

Indigenous Education Department
Greater Victoria School District No. 61

Graduation Profiles

June 2020



Front Cover Art Work Designed by Jamin Zuroski, N'angis Nation
Victoria High School Alumnus '98

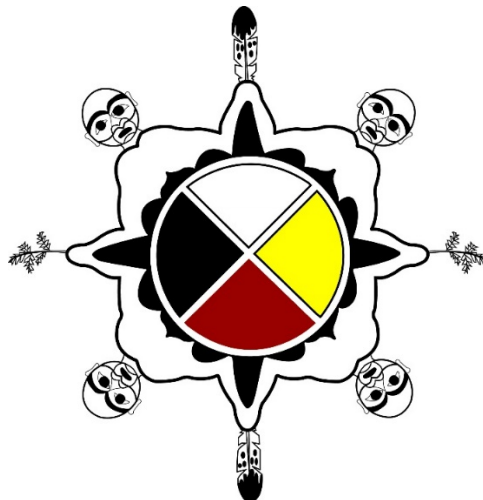
The Greater Victoria School District wishes to recognize and acknowledge the
Esquimalt and Songhees Nations on whose traditional territories we live, we learn,
and we do our work.

Celebrating the 38th year of the Indigenous Education Department Recognition Ceremony

The first Indigenous Recognition Ceremony in the Greater Victoria School District happened 38 years ago, in 1982. At that time, we recognized less than 10 Indigenous students. This year, we are recognizing approximately 70 Indigenous students from the Greater Victoria School District.

Due to COVID19 this is our first time organizing a remote ceremony for our students. A recognition video will be shared with all students and families to honour our graduating students.

Way to go grads of 2020!





2020

Graduation Profiles

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Indigenous Education Department
Greater Victoria School District
556 Boleskine Road
Victoria, BC V8Z 1E8
250-475-4124

Graduation Profile Booklet:
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Indigenous Education Department

**Thank you
to the following Sponsors
of the 2020 Indigenous Success Through Education Student Calendar,
Scholarship Sponsorships and
the Indigenous Education Recognition Ceremony**

- Aaron Aubin, Nicole Hajash, Darcy Aubin Scholarship Sponsorship
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- Autumn Maxwell, Scholarship Sponsorship
- Camosun College, Aboriginal Education & Community Connections
- Carey Newman, Blue Raven Gallery, Scholarship Sponsorship
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- Cindy & Dave Hatt of WetCleaner Non-toxic Dry Cleaner and the Hatt Family Scholarships
- Hulitan Family & Community Services Society
- Island Blue Print
- Karrie Hill, Scholarship Sponsorship
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- Royal Canadian Legion Britannia Branch #7
- Royal Roads University, Indigenous Education & Student Services
- Songhees Nation
- SJ Burnside School
- Surrounded by Cedar Child & Family Services
- University of Victoria, Indigenous Academic & Community Engagement
- University of Victoria, Indigenous Education
- Victoria Native Friendship Centre



Major Sponsor of the Indigenous Education Recognition Ceremony

A special thank you to the BC Liquor Control Board and the Board of Education SD61
for their \$495.00 Dry Grad donation



2020 Scholarship Recipients



Dr. Rose Lenser First Nations into Science Scholarship

Dr. Rose Lenser is a family physician currently practicing in Victoria, B.C. She was born and raised in Northwestern B.C. (Terrace) where she graduated from high school. She received a Bachelor of Science [Biology] degree at Concordia University in Montreal and her Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of British Columbia in 1999. Dr. Lenser is proud of her Wet'suwet'en heritage and is a member of the Squamish Nation. Her scholarship is offered to a student aiming for a degree in Science or Health Careers.

Olivia Gribbon

Olivia has ancestry from the Woodland Métis and is graduating from Lambrick Park Secondary School. Olivia was selected for the Dr. Rose Lenser First Nations into Science Scholarship because of her outstanding academic achievement with particular strength in math and science. She plans to pursue a career in health sciences and will study at the University of Victoria. Congratulations, Olivia! All the best to you in your future endeavors.

Judy Bourne Memorial Scholarships



The Judy Bourne Memorial Scholarships are awarded in recognition of Judy Bourne, an inspirational woman of Cree Ancestry. Judy was a devoted wife and mother of six children. She was well known for her athletic and coaching abilities, particularly as a nationally and internationally recognized volleyball coach. The Judy Bourne Memorial Scholarships recognize students who

demonstrate good scholastic ability, community involvement and leadership abilities and are sponsored by the M'akola Development Services.

Waylon Asp

Waylon is a student with Tahlitan ancestry and will be graduating from Mount Douglas Secondary School. Waylon was selected for the Judy Bourne Memorial Scholarship because of his outstanding academic achievement, his youth leadership skills, and his athletic abilities. He plans to take a gap year before enrolling in the Animation and Visual Development program at Capilano University. Congratulations, Waylon, and all the best to you!

Dallas Rhude

Dallas is a student with Mi'kmaq/Algonquin ancestry and is graduating from Reynolds Secondary School. Dallas was selected for the Judy Bourne Memorial Scholarship because of his combined academic strength, musical ability and athleticism. Dallas graduates from the soccer academy at his school and plans to take a gap year before embarking on a general arts degree at the University of Victoria. Congratulations, Dallas! All the best to you!

Hemasaka Aboriginal Nations Scholarships

Hemasaka is the traditional name of retired teacher Victor Newman. In the Kwakwaka'wakw language, Hemasaka means "makings of a chief." Carey Newman sponsors these scholarships to honour the many years of teaching that his father has given to him, his sisters and generations of students in the Greater Victoria School District. He and his family hope that the recipient of this scholarship will continue on with their education and go on to become a leader on whatever path they choose.

Kaydence Landrie

Kaydence Landrie is a student with Métis ancestry who is graduating from Esquimalt High School. Kaydence was selected for the Hemasaka Scholarship because she demonstrates academic strength; cultural connection; and artistic flair. She will attend Camosun College in the fall to study early childhood education. Congratulations, Kaydence and all the best to you in your future endeavors!

Camryn Willier

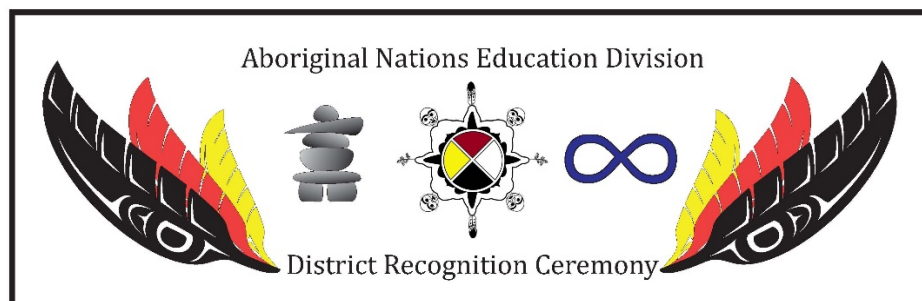
Camryn is a student with Cree ancestry who is graduating from Lambrick Park Secondary School. Camryn was selected for the Hemasaka Scholarship because she demonstrates strong academics and a high level of athletics. She will study at Angelina Community College in Texas USA in the fall and play softball for their college team. Congratulations, Camryn and all the best to you in your future endeavors!

