



FALL 2012



Inside this issue:

Message from the Board	2
Bowen Island	3
Human Eyes Project	4
Coombs Museum	8
ACEbc Conference	9
ACEbc Membership	13
The Volunteer Project in James Bay	15
Roots of Empathy on the Sunshine Coast	17

Community Connections on Bowen Island

How do you remember, and how would you like to be remembered?

These were two of the questions that grade 6/7 *outside45* (O45) students explored on Thursday November 1 as part of a special Remembrance Day **Community Connections** program.

The **Community Connections** program has been developed for *outside45* by teacher and Vice-Principal Scott Slater and Community School Coordinator Sarah Haxby to integrate the school into the community, and the community into the school. It is one example of how Bowen Island Community School is working towards its school **goals** and is an active **Community School**.



Community Connections combines social responsibility, service, inquiry-based learning, and curriculum connections through interactive, hands-on, experiential learning that engages all of the senses and leads to students understanding their community: past, present and envisioning the future.

To explore and experience the idea of remembrance O45 students went on a heritage walk to the Memorial Garden and cenotaph. We walked through the misty woods, imagining what Bowen looked like at the time of WWI and WWII. The learning that took place outside of the classroom was rich and included the unexpected: we saw an owl perched in a tree only a few feet above students' heads!

The service aspect of the morning was simple, heartfelt and explored the **Virtues** of service and reverence. Students picked up litter and cleaned the name plates in the Memorial Garden. As they worked they began reading the name plates; stories and personal connections were shared, as well as a thoughtful discussion about why we have a

A Message from the ACEbc Board

Greetings from your ACEbc board!

It was fantastic to see so many of you at the Conference in Burnaby in October! It was the largest gathering of community school folks in many years.

I am grateful and in awe of the amazing conference that the Coordinators in Burnaby created. The triad of exceptional key notes; each with a distinct flavour, the myriad of diverse workshops, inclusion of people from all walks of community school life, lots of opportunities for conversations and the beautiful venues, made it an exceptional event. Thank you Burnaby coordinators, under the leadership and coordination of Dale Owen and Gayle Beavil. Look to the website for many power point presentations and a 3 minute video from the conference at www.acebc.org.

At the Coordinators afternoon at the Pre-conference, Jennifer Scott and Mischa Greenwood presented a preliminary template for assembling data of 'in-kind' contributions to community schools. Coordinators received the draft enthusiastically, and two rural and two urban sites will pilot the template prior to greater distribution. Thanks to Jennifer, Doreen, and Mischa for doing this work on a short time line and now implementing the pilot. Stay tuned for your opportunity to participate in the near future.

Currently, the advocacy sub committee of Bill Preston, Don Reimer, Elliott Grieve and Janey Talbot continues to meet. Additional materials have been prepared which you'll find on the website for use at a local level, specifically the community school placemat called "*Working Smarter - Together*". The committee has met with members of the platform committee of the NDP and is currently at work preparing more detailed information in response to their interest. April Lewis and Bunny Shannon as well as members of the sub committee will meet with the Minister of Education Don McRae on behalf of the board this month, preparations are underway for that meeting. Updates will follow.

Look forward to being together again in the spring at the AGM.

Cheers,

Janey

[\(janeytalbot@gmail.com\)](mailto:janeytalbot@gmail.com)

memorial garden on Bowen instead of a cemetery. *(continued on p. 3)*

(...continued from front page) After visiting the Memorial Garden students walked to the cenotaph to meet Legion representative David Wrinch. In an eloquent and moving presentation, Mr. Wrinch shared the stories behind the Bowen Island **cenotaph**, built c.1937 to commemorate those who served during wartime.



Many Bowen Islanders served in WWI and WWII, but there are no names from WWII on the cenotaph because all of the Bowen Islanders who served in WWII returned home safely. The names on the cenotaph plaque are of the five Bowen Islanders who died serving during WWI. Mr. Wrinch shared stories of each of the five soldiers who once lived on Bowen Island and O45 students learned that they have a connection to Myles Green who served as a member of the 7th battalion. Earlier in the year, O45 visited Camp Bow-Isle which is situated on land once owned by Mr. Green. Some of the orchard trees planted by Mr. Green are still there today.

How do you remember, and how would you like to be remembered?

Writing in her journal about her experiences on Nov 1, O45 student Riley wrote:

“Remembrance Day is a time when people stop rushing around, hurrying to the future. When we simply stop and look back to the past. We look to the people who lost their lives in the past so that we could have our freedom, and could be here today to dream about the future.”



