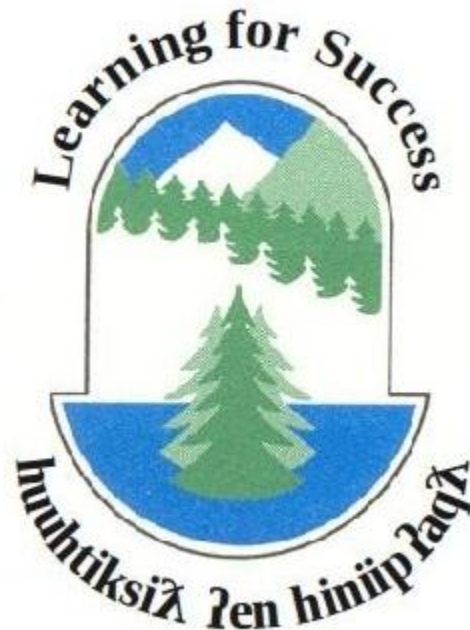


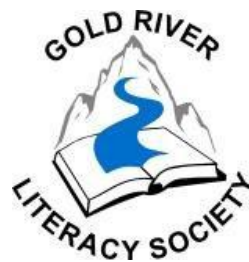
Vancouver Island West School District 84

District Literacy Plan

July 2014



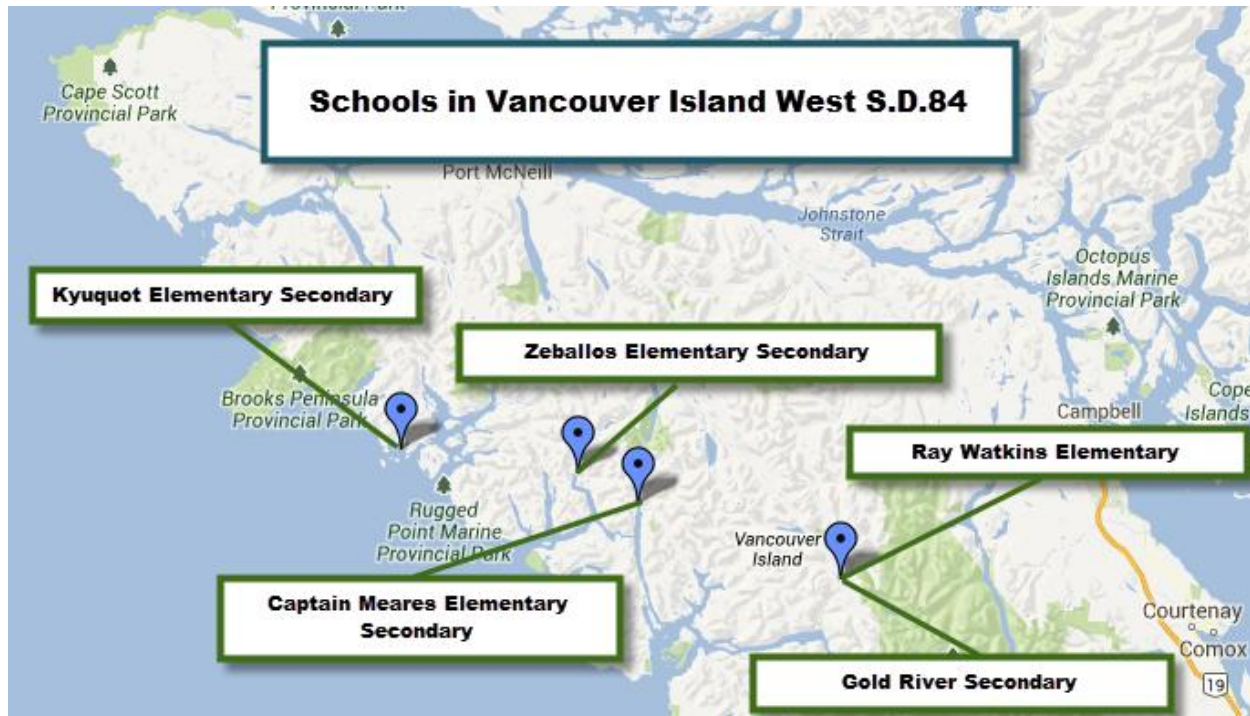
TAHSIS LITERACY
SOCIETY



Zeballos Literacy Group

School District Information:

Vancouver Island West School District 84 is a small, rural school district serving 408 FTE students in five schools.