Violet's Pride Scholarship

Violet's Pride Scholarship was started by Aaron Aubin, Nicole Hajash, and Darcy Aubin, who are Kwakwaka'wakw and French Canadian descent and are all graduates of Mt. Douglas High School. They are sponsoring this scholarship in memory of their grandmother, Violet Duncan. Violet was a member of the Campbell River First Nation. She valued education and encouraged all of her twenty-one grandchildren to finish high school and pursue post-secondary education.

Quinton Lebold

Quinton is a student with Métis ancestry and is graduating from Spectrum Community School. He was chosen for the Violet's Pride Scholarship because he is a determined student who has overcome challenges to graduate from high school. He will attend Camosun College and enter the trades program to study Heavy Duty Mechanics. Congratulations, Quinton, and all the best to you in your future studies!



Cold Comfort Scholarships

On Canada's 150 birthday, a local business called Cold Comfort Ice Cream wanted to do more to acknowledge that First Peoples have been connected to the land we know call Canada since time immemorial. To raise attention they displayed a sign on their business that said "Cold Comfort would like to acknowledge that we have been working on the traditional Lekwungen territory of the Esquimalt and Songhees people for the last seven years. INDIGENOUS PEOPLE HAVE BEEN STEWARDS OF "OUR" HOME ON NATIVE LAND SINCE TIME IMMEMORIAL. Moving forward, in the spirit of reconciliation, all proceeds from sales of scooped ice cream at Cold Comfort on July 1st will go towards creating a culinary bursary for an Indigenous high school student in our community." It was immediately obvious hundreds of people felt similarly and wanted to help. So on top of ALL sales on that day many from the Victoria community donated towards the Cold Comfort Culinary Arts & Trades Scholarships.

Latoya James-Thompson

Latoya has ancestry from the Ditidaht Nation and is graduating from Esquimalt High School. She was chosen for the Cold Comfort Scholarship because of her commitment to pursuing her dream of becoming a chef. She will attend the Professional Cook Training Program at Camosun College in the fall. Congratulations, Latoya and all the best to you!

Shyann Auger

Shyann is a student with Métis ancestry and is graduating from Spectrum Community School. Shyann was chosen for the Cold Comfort Scholarship because of her leadership and commitment to her studies. She plans to attend Sprott Shaw Community College to train as an LPN. Congratulations, Shyann and all the best to you in your future studies!

Lifting Each Other Up Culinary Arts & Trades Scholarship

On Canada's 150 birthday, two local businesses; Deadbeetz Food Truck and the Hot and Cold Café, wanted to do more to acknowledge that First Peoples have been connected to the land we know call Canada since time immemorial. As an act of reconciliation, on Canada's 150th birthday Deadbeetz displayed a sign on their business that said "Deadbeetz would like to acknowledge that we have been working on the traditional Lekwungen territory of the Esquimalt and Songhees people. WE RECOGNIZE THAT INDIGENOUS PEOPLE HAVE BEEN HERE SINCE TIME IMMEMORIAL. Moving forward, in the spirit of reconciliation, a portion of our profits from this event will create a culinary bursary for an Indigenous high school student in our community." The Hot and Cold Café also felt strongly about this, and the two businesses came together to create the "Lifting Each Other Up" Culinary Arts and Trades Scholarship. This Scholarship is for an Aboriginal woman or two-spirited person entering a culinary/trades/ or business careerfield.

Emylia Biegun

Emylia is a student with Labrador Métis/Nunatukavut ancestry and is graduating from Victoria High School. Emylia was chosen for the Lifting Each Other Up Scholarship because of her academic, artistic and leadership strengths. She plans to attend Camosun and then the University of Victoria to pursue a degree in social work. Congratulations, Emylia, and all the best to you!

Freda Shaughnessy Sports/Academic Scholarship

Freda was from the Kwicksutaineuk Nation and a champion of the Kwakwaka'wakw language. She was originally hired by the Victoria school district in 1979 to teach the language at S.J. Willis Junior High. Since that time she continued to volunteer her time to sit on our district Education Advisory Councils putting in over 25 years to work on making a difference in the Aboriginal Education world. She was always concerned about her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren being supported at the schools. Freda also shared the voices and perspectives of the many youth she worked with at the Youth Custody Center and as a volunteer for street youth downtown. She exemplified dedication, commitment and honor and she role modeled what it means to be of service to the community. Freda was known as the T-Bird momma as she supported the T-Bird Soccer Clubs for 40 years.

Caleb Sam

Caleb is a student with ancestry from the Songhees Nation and is graduating from Esquimalt High School. Caleb was chosen for the Freda Shaughnessy Sports/Academic Scholarship because of his strength in academics and his outstanding athletic ability. He will attend Camosun College in the fall and study Sheet Metal and Metal Fabrication. Congratulations, Caleb and all the best to you in your future studies!

Kyron Crosby

Kyron is a student with Mi'kmaq and Métis ancestry and is graduating from Victoria High School. He was chosen for the Freda Shaughnessy Sports/Academic Scholarship because of his strength in academics and his outstanding athleticism. Kyron will attend Camosun College in the fall and pursue a career in health sciences. Congratulations, Kyron and all the best to you in your future endeavors!

Lacuse Robert Warren Trades Scholarship

Lacuse Robert Warren was a member of the Songhees First Nation and part of the Albany family clan. He attended Esquimalt High School and at the age of 17, enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force. Robert dedicated his life to both non-status and status First Nations. Robert negotiated with the Greater Victoria School District for two years regarding the Victoria Native Indian Education Commission and Victoria Native Education Council. In 1980, his negotiations lead to the development of the Native Indian Education Division, now known as Aboriginal Nations Education Division. Robert facilitated the 1980 inaugural First Nations Graduation Ceremony at Pearson United World College.

Lukas Dick

Lukas is a student with ancestry from the Songhees Nation and is graduating from Esquimalt High School. He was chosen for the Lacuse Robert Warren Trades Scholarship because of his strong academics, athleticism and interest in post-secondary trades programs. He will attend Camosun College in the fall in the Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Mechanics Trades Program. Congratulations, Lukas, and all the best to you in your studies!

Nella Nelson Legacy Academic Scholarship

This scholarship is sponsored by Hulitan Family & Community Services Society. It is in recognition of Nella Nelson, Klaapalasugwela/Maxwagila. Nella is a Kwakwaka'wakw teacher, leader, mentor, advocate, mother, grandmother and great grandmother. She is born within the 'Namgis Nation of Alert Bay, B.C. and a member of the Tsawataineuk Nation at Kingcome Inlet. In 1972, Nella moved to Victoria to study at Camosun College and soon transferred to UVIC to pursue studies in Anthropology and then Education. Upon graduation, Nella began a lifelong career as a teacher with the Greater Victoria School District working as a high school history teacher and counsellor for ten years at S.J. Willis Junior High, Central Junior High and Victoria High School then becoming the District Administrator for the Aboriginal Nations Education Division in 1988. In June 2018 Nella retired after over forty years of ground-breaking and thriving educational leadership within Victoria and throughout the province.

