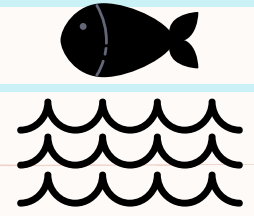




Koh-Learning Summer Gathering 2020



On August 25, 2020, approximately 23 teachers, students, SD91 staff, researchers, and community members gathered on Nak'azdli Whut'en territory at Fort St James Secondary School (FSJSS) for the Koh-Learning Project's annual Summer Gathering, aimed at preparing local teachers for the upcoming school year and supporting their work in providing place-based learning for their students.



We were honoured to have Nak'azdli Elder Jonas Morris welcome us to the land and begin the day with stories and gentle reminders of the importance that place has played throughout the history of his peoples, as well as the continued importance of the land in his community today. In his final remarks, he reminded us to walk gently and reflect.



Journalling Across the Curriculum



Journalling was explored as a learning strategy providing students an opportunity to deeply connect to self and the land. All attendees were provided their own waterproof journal for the day, and were offered multiple opportunities to sit in the beautiful locations and reflect. Together, we explored ways for teachers to integrate place-based journalling into their classes, allowing students to refer to their journals when in the classroom as a reminder of their experience on the land.



Place-Based Learning

Guided by Jaclyn Boyes (FSJSS) and Valerie Crowley (Chuntoh Education Society), the group crossed over from Nak'azdli Whut'en Territory into Tl'azt'en First Nation Territory ...

Tsilcoh Falls & the Pit House Trail

Tsilcoh = "river of mist"

As we approached the Tsilcoh Falls, we momentarily watched eagles fishing for Kokanee salmon on the river. And as the eagles quickly left, we were reminded of the impact that human presence has on the natural environment, a sentiment shared also by Valerie Crowley who discussed the considerations involved in taking students out for field studies.



Down a short and heavily forested trail, we then spent some time at the Pit House which was built by FSJSS students and local community Elders as part of a community project.



Cinnabar Research Station (John Prince Research Forest)

At the Cinnabar Research Station, Jaclyn Boyes presented a hummingbird project to the group that can be used in local classrooms and to connect learning with citizen science. After taking a reflective journalling break, Valerie Crowley then led the group through the Dakelh Elders Protocol Guide, a living document that includes tips for successfully and respectfully bridging cultures and inviting Elders into school activities and youth learning.

Youth Voice

The group then heard from four SD91 students about their personal experiences with experiential and inquiry-based learning, and their appreciation for self-directed exploration. Their projects include:

- Writing a book
- Making a movie
- Developing art
- Participating in an eDNA study



Circle of Gratitude

To wrap up the day, everyone offered what they were grateful for. Some of those gratitudes were:

I am grateful for ...

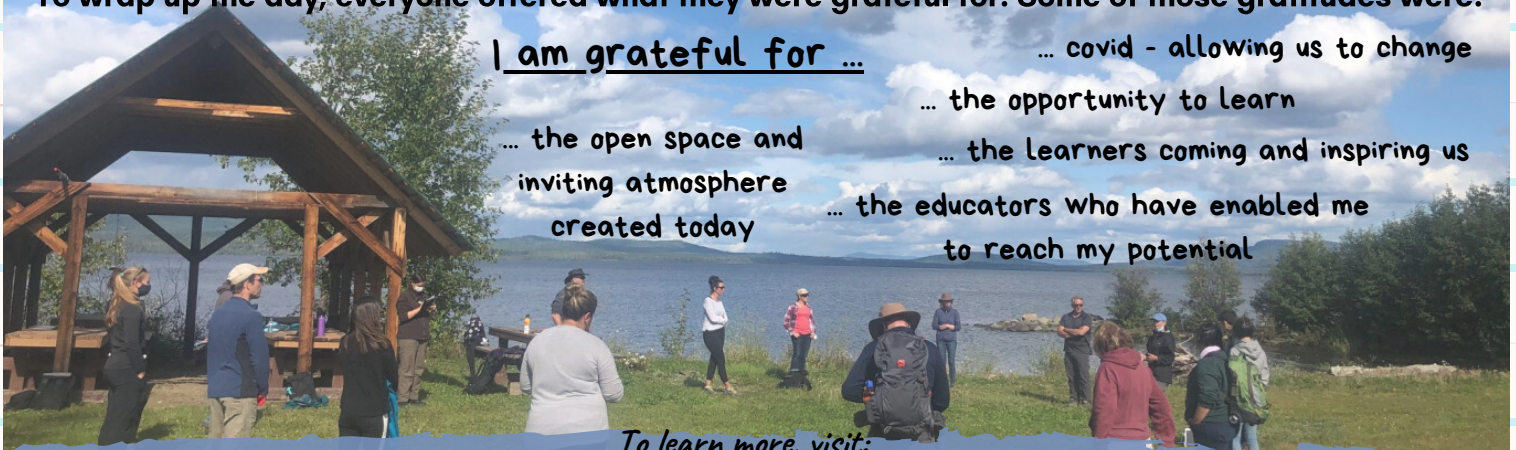
... the open space and inviting atmosphere created today

... covid - allowing us to change

... the opportunity to learn

... the learners coming and inspiring us

... the educators who have enabled me to reach my potential



To learn more, visit:

www.unbc.ca/integrated-watershed-research-group/koh-learning-our-watersheds