School Name	Community	Grades	Student FTE (Sept. 2013)
Captain Meares Elementary Secondary School (CMESS)	Tahsis	K-12	58
Kyuquot Elementary Secondary School (KESS)	Kyuquot	1-12	43
Gold River Secondary School	Gold River	8-12	113
Ray Watkins Elementary School	Gold River	K-7	139
Zeballos Elementary Secondary School	Zeballos	K-12	55

Vancouver Island West School District 84 serves a diverse range of learners:

	# of Students	% of Total Students
Aboriginal	181	49%
English as a Second Dialect	69	16%
Special Needs	73	19%

District Mission Statement:

In partnership with our diverse communities, School District 84 will provide all students with a quality education relevant to the demands of a modern society.

The District Literacy Plan follows the guiding principles of this mission statement through the commitment to work in partnership with communities to provide for the learning needs of all.

District Literacy Programs:

One of Vancouver Island West School District 84's primary goals, as outlined in the Achievement Contract, is to improve student literacy. To support this goal, School District 84 provides a range of programs to support literacy for all students. In K-12, students receive classroom instruction to develop literacy, and a variety of supports are available to students requiring additional support. The district has been pleased to participate in the provincial Changing Results for Young Readers initiative, which has been a powerful learning experience for the students and teachers involved. In our second year of Changing Results for Young Readers, the number of teacher participants doubled, allowing this powerful learning opportunity expand to nearly every primary classroom in the school district. Vancouver Island West has also partnered with Dr. Janet Mort in our Vulnerable Readers Project. This project is aimed at ensuring that every child is reading by the time (s)he leaves the primary grades. Throughout the year, primary teachers have gathered to examine research on effective literacy instruction and collaboratively plan to put the research into action in the classroom.

Outside of K-12, the district strives to support the needs of both very young and adult learners. To support the critical early learning years, Vancouver Island West operates a multi-centre StrongStart Outreach program in the communities of Gold River and Zeballos. StrongStart provides quality early learning experiences for parents and children ages 0-5. Between the two centres, StrongStart reaches over 50 registered students. To help meet the needs of adult learners, School District 84 provides the Continuing Education Centre; this program is currently helping 17 adult learners achieve their Adult Dogwood diplomas.

Community Literacy Programs

Community literacy is supported by three community literacy organizations: the Gold River Literacy Society, the Tahsis Literacy Society, and the Zeballos Literacy Group. Through the hard work of the community literacy coordinators and community volunteers, these organizations strive to improve the literacy rate in each of their communities. In the community reports that follow, some of the common themes from the community literacy groups are:

- partnerships (with schools, libraries, businesses, and other community agencies)
- community capacity building
- providing access to services for families, adults, and seniors
- providing books for community members

Through these endeavors, the community literacy organizations in Gold River, Tahsis and Zeballos are doing excellent work in supporting the development of literacy in their communities.



District Literacy Report – 2014 – Gold River

The Gold River Literacy Society is the task group in our communities of Gold River and Tsaxana. It is composed of three directors, nine members and one literacy outreach coordinator.

Directors:

Cathy Nesbitt (retired teacher)

Sandra Reynolds (teacher)

Stefanie Cunningham (speech and language)

Members

Pat Buzit (retired)

Ann Henkelman (Circulation Supervisor, VIRL Gold River)

Arlene Fehr (principal, GRSS)

Barnabus Howard (chef, member of MMFN)

Roz Latvala (teacher)

Janis Franklin (retired)

Travis Lapointe (teacher/counselor)

Jessie Smith (retired teacher)

Stephen Larre (district principal)

Carrie Tarasoff (Literacy Outreach Coordinator)

The task group meets eleven times each year. The Literacy Outreach Coordinator (LOC) reports on the activities of the Gold River Literacy Society. The LOC organizes literacy-related activities in both the community and the Resource Centre. Reports on these events are provided at monthly meetings. Task group members participate in and support these activities. The task group provides the LOC with direction on the overall goals of the GRLS.