Isaac Craghtten

Isaac is a student with ancestry from the Oneida of the Thames and is graduating from Spectrum Community School. He was selected for the Nella Nelson Legacy Scholarship because of his school leadership and personal determination. Isaac plans to attend BCIT to train as an airplane mechanic engineer. He is currently a young pilot! Congratulations, Isaac and all the best to you in your future endeavors!

Mercedes Marshall

Mercedes is a student ancestry from the Tseshaht First Nations and is graduating from Victoria High School. Mercedes was chosen for the Nella Nelson Legacy Scholarship because of her strong community leadership and her commitment to her future goals. She plans to attend Camosun College and study in the health sciences. She plans to eventually become a medical doctor and work in her home community. Congratulations, Mercedes and all the best to you in your future plans!

Mookesa Keesis Scholarship

Mookesa Keesis is Sarah Bradford Kustura's Ojibwa name. This award is sponsored by Sarah's sister and family as a way to honour her caring and loving spirit. Sarah loved animals and humans and always reached out to those who needed extra love and support. She was always aware of our place on Turtle Island and everyone's important role in it. This scholarship is for the student who is interested in studying animals and or the environment.

Kailey Strachan

Kailey is a student with ancestry from the Kwakiutl First Nations and is graduating from Spectrum Community School. She was chosen as the first time recipient of the Mookesa Keesis Scholarship because of her strong academic ability and her plans to pursue a veterinarian degree! She plans to attend the University of Victoria in the fall to pursue a Science degree as the first step towards her doctorate in Veterinary Studies. Congratulations, Kailey and all the best to you!

The WetCleaner Non-toxic DryCleaner Scholarship

For the last fourteen years, the Hatt family has been leading the way as a disruptor in the toxic industry of dry-cleaning. Dave and Cindy recognize that our youth are our future environmental stewards and leaders. This scholarship is for the student who is interested in changing the world through environmental study and or business innovation.

Maya Torres-Conrad

Maya is a student with ancestry from the Ute Tribe and is graduating from Victoria High School. Maya was chosen as the first time recipient of the WetCleaner Non-Toxic Drycleaner Scholarship because of her strong academic ability and her commitment to Indigenous Studies. She plans to attend Camosun College in the fall in the Indigenous Studies Program. Congratulations, Maya and all the best to you!

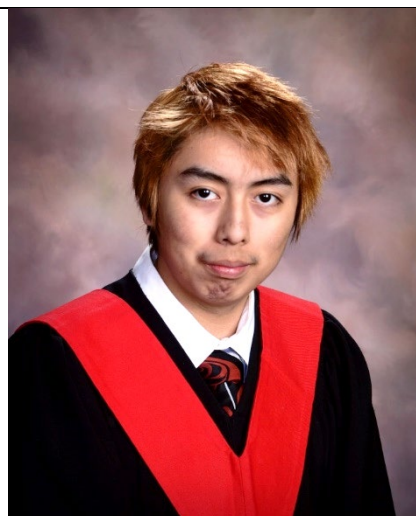
CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE WINNERS!



The Graduates of 2020



Esquimalt High School



Brandon Billy

T'it'q'et

Brandon's fondest memory of high school is participating in the musical theatre program. He would like to thank his family and friends and Ms. Hermanson, his mentor, for pushing him to do work. Brandon isn't sure what his future holds but looks forward to seeing how it plays out.



Lukas Dick

Songhees

Lucas would like to thank all of his friends and family and says, *"Without their support I wouldn't be where I am"*. Lukas has been accepted into the Refrigeration / Air Conditioning Mechanic Foundation Program at Camosun for September.



Juliana George

Songhees

Juliana will remember her experience at Esquimalt High with her friends and teachers. She says it was amazing to feel safe and worthy and that whenever she had a bad day someone would fix it. She would especially like to thank her mom and household for their hard work. It means the world to her. A special thanks to Mr. Grant, Brian, Tensley, and Chris for their time and support. Juliana's parting quote is, *"Listen to your parents or you will regret it."*



**Silas George
Songhees**

Silas would like to thank all of the staff at Esquimalt for always helping him and for ensuring he did his schoolwork. Silas plans to work and live with his parents for now, and move into his own place with friends in 3-4 years. His parting words are, *"Go to class, you won't regret it"* and *"I love you Mom and Dad and all the Esquimalt staff!"*



**Desiree Goldsmith-Brown
Esquimalt**

Desiree is always willing to share a story or have a chat. She has been known to do anything for her friends and those close to her. She is never one to give up once she has set her mind on accomplishing something. Desiree would like to thank all those who have supported her through her years at Esquimalt.



**Seth Horne
Quw'utsun**

Behind Seth's quiet disposition is a thoughtful student who always tries his best. Seth is well liked by his classmates and with his smile was able to brighten the mood of any class. Seth plans to work on creating music and helping people in the field of mental health. Seth's advice to others is, *"Work together not alone; you are never alone. Always remember that school isn't scary at all, you may expect it to be but it's not, just keep your head up and keep going. There's a lot of positive out there."*



Latoya James-Thompson
Ditidaht

Toya's fondest memory of high school is the first day she visited. She is thankful for everyone who helped her through her high school years and she plans to either attend post-secondary school or find work and save for travel and her future. Latoya leaves with a parting quote, *"The grass isn't always greener on the other side. It's green where you water it."*



Shayla Lagis
Kwakwaka' wakw

Shayla has always arrived at school with a smile on her face, offering high fives for her peers and loves a good joke. She likes to take care of others, always remembers your name, and puts her own personal spin on it. Shayla will miss all her friends and staff at Esquimalt High.



Kaydence Landrie
Métis

Kaydence is thankful for her family's support and help toward her graduation. She is attending Camosun College next year to study in the Early Learning & Care program.



Jason Lavis
Métis/Cree

Jason will always be remembered for his love of hats and colors, electronics and bus rides. Jason always looked xforward to the fun activities in school, loved being with his friends and was a good friend to everyone. You could always see Jason around the school helping out with things like recycling and laundry. You will be missed Jason!



Caleb Sam
Songhees

Caleb would like to thank his family and all of the supportive staff at Esquimalt. He really enjoyed being part of the rugby program at the school, was a star on the field and a quiet leader off of it.



Cynthia Sam
Songhees/Malahat

Though she is quiet, she is fierce. Cynthia is a thoughtful, talented, and a passionate Songhees youth who always shows up with a kind heart, a thirst for learning, and love for her community. Cynthia is an emerging leader and someone who knows how to follow her heart. Cynthia would like to thank all those who supported her through the years.

**Madison Scott****Métis**

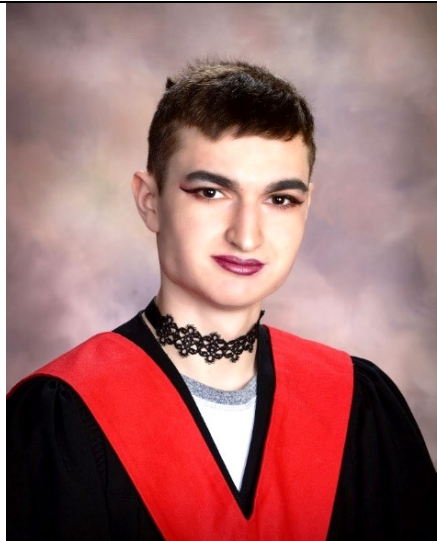
Madison has many great memories from her time at Esquimalt High School. She would like to thank all of the people who have supported her along the way, especially Mr. Beattie.