HumanEYES: Seeing through the EYES of 250 Vancouver-based Elementary students

Thanks to support from the *United Way of Lower Mainland*, the *BC Arts Council* and the *Vancouver Board of Education*, eight schools, eleven classes, 250 students, and 14 artists in the lower mainland participated in **HumanEYES** between January and June 2012.

HumanEYES is an arts-based intergenerational storytelling program that encourages elementary students in the Lower Mainland to see and more deeply appreciate the diverse life experiences in their classrooms, schools and communities. Over the course of 5-7 workshops each participating class had the opportunity to celebrate diversity, gain basic tools to identify and challenge discriminatory and exclusionary practices and contribute to a class-wide creative collaboration that encourages inter-generational, inter-cultural and inter-neighbourhood storytelling and relationship-building. **HumanEYES** culminated in a public event that celebrated the completed works that over 200 project participants, supporters and 'extended-family-storytellers' attended at Stathcona Elementary on May 13th, 2012.



Some of the amazing work created during this program is being [featured](#) at an [exhibit](#) at the [ArtStarts Gallery](#) from now until March 2013! Go check it out (school tours are FREE) and BE INSPIRED!!

To see some of the HumanEYES creations, [visit our project page](#) or check out the [video](#) about it!

Based on the success of this pilot, we are trying to source funding to continue to support this program in the Lower Mainland and to extend it to other regions in BC. Please let us know (ames@accesstomedia.org) if you're interested in getting involved or have any ideas about how to support these efforts!

Participating Schools:

Trafalgar Elementary,
General Brock Elementary,
Mount Pleasant Elementary
Hastings Community School,
Strathcona Elementary,
Trudeau Elementary
Thunderbird Elementary (2 classes),
MacDonald Elementary (2 classes)

(See:

<http://accesstomedia.org/projects/present/humaneyes> for a complete list of project Partners and Collaborators .)

Project Funders:

United Way of Lower Mainland and BC Arts Council

PROJECT IMPACT: STUDENT ENGAGEMENT:

224 of the 250 (90%) students who participated in this program filled out surveys to assess the impact of *HumanEYES* on themselves and their classroom cultures.

According to the completed surveys, the following percentage of *HumanEYES* participants either *agreed* or *strongly agreed* that the *HumanEYES* workshops INCREASED THEIR:

- *knowledge of what social ex/inclusion means, looks and feels like* - 91%
- *knowledge of what it means to be an 'ally' and challenge exclusionary dynamics* - 82%
- *knowledge of their own family stories* - 81%
- *knowledge of and connections to their cultures* - 79%
- *appreciation of the diversity in their classrooms and the family stories of their classmates* – 89%
- *sense of connection to their classmates* – 87%
- *ability to work creatively (alone and with others)* – 95%



When asked about the most important things they learned from/got out of the program:

- 84% noted the various artistic aspects of the program (the ones most frequently mentioned were: photography, drawing, poetry and rhythm/sound) and the process of creatively collaborating with others
- 69% commented on increased understanding and connection with classmates
- 53% noted an increased respect for difference

- 45% commented on increased family/intergenerational contact, and
- 29% noted increases in awareness of their own culture.

When asked what they might change about the program:

- 25% didn't recommend changing anything.
- 25% wanted more games
- 11% wanted more time for the project, and
- 10% wanted more time dedicated to the art practices

Excerpts from Student Feedback:

- *I learned the meaning of my name, the truth behind my classmates and how they feel and that no matter what colour, race, size or shape we're all human beings and we're all different.*
- *I felt more connected to my classmates and I learned more about my family. It also made me feel more comfortable to go up in front of the class.*
- *I learned about the problems my family has been through and what problems others have been through.*

I learned. . .

. . . how to write poetry and more about my grandma and my culture.

. . . that I am creative, my culture is good and my

classmates are nicer than I thought

. . . about trust, family cultures, safe environments, photography and working together

. . . to feel happy with the way I am

. . . that when we share our stories we connected more as a class.