The LOC writes a report based on answers to the guiding questions, using notes from meeting minutes, emails, and other discussions with the task group. This report is presented at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in June. The directors also present a report at the AGM. These two reports are amalgamated to become the community literacy plan.

Gold River and Tsaxana have experienced a decrease in economic activities in our area. A local mill dismissed over ten people. Gold River residents continue to support each other through volunteer work and fundraisers for people in need. Other community groups are working with the GRLS to support literacy in our community.

The GRLS has collaborated with a number of organizations in order to support literacy in our community. GRLS collaborated with Ray Watkins Elementary School (RWES) in order to host a book giveaway and learning activities for Family Literacy Day. This year, we invited the students to visit the GRLS Resource Centre for '15 Minutes of Fun.' The GRLS received a generous donation of books from First Books Canada. GRLS gave most of these books to children at RWES.

The Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nations (MMFN) welcome the LOC to the Agnes George Preschool to present a Mother Goose program on a weekly basis. Community parents and children are also welcome to attend. The LOC and volunteers were invited to give out books as part of Books For Treats at the MMFN Halloween Party. The LOC also visited the Adult Learning Centre for Essential Skills Day activities. Students and visitors participated in a variety of activities that tested and developed the nine essential skills. All participants received a free book.

The Vancouver Island Regional Library continues to provide resources and support to the GRLS programs. GRLS receives copies of The Westcoast Reader from VIRL. Gold River branch Circulation Supervisor, Ann Henkelman, continues as an active member of the GRLS.

Students from Gold River Secondary School volunteer at GRLS events. GRLS hosted a book giveaway at the high school as part of their fun activities on Thursday, December 19, 2013. The LOC provides tutoring and mentoring services to a GRSS Grade 12 student. GRSS lent us their projector for a special event.

A Raise a Reader grant was used to provide literacy activities for families. This year, the grant provided a much-needed and well-received Nobody's Perfect Parenting support group. GRLS was able to provide support sessions, childcare, snacks, and resources to parents and families. Local restaurants, Gold River Northgate Church, VIRL, and BC Council for Families contributed to the success of this program. We hope to provide another session in the fall of 2014.

Campbell River groups also support the work of the GRLS. Coho Books continues to support GRLS by offering discounts on all purchases. The GRLS hosted two interagency meetings that are supported by Success By Six. Children services providers from Campbell River, Gold River, and Tsaxana attend these meetings to share resources and information.

In conjunction with PC Trainer, a local computer training business, GRLS has offered seven weekend computer workshops. Adults, and especially seniors, have benefited from these workshops. Their confidence and ability in using technology has increased.

In conjunction with the Heritage Society of Tahsis and the Tahsis Literacy task group, we were able to welcome David Esson Young to our community. Mr. Young is the author of *The Uchuck Years: A Westcoast Shipping Saga*. Mr. Young presented a slide show and talk about his time on the west coast of Vancouver Island. This was our first author visit and a very successful collaboration with the groups in Tahsis.

This year, we were also able to host Barb Round, Certified Zentangle Teacher. Barb taught an introductory Zentangle workshop to fourteen adults and one child. Students learned a new art form and relaxation skill. We hope to have Barb return to Gold River in the future.

The GRLS supports adult students who are working on the Adult Dogwood through School District 84. We continue to work with NIEFS (North Island Employment) to support job seekers in Gold River. The Northgate Church frequently lends the GRLS chairs at no charge. All of these relationships are key to the work of the task group.

We continue our focus on building long-term relationships rather than single events. These collaborations work because people are able to see the results grow over time. Continued relationships are necessary in order to build trust and engage others in pursuing literacy goals for our community. For example, when fishing license requirements recently changed, local organizations and businesses turned to the GRLS for help with the new online process.

During the past year, we continued to provide literacy support to adult learners through our drop in, tutoring, writing, and reading programs. We provide supported computer access to people in our community. We support job seekers with job searching, resume writing, and application procedures. We have also been able to proctor exams for people at no charge to the student.