**Clifford Seitcher****Huuayaht**

Clifford is one with a gentle soul, someone who shows up with respect, and has a deep capacity for understanding the world around him. Though he may be shy at times, Clifford is no stranger to laughing out loud, spending quality time with those he cares about, and for stepping up to demonstrate the power of being polite and caring.

**Gertrude Thompson****Songhees**

Gertie would like to thank her Mom, Auntie Barb, cousin Peter, her siblings and teachers who all helped her along the way. Her fondest memories of Esquimalt include all of the amazing people she met and all the laughs they had together. Gertie's future plans are to do makeup for movies and tv shows, and she leaves us with, *"When life beats you down, never give up. Always keep fighting"*.



Liam Vincent

Métis

Liam feels like it is a miracle to be graduating after years of challenge. He made mistakes, but grew and learned so much. Liam hopes that he may have made high school a little more entertaining for others and that he will keep the friends he made while here.



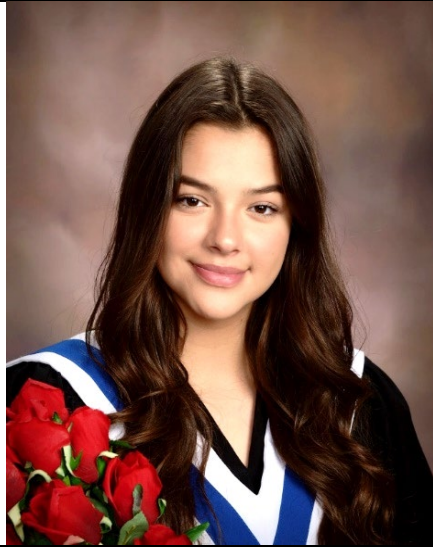
Lambrick Park Secondary School



Olivia Gribbon

Métis

Olivia plans on doing her undergraduate degree in science at the University of Victoria. She enjoys outdoor sports specifically hiking, skiing and soccer. This past year she was the President of Student Council and Valedictorian for her school grad class. Olivia would like to thank and acknowledge her parents for supporting her decisions and pushing her to do her best. Her role model is her older sister because she is kind, generous and has an incredible work ethic. Her advice to fellow students, *"Don't take yourself too seriously and try as many courses as possible."*



Camryn Willier

Cree

Camryn plans to attend Angelina Community College in Texas in the fall to play softball and work towards a career in Criminal Justice. She has been the recipient of several MVP athletic awards which she attributes to having a positive attitude and strong leadership skills. She attends feasts, sweats and ceremonies with family and stays close to her culture. Camryn would like to thank and acknowledge her coach Rocky Vitale for pushing her on the field, in the weight room and in class. Her role model is her sister Sarah, because she is motivated, patience, persistent, an amazing coach and a great influence to her and in the community. Camryn's advice to fellow students, *"Enter high school not to just get good grades, enjoy the school dances or class dress up days. The little memories like that you get to share with friends and hopefully remember forever."*



William Wonnemberg

Métis

William is looking forward to life after high school. His hobbies are baseball and watching the Victoria Royals hockey team. He has been involved in the Baseball Academy and was an Outstanding student in the Life Skills Program 2020. William would like to thank Rosie Stone and Mike Chewpoy for their support over the years. His advice to fellow students, *"Be positive."*





Mt. Douglas Secondary School



Katela Ambers
Dzawada'enuxw

Katela would like to thank her mom who has always been there for her and supported her through everything. She would also like to thank her grandma whom she always looks up to. Katela is most excited to attend post-secondary school in the fall.



Waylon Asp
Tahltan

Waylon is planning to take a GAP year and then study 2D Animation & Visual Development at Capilano University. In addition to art and animation he enjoys kickboxing, writing and the performing arts. Waylon has been a member of the Challenge Program, has won a Grade 10 Salmon Aboriginal Achievement Award, he is Captain of the Mt. Doug Improv Club and Head Coach of the Junior Team and a member of the Curling Team for 4 years. Waylon would like to acknowledge and thank his family and friends for all their support and encouragement throughout the years. His advice to fellow students, *"Do your best in everything you do, but don't stress about the stuff you can't control. Once you find what you want, pour your heart into it and don't worry as much about the extra stuff."*



Enrique Delalcazar
Snuneymuxw

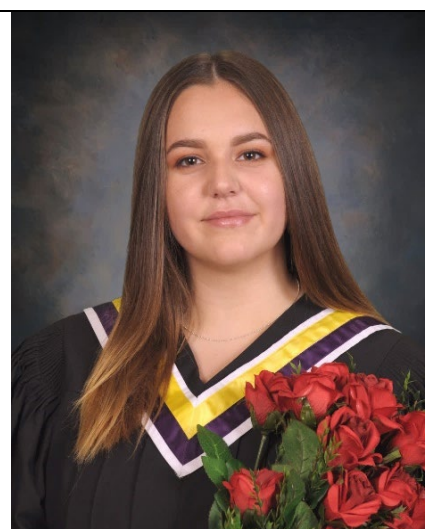
Enrique would like to thank all those that supported him on his path towards graduation. He would also like to wish a bright future for all of the 2020 grads.



Roman Dujela

Métis

Roman came to the school in grade 9 for football and enjoyed every year of it. He would like to thank his mom and dad for helping him pass his courses throughout the years. His favourite memory is winning the Subway Bowl.



Marina Hurst

Métis

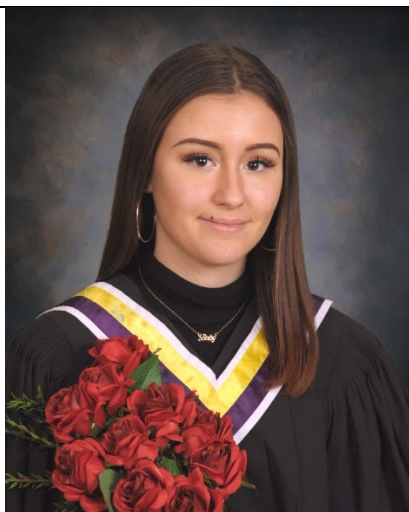
Marina is grateful for the support of her family, friends and teachers. She wishes the best to the Mt Doug grad class of 2020.



Violet Kiesman

Heiltsuk

Violet is grateful to her friends and Mt Doug staff for all of their support. She hopes for health and happiness for the 2020 grad class.



Sierra Livingstone

Sierra arrived at Mount Doug in 2016 and appreciated how welcome everyone made her feel. She will be taking a gap year to focus on herself. She would like to thank her family and teachers for being supportive. Sierra wishes her fellow grad class success and happiness.



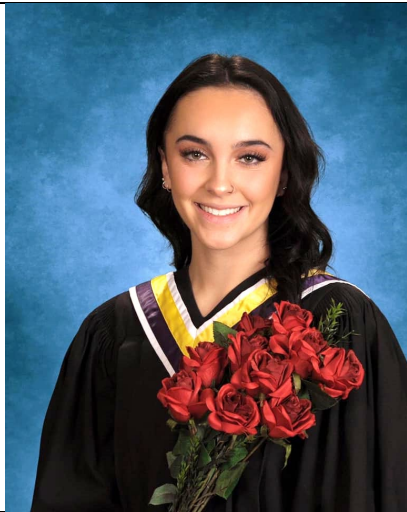
Courtney McKay-Shmyr

Courtney has a tendency to put things off until the last moment. At least she was on time today! She would also like to thank her English teachers for encouraging to tap into her writing skills - even if her best piece was about Ryan Gosling.



