

**SCHOOL DISTRICT #72
CAMPBELL RIVER**

**DISTRICT LITERACY
PLAN**

July 2008

DISTRICT CONTEXT

Campbell River is located on the east coast of central Vancouver Island extending north to Sayward and south to Oyster River. The district also includes the outer islands of Read, Cortes and Quadra.

Serving a population of just under 6,000 students in 20 schools, the district administers a budget of approximately \$47 million. Although the community population has remained stable, an aging demographic has led to a steady decline in student enrolment.

The district has maintained its focus on gains in student achievement and providing its students with a broad array of high quality programs and services.

COMMUNITY DEMOGRAPHICS

- Population of 30,000 with a trading population in the region of 60,000
- An aboriginal population of 3,470 – increasing
- 1.75% of homes are non-English speaking
- 83% dual parent families
- Average family income \$53, 350
- 25% of population below \$30,000 in family income

DISTRICT PROFILE

- 15 elementary schools
- 2 middle schools
- 2 secondary schools
- 1 alternate program
- 2 provincial resource programs (Oasis and Head Start)

LITERACY IN SCHOOL DISTRICT 72

Campbell River has been recognized for many years as a leading district in the province for its work in literacy and early literacy initiatives. The district has been heavily involved in the literacy initiatives developed jointly with the Island Network and Island Literacy. Campbell River was also a lead player in the development of the DART assessment which is becoming a standard of assessment in the region and across the province.

Long term data exists in the district, which will allow for careful consideration of cohort data over time. The district's association with Faye Brownlie and Leyton Schnellert in conjunction with a well established Professional Development program has lead to widespread excellence in best practices instruction and collaborative cultures in schools.

CAMPBELL RIVER LITERACY NOW

Literacy Now Campbell River, is a vibrant and exciting group in our community. Active since September of 2004, the organization has taken responsibility for moving the community literacy agenda forward in the community. Creating links to numerous community organizations including the School District, Literacy Now has developed the Community Literacy plan. Inside the community plan is an excellent overview of the work done by this organization leading up to the completion and recently the implementation of the Community Plan. Attached at the end of this report is a list of community assets in this Community.

“My experience of the Literacy Now initiative, as it has unfolded in Campbell River, is one of hope, anticipation and relief. Hope that together we can make a positive impact on the health of our community in regard not only to literacy levels but, through the literacy lens; really improve the well being of our community as a whole. Anticipation of how the process will unfold. And relief that we finally have a catalyst that has brought us together to embark on this journey of collaboration, of shared energy and insights, and mutual commitment to a vision that feeds the variety of roles we play as individuals in our community. Yippee! The process itself feels like a healthy community”

*Joyce McMann.
The Family Place Coordinator*

TASK GROUP

Name	Organization
Anne Boyd	<i>Chair – Campbell River Literacy Now</i>
Roberta Thompson	Co-Chair – Campbell River Literacy Now
Mandy Dixson	Laichwiltch Family Life Society, Campbell River Community Literacy Association
Vicki Simmons	Campbell River Community Literacy Coordinator.
Judy Brooks	Literacy BC Regional Literacy Coordinator
Lynn Poile	Campbell River Community Literacy Association, Writing Out Loud Facilitator, EDM Teacher
Joyce McMann	A Family Place Coordinator, Family And Children Services
Carol Forbes	Campbell River Community Literacy Association, Literacy Center Coordinator, Literacy BC Board of Directors
Sharon Bollefer	Altrusa President
Brenda Wagman	Success By 6 Coordinator
Kathy Rae	Sunrise Development, Pacific CARE
Janice Nicklin	North Island College, Adult Basic Education
Diane Newman	NIC, Librarian
Leah Tremain	Campbell River Community Literacy Association, Read TV Productions
Thomas Connor	Incredibly Cute 3 year old
Jo-Anne Windsor	Altrusa Literacy Coordinator
Lynne Stone	North Island Constituency
Elaine Julian	Vancouver Island Regional Library
Lisa Scalapino	Understanding the Early Years Coordinator
Colleen Ferguson	NIC, ABE Instructor

This team worked together to help develop the Community Literacy Plan, always keeping the community at large informed.

An excellent example of the collaboration within the organizations in the community is the Aboriginal Success by 6 project. Success by 6, School District 72, and Campbell River Literacy Now, are working with “At Risk” youth to create a DVD of community elders telling stories of the past for young children. Not only does this project connect the youth with the elders and develop new skills in the youth, it creates a record of the elders’ stories that can be used in Aboriginal communities to strengthen the development of young children.

