

2013-2014

EMCS SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT



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CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT	02
ABOUT THE EMCS SOCIETY	03
SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN	04
YOUTH ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS	06
PLAY & LEARN SUMMER CAMP	06
A LOOK INTO THE FUTURE - LITERACY	07
THEATRE EVENTS	08
COMMUNITY EDUCATION	08
CONTACT INFORMATION	10
APPENDIX I - FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	
APPENDIX II – PLAY & LEARN SUMMER CAMP REPORT	



The EMCS Society acknowledges funding from the Province of British Columbia Gaming.

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

It's been a year of both consolidation and renewal at the EMCS Society and the program office. The past couple of years have seen big changes in staffing and everyone involved in the community school has really stepped up to keep things running smoothly and continuing to offer the services our community members expect from us. I'd like to thank our Community School Coordinators Anne Bell and Ebony Logins for the excellent work they've done this year. And a big thanks to Reta Vasey for her hard work and for always being positive and welcoming to everyone who calls or drops by the program office. Finally, all the best wishes to outgoing Community School Coordinator Heather Walsh in her future endeavours.

Many of our usual programs have run successfully this past year, with some streamlining of offerings to try to avoid the high number of cancellations we've experienced in recent years. We offered 86 courses, the Good Food Box program provided a total of 350 food boxes to the community, and we had a total of 90 people attend the "Cooking out of the Box" program. The Play-and-Learn Camp was a great success, and we received very positive feedback from participating families. Twenty-four students attended the program run by four teachers and three youth facilitators. A huge thanks to all who made it possible.

Earlier this year we engaged in some formal research activities as part of a project I am doing with Royal Roads University's School of Leadership. Board, staff, and instructors participated in a survey, in one-on-one interviews, and in a World Café to discuss and explore ways in which the Society can support the community school in refining its mission and engaging more effectively with our community. The findings highlighted the need to increase our visibility in the community and on social media, and to reach out to our many instructors and help them feel more connected and involved in the community school.

We are very proud to have three members of our team running in the recent elections. Maja Tait, who has represented the District of Sooke at our board meetings, will be our new mayor, and Ebony Logins will sit on the District of Sooke Council. Our heartfelt congratulations for their hard work and their spirit of civic engagement! And kudos to our board secretary Jeff Bateman for throwing his hat in the ring as well.

It's been a privilege serving as president of the Society. I look forward to seeing the Society and the program office continuing to thrive and engage with our vibrant community.

Michael Young
President, EMCS Society

ABOUT THE EMCS SOCIETY

The Edward Milne Community School Society (EMCSS) is a registered charity that has been serving the community of Sooke for 25 years. A Community School is a gathering place for all ages in our community that provides a range of needs-based programming and services coordinated through community and school partnerships. The EMCS Society's main goals are to encourage lifelong learning and reduce the vulnerability of children, youth and families in the Sooke Region. In partnership with Sooke School District #62 we have prioritized supporting students who may be at risk in terms of academic achievement and social functioning. The students identified as needing extra support, primarily come from less affluent socio-economic backgrounds or Aboriginal ancestry.

Since June 1987, the EMCS Society Program Office has worked to build partnerships with individuals and organizations in the community to provide life-long learning opportunities for people of all ages in the Sooke Region. The Society also oversees community education, cultural and social programs, projects and services developed to meet the needs of the community. As well as sponsoring a wide range of community education programs, the Society manages the Sooke Community Theatre, acts as fiscal sponsor for the Sooke Youth Council, the Sooke Region Literacy Program.



It is the mission of Edward Milne Community School to partner with students, parents, and the community to build a safe, supportive, and challenging learning environment that enables people to make a living, make a life, and make a difference.