We continue to have our office in the Village Plaza. This location has caused our drop-in attendance to rise considerably, by as much as nine times! We participated in a Gold River Days Book Giveaway and Open House in order to promote literacy. We gave away over 65 books to 100 adults and children who stopped by during the 'Party in the Plaza'.

We have continued our newsletter, publishing 10 issues per year. The newsletter has become a key component in our communication with our community. Many people look forward to the new issue every month. The newsletter also gives local writers a chance to share their work. Copies are sent by readers throughout Vancouver Island, British Columbia, and even as far away as France.

As we continue to promote family literacy, we have maintained our afterschool Lego and Literacy programs and Grandparents Raising Grandchildren group. Our Grandparents Group provides much needed support to people dealing with raising their young grandchildren. Much has changed over the last twenty years and through our Grandparents Group, we have been able to guide people through the

mounds of paperwork and legalities, online forms, FASD, and more. The group members also provide support and encouragement to each other.

The GRLS holds four book giveaways per year: Books for Treats on Halloween, in both Gold River and Tsaxana; Winter Fun Day at Gold River Secondary School; Family Literacy Day at RWES; and a Gold River Days book giveaway. Through these events, we are able to connect with people who may not choose to attend a literacy event but were happy to enjoy some fun while trick or treating, in the park, or at school. We share about these events through our website (www.grliteracy.com), our Facebook page, and our community newsletter.

The primary way that we know our actions are working to support literacy is through community feedback. The responses we have received to our afterschool program, grandparents' group, and newsletter have been very positive. We began with Excel training sessions and now, due to requests, have covered a variety of other computer topics and programs. We have had an increase in the number of inquiries as well as an increase in volunteers.

Our book giveaways are a tremendous blessing to our community. In addition to our regularly scheduled book giveaways, we always have books available (free) at our GRLS Resource Centre. Adults and children are so grateful to receive a new book. We also have had an increase in the number of people donating books to us for future giveaways.

Good communication, volunteers, funding, and collaboration support literacy work. It is important to have a Literacy Outreach Coordinator in order to ensure that people's efforts and financial support are put to the most effective use. In our current large space, we have been able to host meetings of many different groups. We strive to be a hub where people can talk about literacy and all types of learning. In our location, people can find us; we are in the same mall as the grocery store, liquor store, and post office. We continue to be active in promoting a connection between the communities of Gold River and Tsaxana.

Our most difficult challenge is meeting the needs of the community. We are the immigrant centre, job centre, adult education centre, computer training centre, grandparents' group, drop in centre, writing workshop, neighbourhood place, family literacy supporter, and more all in one little place. When we thought we were losing our funding in its entirety, we realized that so much more than an LOC position would have been lost. Through the LOC, we provide all of these services to our community. There is nowhere else to go for these, unless you are willing to drive for anywhere from one to three hours.

It is imperative that our LOC funding be maintained. Our community has come to appreciate and depend on the services that are provided through the GRLS. With little in the way of big business in Gold River, we are unable to provide financial support this work locally. By concentrating all of our services in one location, government funding gets a big bang for its buck.

In the coming year, we will emphasize our goal of promoting adult literacy. We will continue to offer supported computer use and our computer training workshops. We will also add supports for parents

and grandparents. We will act as a liaison with the various formal education providers and the adult learners in our community.

We will need ongoing support from Decoda Literacy Solutions. We need continued LOC and other funding. We value, not only financial support, but also resource sharing, advice and information. We need the continued support and commitment of our volunteers. Our task group is necessary to provide direction and assistance. Our collaborations will continue to grow. By working together, we can improve literacy in our communities.



TAHSIS LITERACY SOCIETY

Tahsis Literacy Society

Year End Report - June 30, 2014

This report is being prepared on behalf of the Tahsis Literacy Society to document the work completed to date according to our Literacy Action Plan.

The Tahsis Literacy Society meets on the last Monday of every month at the Tahsis Recreation Centre Common Room. Free swimming is provided to encourage families to participate in the meetings.

