

Departure Bay Eco-School

Our Vision

Our Vision:

To become a school with an environmental focus that produces students who are environmentally literate by using hands-on, interdisciplinary, place-based approach to provide students with meaningful and imaginative learning opportunities where students are constantly engaged in the natural world around our facility.

Goals

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- To develop students' awareness, knowledge, attitudes, skills and actions in regards to environmental content.
- Inspire our families to develop an interest and become involved in science and sustainability (in our local community).

How?

- Connect students more directly with the world outside of school by interacting in the community surrounding our facility. (Place-Based Education)
- Continue to focus on core skills (reading, writing, math) but have freedom to pursue individual interests and passions within a particular topic AND place emphasis on key competencies like self-reliance, critical thinking, inquiry, creativity, problem-solving, innovation teamwork, collaboration, cross-cultural understanding and technological literacy.
- Increase focus on learning these skills across topic areas. Students still required to meet core curriculum outcomes.

(Integrated, Multi-disciplinary approach) from BC's Education Plan—http://www.bcedplan.ca/assets/pdf/bc_edu_plan.pdf

Why?

- To utilize the amazing natural resources immediately surrounding our facility. (Departure Bay, Departure Creek, Sugarloaf Mtn., Linley Valley, plus other 15 City Parks)
- To make a link between what children learn at school and their everyday lives*
- To create new learning environments that allow children to discover, embrace and fulfill their passions while reaching their full potential*
- Our students' thinking and values will shape their future
- Students must be at the centre of learning*

*from BC's Education Plan—
http://www.bcedplan.ca/assets/pdf/bc_edu_plan.pdf





Storm Drain Marking

What is an Integrated, Interdisciplinary Approach?

Incorporating outcomes from several disciplines/skills under one theme or project/problem. For example: A science theme or project can accomplish learning goals beyond just science (writing, reading, math). More relevancy, learning retention and student engagement are just some of the believed benefits of this approach.

"The World is Interdisciplinary" - Why Teach with an Interdisciplinary Approach?
serc.carleton.edu/econ/interdisciplinary/why.html

What is Place-based Education?

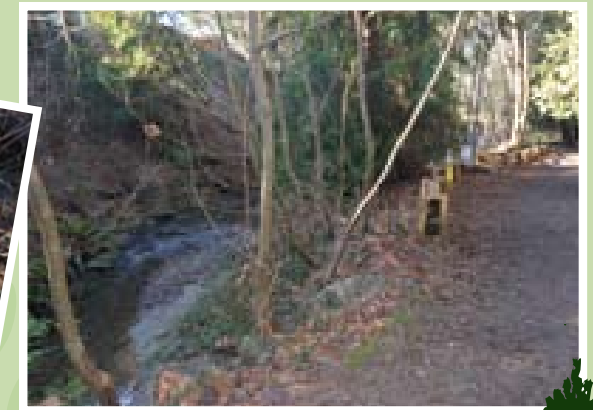
Process of using the local community and environment as a starting point to teach concepts in language arts, mathematics, social studies, science and other subjects across the curriculum. Emphasizing hands-on, real world learning experiences, this approach to education increases academic achievement, helps students develop stronger ties to their community, enhances students' appreciation for the natural world, and creates a heightened commitment to serving as active, contributing citizens. Community vitality and environmental quality are improved through the active engagement of local citizens, community organizations, and environmental resources in the life of the school.

Place-based Education: Connecting Classroom and Community by David Sobel. www.antiochne.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/pbexcerpt.pdf

What is Environmental Literacy?

The capacity of an individual to act successfully in daily life on a broad understanding of how people and societies relate to each other and to natural systems, and how they might do so sustainably."

Campaign for Environmental Literacy:
<http://www.fundee.org/facts/envlit/whatisenvlit.htm>



Sample Projects:

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Park Ambassadors: Each Class will adopt a local park and work with the City of Nanaimo to mark invasive plants, educate the public about plants, animals and other features of the park, promote park use and participate in clean-up and maintenance.

Destination Conservation: student-driven, activity based program that brings environmental education alive in schools. It is designed to increase sustainability by helping schools conserve energy, water, reduce waste and protect the environment.

School Gardens, Salmon Incubation Program (DFO), Storm Drain Marking, Bio-Diversity Walks (NALT), Science in Action (WildBC) and more!

Special Thanks to:

- Departure Bay Neighborhood Association: <http://www.dbna.ca/>
- City of Nanaimo: <http://www.nanaimo.ca/>
- Nanaimo & Area Land Trust (NALT): <http://www.nalt.bc.ca/>
- Nanaimo Science and Sustainability Society: <http://www.nanaimoscience.org/>
- Jennifer Davidson - retired teacher, member of Departure Bay Neighbourhood Association
- Environmental Steward • Nanaimo Daily News
- WildBC—Judy Wickland— <http://www.wildbc.org/>
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada