

# COMMUNITY REPORT 2016 - 2017

## SEYMOUR HEIGHTS

TRUST RESPECT RESPONSIBILITY COLLABORATION

### Warm wishes from Principal Chanin Smyth

What a great year it has been! I continue to be so proud of the entire Seymour Heights Learning Community. We have had a full and busy year of learning! The learning stories that I hear day after day always make me so proud of our students. What I love most about our students is their passion and enthusiasm for learning. Our kids are the best there are! With so many unique skills and talents – they never fail to amaze me with their successes.

Greeting students with a smile and hello each and every morning has been such a gift. I appreciate and value each and every one of them and am so grateful to have the opportunity to work at Seymour Heights! I want to thank all students for bringing their best selves to school every day and sharing their learning in such wonderful ways.

At Seymour Heights, we provide a learning community that honours diversity in all areas of student learning – in our curriculum, instruction, assessment practices and social emotional learning. Through our school plan, classrooms are more flexible to adapt to all learning styles. Differentiated instruction and assessment practices are at the forefront of teacher planning. And as a whole school, through the TOOLBOX and a focus on our values, we strive for all members of our community to experience a strong sense of belonging. We value everyone!

I want to thank all of the staff for their incredible commitment to student learning. What an amazing group of individuals we have working to make Seymour Heights student learning experience the best it can possibly be. The collaboration and care demonstrated by staff day in and day out is second to none.

Thank you to all parents and families for your invaluable partnership in making the Seymour Heights Learning Community as special as it is. I appreciate all of your collaboration, open communication and positive contributions whether big or small. What a beautiful community we all belong to!

I am so proud and grateful to be leaving Seymour Heights in such amazing hands. Ann Copp and I have worked in close partnership over the past 4 years and I am confident that with her caring leadership and breadth of knowledge, Seymour Heights will continue to thrive! I will truly miss the Seymour Heights community and am very grateful for the opportunity to have worked with such amazing children, committed families and a staff that truly care for your children and each other.

Chanin Smyth



# SEYMOUR HEIGHTS SCHOOL PLAN

## VISION

*Seymour Heights Elementary School provides meaningful, engaging and dynamic learning experiences for all students, based on a culture of individual and collective enhancement and success.*

## GOAL #1 Diversity is Honoured

**Objective #1:** All members of Seymour Heights Learning Community are valued, appreciated and belong

**Objective #2:** All members of Seymour Heights learning community model and support our shared values of trust, collaboration, respect and responsibility

**Objective #3:** Teaching to diversity is demonstrated in all classrooms

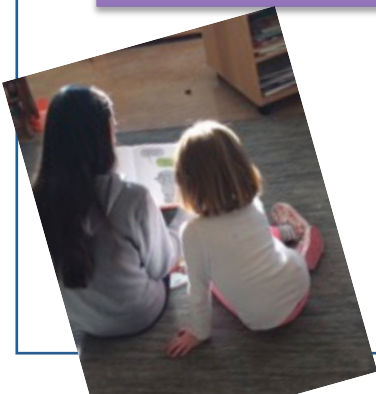
## GOAL #2 Meaningful assessment (as, of, for learning) is practiced and ongoing feedback is provided

**Objective #1:** Differentiated assessment practices are used in all classrooms to support individual learners

**Objective #2:** Students are active participants in their own learning and understand themselves as learners

You can find our EVIDENCE: 2016-2017 A SNAPSHOT as well as the full 2017-2018 SEYMOUR HEIGHTS SCHOOL PLAN on our website:

<http://www.sd44.ca/school/seymourheights/About/SchoolPlan/Pages/default.aspx>



# Seymour Heights: A Vibrant Learning Community

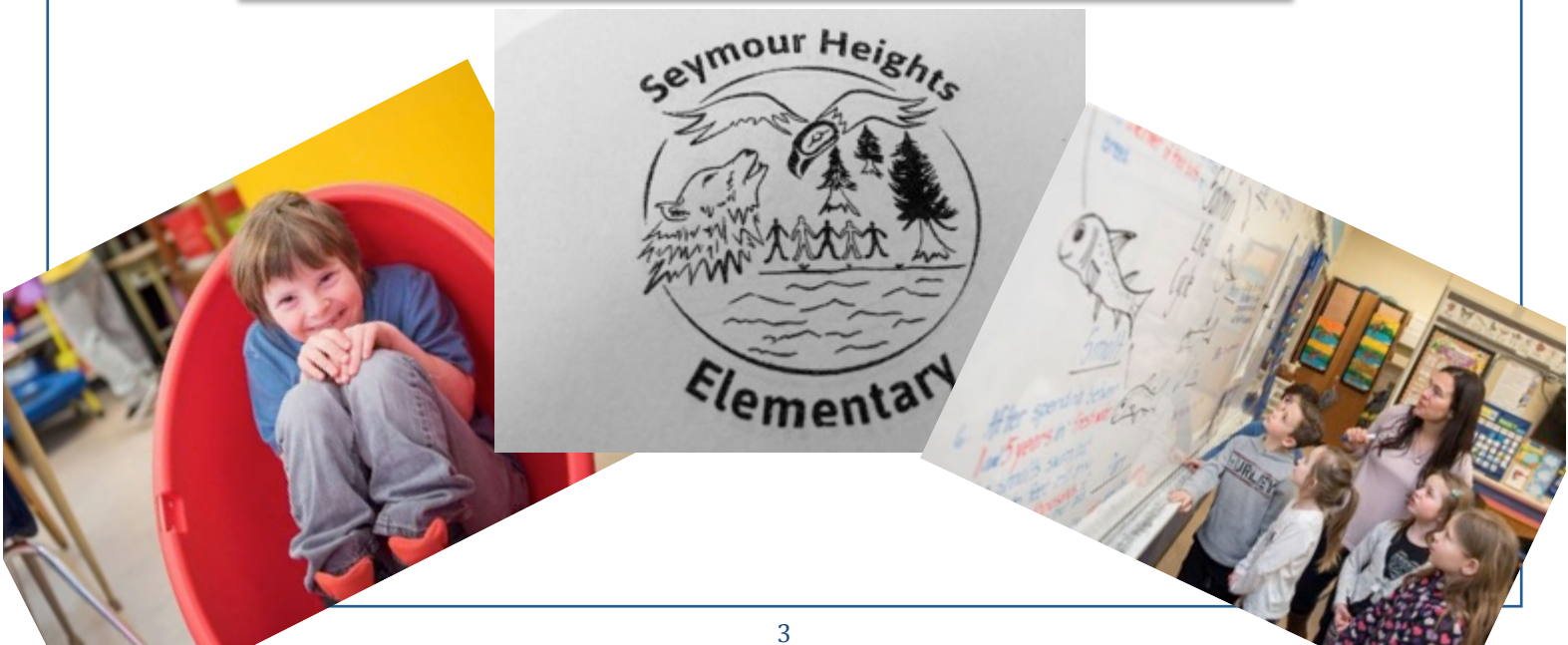
This year, Seymour Heights has spent much of the year implementing our school plan. As a collective group, with our core values guiding us, we have been able to bring to life our plan with the ultimate goal of improving the overall learning experience for your children. The school planning process is an ongoing, iterative process in which all staff are committed to enhancing student learning. We have seen significant progress with our goal and objectives through a set of clear strategies. Data supporting our progress and informing our plan moving forward into the 2017-2018 school year can be found on our website at:

<http://www.sd44.ca/school/seymourheights/About/SchoolPlan/Pages/default.aspx>

Thank you to the hard work of ALL staff, in particular the amazing group of professionals that are our Core Team: Melissa Mannarino, Intermediate Teacher – Sue Steffens, Primary Teacher – Janis Mann, Learning Services Teacher – Sylvia McIntyre – Primary Teacher – Kathleen Huxley – Learning Services Teacher – Carla Siklos, EA – Erika Vieweg, EA – Ann Copp, Vice Principal – Chanin Smyth, Principal.

***At Seymour Heights, evidence of our VIBRANT LEARNING COMMUNITY can be seen through the following 5 attributes: 1. STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND LEARNING 2. TEAMWORK AND COLLABORATION 3. RESPECT FOR ADULT AND STUDENT DIVERSITY 4. STRONG SYSTEMIC STRUCTURES 5. COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITY.***

Thank you to the whole Seymour Heights community for your part in creating our school plan for the coming school year. We are very excited to be moving in such a positive direction and look forward to sharing with you our successes throughout the year!





## STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND LEARNING

Academics, Outdoor Learning, Music, Athletics, Fine Arts, Celebrations

A focus on student engagement and learning at Seymour Heights is always at the core of our planning regarding school improvement. It provides a clear focus on the development of our instructional practice including: Curriculum Design, Instructional Differentiation, Meaningful Assessment Practices and Social Emotional Learning. Seymour Heights School Plan, with its focus on Student Diversity, honours all students as individuals with strengths to be celebrated. We have strong athletes, scientists, artists, performers and philanthropists within our learning community. A strong focus on student achievement, through appropriate differentiation practices, allow all students at Seymour Heights to experience an engaging and successful educational experience. We are so proud of all our learners this year! Make sure to check out our ongoing LEARNING STORIES on the Seymour Heights website at:

<http://www.sd44.ca/school/seymourheights/About/LearningStories/Pages/default.aspx>





## TEAMWORK AND COLLABORATION

At Seymour Heights, collaboration is one of our key values. We believe that in order for students to achieve a comprehensive, well-rounded education, teamwork is essential on many levels. Teamwork is necessary between students, between students and teachers, and among parents and the school community. The more collaboration practiced, the more opportunity for student growth is exhibited.



## PARENTS AS COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS

Thank you for your ongoing support and collaboration enhancing the learning community of Seymour Heights.





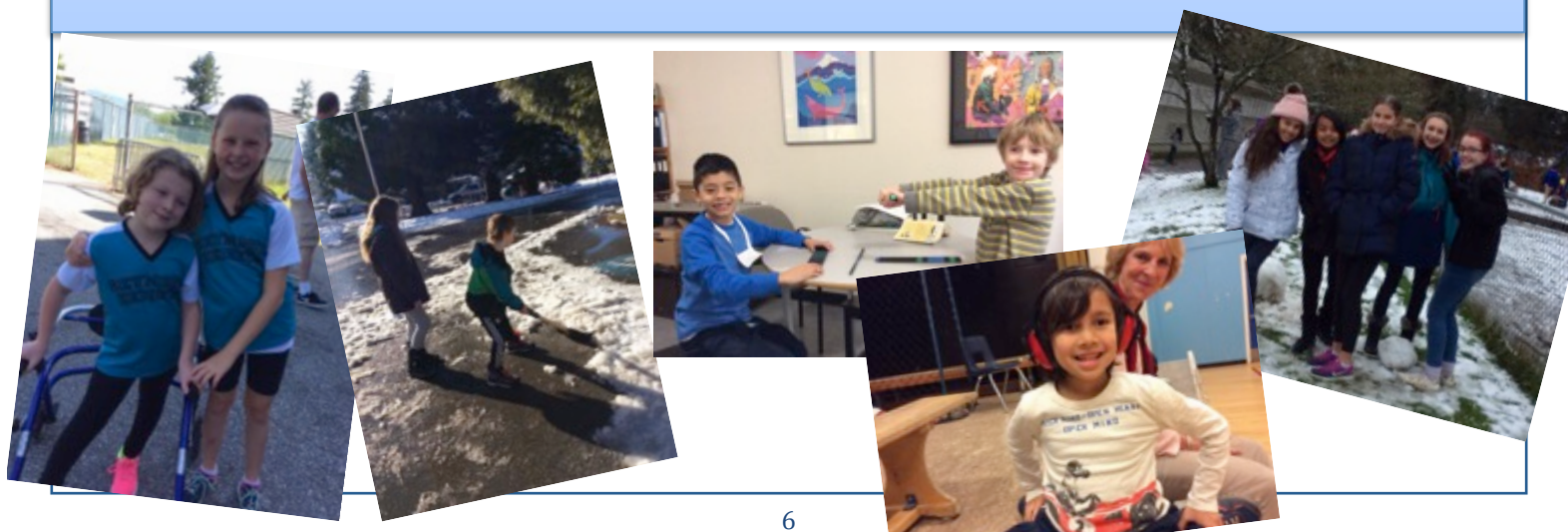
## RESPECT FOR STUDENT AND ADULT DIVERSITY



