



*"Home of the Thunderbirds"*

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Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends,

There are so many exciting things going on at school!

### **Ininyaxa7n or Thunderbird**

The incredible **Ininyaxa7n** or Thunderbird sculpture by Elder Latash Nahanee and his apprentice Chris Fyfe is complete and has been mounted by the main entrance. It is fitting that this great Protector graces our front door, spreading its wings over all who pass by. A formal Squamish Brushing Off Ceremony led by the Squamish Nation will be held once Covid restrictions allow. Until then, please read Elder Latash's Artist Statement:

*"Ininyaxa7n Thunderbird*

*It was a great pleasure to be asked to produce a work of art for Carisbrooke Elementary School in North Vancouver. As a member of the Squamish Nation, I wanted to create a visual work of art based on the Coast Salish art tradition. I like to start an art project based on a theme. The mission statement of the school and values represented by the Ininyaxa7n - Thunderbird, are very compatible. Among the many attributes of the supernatural Ininyaxa7n are protection and sharing of knowledge.*

*One of our stories about the Ininyaxa7n goes back to a time when people started to inhabit the earth. The humans struggled to survive. The Creator saw the difficulty the people were having and called upon the Thunderbird to call all the animals together and ask them to find ways to help the people. When all the animals had gathered for meeting the Ininyaxa7n asked them to come up with ways to help the people. The deer offered himself as food for the people. The salmon did the same. The black bear said he could show the people what plants were safe to eat. And so, each of the animals had a valuable lesson for the humans.*

*The Thunderbird watches over all Creation and helps everyone.*

*The school is a safe place because the principal and leaders want all children to learn together and respect that we all have a gift to share with each other.*

*The relief sculpture of Ininyaxa7n - Thunderbird was created by Latash Maurice Nahanee and carving assistant Chris Fyfe. It was carved from a four hundred year old Western Red cedar from the Squamish Valley. The log was donated by Sqomish Forestry, a company owned by the Squamish Nation."*

## **And in our classrooms...**

Division 1 students are in the middle of designing an "Amazing Race" course as their Socials GRASP task. Teams are designing a series of stations (that their peers need to compete to complete) to explore **a civilization and the reason it collapsed**. We will be having an Amazing Race day (early May, outside), where students set up the stations and compete in teams to complete the timed tasks (similar to the T.V show). It should prove to be chaotic! Students are excited.

Division 3 is in the middle of an integrated Social Studies and Science unit regarding resource extraction, specifically strip mining. Each child has a role (miner, shop keeper, resident) in the community and represents the interests of that character. This week, the students are dressing up like their character and are presenting the pros and cons of the mine development.

Division 14: This Kindergarten class is learning about families and community. They have studied our neighbourhood and the local landforms (forests, mountains, rivers and ocean) and have made a forest wall. Students have made a grid of the forest wall, much like a map or a battleship game, and have chosen which plot of land they would like to live with their families. Many children were interested in building their family home next to the mountains - it looks like we have many skiers and snow boarders at Carisbrooke. Other children chose to live next to bodies of water, while one child constructed a house boat!

Teachers have also just introduced the 'Bevan Buck' system as positive reinforcement of 'on track' behaviour, self regulation and personal responsibility. 'Bevan Bucks' also teach number sense and the beginnings of financial literacy as children 'save' to make 'purchases'.

## **Coming up**

The forecast for the week is bright, sunny and warm! We are looking forward to spending lots of time outside with your children. Please ensure that they have a change of clothes and shoes at school in case they need to change.

Please continue to follow Provincial Health Orders. Stay safe by sticking with your household 'bubble' and please stay home if you are feeling unwell.

Please feel free to contact me at the school if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Lisa Upton

Principal, Carisbrooke