

School Learning Plan

October 2023/24

THE CURRENT CONTEXT

F.W. Howay Elementary School student population is 140 students, from Kindergarten to Grade 5 with seven divisions. Our school is located in the Massey/Victory Heights neighbourhood in New Westminister.

During the 2022-2023 school year we focused on place-based learning and taking learning outside. By taking our learning outdoors, we became more connected to nature and our community.

OBJECTIVE: WHAT WE HOPE TO ACHIEVE

Place-Based Learning

By exploring, restoring, and “re-storying” connections to nature and neighbourhoods, students become reintegrated into their communities and revitalized, “they become part of the community rather than a passive observer of it” - Sobel, David (2004) Place-Based Education Connecting Classrooms and Communities. The Orion Society. In Get Outdoors, p. 23

As we continue to grow our understanding of learning in nature, we hope to integrate the importance of math in the natural environment.

DESIGN: HOW WE PLAN TO MEET OUR OBJECTIVE

Action Plan

Professional Development

- “Wild Schools” program and school facilitator
- John Muir Laws-Nature Journal Connection
- Math

Collaboration

- Instructional Leader Role focused on the School Learning Plan (SLP)
- School collaboration days focused on the SLP
- Staff meeting focused on the SLP

Resources and Learning Tools

- Picture books focused on community, nature, and math learning outdoors
- Nature journals for the whole school
- First Peoples Principles of Learning
- Indigenous place cards focused on local plants and connections to nature
- Continuing to enhance our outdoor learning area

Whole School and Classroom Activities

- Field trips and local walking field trips and school presentations (“Go Grants” to support extra field trips)

Timeline

August/September

- Planning and organizing school wide activities and purchasing materials
- Planning field trips, applying for grants to support school learning plan
- Pro-D and collaboration for staff focussed on our school learning plan

October

- Oct. 11 – First whole school field trip to Rocky Point Park

October – June

- Goal: Each division will participate in a minimum of one outdoor learning activity per week

January

- Salmon arrive
- School assembly to celebrate and share learning

February

- Three-way conferences at school

April

- School assembly to celebrate and share learning

May/June

- Whole School Field Trip to Hume Park/Brunette Creek (Releasing the salmon)

School Learning Plan

October 2023/24

- Weekly outdoor learning activities
- Assembly and buddy activities
- Community garden (focussed on pollinator and drought resistant plants)
- Community map of local areas we can share with in our school and with our families

May

- Caterpillars in classrooms

June

- Release of butterflies into the garden

SUCCESS INDICATORS: HOW WE WILL KNOW THAT OUR ACTIONS ARE HAVING THE DESIRED IMPACT

Key Results

Students, staff and parents will feel more connected to our outdoor spaces and to each other and demonstrate a sense of curiosity and wonder for our community and nature.

Students will develop curiosity – using questions (I wonder statements), observations to represent learning (detailed pictures and drawings)

- Nature Journals
 - Weekly journalling will be a focus to demonstrate growth and share learning

Students, staff and parents will develop connectedness to our community through outdoor learning

- Whole School community activities (field trips, assemblies, events)
 - 2-3 assemblies focused on SLP to share experiences and learn from each other
 - 2-3 field trips to local areas (Rocky Point, Hume Park/Brunette Creek)
 - Buddy activities within our school (multi-age groupings)
- Mapping our outdoor experiences through pictures
 - Division folders in share drive to capture learning in action (monthly pictures)
 - Local community map of green space for school and families to visit (connecting our experience)

Students, staff and parents will share experiences and collaborate on learning

- February conferences with families would reflect personal strengths and growth from beginning of year
- Purposeful focused buddy activities that enhance connectedness with each other

COMMUNICATION: HOW WE WILL SHARE OUR LEARNING JOURNEY WITH OUR COMMUNITY

- Updates to parents through email and PAC meetings
- Sharing of SWAYS (either classroom or whole school)
- Parent/teacher and 3-way conferences
- 2-3 school wide assemblies celebrating our learning
- Once a month “Morning Show” for whole school (“Student Voice” segment featuring student’s nature journal writing and reflection)
- Community map featuring places we have been in our community