Harrison Parkes

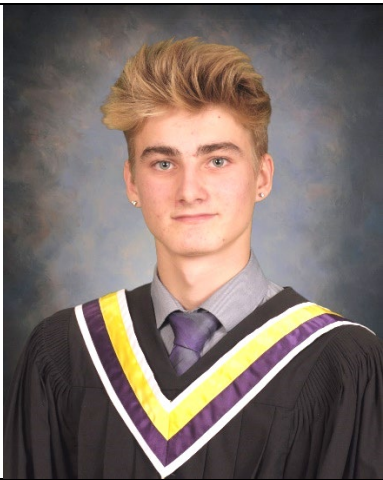
Harrison is crossing the figurative stage with a grateful spirit. He is leaving academic life to pursue a career in Automotive Technology. He would like to thank all the teachers and EAs that have supported him over the years with a special thanks to Samantha Bowker, Shameem Ebrahim, Julia Christianson and Irene Ives.



Rebecca Psaila

Métis

Rebecca is planning to attend Camosun College to study to become a teacher. She enjoys reading, writing, going for hikes and spending time with friends. Rebecca would like to thank her mom, dad and sister for their support and encouragement throughout the years. Her role model has been Tammy Reid, as she has been kind and made her feel accepted during high school. Her advice to fellow students, *"Make sure to live every day to the fullest and try not to let minor inconveniences tear you down."*



Nathan Rogers-Doerksen

Métis

Nathan would like to thank family, friends and teachers for all of their support. Nathan would also like to wish all of his fellow grads great success and happiness after high school.



Ethan Tue

Métis

Ethan would like to thank his family, who is always there for him, the teacher who taught this kid to grow up in this world and to give thanks to his fellow grads. Have a good year and success.





Oak Bay High School



Aidan Gowler

Métis

Aidan hopes to become a veterinarian and will be attending an animal bioscience program at the University of Saskatchewan. She loves animals and is an avid equestrian and has also been involved in the Fine Arts Leadership group at school. Aidan would like to thank and acknowledge her mom who is also her role model, for all the support and encouragement throughout the years. Her advice to fellow students, *"Even if it doesn't feel like you are getting anywhere, keep chipping away at your goals. It may feel like you are taking one step forward and two steps back but if you believe in yourself, you can do it!"*



Isobel Lafond

Cree

Isobel is planning on going to Blanche Macdonald Beauty School to train to be a nail technician. Her hobbies are art, music and nails. Her favourite teacher has been Ms. McCartney because she has always been there for her. Isobel would like to thank and acknowledge her family, boyfriend, Mr. Moore and Ms. McCartney for all their support and encouragement. Her role model is her dad because he is knowledgeable, community driven and gentle. Her advice to fellow students, *"When you feel high school is your whole world, in reality it isn't. Make sure to live your life and be true to yourself."*



Portia Lafond

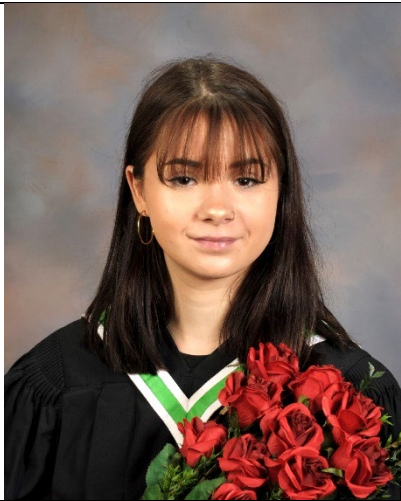
Cree

Portia's future plan is to study History at Concordia University and hopefully have the opportunity to work in a creative field. She likes to watch movies and enjoys studying film and filmmaking. Portia would like to thank her family for believing in her and supporting her decisions. Her role model is her older sister who has taught her countless valuable lessons and showed her unlimited support. Her advice to fellow students, *"Be yourself and express yourself how you wish. Don't be afraid to reach out to teachers/counsellors if you are struggling."*



Tegan Michel
Métis

Tegan's future plan is to enroll in the Science program at Camosun College and play on the Camosun Chargers basketball team. She played on Team BC (U15) and was the 1st Team All Star at the senior girls island championship. Tegan will also be receiving an Oak Bay High Athletic award this year. Tegan would like to thank and acknowledge her parents and coaches, especially Keith Turner, for their support and encouragement. Her advice to fellow students, *"Be yourself!"*



Nykyta Willis
(Profile unavailable at time of printing)



Reynolds Secondary School



Katrina Bremner-Crabe
(Profile unavailable at time of printing)



Shauntelle Dick-Charleson
Songhees & Hesquiaht

Shauntelle is a poet and loves to write and educate people about First Nation topics. She also loves sports and has been playing soccer since she was eight and basketball since she was 10. She hopes to attend UBC for Indigenous Studies in January and then go to UVIC for Indigenous Law. She would like to thank her mom and dad for all their support over the years and her role model her Auntie Anita, who she has always looked up to because of her spiritual and mental strength. Her advice to fellow students, *"Don't ever give up when it starts to get hard. Take a break if you need it."*



Christian Joe

(Profile unavailable at time of printing)



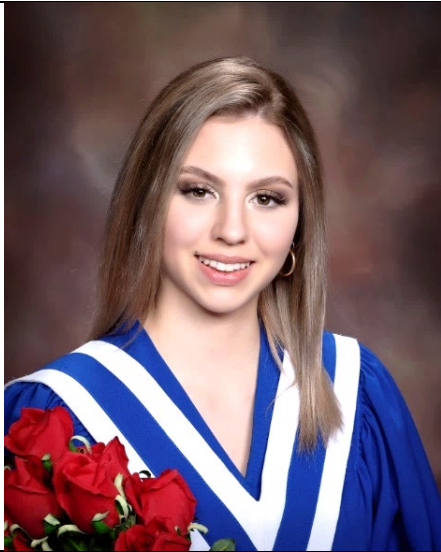
Peter Jones

(Profile unavailable at time of printing)



Ryan Miller

(Profile unavailable at time of printing)



Chantel Nelson

Chantel plans to attend Blanche MacDonald for professional hairstyling. She enjoys cheerleading, kickboxing, boxing and field hockey. Chantel would like to acknowledge and thank her parents and family for all their support throughout her high school years. Her role model is her mom. Her advice to fellow students, *"Enjoy the short time that it is."*