The Tahsis Literacy Society Board consists of 6 members as follows:

Anne Cameron, President (local author)

Elsie Horvath, Vice-President

April Roth, Secretary-Treasurer

Debbie Vansolkema – Director

Kim Anderson – Director

Sarah Fowler – Director

Quarterly, the Tahsis Literacy Society produces a community newsletter that is distributed to all mail boxes. The newsletter outlines various forthcoming activities as well as invites community members to join the society and/or offer their skills through the group.

Every year the Tahsis Literacy Society supports Tahsis Days. Each year the group is creative in their ways to engage the community and encourage participation. This year we offered supplies and support for all the children in the community to decorate their bicycles for the parade.

In October, and again in March, the Tahsis Literacy Society sponsored Gareth Hurlwood, a Celtic musician to work with community members. Gareth brought with him a vehicle of instruments and the willingness to share his talents. The community was invited to an evening of listening to Gareth play his instruments, sing a long and a play along if they brought their instruments. Gareth stayed in the community for a week and offered an open house every day and evening that he was in town. Many residents took him up on the offer to learn how to play their instrument and more so, learn how to read music.

Every year the Tahsis Literacy Day recognizes Family Literacy Day with PJ's and Board games at the local library.

This year, the Tahsis Literacy Society worked with many new volunteers in the community. The first was local carver, Chris Dobranski. TLS offered 2 soap stone carving workshops. TLS ordered kits that included soap stone, tools and instructions. The group worked twice per week for 4 weeks to produce an amazing soap stone polar bear. The class was so popular, TLS offered the class a second time.

TLS introduced the idea of Zentangle to the community of Tahsis. Zentangle is an enjoyable and uplifting art form for all ages and skill levels. TLS brought in an instructor from out of town for 2 days of workshops free to the community. These classes were well attended.

In April, TLS worked with the Gold River Literacy Group to bring the author David Esson Young to the area. Mr. Young wrote the book called, "Uchuck Years". This event started with a potluck dinner, then a presentation by the author, followed by coffee and refreshments and book signing.

The Tahsis Literacy Society fully supports the news developed Tahsis Senior Centre. TLS purchased new books from a local bookstore to start a library resource area within the Senior Centre. The Tahsis Literacy Society also wrote 2 letters throughout the year to support various grants that the Senior Centre were applying for.

In April, the Tahsis Literacy Society completed their first Canada Council Grant with the intent of bringing local authors to the community. Also, this month, TLS sponsored the Adult Twang Gang. The Twang Gang is a group of Adults that meet weekly to practice playing musical instruments with a retired music

teacher. The group learns how to read and play music. In return, the twang gang performs at local events including Grad.

The Tahsis Literacy Society was pleased to offer Ukrainian Easter Egg Decorating. A new volunteer stepped forward and was willing to share her skills. TLS offered a youth class and an adult class. Community members were responsible for bringing 6 eggs and the rest was provided. Participants were given instructions and patterns to follow.

TLS always participates in the Christmas and Spring Bazaar. At the Christmas Bazaar, TLS raffled a computer. At the Spring Bazaar, TLS provided all the material for residents to learn and practice Zentangle.

All throughout the year, TLS sponsored a youth reading group. A volunteer in the community, met with the youth, choose a book and arranged future meetings. The volunteer also purchased the books for the following month.

The year wrapped up with a local resident willing to tutor our youth. This opportunity was well accepted by both parties. The initial arrangement was made by the TLS coordinator and the following meeting days were then arranged between both parties. The learning took place in our TLS Resource Centre.

In the future, TLS plans on offering more classes to the community to improve employability skills. This includes a first aid course in the fall. Other plans include building a tutor relationship within the community and building long-term relationships with various organizations.

Corinne Vansolkema

Tahsis Literacy Coordinator



Zeballos Literacy Group

PO Box 128 Zeballos, BC
V0P 2A0 250 761 4227

June 23, 2014

Zeballos Literacy Group Vision Statement

To build capacity within our communities of lifelong learners...

With consultation and guidance from our stakeholders, ZLG continues to seek out and facilitate literacy solutions at the community level. Along with the continuing programs we were pleased to introduce three new initiatives this year.