TEACHER ENGAGEMENT:

According to the completed surveys, the following percentage of *HumanEYES* teacher-participants either *agreed* or *strongly agreed* that the *HumanEYES* workshops



- deepened [their] own appreciation of the effectiveness of creativity and storytelling in generating compassion, dialogue and understanding within the classroom - 100%
- increased students' abilities to work creatively in groups – 82%
- increased students' knowledge of and willingness to share stories about their families with their classmates – 82%
- increased the students' appreciation of the diverse backgrounds and family stories within the classroom – 82%
- generated discussion/storytelling that enhanced personal connections and empathy within the class – 91%

Excerpts from Teacher/Facilitator Feedback

I found that all of the students were really included [in this program]...even my quietest and shyest students had their voice heard...they LOVED the beat-boxing and all of the different games and the activity when they interviewed an elder was also fantastic...a number of parents came to talk to me about how touched and moved they were by the whole experience of sharing stories...Intergenerational stories are not shared enough and this program creates an opportunity for families to learn more about each other and to grow closer. This then transfers into the classroom as the students learn that behind every person there is a multitude of stories. This in turn creates a more accepting and inclusive environment. This is without a doubt the best, most inspiring and fun workshop that I have ever had in my classroom. Daniele Carrara, Teacher, Hastings Elementary

The interactivity and creativity really engaged the students and the connections made between the

students' and their elders' was priceless. Jesse Brown, Teacher, Strathcona Elementary

HumanEYES was one of the best experiences I've had as a community artist and facilitator. I found so much inspiration from working with such a pool of talented artists, dedicated teachers and incredible students. I was deeply moved by the feedback we received from the different participants and it has convinced me that creativity, dialogue and the sharing of our personal histories opens a space where our diversities can truly be honoured. Rupinder Sidhu, HumanEYES facilitator and artist.

The art and writing to come out of this project is some of the best the kids have produced all year. This program gave kids the ability to be comfortable being spontaneously creative and open in front of their peers. Thank you for putting together a great program and finding great people to lead it. It is easily one of the best programs that I have encountered in 14 years of teaching. Jug Sidhu, Teacher, Mount Pleasant

Submitted by Deblekha Guin, AMES Executive Director and Project Coordinator (ames@gulfislands.ca).



Coombs Museum

Coombs Centennial Museum's guest book now in November 2012 is nearing the 3,000 mark since opening its doors in August 2011. This quaint little museum next door to the Coombs General Store was opened to provide a social awareness of Coombs' history and to acknowledge a number of Coombs centennial celebrations including: The **Pioneer Ford Log House** built in 1910 along with the establishment in that same year of the town as a **Salvation Army Colony** which was named after the religious group's leader in Canada, **Commissioner Thomas Bales Coombs**; the **Coombs General Store** opened in 1911 (also built by pioneer Walter Ford when the Esquimalt & Nanaimo railroad line arrived in Coombs); **French Creek School** in 1912 and the **Coombs Fair** originating in 1913. In honour of these events, **Coombs Commemorative Centennial Postage Stamps** are available to order (contact Sharon—see below).



The museum has been made possible through donations and grants including the generosity of Dale Donaldson, owner of the Coombs' General Store, who donates the museum space. Sharon Cox-Gustavson and her team of dedicated volunteers all with deep roots in the community, offer well guided tours as well as assist guests who enjoy browsing on their own. Come by and immerse yourself in Coombs rich history. The entrance to the museum is free of charge.

Coombs Museum Hours: Open 12:00-4:00pm, seven days a week June until the end of October then only Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays (12:00-4:00pm) throughout November until December, closing December 16th for the winter. The museum will open again in March for Spring Break 2013, although museum tours can be arranged anytime by phoning Sharon at 250 248-6655 or email sharonc@shaw.ca.

Submitted by Marilyn Sims, Arrowsmith Community Coordinator, (mailsims@telus.net).

ACEbc Conference

Together for Kids and Communities: A Common Vision

Passion. Energy. Enthusiasm. Laughter. Smiles. Connectedness. Sharing. Learning. These are a few words to describe the ACEbc Conference "Together for Kids and Communities: A Common Vision", which was hosted by ACEbc and the Burnaby School District on October 18, 19, and 20.