**Talis Quick
Tla-o-qui-aht**

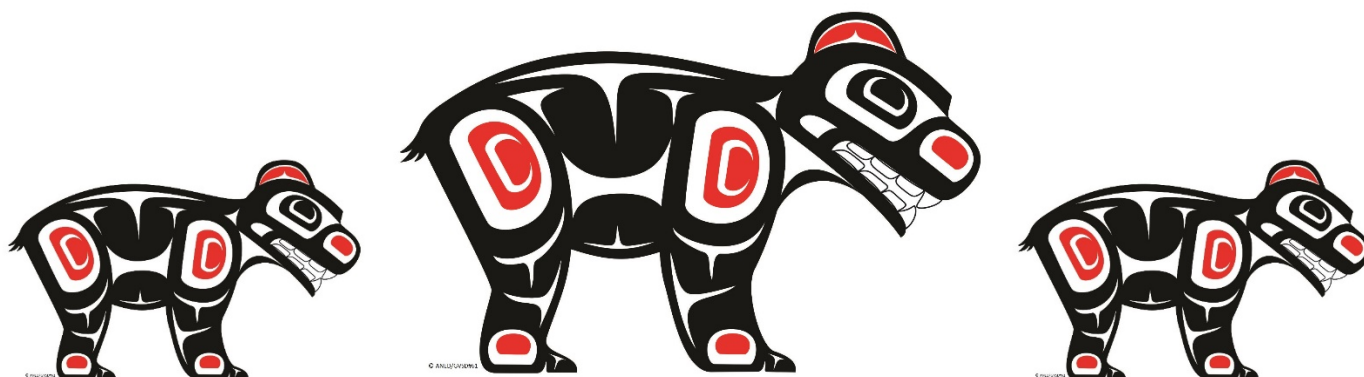
Talis enjoys movies, creating art, video and board games and hanging out with friends. Her future plan is to go to Camosun College and take the Dental Assistance Program and travel Europe. Talis would like to thank Jacqui Loughton for all her support and encouragement and her role model is her mom. Her advice to fellow students, *"Don't sweat the small stuff."*



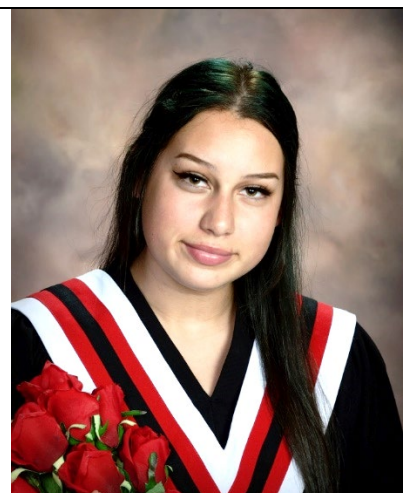
Dallas Rhude

Mi'kmaq/Algonquin

Dallas's future plans are to take a year off and then go on to post-secondary. He enjoys playing soccer, basketball and music and has played the piano for thirteen years. Dallas would like to thank his family, friends, coaches and teachers for all their support throughout the years. His advice to fellow students, *"Don't procrastinate, just do the work."*



Spectrum Community School



Shyann Auger

Métis

Shyann is an active member of the Spectrum community and the larger community, and knows the value of hard work. She plans to go to Sprott Shaw College to pursue her dream of becoming an LPN because she loves the idea of helping others. She would like to thank her friends and family for their support and encouragement through the years. Way to go, Shyann and best wishes for everything you do in the future!



Clarence Charlie

Tsartlip, Coast Salish, Ahousat, Nuu-Chah-Nulth

Clarence would like to thank his parents for making things possible, like when he got all the instruments he has, and the band trips that he went on and his whole family for always being there for him. In the future, he would like to get a part-time job and continue carving, and spend as much time as possible with his family. His advice to students is, *“Do not stress too much and just enjoy what’s happening in the moment.”*



Alyssa Connolly

Liidlil Kue

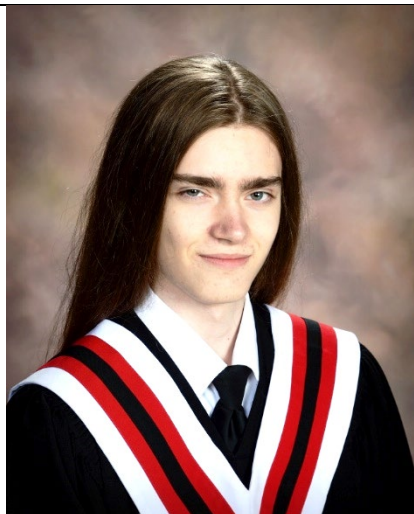
Alyssa would like to study Early Childhood Education and become a social worker for children. Outside of school, Alyssa enjoys fishing, hiking and just being outdoors. She also likes painting rocks and hiding them around British Columbia, and doing other art work. Alyssa would like to thank her fellow classmates, her grade 12 teachers who have mentored her and helped her get to where she is, and last but not least her family. Her advice to other students is, *“Don’t fool around in high school, because it will come back and haunt you.”*



Isaac Craghtten

Onyota’a:ka, Oneida of the Thames

Isaac’s future plan is to get his Commercial Pilots License and attend BCIT to get his AME-M1 license and become a Northern Bush Pilot and work in Aircraft Maintenance. Besides school and flying, Isaac has his HAM radio license and he enjoys talking to others over the radio. He would like to thank his mom for her support and encouragement over the years. His advice to other students is, *“Work hard!”*



Neil Crowfoot

Dene

When not in school, Neil likes to play video games, listen to music, and watch anime and YouTube. He also likes to go for walks in the rain. Paul and Emma would like to thank Neil for coming to almost all of our monthly meetings; it was always great to see him and chat for a while. Best wishes for all you do in the future, Neil!



Grayson Hall

Métis

Grayson enjoys learning about History, film-making and directing, as well as critiquing movies and playing video games. After graduation, Grayson plans to take a year off to think about his future career, which will likely be in the Psychology field. He would like to thank Mr. Berry and Ms. Bott for all of their incredible support during his schooling at Spectrum, from grade 9 through graduation. Grayson's advice to students still working towards graduation is, *"There is always a way. Help is always available, and you should feel okay about speaking up!"* Way to go Grayson, and best wishes for the future!



Julia Johnson

Métis

Julia would like to follow a career path in the fashion industry, and spend time travelling around the world. Outside of school, Julia's interests include dance, exercising regularly, hockey, thrifting and sewing. Julia would like to thank her family for all of their endless love and support throughout her lifetime. Their hard work to provide for her is deeply appreciated. She would also like to give a special thanks to her dance teacher Lia Shannon who taught her so much about something she did not realize she was passionate about until being in her class and for creating such a relaxed environment. She would also like to thank school counselor Tanya Hadley, who made her feel like there was always someone there for her at school in times where she thought she was alone. Her advice to other students is, *"To those who are still working towards grad, I would like to remind them that this time passes by faster than you think. Although high school can be extremely difficult and stressful at times, try not to sweat the small things so much, take time to breath, and appreciate every day you get to learn something new and be with your friends. Also, teachers and counselors can be so much more helpful than you think, so don't be afraid to ask."* Best wishes for all you do, Julia!



Quinton Lebold

Métis

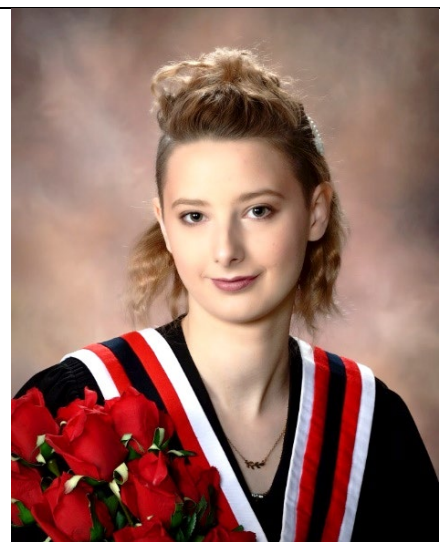
Quinton's plans for the future include taking some time to travel, and to get his Heavy Duty Mechanics diploma from Camosun College. Outside of school, Quinton likes bike riding, hanging out with friends, playing video games and helping out around the house. He would like to thank his family for all of their support, Mr. Berry for putting up with him and Tanya Hadley for listening, and everyone at school for all of their support. His advice to other students is, *"Listen to your peers but stand up for yourself when you need to."* Way to go, Quinton best wishes for all you do!



Austin McKenna

Métis

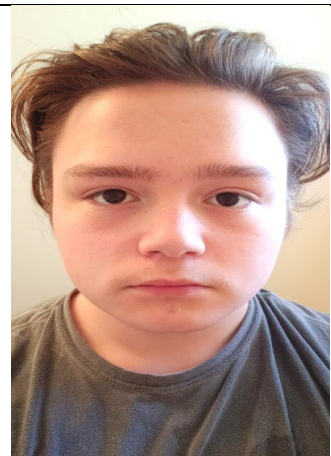
Austin's future goals include going to post-secondary school to become a plumber. Way to go, Austin and best wishes for your future!



Emily Myall

Métis

When not in school, Emily enjoys drawing and painting. Her future plans include going to post-secondary school for psychology. She would like to thank her family for their support and Mr. Berry and Ms. Bott for giving her an environment to learn in. Her advice to other students is, *"Communicate with teachers. It can be hard but being able to talk and conveying your worries can shed unnecessary stress."* Way to go, Emily!



Sterling Roberts

Nisga'a

Sterling would like to thank his parents, his Nana, and all of the teachers who helped him along the way. Outside of school, Sterling is very interested in photography, and would like to pursue a career as a photographic journalist. To students still working towards graduation, Sterling's advice is to *"just work hard"*. Way to go, Sterling!



Kailey Strachan

Kwakiutl

Kailey has been intrigued by science and how the world works for as long as she can remember, and has been accepted into the University of Victoria for a Bachelor of Science degree. Kailey plans to eventually attend the university of Saskatchewan and become a veterinarian. Outside of school, Kailey's interests include enjoys running, playing soccer and volunteering. She would like to thank her parents for always supporting her, and she would also like to thank her teachers. Her advice to other students is, *"Always try your best and keep persevering, the work you put in now will pay off."* Way to go, Kailey and best wishes for the future!



Jared Williams

Upper Skagit/Tsawout

Jared plans to work for now and eventually go to post-secondary school. Jared was part of the Indigenous Drum Group and the Indigenous Leadership class at Spectrum. Outside of school Jared likes playing soccer and taking care of his son. He would like to thank Emma Milliken and Ms. Bott for their support and always encouraging him to get everything done. Jared's role models are his family and his elders, who told him he would do great things after high school, so they always told him to keep his head up and listen to his teachers. His words of advice to other students is, *"Always listen and do your work."* Congratulations, Jared and best wishes for the future!

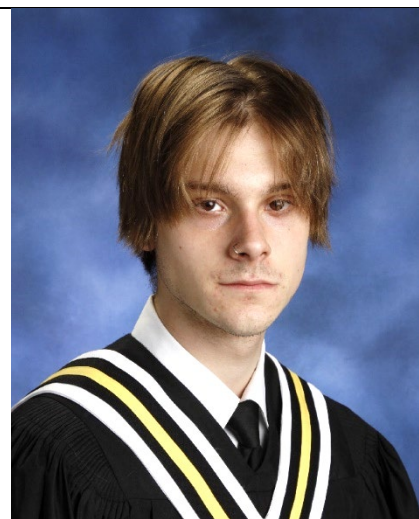


Victoria High School



Elijah Adams

Elijah has ancestry from the Mi'kmaq Peoples. He plans to travel after high school and will work and save money towards that goal. He will eventually attend post-secondary and has strength in academics, music and carpentry. His message to other students: *Congratulations!*



Ares Bach

Ares has Métis ancestry. He is very creative and writes his own music, rap lyrics and does video production. He plans to continue making music and will eventually go to post-secondary. He is a strong student with interests in science and music. His message to other students: *Congratulations!*



Emylia Biegun

Emylia has ancestry from the Labrador Métis. Her future plans are to enter post-secondary to study towards a degree in social work. Emylia is a talent singer and hairdresser and will work this summer and hopes to one day travel to Poland to visit family. She would like to thank "my amazing family" for their support and encouragement as well as "the teachers who saw my potential and never gave up on me, Pam Murray, Niki Lukat and Eric Emde. Also my band and friends for always being there for me". Her advice to other students who are still working towards grad: *It's so easy to lose motivation and feel like you won't go anywhere, please don't give up. Reach out. Also, always stay connected to your inner child and your roots.*



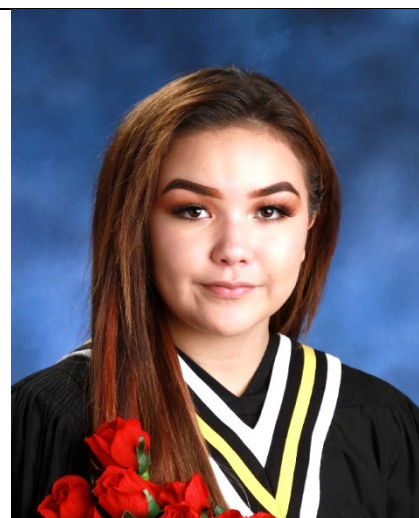
Kyron Crosby

Ky is a student with Métis and Mi'kmaq ancestry. He plans to attend Camosun College in September and pursue a career in health sciences to become a sports massage therapist. He is an athletic and academic student with a flair for athletic artistry in dance. His message to other students: *Congratulations!*



Adam James

Adam has ancestry from the Salish peoples and is a member of the Lyackson Band. He plans to work after high school until he decides what he will do in his future. He will explore his options for post-secondary after taking a break and is interested in the culinary arts! His message to other students: *Congratulations!*

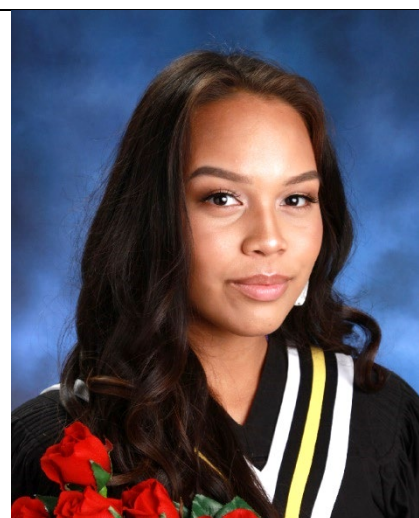


Nadia Male

Nadia has ancestry from the Nuu-chah-nulth Nation. She has been part of the hairdressing program at Vic High. Her plans after high school involve moving to Vancouver and attending a cosmetology program. Her message to other students: *Congratulations Everyone!*

