



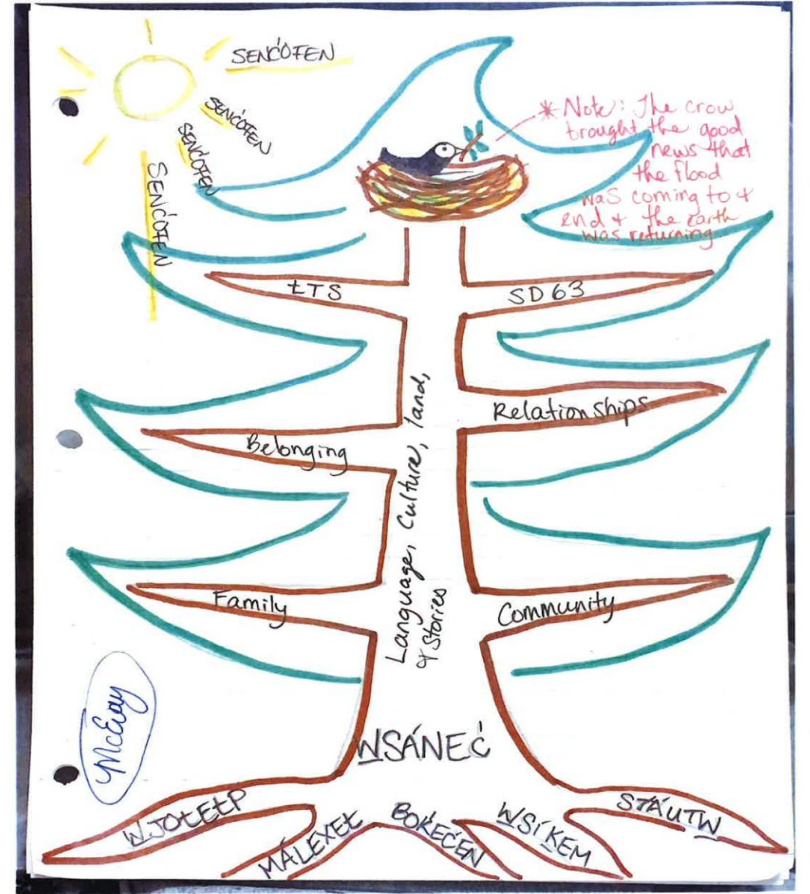
SANICH SCHOOLS



I would like to acknowledge and thank the W̱SÁNEĆ people on whose traditional territory, W̱JOŁEŁP, W̱SÍ,KEM, S̱Á,EU,TW and BÓKEĆEN nations, we live, learn, work and play. The W̱SÁNEĆ people have lived on these traditional territories since time immemorial. Early Learning is all about place, where children and adults learn alongside our Indigenous knowledge keepers.



Saanich Schools -SD 63 Systems Map





SD 63 Systems Map Details:

- From our many discussions, participants each sketched a tree to represent ideas about our unique Systems Map in W̱SÁNEĆ.
- The CHILD and Language Nest is at the centre of our tree, anchored and supported by the roots (the Nations, W̱JOLELP, W̱SÍ,KEM, S̱TÁ,EU,TW and BOKEĆEN) the tree branches (ŁÁU, WELNEW Tribal School, neighbourhoods and families, school district and public schools, community programs, and Early Learning Centres).
- Sarah Elliott, an artist from the W̱SÁNEĆ community, will take our ideas and make a final representation of our tree.
- We must recognize and honour the gift of SENĆOŦEN language to our school district. Language is a vital part of the W̱SÁNEĆ people. They are also sharing their culture, land and stories with us.
- Reciprocity between our public school and Language Nest teachers and students is SO important. What can we give back? We can work to share, liaise, communicate, and build relationships and connections between the public and Immersion schools and communities.
- All cultures are valued and respected.



QR Cards to make
language more visible in
our schools.