Continuing Education continues to be a popular program, with several students both in Zeballos and in Kyuquot actively engaged in the pursuit of their Adult Dogwood. Zeballos celebrated one graduate this year, congratulations to David Miller of Ehatis. We look forward to a very busy year next year as several students from both communities completed a good portion of their graduation requirements this year.

Tuesday Tutoring is a new initiative introduced this year. Our thanks go out to Elise Cha, Brittany Lum and Jon Christall for sharing their time and expertise to help adult students with their coursework. Though at times poorly attended, there were an equal number of times when the conference table was full of laughter, enthusiasm and productivity.

With the increase in the number of residential units (10+) made available at Ehatis this year, we saw a huge increase in the number of pre-school age children and their parents participating in the Ages and Stages screening program. Last year, less than ten children participated, while this year 18 children were seen. We expect this number to climb again next year as even more families have since returned to our communities.

We would like to extend our thanks to Jackie Jack from NTC who came to our village to facilitate three Aboriginal Family Literacy Days (AbPals). Jackie provided activities and materials designed to encourage and facilitate early literacy in the home. Strong Start provided the facility as well as lunch for all participants. These events were well attended, often to room capacity.

A complete list of programs supported by ZLG is attached. Thank you for your support.

Kim Johnson

Literacy Outreach Coordinator, Zeballos



Zeballos Literacy Group

Adult Education

Continuing Education

Partners: SD84/LOC

The Adult Dogwood Program is a continuing program (2011) being offered through SD84 Continuing Education located in the Zeballos Secondary School Library and Kyuquot Elementary Secondary School. Successful students receive their graduation certificates upon completion of 5 courses. Prior learning assessments are completed and credit awarded for work/career experience, post-secondary learning, workplace training and certificates.

Tuesday Tutoring

Partners: ZESS/LOC/Community Volunteers

Several teachers from our community generously volunteer their time and expertise every Tuesday night to support and encourage our Continuing Education students. Students seeking their Adult Dogwood are able to connect with teachers for individual support in Math, English and Accounting.

Preschool

Ages and Stages

Partners: Strong Start/LOC/NTC

This early intervention screening program provides parents with an opportunity to see how their children are developing in areas such as speech, physical ability, social skills and problem-solving. Questionnaires completed by parents help identify their child's strengths as well as any areas where support may be needed.

Aboriginal Parents as Literacy Supporters (PALS)

Partners: NTC/Strong Start/LOC

This year we were pleased to introduce the Aboriginal PALS program to families of pre-school age children through our Strong Start facility. This program offers early literacy support and resources that promote school readiness with activities that transition readily into the home. Thank you to Jackie Jack of the Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council for graciously attending our community to facilitate and to Florence John for hosting.



Zeballos Literacy Group

Kindergarten-Secondary

Guided Reading Program

Partners: ZESS/LOC

This is a continuing program (2011) designed to enhance student success in both reading and writing. Students in grades K-7 are divided into small groups where they are guided by a trained staff member through levelled materials. This configuration affords the student a more individualized and accessible support system.

Home Reading Program

Partners: ZESS /Strong Start/LOC

The Home Reading Program is a continuing program (2013) that encourages all students to share the joy of reading, connecting and learning at home with family and friends. Levelled books are sent home each day in Home Reading Club book bags along with book marks that provide interactive suggestions for adult participants. Upon return the following morning, the book title is recorded on the bag and a new book put in its place. HRC book bags have become *Bags of Honor* as the students amass titles and realize pride in their accomplishments!

Library Volunteer Program

Partners: ZESS/LOC

Mentorship was the catalyst for this program in which senior students provide leadership to elementary students as they familiarize themselves and the younger students with library systems as well as support their group through the various tasks associated with classroom library maintenance. This platform also provides an opportunity for the younger students to take ownership of their classroom library trolley and its presentation while expanding their knowledge of the literary world.

Staff Training/ Workshops

Partners: ZESS/LOC

Zeballos Literacy Group continues to support ZESS staff training wherever possible, i.e., purchasing materials, maintaining a professional library.

Seniors

Zeballos Literacy Group partners with the Zeballos Public Library to provide a computer and internet access for community patrons. A Kobo Reader has also been made available for the convenience of patrons who require large print.