SERVICE DELIVERY 2013-2014

LITERACY FOR CHILDREN

Target Group
Aboriginal children & academically vulnerable children & their families

Need Served
- Address achievement gap & summer learning fall-off
- Build confidence in reading, math, and physical literacy
- welcoming space for aboriginal learners where their culture is reflected in the curriculum

Funding
CommunityLINK, Vancouver Foundation, Coast Capital Savings Credit Union, Rotary Club of Sooke, Van City Credit Union, Telus Community Grants, HRSDC, PIMS, SD 62 Sooke, T'Sou-ke Nation, Andy's 2-for-1 Pizza, Decoda Literacy Solutions

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Target Group
Youth ages 13-30

Need Served
- Youth initiated activities, events, and fundraisers
- Drop-in sports at low or no cost
- A voice for youth in Sooke
- Summer employment & engagement

Funding
District of Sooke, TLC Fund for Kids, fundraising events, BC Gaming, HRSDC Summer Jobs

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Target Group
Youth, Adults, Seniors in the Sooke Region

Need Served
- Social interaction
- Lifelong learning, general interest, opportunities for physical and mental wellbeing

Funding
Province of BC Gaming, SD 62 Sooke

SERVICE DELIVERY 2013-2014

SOOKE REGION FACILITY RENTALS

Target Group
All community residents, clubs, associations, and organizations.

Need Served
- Local meeting space for non-profits & groups, recreation, and activity space
- Theatre & field rentals

Funding
- Rental fees collected at rate of 60/40 split for programs run through the Society
- Rental rates based on SD62 agreement

HEALTH PROGRAMS & SCHOOL SUPPORT

Target Group
- EMCS students in grades 9 through 12
- Adults with specific, chronic health conditions
- Academically & socially vulnerable youth

Need Served
- Food and transportation support for socially and economically vulnerable youth based on need
- Empower adults through education to help them better manage their own health condition
- Opportunities for social interaction
- Address barriers to completing education and finding employment

Funding
EMCS Parents Advisory Council, Integrated Health Network, TLC Fund for Kids

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Target Group
Community residents, staff, parents, partners

Need Served
- Governance of community education, literacy, youth programs and services (Executive)
- Steward the purpose and mission of the Society

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS

Sooke Youth Council membership has been dwindling over the past few years. It was created in 2008 to fill a gap for students ages 13-21 throughout the year, but these students now have many options with Leadership classes and Youth For Change during the school year. The summer months, however, provide less options for students during a time when they are not overwhelmed by workload, employment, and/or volunteering.

While the Sooke Youth Council still hosts movie nights and helps the Sooke Rotary with the Adopt-A-Highway project, the Youth Engagement Project focuses on summer employment and engagement to encourage youth to remain active mentally and physically in their community.

This year, funding from HRSDC – Canada Summer Jobs provided funding for four students to be employed full-time with the Society for 9 weeks. Two spent half of this time with the Play & Learn Summer Camp. They built a boat for the Rotary River Raft Race, organized the Sooke 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament, coordinated and ran a week-long basketball camp, organized a beach cleanup, and coordinated Youth Night at the Sooke Fine Arts Show. They also expanded on the Youth Friendly Community Project by building relationships with local businesses.



PLAY & LEARN SUMMER CAMP

Now in its 4th year, the Play & Learn Summer Camp of 2014 provided 4 weeks of free literacy education to 25 children ages 6-9.

Due to job action restrictions, the camp facility was moved from Sooke Elementary to the Lazaar Building, across the street from EMCS. Transportation that has previously been provided by SD62 was rented as well. Four teachers and three student assistants were hired, which offered additional support compared to previous years. This allowed for more individual attention for each child, time for coordinators to pick up and drop off vans, and extra eyes on field trips. Due to the generous support of our funders, the EMCS Society raised \$38,000 which covered all these unforeseen expenses and the camp remained free of charge.

Each year, the camp either maintains or improves the reading and math skills of every student. Looking forward, this successful program will expand to include a homework club, and begin to measure physical literacy. As one of the Society's most successful programs, we will also begin to work with stakeholders beyond the Sooke Region to assist others in creating similar programs.