STOŁES, ÁUTW
Learning Commons / Library



QR Card




SENĆOFEN
Number Cards
for K classes

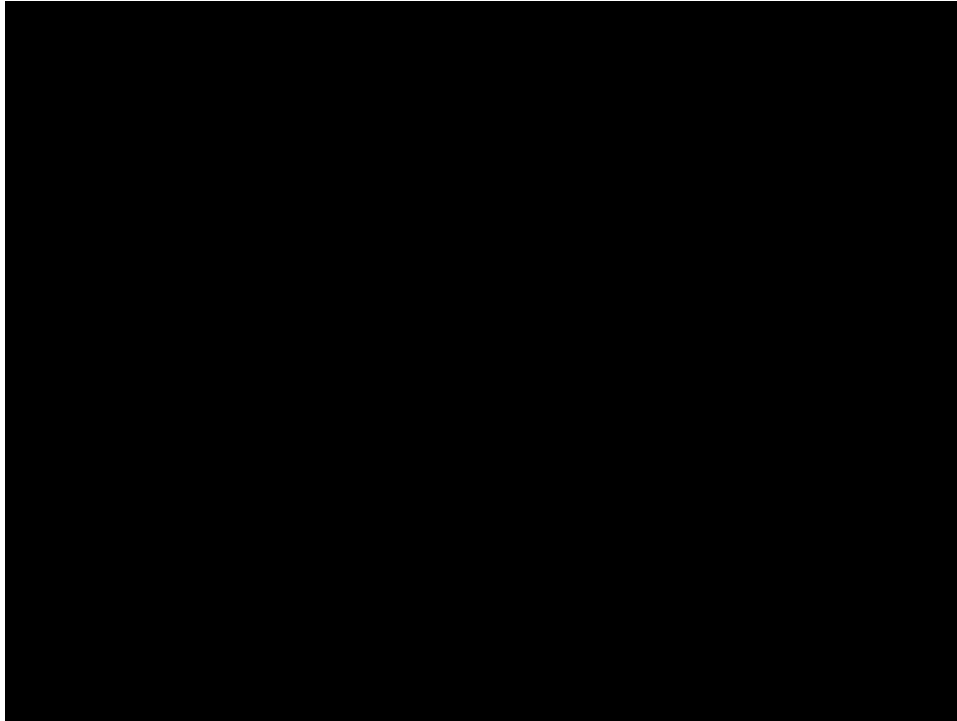


SENĆOŦEN Language
Teacher: Lorelei McEvay





SENĆOŦEN
Number Lesson



Early Years
Learning
package for Head
Starts and
Language
Nest students

5 Parent
Videos
accompany the
materials





Other Considerations:



Diverse Learning Resources are being created:

- Island Literacy books - translated into SENĆOŦEN
- Welcome to K paddle project
- SENĆOŦEN games and number cards for all K classes
- Early Learning packages and parent videos for Head Start and ŁÁU, WELNEW Language Nest preschoolers

For Next Year:

- "Wonderfull Me" preschooler poster
- participation in CHEQ for September 2021
- expand our team to include Head Start and Strong Start ECEs and Kindergarten teacher



Enhancement Agreement and SD Strategic Plans:

Do our SEY2K goals fit with the Saanich Enhancement Agreement goals and the Strategic Plan?

- Themes:** Student Success, Diversity and Inclusion and Relationships and Partnerships
- Goals:** increased understanding and respect for Indigenous cultures and history
- Equity for all students - resources and opportunities (diverse literacy materials)
- support for Indigenous learners
- sense of belonging for all students



Strengths and Barriers:



Strengths:

building relationships

communication with school and community partners

mutual respect for language, history and culture

SENĆOŦEN language is more visible in our schools

children are engaged in SENĆOŦEN language learning and culture

teachers are motivated to learn too

Barriers:

knowledge and awareness of the Indigenous community is not wide-reaching yet

Desire to weave Indigenous Ways of Knowing into our everyday school lives - not there yet

Language barrier - not enough SENĆOŦEN language teachers

Systemic racism - people still question why we teach SENĆOŦEN language, culture and stories



Closing Quote:

“Language is obviously central to human life, allowing people to communicate information, wants, and needs. The knowledge and wisdom embedded in language sometimes gets less credit. The knowledge of medicinal plants. Information about the land and sea. Traditional knowledge and teachings that are embraced in a language’s words and phrases. (Haley Healey, Flourishing and Free: Trail Blazing Women of Vancouver Island. Barbara Touchie: Language Champion).

This quote ties directly to words of wisdom from Janice Elliott, our Language Nest Educator. She believes language is everything, preserving culture and traditions.