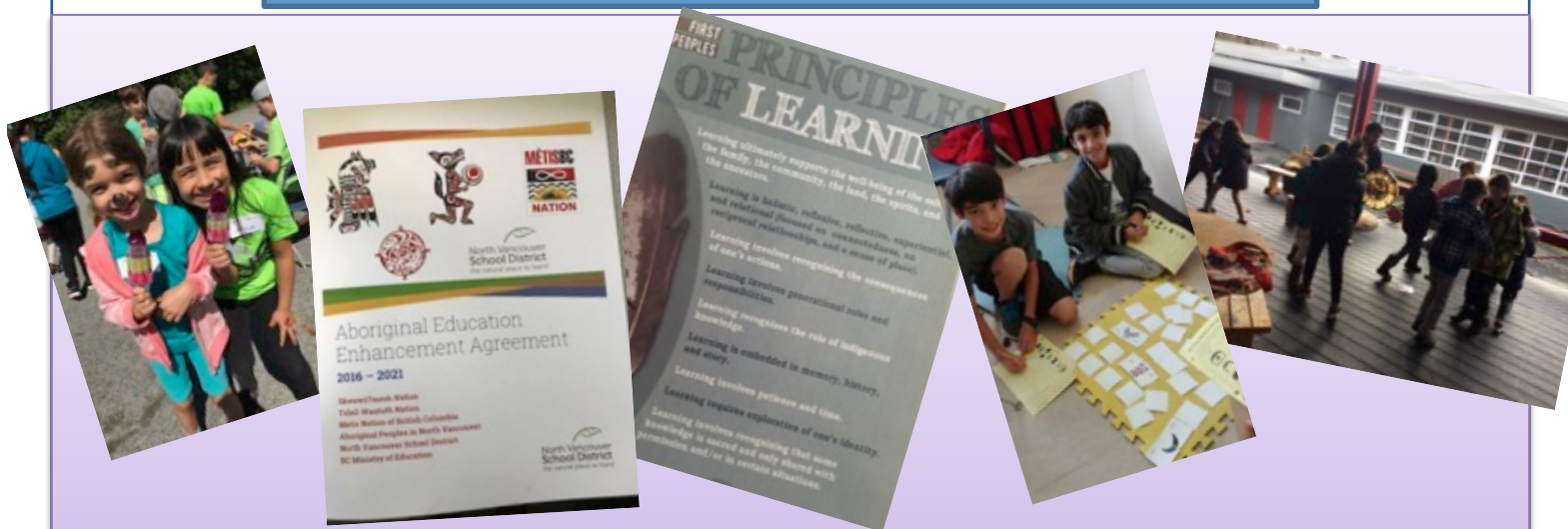
At Seymour Heights, honouring diversity is embedded in all that we do. All members of our learning community are committed to upholding our shared values of Respect, Responsibility, Trust and Collaboration. There has been a noticeable change – the strategies within our plan are working! Seymour Heights' school culture is increasingly positive and respectful. We strive to have every student, community member and staff member feel a strong sense of acceptance and belonging and be celebrated for all their unique contributions. Through our school plan, we continue to enhance the learning experience for all students by: collaborating with our community to create a common understanding and appreciation of diversity, providing learning opportunities for teachers so that all classrooms provide differentiated instruction and assessment, continue to improve our overall teaching practices to meet the needs of each individual learner, and to reflect often on our collective successes and areas for improvement.

We had the great honour of presenting at a North Vancouver School District Board meeting in which a number of students shared how Seymour Heights meets their learning and honours diversity. Please see the attached blog post from this great event. Within this blog post you will also get to enjoy a wonderful video that highlights some of the special ways that Diversity is Honoured and Celebrated at Seymour Heights.

<https://www.sd44.ca/District/LearnShareGrow/default.aspx#/view/186>



## INDIGENIZATION OF THE CURRICULUM



On behalf of the Seymour Heights Learning Community, I would like to thank the Coast Salish people, specifically the Squamish Nation and Tsleil Waututh Nation, whose traditional territory North Vancouver School District resides on. We value the opportunity to learn, live and share educational experiences on this traditional territory.

At Seymour Heights, we value the Aboriginal Ways of Knowing and incorporate the First Peoples' Principles of Learning into our teaching practices. We have enjoyed numerous cultural experiences from Henry Schooner, our Aboriginal Support Worker, who has shared traditional Nuxalt songs and dances with all members of our school community. Henry hosts weekly drum circles and every student has had the opportunity to learn from his stories. Thank you Henry!

Our Kindergarten classes learned their numbers in the Squamish language. They also learned to identify plants that are used for healing and medicinal remedies in Indigenous cultures.

We celebrated Orange Shirt Day and participated in a whole school event to help students understand the impacts of Residential Schools in our country. Intermediate students spent valuable time learning about Truth and Reconciliation and how as a country we are trying to go forward with courage.

All staff and students at Seymour Heights learned the traditional Aboriginal game of Slahal, which students use as a peaceful way to problem solve when disputes arise. Slahal can be seen being played throughout many classes. Ask your child to share how the game works!