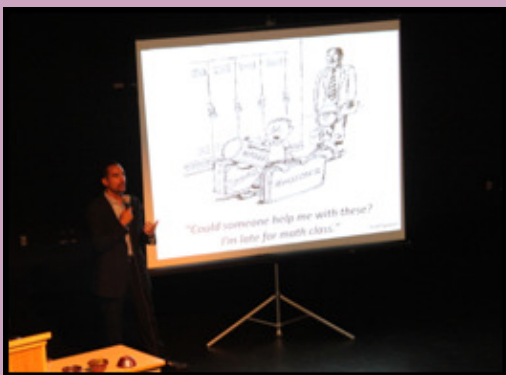
Iha Farquhar, Dave Rawnsley, and Molly McCloskey

On Thursday afternoon, Community School Coordinators from across the province gathered together to network and hear inspirational words from Molly McCloskey, David Rawnsley, and Iha Farquhar about "meeting the needs of the whole child". Through this presentation, coordinators also had the opportunity to walk through the journey of Byrne Creek Community School, the first high school in Burnaby to become a community school; it was heartwarming to hear about how committed the staff, students, parents, and community are in embracing the community school philosophy. Coordinators also had a chance to chat about what we all do in our communities and community schools to help kids feel "safe, engaged, challenged, healthy, and supported" (from Molly McCloskey's presentation).

In the evening, the conference "officially opened" with Molly McCloskey's keynote address on "The Whole Child Initiative." What a fantastic way to open the conference, as coordinators, community members, parents, student teachers, administrators, non-profits, and teachers left



feeling amazed and energized by Molly's passion, thought-provoking words and ideas, and enthusiasm. This energy spilled over into Friday, which started off with Abe Fernandez's keynote presentation on "Community Schools: Engaging the Whole School Community to Drive Decision Making". Abe's presentation reaffirmed the work we do in community schools and how the challenges we sometimes face pay off in huge rewards in building, growing, and strengthening our



Abe Fernandez and one of his many thought-provoking presentation slides.

communities together. After Abe's keynote, conference attendees had a plethora of workshop options ranging from "Creating a Culture for Youth Engagement" (David Thompson Community School Team), "Building Community through Leadership and Social-Emotional Learning" (Peter Dubinsky, Principal) to "Family Engagement" (Abe Fernandez).

There was no better way to end the conference on Saturday morning than with Jim Diers' keynote presentation on "'Supporting Kids by Rebuilding Community and Reorienting Agencies.'" Jim spoke about creating "bumping places", which simply put, are places where we "bump" into people. The more we "bump" into people over and over again, the more relationships we build and before you know it, we are building community! He also spoke about uncovering hidden treasures in our communities through discovering the goals, passions, and skills we all have, and supporting one another to pursue them.



*Burnaby Community School
Coordinator Lawrence Ryan
with Jim Diers*

Here is some feedback from the conference:

- *Compared to other, more expensive conferences I have attended, the ones at ACEbc were excellent and "local" in the sense that we did not have to apply any "filters" to make them directly applicable to our contexts.*
- *Felt like natural opportunities to connect – not forced, but more organic.*
- *I don't work at a Community School but as a youth centre supervisor I partner with community schools quite frequently. I left the conference with new ideas and goals for strengthening my youth centre as well as our community. The conference was very inspiring but also provided useful information that I will bring into my every day work. I am looking forward to the next opportunity to learn and grow with the community school network!*
- *Fantastic! Just the inspiring jolt we needed.*
- *Thank you for all your planning and effort to bring us together in sharing and learning.*

Thank you to ACEbc and the Burnaby School District, specifically Dale Owen and Gayle Beavil, Conference Co-chairs, for providing such a wonderful learning opportunity! For resource information from the conference including keynote presentations, please visit our website at <http://www.acebc.org>.







The Association for Community Education
in British Columbia (ACEbc) www.acebc.org

Hello all Community Educators,

Is it time to look at renewing your ACEbc membership, which expires on August 31 each year?

The dollars generated from membership fees and insurance policies assist your elected Board to carry out the tasks of the Association. During the past year, ACEbc has continued to advocate for the support and growth of community schools in the province, and it would be wonderful if all coordinators and community education organizations became members.

Please remember your organization should be a member (\$60), and your Coordinator or other community education staff will sign up as professional members (\$35). We also have a Non-Professional category for parents, community members, volunteers, retired coordinators, etc, for \$25.

As an individual ACEbc member, you will receive our newsletter and can participate in email communication links with coordinators across the province. Also, you can annually nominate up to four people plus a local group for an ACEbc Appreciation Award certificate. Members receive the nomination form in the spring each year.

An organizational membership also enables you to purchase Directors' and Officers' Liability Insurance at group rates, resulting in significant savings.

Please complete the ACEbc Membership Application, attach payment, and mail to the ACEbc Treasurer Heather Walsh at the address listed on the application form. Cheques are to be made payable to "ACEbc."