A. PROGRESS TO DATE

The number 1 goal of the School District 72 achievement contract is to improve the reading and writing levels of all students in the district. This goal is supported by many initiatives in the district and aligns well with the pillars of Read Now BC. Some examples of these initiatives are:

Improving the Number of Children who read successfully: *

- Maintaining the Literacy support teacher to directly support the spread of best practice instruction across the district.
- Developing a planning guide to support the Assessment for learning of the DART Assessment.
- Supporting teachers and schools in planning instruction based on early assessments
- Implementing 6 week check-ins with all schools to monitor progress of students
- Literacy teacher leaders will be supported in district schools.
- Staff teams from schools focusing on writing will be supported by attending the Leadership Academy sessions with Faye Brownlie this year.
- Promote best instructional practices in developing strategies for literacy in IEP's for special needs students.
- Expand the use of AVID strategies across school staffs.
- Develop exemplars of student writing that can be shared with schools and posted on the district website so that it is accessible to the community as well.
- District wide writing assessments at Grades 2, 5, and 8 with an emphasis on developing cohort data that will indicate relative success of interventions and instructional plans
- Begin oral language screening in Kindergarten and provide interventions as necessary through SLP's.
- Provide inservice in schools on oral language curriculum.

Improving the number of Aboriginal students who read successfully: *

- Continue the operation of the three extended day kindergartens – providing rich environments for language development and exposure to literacy experiences.
- Schools through formative assessments will identify at-risk aboriginal students and develop intervention plans for improving the achievement of identified students.
- Literacy and Aboriginal support teachers will visit all schools together to assess suitability and availability of resources to support aboriginal student reading.
- Continue extensive support for Aboriginal Literacy through ESD programs in all schools.
- Staff schools with proportionate teaching assignments targeted to aboriginal learners.

*** Each of these strategies and structures are found in the School District 72 Achievement Contract.**

The remaining two pillars of the Read Now BC are also evident within the district and the community which are: the number of children entering school ready to learn; and the number of adults who have literacy with essential skills necessary to compete in today's labour market and to function in everyday life. The district supports these two pillars in the following ways:

- School District 72 is a full partner in the development of Literacy Now Campbell River – a local literacy program with the Vision Statement: ***Campbell River Literacy Now is dedicated to providing quality inter-generational literacy experiences to enable all citizens to reach their goals.***
- Beginning in September of 2004, a working group has gathered on a regular basis to formulate a strong community plan. Representing early literacy in this group are such organizations as: School District 72, Campbell River Community Literacy Association, Laichwiltach Family Life Society, Literacy BC Regional Coordinator, A Family Place – Family and Children Services, Success by Six, Campbell River Community Literacy Association, Altrusa, Sunrise Development – Pacific CARE, Vancouver Island Regional Library Branch Manager, and Understanding the Early years.
- The goals of this working group are:
 1. To increase awareness in the community of both literacy issues and resources, including increasing the access to existing programs;
 2. To create new programs to provide support for underserved groups in the community.

By working into the future in the collaborative manner in which the Community Literacy plan has developed, the literacy leaders in the Campbell River community and the School District 72 team will be able to coordinate efforts so that we may all maximize the use of and access to, the many literacy resources in the community. Through our ongoing collaboration, we will strengthen the preparedness for success of pre-school students for entering kindergarten by:

- promoting the community resources that are available.
- continuing to develop and support initiatives like Head Start and Strong Start and our extended day Kindergarten programs.
- enhancing the connections between pre-school families and our schools through expansion of our Ready, Set, Learn programs.
- through coordinated efforts between the school district and the many community agencies that are actively engaged in promoting success in all ways for the youngest and most at risk members of our community.

As previously stated, School District 72 has been actively involved with these community literacy activities and goals for the past several years – this involvement forms the basis of our Community Literacy Plan.

RECENT PROGRESS – June 2008

1. **Quadra Island** – February – Literacy Now Grant application approved by committee. Discussion on Community Action Plan and Literacy Action Plan took place. Committee solidly in place and moving forward.
 - During the spring, lunch hour meetings took place at Quadra school. The Quadra committee has now received their planning funding. They are working with the school to consider the greatest needs. Some focus will certainly be given to students in the upper intermediate grades.
 - A community scan is underway to gather input from all sectors of the community.

2. **Sayward** – February - Committee formed to send application for planning funds to Legacies 2010 regarding funding for community projects. An excellent team is in place and discussions will move forward.
 - The focus of the community committee in Sayward is in the early years. The school district is looking at how we can further support this focus.
 - A Strong Start BC Center has been approved for Sayward. We will fast track the set up so that the center can open in September 2008 to support the community focus in this area.
 - Opportunities to collaborate with the community on a pre-school are also being considered.

3. **Cortes Island** – has a committee in place and is preparing their application for planning funds. There is a large community contingent attending the Community Literacy meetings, including school staff.
 - The connection between the community and the school is growing as a result of a concerted effort by the staff of the school. In fact – this is a significant part of the student success plan at the school.
 - The shared focus of the community group and the school, at this time, is a focus on adolescents, where there is limited programming or support within the community.
 - The committee has generated a long list of areas to explore as they begin their community scan.

4. **Campbell River** - a number of current projects need mention.
 - The Aboriginal DVD project is providing meaningful application of school skills for some disenfranchised students to create DVD's of lessons from the Aboriginal elders focussed on important learning for very young children. This collaboration between the School District, the Aboriginal Community and Literacy Now Campbell River, is working in a cross generational way to serve the elders, the youth, and the very young children.
 - The City of Campbell River has recently announced its Crime Prevention strategy citing Literacy as a critical component of its plan. This will help

the School District engage with the municipal government in positive ways to mutually support literacy needs in the community.