Earth Day was celebrated outside with a school wide Circle – to bring us all together in our beautiful natural environment – celebrating our connection with the land. All classes made traditional talking sticks to be used in their classrooms during Circle. Check out the North Vancouver School District Blog post sharing our story:

<https://www.sd44.ca/District/LearnShareGrow/default.aspx#/view/246>

Our grade 4 students visited Whey-ah-Wichen (Cates Park) and participated in a historical walk-through of traditional territory, guided by Carleen Thomas, from the Tsleil-Waututh Nation. Thank you Carleen.

National Aboriginal Day was an opportunity to share food and story together. What an incredible experience this was for us all. Thank you to Henry for your leadership this day and for sharing your stories and traditions with us.



## Community Connections and Responsibility

### Community Partnerships

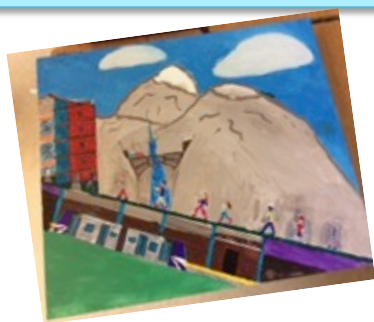
What an amazing year of partnerships! Thank you so much to our friends at **North Shore Restorative Justice** who brought the Circles in Schools program in to support some of our upper intermediate students on a weekly basis throughout the year. Thank you to **Boys and Girls club** for taking such great care of our students after school hours. Thank you to **BCAA** for supplying our Safety Patrollers with the necessary gear and training needed to keep our community safe! We appreciate the partnership between the RCMP and our school with the art in schools program. The amazing student art was displayed at the RCMP detachment. We have benefited all year from the Fruits and Vegetables program and Food Access allowing students to eat whenever they need to throughout the day. Thank you so much to ALL other community partners who have helped make this year such a wonderful success at Seymour Heights.



### Giving at Seymour Heights



*This year we donated hundreds and hundreds of food items to the Harvest Project, celebrated Compliment Day, jumped our hearts out and raised over \$5000 for the Heart and Stroke Foundation, and created Christmas Hampers for our own community members who needed a hand up over the holidays.*



**To INDIGO MARINE DRIVE-**  
Thank you so much for adopting Seymour Heights! AND for the \$3000 worth of books for our classrooms and library!! Happy Reading!



### HUGE THANK YOU TO PAC

To all the many volunteers who make Seymour Heights Learning Community the best it can be – THANK YOU!! For all the funds allocated to the many initiatives, programs and supplies - THANK YOU PAC! Your positive partnership is valued and greatly appreciated by the entire Seymour Heights Learning Community.



## Highlights of the Year



Seymour Heights enjoyed so many wonderful SPECIAL EVENTS above and beyond the daily learning activities enjoyed in all the classrooms at Seymour Heights. These events demonstrate the collaboration of school, PAC, students and the greater community.

CAMP READ	HOE DOWN	iGuy and iGirl
PRIMARY DAYS OF MUSIC	ORANGE SHIRT DAY	PINK SHIRT DAY
INTERMEDIATE MUSIC FESTIVAL	DRUMMING	SANTA'S BREAKFAST
READY SET LEARN	FUN DAY	CHRISTMAS CONCERT
PARKGATE SOAPBOX DERBY	NVFD FIREHOUSE VISIT	POLICE EDUCATION
OUTDOOR SCHOOL	BIGHOUSE	SALMON RELEASE
SPLASH AND DASH	EARTH DAY	ABORIGINAL DANCING
NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY	BUTTERFLY STUDY	JUMP ROPE FOR HEART
RCMP ART PARTNERSHIP	HARVEST PROJECT	CHOIR
STUDENT CELEBRATION ASSEMBLIES	COMPLIMENT DAY	STUDENT OF THE MONTH
CRAZY HAIR DAY	HOT LUNCHES	REMEMBRANCE DAY ASSEMBLY
PARENT APPRECIATION	STAFF/STUDENT GAMES	FIELD TRIPS
TABLE TENNIS	BIKE TO SCHOOL WEEK	GINGERBREAD HOUSES

## Staffing Announcements

Every year brings change. While we are always sad to say goodbye to our colleagues and friends, we are happy for them and wish them all very well on their new journeys. Leaving us this year:

**Administration:** Chanin Smyth

**Teachers:** Susan Jones (retirement), Terre Swan (retirement), Jeannie Denault (retirement), Sue Steffens, Laura Ellwood, Shirin Kara, Lasse Leslie, Kristine Chambers

**EA Staff:** Leah Bromley, Colleen Flewelling

**THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE FOR SEYMOUR HEIGHTS!**