



**CARSON GRAHAM
SECONDARY**

Aboriginal Week April 13-16th, 2015

Preparations for Carson Graham's 3rd annual Aboriginal Week are well under way and the excitement is simmering. Our planning team is working closely with respected members and elders of the Squamish Nation to organize activities that will educate, entertain, build strong community relationships as well as support student leadership.

Aboriginal Week is a celebration of Aboriginal culture, history and language. It is four fun filled days of interactive workshops led by esteemed elders and leaders in the Squamish community. This year's theme will be environmental sustainability and what traditional knowledge can teach us about our current environmental conditions. The goals of Aboriginal Week are to increase Aboriginal students' sense of belonging, cultural pride and capacity for leadership while simultaneously celebrating the rich diversity that is at the heart of Carson Graham's community. All students and staff are invited to participate in a range of activities involving the sharing of traditional knowledge, skills and history.

We will launch the week with a school wide assembly starting with a keynote address by Darrell Dennis, well known Canadian actor, playwright and award winning novelist. There will also be a mash up student dance performance accompanied by our own Carson band that will be playing songs by *A Tribe Called Red*. Classes will be invited to sign up for workshops that will follow for the remainder of the week where we have set up a replica traditional longhouse and village near the ceremonial fire. Weaving, ethnobotany demonstrations, fish skin leather making, and storytelling by the longhouse are just some of the teachings that will be available. An additional fire pit will be in place to demonstrate traditional cooking and smoking techniques and the importance of salmon in Aboriginal coastal communities. Our final day will culminate in a dancing celebration where Tewanee Joseph's band, *Bitterly Divine* will perform original music and all students/staff as well as our grade 6/7 students from our neighbouring elementary schools will have the opportunity to dance together in the traditions of the Squamish people. We hope to see you there!

