

or

Tye Swallow WSÁNEĆ project co-coordinator

250-652-2313 [tye@saec.ca](mailto:tye@saec.ca)

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Tye Swallow





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## *Art Update from Caroline Stengl*

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The fall has been a busy time in the art department! Students began the drawing and painting course by making artist trading cards, tiny miniature works of art that can be traded and collected. ATC's are 2 1/2 x 3/12 inches, the same size as a hockey or baseball card, but they are one-of-a-kind original artworks, not printed reproductions. That handmade quality makes them special. Students had a lot of fun creating their own personal symbols and drawings with mixed media. When everyone was finished making their cards then the trading frenzy began! It was fun to see all the tough negotiations over coveted artworks.

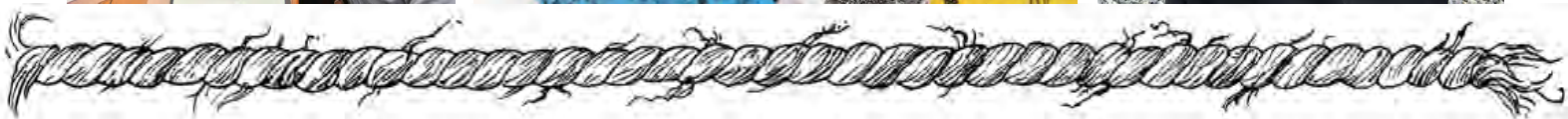


Our next project is graphite pencil portraits. We began by learning about blind contour and contour drawings, as well as drawing from a live model (yours truly). Students tried out making loose and quick gesture drawings, a 30 second rough sketch of the model that is the cornerstone of warming up for figure drawing. There was lots of giggles and intense concentration as we did these exercises. Then students were challenged to make line drawing studies of faces upside down! Turning a face photo upside down fools the brain into seeing organic shapes and edges rather than identifiable features such as a nose, mouth and eyes. It makes it easier to observe carefully and actually draw what you see.

Now students are deep into their graphite pencil studies of faces with a full range of shading. The results of their hard work are pretty stunning. I'm impressed by how many details the students are capturing with their delicate drawing and shading. It's amazing because faces are typically a very challenging subject to draw! We hope to wrap up this project within the week and begin planning acrylic paintings next.

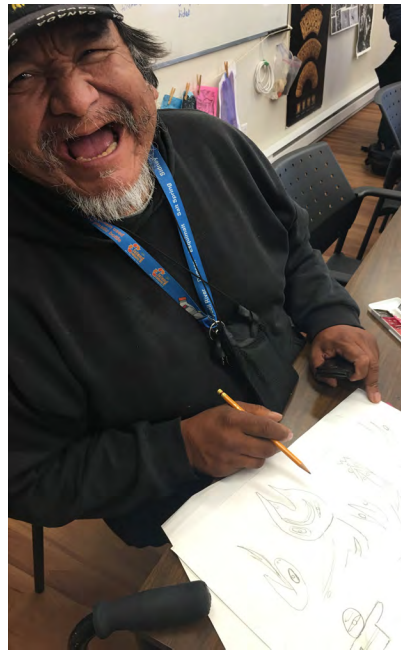
### **Goldstream Camping Art Adventures!**

We went camping at the Goldstream group site in the fall. I brought a printmaking activity for students to try. We made lift prints. Using a brayer or roller, students rolled ink out onto a plexiglass sheet. Laying paper lightly over the ink students then drew on the back with pencils and fingertips. The pressure of the pencil picks up ink from the plexiglass plate, creating an ink image on the paper. Things got really interesting when it started to rain and the raindrops on the ink created beautiful organic patterns of droplets. It was wild and inspiring!





SAEC Art Program Gallery





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## *Post Secondary from Linda Gladstone*

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Wow, the first half of the year just flew by and students are already into their finals!

WSB is currently funding a total of 55 full-time and part-time students for the 2019-2020 academic year. The breakdown of funded students is as follows:

Tsartlip has 29 full-time students and one part-time student being funded. One student will graduate from his program at the end of December 2019.

Tsawout has 23 full-time students being funded, and one part-time student.

Tseycum has 3 full-time students currently being funded by WSB.

SAEC is hosting the Indigenous Health Care Assistant (IHCA) program held through Camosun College which will be starting in January 2020. We still have a few seats left if there are any interested people out there! If you are interested please stop by SAEC to see Kendra or Linda or call 250-652-2214 ext 237.

There are 10 students from the W SENĆOŦEN IST Language Revitalization Program who have been granted the Certificate in Indigenous Language Proficiency (CILP). These students attended the convocation on the morning of November 12th and were invited to attend the Indigenous Recognition Ceremony held at the First Peoples House later that day.

WSB Application deadline for 2020/2021 is Feb 28th. If you would like an application please drop by my office, call me at 250-652-2214, ext 222 or email me at [linda@saec.ca](mailto:linda@saec.ca)

HÍ,SWŪE HÁLE





## Thinking about going back to School?

### CONSIDER THE SAANICH ADULT EDUCATION CENTRE!

We have a caring and supportive staff that wants you to succeed! We'd like to help however we can to assist you in reaching your goals.

#### We offer:

- Community-based learning
- Bus transportation to and from school, plus additional options
- Daily hot lunches
- Onsite childcare
- SENĆOŦEN language and culture classes
- Weekly field trips and fun overnight excursions
- Financial supports available
- Satellite programs in Tseycum and Tsawout

#### \*NEW for 2019- 2020\*

This year our courses will be available as instructor-led, paper-based or online. Decide how you'd like to learn - the choice is yours!

**2019-2020 Registration starts week of August 19th to the first week of September!**

#### If bus transportation is a concern:

The Adult Centre has daily bus transportation available to and from SAEC. Scheduled pick up at Tsawout, Tseycum and Pauquachin.

#### Satellite Program availability:

Please contact us to see if we offer satellite programming in your home community. Currently, we have morning programming running in Tseycum.

#### If finances are a concern, here is how we can help:

- Earn \$50.00/week, or up to \$200/month, by attending 4 days a week and making good course progress.
- Earn \$50.00 for each course you complete
- Complete 4 courses during the school year and earn a bonus \$200.00
- Earn \$25.00 for completing the 'CAAT' which is a Canadian adult placement assessment used for course selection
- Lead or organize a school activity, craft or guest speaker and earn \$50.00
- Monthly gift card draws for school initiatives (i.e. kindness & health draws, etc.)
- Participate in an evening cooking classes (monthly), and receive a good food box

#### If childcare is a concern:

Onsite day available through the **SLEEMW** Daycare Centre. More information can be found at <https://wsanecschoolboard.ca/education/sleemw-child-development-centre> or call (250) 652-0074 or call (250) 652-2214 ext 256.

**Would you like to:  
Complete an Adult  
Dogwood  
Or  
Gain college  
pre-requisites  
Or  
Brush up on English  
and Math to help your  
children/grandchildren  
with their homework?**

#### To Register at SAEC:

Contact Diana  
Phone: 250-652-2214 ext. 237  
E-mail: [diana@saec.ca](mailto:diana@saec.ca)





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*Colour this drawing! Artwork by Caroline Stengl*

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*Happy Holidays!*

*from all of us at SAEC*