Sincerely,

Don Reimer
Membership and Awards Coordinator
Email: acebc2010@gmail.com



ACE·bc The Association for Community Education
in British Columbia (ACEbc) www.acebc.org

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION or RENEWAL for September 1, 201____ to August 31, 201____

Memberships are effective from September 1 to August 31

We have three membership categories, please check the type of membership you are applying for.

1. Non-Professional Individual Membership \$25 (Community Members, Parents etc.)

2. Professional Individual Membership \$35 (Coordinators, Teachers, Administrators)

Name: _____

Phone _____

Address: _____

City _____ Postal Code _____

*E-mail [Please ensure we have an email address] _____

School: _____

School District Name and Number: _____

3. Organization/Group Membership \$60 (Societies, Associations, Advisory Councils, and other groups)

Organization Name _____

Contact person(s) _____

Phone _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Postal Code: _____

*Email [Please ensure we have an email address] _____

School Affiliation: _____

PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO "ACEbc"

Mail application and payment to:

ACEbc Membership

c/o Heather Walsh

2393 Dixon Rd.

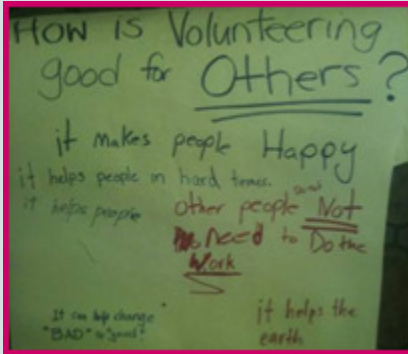
Sooke, BC

V9Z 0X6

E-mail: hwalsh@sd62.bc.ca

The Volunteer Project in James Bay

PROJECT DESCRIPTION



The Volunteerism Program was offered free-of-charge to youth in Grades 4 & 5. It gave them the opportunity to participate in a variety of community service projects over three consecutive Saturdays in May 2012. Up to 13 youth were invited to participate and each participant was required to submit a statement explaining why they wished to be included in the program. Each week between 9am and 4pm the participants were engaged in volunteer work with one organization in the morning, and another organization in the afternoon. The kids spent at least 5 hours each day actively engaged in service. Each week had a different

theme or focus. The first week focussed on Environmental Service or projects to help nature and the environment. Week two focussed on Community Service or projects that would help people in our communities. The third week was dedicated to Animals with projects helping wild and domestic animals. The participants were also provided with lunch each week, and were rewarded with an afternoon of swimming on the final day of the program.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The main aim of the Volunteerism program was to inspire youth to get active in their communities through volunteerism. It is believed that the number of people who volunteer in their community is on the decline, and that it is important to foster an interest in community service in the next generation of volunteers. This program sought to show participants how their efforts could make an impact in the community, regardless of their age or abilities. It gave the children an opportunity to step up and be leaders, as well as acting as role models to their peers. It was hoped that the kids would be able to discover the personal enjoyment



or satisfaction that comes from doing something good for someone else. The objective was to help the kids to gain a better understanding of what their community encompasses and how everyone has a role to play in making our community a better place. By exposing the participants to a wide variety of volunteer opportunities and encouraging them to explore volunteer work on their own time, with their families, it is hoped that we will provide them with the tools to be important players in their communities in the future.

Overall, the Volunteerism Program was successful in getting several James Bay youth out and active in their community. With an enrolment of 13 kids and a high level of attendance, the program seemed to be well-received by both the participants and their families. We were able

to offer well-rounded service opportunities that exposed the kids many types of experiences, both in their neighbourhood and further afield. Perhaps future programs could also help kids to explore national and international service projects outside of our own community.

The kids were challenged to work hard but also received many rewards for their efforts. Choosing opportunities that the kids could relate to was a key to our success. The kids were able to see first hand what impact they were making, whether it was how much recycling they helped to sort and load into a truck, how much ivy was removed from the forest floor, the number of kids who would have birthday party supplies thanks to them, or the individual animals who would have more grass to eat now that their pasture had been cleared. Making true community connections and interacting with other volunteers as well as with the public at each of our volunteer jobs was an important part of the program as well. The gratitude and community support we received was truly heart-warming. This program not only helped the kids to recognize the potential they have to help out in their communities, but also helped the community to see that a small group of determined individuals, no matter their age, can accomplish a lot. It is recommended that this program be offered on an annual basis so that more kids and community organizations can experience the mutual benefits that it offers.



Creating "Fun Kits" for the Single Parent Resource Centre.