- Training was recently provided for 9 home day care operators in the community to help provide them with insight into the needs of early learners. The community and the school district as well as Success By 6 and Understanding the Early Years, collaborated to help provide these operators with materials and strategies to use with the young children who receive services in these homes. The training was highly valued by the participants and the collaboration was very positive amongst the community groups.

B. ANTICIPATED NEXT STEPS

1. All of the processes and projects reported above will continue to move forward.
2. Plans are underway to do a large collaborative project between Literacy Now, School District 72, and Success by 6 for family literacy in January of 2009.
3. Some form of collaborative project connected to Ready Set Learn is under development for the winter and spring of the next school year which will give an educational focus to the community health fairs that take place in the community.
4. We will continue to build the collaboration between the communities of Cortes, Quadra, and Sayward as we move forward in working with the community committees.

REPORTING

1. An electronic copy of the plan was forwarded to : Educ.Literacy@gov.bc.ca by July 15, 2008.

Literacy Assets List as prepared by Literacy Now Spring 2005 and reviewed Spring 2008.

1. Perinatal and Prenatal

- Campbell River Family Services (CRFS) – Pregnancy Outreach
- Campbell River Family Services (CRFS) – New Beginings Program
- Campbell River Family Services (CRFS) – Post Natal Drop In
- Campbell River Family Services (CRFS) – Babies Best Chance
- Campbell River Family Services (CRFS) – Nobody’s Perfect
- Laichwiltach Family Life Society (LFLS) – Healthy Babies Group
- Laichwiltach Family Life Society (LFLS) – Mother Earth Learning Circle
- Sunrise Resources for Early Childhood Development – IDP
- Campbell River Parks and Recreation – Baby Time, Toddler Time
- Birthright
- Options to Sexual Health
- Vancouver Island Health Authority, Triple P Parenting Group

2. Birth to Five Years

- Campbell River Family Services (CRFS) - Creating Healthy Families
- Campbell River Family Services (CRFS) – Family Tree Drop In
- Campbell River Family Services (CRFS) – The Family Place
- Campbell River Parks and Recreation (CRFS) – Twins/Triplets
- Campbell River Parks and Recreation (CRFS) – Evening Family Place in the park
- Campbell River Parks and Recreation (CRFS) – Preschool
- Laichwiltach Family Life Society (LFLS) – Parent and Tot
- Laichwiltach Family Life Society (LFLS) – ECD Program
- Laichwiltach Family Life Society (LFLS) - Aboriginal Head Start Program
- Quinsam Aboriginal Headstart Program
- John Howard Society, School District 72, Community Links Parent and Tot
- Vancouver Island Regional Library – Storytime
- School District 72 Achieve BC – Ready, Set, Learn
- Read – TV
- Ministry of Children and Family
- PacificCARE
- Sunrise Resources for Early Childhood development
- Francophone Society
- Campbell River Community Literacy Association – Story Corner
- Success by 6
- UEY – Understanding the Early Years.

3. Kindergarten to Grade 3

- Campbell River Parks and Recreation (CRFS) – Preschool
- John Howard Society, School District 72 – Community LINKS
- Campbell River Literacy Association – Learning Partners
- Willow Point After School Program
- Campbell River Band
- Haig Brown House
- Laichwiltach Family Life Society (LFLS) – After School Boys and Girls Club
- School District 72

4. Grades 4 – 7

- John Howard Society – Community Links
- School District 72
- Battle of the Books – Grade 3-6 School District 72
- Red Cedar – VIRL

5. Grades 8 – 12

- John Howard Society – Headstart
- John Howard Society – YCJA Youth and Family Support
- John Howard Society – Youth Programs, Youth Employment, Independent Living Services
- Laichwiltach Family Life Society – Youth and Family Outreach Support
- Laichwiltach Family Life Society – After School Youth Program
- Campbell River Parks and Recreation – Youth Programs and Teen Center
- School District 72

6. Young Adults

- NIEFS – various programs
- Sprott Shaw Community College
- Job Wave
- Mosaic Training Solutions
- Academy of Learning
- Discovery Community College
- Destinations
- Excel Career College

7. Adults

- Continuing Education
- North Island College – Adult Basic Education, ESL
- Laichwiltach Family Life Society, SD72, CRCLA Adult Literacy Program
- School District 72 Continuing Education – Adult Literacy Program
- Campbell River Community Literacy Association – Tutor training, Family Literacy
- Campbell River Community Literacy Association – School District 72, Homalko – Learning Partners
- Multicultural and Immigrant Services Association
- Opportunities
- Campbell River Women’s Society
- Needles Art Center

8. Seniors

- Multicultural and Immigrant Services Association – English Conversation
- Campbell River Parks and Recreation – Happy Wanderers
- NIC Elder College
- Mental Health Center – Changeways for Seniors