

ÈCOLE SALISH SECONDARY

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The excitement continues to build as Ècole Salish Secondary takes shape. In my first month as Principal, I have been warmly welcomed in all the schools that will come together to form Ècole Salish Secondary. It has been a pleasure to meet students, parents, and teachers to talk about the vision for our new school.

A significant aspect of creating a school culture is the identifying and naming of a school mascot. In determining the Ècole Salish mascot, it will be important to choose one that reflects the attributes we wish to see throughout our school community.

I have been most fortunate to work with the Semiahmoo, Katzie, Kwantlen and Qayqat First Nations in understanding the Aboriginal perspective of the traditional and unceded territory upon which Ècole Salish Secondary is built. Through my meetings with the First Nations, I have learned that an important principle of Aboriginal learning is a strength-based approach; that is all students are to be encouraged to grow holistically and recognized for their unique gifts.

In keeping with the traditions of the Salish people, it is only fitting that the mascot reflects an animal that would have inhabited the area. Although many species roamed the land, the two of great significance are the Bear and the Wolf.

In the Aboriginal culture, the bear represents strength, family, vitality courage and health. The bear is a thoughtful creature, independent and strong-willed. The wolf is a great team player who has strength in relationships. The wolf symbolizes perseverance, intuition and success.

I invite students to participate in the final selection of the mascot by voting either at the school or online. In order to be eligible to vote, you need to be a student who will attend Ècole Salish Secondary next year. You can cast your ballot in person or online. I will be at Clayton Heights on November 2nd and at Lord Tweedsmuir on November 7th. Students will be able to cast your ballot at that time.

Students are also able to go online at

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScNrvOggZjQmya33Xdgg_jsGXqAVg4P3vJ0zZiepmeSbiKiFQ/viewform

We have visited all the feeder schools to collect votes. If a student was away they may vote online by November 14th.

I have attached a map of the school boundaries if you are unsure which school you are scheduled to attend next September.

Sincerely

Ms. Hammond