*Submitted by Darcy
Topinka, Coordinator,
James Bay Community School
Centre
(childcare@jamesbaycentre.ca)*

***One of the deep
secrets of life is
that all that is
really worth
doing is what
we do for others.***

~ Lewis Carroll



Roots of Empathy on the Sunshine Coast

Roots of Empathy is an award winning, evidence-based classroom program that has shown dramatic effect in reducing levels of aggression and violence among school children while raising social/emotional competence and increasing empathy. The program reaches elementary school children from Kindergarten to Grade 8 across Canada, in the United States, Australia, New Zealand and throughout Britain. On the Sunshine Coast there have been Roots of Empathy programs for about nine years, however it has only been in the past three years that the reach of the program has extended to most of the elementary schools. Last year there were nine programs in seven schools. For the 2012 - 2013 school year we hope to have programs in all nine elementary schools. At Roberts Creek Elementary our first Roots of Empathy baby, is now in Kindergarten.



The highlight of the program is the visits to the class room by the baby and the key feature of the program is the honouring of the whole family. Children learn that there is no one right way to parent and that empathy is a key ingredient for responsive, caring parenting. Children who do not have responsive parenting see what positive models of family caring look like when the Baby and parent visit the classroom. It is more than just a "baby field-trip." Each child has a unique experience, and it is an experience that all children can understand and contribute to. The visits are experiential. For example, students get to pack the diaper bag, unfold a diaper and put it on the doll, offer toys to the baby, play with the baby and sing to the baby.

Students are invited to ask questions, every student has a voice; they are listened to and taken seriously.

The teaching style is fun, participatory, not didactic and incorporates the new findings about neuroscience and the developing brain. There are opportunities for reaching real and honest feelings.

The program is structured around nine themes with three classroom visits by a Roots of Empathy Instructor per theme - twenty seven class room visits throughout the school year. During the pre family visit, the Instructor introduces the theme. Then during the family visit students have the opportunity to ask the parents questions and to observe changes in the baby during the seven months. The post family Visit allows the students to reflect on what they have learned during that theme.

The program is more than just a cute baby. There are many curriculum connections as well.

Roots of Empathy provides strong links to mandated curriculum outcomes and expectations,

and offers opportunities for a variety of activities across the curriculum. Through the literature introduced during the program, students are encouraged to read and use language skills. They write reflective pieces, create poems and stories and then read them for their class mates. For the music curriculum there is the singing and creating songs for the baby. For math, the older students may calculate the expense of diapering and toys. For science, they study the biological aspects of neuroscience, as discussed when the brain is presented as a pathway to learning, behaviour, and health.

On the Sunshine Coast we have a Regional Coordinator for the program, Shannon Quinn who is also a coordinator at the Roberts Creek Community School, it's a great fit. Shannon reports to local steering committee with members from the other Sunshine Coast Community Schools and the Child Care Resource and Referral Society. The local public health nurses play a key role in identifying potential Roots babies. During the summer months Shannon and the other steering committee members are often caught eyeing up pregnant women!

School PAC's also play a vital role in sponsoring the instructor honorariums in their schools. Finding funds for the regional coordination is challenging, however Roberts Creek Community School and our partners are committed to offering this well researched, evidence based Social Emotional Learning program for the elementary school children of SD46.

For more information go to: www.rootsofempathy.org or check out: www.facebook.com/SunshineCoastFamilyofCommunitySchools. Shannon can be reached at 604-885-3481 or scroe@eastlink.ca.



*Submitted by Stacia Leech,
Community Coordinator,
Roberts Creek Community
School (rccs@dccnet.com).*

ACEbc Community Schools Update

Hello Coordinators,

It is time again to update the ACEbc Directory of Community Schools. There have been quite a few new coordinators hired for 2012-13 and numerous changes in assignments since our update last November.



Please take a moment to check your listing by going to the ACEbc web site at www.acebc.org and clicking on the Directory menu at the top. Forward any changes or inquiries to acebc2010@gmail.com

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in keeping our Directory useful.

Don Reimer, for ACEbc



WE ARE ON THE WEB

Don't forget to visit our ACEbc website at www.acebc.org for information and updates.

Comments, suggestions, feedback?

Or, if you would like to submit an article for our ACEbc newsletter, please contact:



Taryn Briscoe
Newsletter Coordinator
Taryn.Briscoe@sd41.bc.ca
604-664-8849

The next ACEbc newsletter will be published in early 2013.