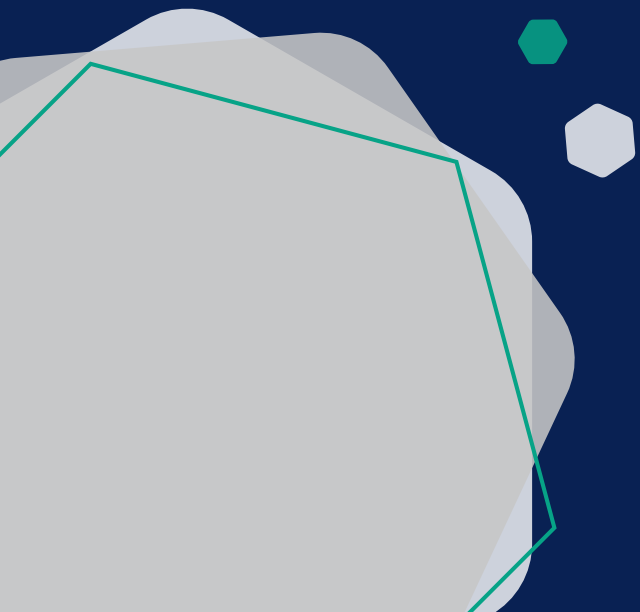


E-Newsletter February 2021

BUILDING THRIVING COMMUNITIES

Community Schools in B.C.



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United Way
Lower Mainland

Contact

This is our 5th Community Schools in BC e-newsletter and our goal remains to both inform and build networks in the field of community education and schools in B.C. In this edition the elements of community schools are described in detail. Please email Sukh Shergill at SukhS@uwlm.ca to contribute updates or join the mailing list.

Professional Development

A) Community Schools in BC, powered by the UWLM is hosting a professional learning event for those interested in and connected to the work of community education. Please hold the following date and time:

**Friday May 7, 2021
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

More details will be coming soon. The planning committee has surveyed Community Schools personnel and learned that there is interest for professional development in the following topic areas:

- a) Family Engagement
- b) Grants, Funding & Proposal Writing
- c) Youth & Mentorship
- d) Online programming
- e) Mental Health & Wellness

B) UBC Human Early Learning Partnership will be hosting their second session in a their series connected to this year's theme - Challenges and Change: Exploring 'What is' and 'What could be' for BC's Children and Families.



The Impact of COVID-19: What's happening for BC's Children and Families?

www.earlylearning.ubc.ca

Mon, March 8, 2021

9:30 AM – 12:30 PM

ELEMENTS OF A COMMUNITY SCHOOL



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This document lists programs and service components of community schools. The list is not meant to be all inclusive, but to create excitement about the wonderful possibilities offered through this approach.

Out of School Time Programs



Quality, accessible programs that meet physical, social, emotional, & academic needs of children and youth outside of regular school hours (after school and holiday breaks). Community expertise is often invited to lead or join programming.



Early Learning



Addresses play & learning needs of families with young children and opportunities for young children to learn with parents or caregivers. Examples of these can be introduction to Kindergarten events, preschools, healthy baby programs, parent coaching, Strongstart, and parent/tot drop-in programs.



Integrated Services

Facilitate collaboration with community agencies to create partnerships, streamlining programs and services that align with school & community needs. This can include partnerships with the Ministry of Children and Families, Health and Dental Clinics, Non-Profit Service Agencies (Environmental, Cultural, Recreational, Social) and Municipal Governments.

Youth Connections



Building community connections, support and programs that encourage youth involvement, social responsibility and leadership. This can include opportunities for youth to provide mentorship and transition support.

Supported & Enhanced Student Learning



Promote school goals with programs and initiatives that enhance the school curriculum through student involvement in experiential and community based learning. These programs often have volunteers and resources that contribute skills and knowledge for students and teachers (e.g., artists in residence, living history projects, athletic skills, personalized learning).

Family Support Services

Community schools connect families with community based services and resources that build capacity and strengthen the health and well being of children, families and community. This can include clothing exchange, community kitchens, counselling, and outreach support.

Community Engagement

Facilitate an open flow of communication and engagement with the broader community. The school, families and community actively work together to co-create a school and community climate that is representative of the collective vision of community assets and needs.

Community Use of School Facilities



Community schools effectively expand the use of school facilities for locally identified programs and services, suited to the unique and diverse needs of all members of the community. Schools are a hubs with unique spaces such as theatres, gyms, libraries kitchens and outdoor recreation/gardening areas.

Community and Continuing Education

Implement informal and formal learning opportunities that meet the needs of the entire community. Programs are not only offered to K-12 students but also include early learning, literacy foundations, high school completion, English language learning, adult education, and vocational and community interest classes.



These nine elements of Community Schools are focused on creating student success, healthy families and strong, resilient communities. **Social and emotional learning, health and wellness, community development and lifelong learning** are the 4 Community Schools threads that weave through all 9 elements.

"Community Schools extend hours, services and relationships"