**Jack Mandel**

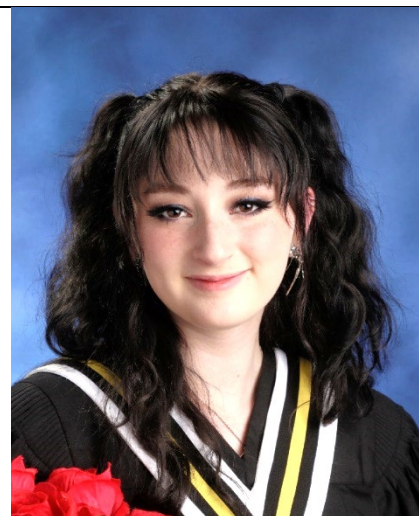
Jack has Métis ancestry. He plans to work for a while after high school and will eventually enroll in post-secondary. He has strength in a variety of trades and may attend Camosun College! His message to other students: *Congratulations!*

**Mercedes Marshall**

Mercedes is a member of the Tseshaht First Nations of the NTC. She plans to attend Camosun in September and pursue a career in health sciences. She has strength in youth leadership and often volunteers for events at her school. Her message to other students: *Congratulations!*

**Sampson Parker**

Sampson is a student with Métis ancestry. He has strengths in academics and metal arts and plans to train as a concept artist at an Art School in Vancouver. His message to other students: *Congratulations to everyone!*

**Esmee Phillips**

Esmee has Cree ancestry. She will eventually go to post-secondary, but for now has plans to work as a video editor for Made You Look Media here in Victoria. She is graduating with a dual dogwood certificate in French! She will work for a while before enrolling in Post-Secondary studies. Her message to other students: Stay focused!

**Julia Su**

Julia has ancestry from the Nuu-chah-nulth Nation. She plans to attend Camosun College in the fall and will do a trades program. She has a particular interest in electronics and electrical trades. Her message to other students is: Congratulations on finishing!

**Maya Torres-Conrad**

Maya has ancestry from the Ute People. She plans to attend Camosun College and is enrolled in the Indigenous Studies Program. She is a strong student who has been on the honour roll throughout her high school years! Her message to other students: All the best to everyone!

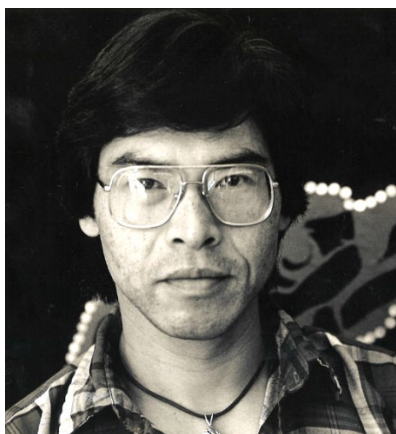
***Congratulations to all the
Graduates of 2020!***

Indigenous Education Staff Retirees 2019-2020

*On behalf of the Indigenous Education Department, we raise our hands and acknowledge **Mark Albany** and **Gloria Cardinal** who retired from the Greater Victoria School District this year.*

Mark is from the Songhees Nation, and was one of the Indigenous Student Counselors for the past 29 years. Mark was an itinerant counsellor and worked at many schools in the district at the elementary, middle and secondary levels. As well as his counseling role, for many years Mark offered cultural tours for teachers and staff during professional development days. The demand for his tours increased over the years and for the last part of his career he offered culture tours to whole classrooms where he brought students from all levels to areas that have cultural and historical significance to local Indigenous Nations. He shared important knowledge about traditional territory use; plants; medicines; clam beds; middens and Indigenous ways of knowing the land. Mark started with the district in July of 1990 and decided to retire in June 2019. He will be greatly missed and we want to thank him for sharing his skills and knowledge over his career with hundreds of students, teachers and staff. His countless environmental fieldtrips exploring the local beaches, rivers, parks and green spaces with school staff and students will be greatly missed. Mark also taught archery, Kung Fu and is a certified Red Cross First Aid Instructor. We wish him all the best in his well-earned retirement! Thank you, Mark, and congratulations on your retirement!

Hay'sxw'qa si'em



It was my absolute pleasure to work with Gloria for almost 10 years at Esquimalt High School.

She came in to my life and not only was she an Educational Assistant, she treated me like a daughter. She taught me many lessons that I will never forget. One story I have about her (and I have many) is when I asked her to join in on a counselling session with myself, another student and the student's grandmother. I was nervous about meeting with the grandmother because I was only a new mom and felt it would be good to have Gloria with me to give a grandma's perspective. Gloria was the exact medicine that the family needed. From that day on I have always looked up to Gloria as a loving, knowledgeable, generous person. While she worked as an Educational Assistant, she really was a teacher to me. She taught me to always think of others and to always give generously. It was because of her that we started to Gifting Program at Esquimalt High. Every Christmas Gloria would reach deep into her pockets and find ways to express her appreciation for everyone that she worked with, from the custodian to the admin, to the secretaries to many of the staff. While she lived humbly, she always found ways to give to others at the end of the year as well. Once again she would circulate around giving gifts to the admin, secretaries, custodian and staff. It was Gloria who started the idea of having Indigenous ties made as gifts for the male staff and painted rocks for the students. She helped us to start the making of the cedar boughs with the 4 ribbons tied on them. The cedar boughs adorned the tables at the Indigenous Grad Ceremony. The thing I will remember most about Gloria is how much we would laugh. We laughed so hard that our cheeks got sore

and our bellies ached. We laughed at ourselves mostly. She ran our First Nations classroom like a home and family. She made sure everyone pitched in with doing dishes and helping with food prep and clean up. Everyone spoke respectfully and treated each other with kindness. She emulated that. Although she was an Educational Assistant, she was my teacher. She taught me to love, listen, laugh and be generous. She taught me about being Cree and how special that is. She taught me to be a proud Cree woman and to embrace my roots and for that I am truly grateful. My heart is full of love and my eyes are filled with tears because I am eternally grateful that Creator placed Gloria in my life." I am so happy for you Gloria as you journey on to your new life. I hope that the road reaches up to meet you and that you are blessed twice over with many gifts, as you always so generously give to others. Hiy Hiy Gloria for all of your love."

Kolette Cristante, Teacher

IED would like to raise their hands in gratitude, respect and thanks to Gloria Cardinal for her dedication and commitment to our students and their families for the past 27 years. Prior to Gloria being hired as an Education Assistant she volunteered her time with Laura Anderson to form the first district First Nations Parent Advisory Council and they provided a foundation for parental involvement woven with workshop information sessions. The transition to work with students daily in her work has evolved from her commitment to create a sense of belonging and connection for all the students.

Gloria's strong traditional knowledge of her Cree language and cultural traditions has laid a strong foundation for her work and desire to see First Nations knowledge be an integral part of the learning experience of the students she worked with. Gloria's passion for her work has provided a valuable connection for students and staff and we know she will continue to do her life's work in the community as well. Enjoy the next part of life's journey and know that your work has made a difference. Ĝilakasla!

Nella Nelson, former Coordinator of Indigenous Education Department

**From all of the Indigenous Education staff,
Happy Retirement Gloria we will miss you!**