A LOOK INTO THE FUTURE WITH THE Sooke Region Literacy Outreach Coordinator

The Sooke Region Literacy Outreach Coordinator position and the Sooke Region Literacy Project are funded through the generous support of Decoda Literacy Solutions, a non-profit province-wide literacy organization. The project is also supported by School District #62, Sooke Rotary Club, and occasional donations. The project started in 2008 and the programs have grown and shrunk over the years depending on funding and staff continuity. For the 2014-2015 Season, the following programs are underway...

BOOK BINS

There are five Book Bins located throughout Sooke: one at T'Sou-ke Health Office, two at the Sooke Family Resource Society building, one at the Stick in the Mud Coffee Shop and one at SEAPARC. This program gets annual funding from the Sooke Rotary Club as well as book donations from the Vancouver Island Regional Library Sooke Branch and the community. About 150 books per week go out into the community. There are plans to add another Book Bin to the SEAPARC location and possibly one to the lobby of EMCS. Volunteers run this program and they are working with the Girl Guides to do a book drive in the upcoming months.

BOOKS FOR BREAKFAST

This is a preschool story time program that runs once a month in both Sooke and Shirley. There are 12 families currently registered for the Sooke program and six families registered in Shirley. This program started in October and will run until May. Each session runs for an hour including time for parents and children to socialize and play at the end. Multiple stories are read and songs sung according to a particular theme chosen for that month. Snacks and drinks are provided and each family is given a copy of the featured book, which includes a CD of the song that goes with that book.

PORT RENFREW HOMEWORK CLUB

The Sooke Region Literacy Project is providing funding to pay two Teacher Assistants to run this program for three hours a week over the course of 30 weeks. This is a drop-in program to provide support and assistance to students from all grade levels.

Planning is in progress for the following...

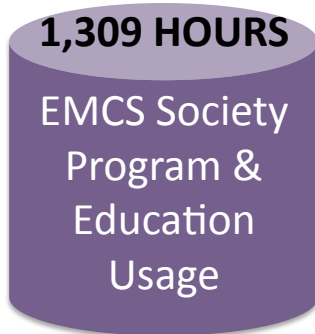
Family Literacy Week (January 25 – 31, 2014)

In cooperation with the Vancouver Island Regional Library Sooke Branch and SEAPARC, we will be organizing a Family Literacy Day that will include cake, a performance, a literacy-based craft (using a button maker) and tips on how families can incorporate literacy activities into their daily lives. Other ongoing literacy programs in the community will be highlighted during that week (i.e. Books for Breakfast, Story Time at the library, Book Bins, etc.). Literacy will also be promoted through a local media and public relations campaign.

Financial Literacy Lecture Series

This idea is in the very early stages of planning. All the financial institutions in Sooke will be invited to participate in offering an evening session on a financial literacy topic such as online banking, Registered Education Savings Plans, credit rating, mortgages. The focus would be on educating the public and not on increasing clientele. This lecture series would run once a month through the Spring and be held in a neutral location, such as the library.

~ Stephanie Croft, Sooke Region Literacy Outreach Coordinator



THEATRE EVENTS

Acting Out Camp – SEAPARC
Kyle Hack Benefit - Kevin Banner
Stand Up Sooke - Kevin Banner
Mamma Mia! Sing Along - EMCS Society
Godspell - Sooke Harbour Players
Mini May Show – Carole Cave
Yuk Yuk's - EMCS Society
Awareness Film Nights - Jo Philips
Community Christmas Concert - Lorna Borkland
Barney Bentall Grand Cariboo Opry - Sooke Food Bank
Seussical the Musical - Four Seasons

2013-2014 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Michael Young	President
Roger Temple	Past President
Loretta Duetscher	Vice President
Jeff Bateman	Secretary
Shawna Yule	Treasurer

DIRECTORS

Carole Cave
Louise Perron
Allison Watson

LIAISONS

Patrick Swinburnson, EMCS Principal
Infinity Logan, Youth Representative
Neil Poirier, School Board Trustee
Margot Swinburnson, School Board Trustee

CONTACT INFORMATION

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