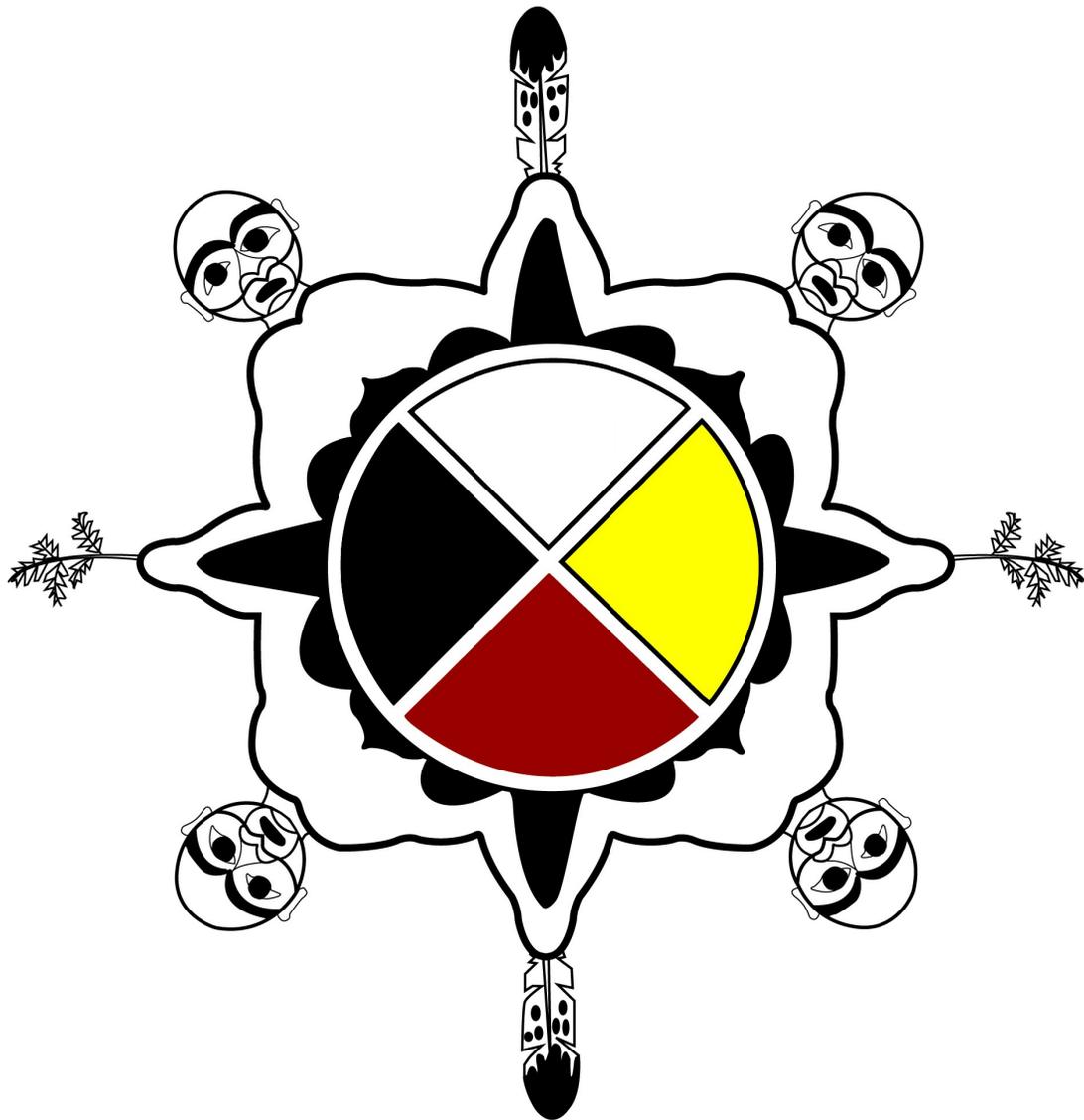


Indigenous Education Department
Greater Victoria School District No. 61

Graduation Profiles

June 2021



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.

The Indigenous Education Department of the Greater Victoria School District

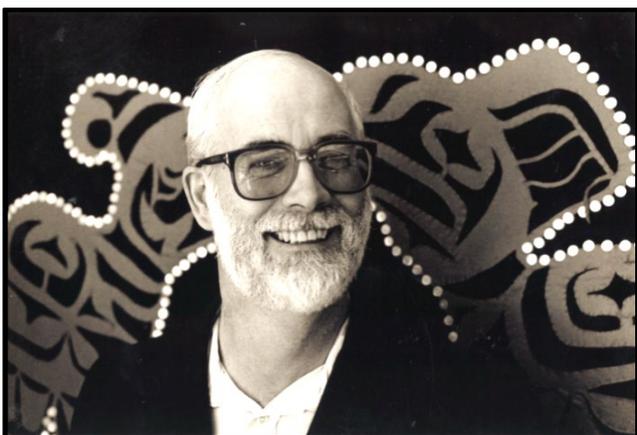
In Memoriam of Alex Clark 2021

In May this year, our dear friend and former colleague, Alex Clark, passed into the Spirit World. For over 30 years, Alex paddled with us in the IED canoe and retired in 2015. Alex joined us shortly after we started as the “Native Indian Education Program” at SJ Willis in the early 80’s and initially volunteered his time to listen and learn from the many Elders we had in our program like John Thomas, Henry Hunt, Emma Hunt and Jim Gilbert. The Elders would share and tell stories and Alex would always be there listening and observing. Over the years he integrated their stories and the traditional knowledge that he learned from working on the land and working with a variety of people up and down the coast. Alex was an animated storyteller who captivated thousands of students with his stories for over 30 years. He was always thrilled and excited when a student let him know that he was also their mother or dad’s teacher, and in some cases even the grandparents teacher.

Throughout his career, Alex brought his woodworking skills and creativity into classrooms to create 3 miniature long houses that represented the 3 Island Nations. They are big house models that still travel throughout the district for teachers to share with students, his range of skills enhanced the work of the Indigenous Education Division for years. He worked with students to create beautiful pieces of art work using traditional and contemporary design while always honoring the art of the traditional Indigenous people. Respect and honour were always woven into his work and teachings in the schools.

Alex crossed an intercultural bridge and exemplified how to listen and learn and how to share the stories and legends of Indigenous people. He demonstrated to others that cultures can be shared provided you lay a strong foundation of honour and integrity and acknowledge the source of the story. One of our basic teachings is that we are to be of service to our people and that we give back when we can. Alex demonstrated love for learning and teaching in so many ways.

We send deepest condolences to his family and friends and thank them for sharing him with us for so many years. We take some comfort in knowing that Alex is now with the Ancestors who guide our work.





2021

Graduation Profiles

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Indigenous Education Department

Greater Victoria School District
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Graduation Profile Booklet:

Layout & Design: Paola Bell, Administrative Assistant, IED

Thank you to the following Sponsors of the 2021 Indigenous Scholarships:

- Carey Newman, Hemasaka Scholarships (2 x \$500)
- Autumn Maxwell, Cold Comfort Culinary & Trades Scholarships (4 x \$1,000 each)
- Cindy & Dave Hatt and family, Mookesa Keesis Scholarship & WetCleaner Non-toxic Dry Cleaner Scholarship (\$500 each)
- Dr. Rose Lenser, First Nations into Science Scholarship (\$1,000)
- Hulitan Family & Community Services Society, Nella Nelson Legacy Academic Scholarship (\$1,000)
- Karrie Hill, Lifting Each Other Up Scholarship (\$1,000)
- Lucas Bell Graphic Design, The Creative Futures Scholarship (\$1,000)
- Makola Development Services, Judy Bourne Memorial Scholarships (2 x \$1,600 each)
- Indigenous Education Department/GVSD61:
 - Freda Shaughnessy Sports/Academic Scholarship (\$1,000)
 - Lacuse Robert Warren Trades Scholarship (\$1,000)
 - Grade 8, 9, 10 & 11 Student Achievement Awards (totaling \$1,350)

Total Scholarship Sponsorships: \$15,200

A special thank you to the BC Liquor Control Board and the Board of Education SD61 for their **\$508.58** Dry Grad donation

Grade 8 Salmon Achievement Awards 2021 (\$50 each)

Sam Chanin has Ojibwe Ancestry, Arbutus Middle School
Annie Dreilich has Métis Ancestry, Colquitz Middle School
Kaleb Hunt has Kwakwaka'wakw Ancestry, Gordon Head Middle School
Cassidy Johnson has Mohawk and Métis Ancestry, Colquitz Middle School
Jessie Swan has Ahousaht Ancestry, Cedar Hill Middle School

Grade 9 Salmon Achievement Awards 2021 (\$100 each)

Hailey Amos has Tloquiat Ancestry, Esquimalt Secondary school
Elizabeth Rose has Shusway/Métis Ancestry, Victoria High School

Grade 10 Salmon Achievement Awards (\$150 each)

Jerret Anderson, has Kuu ay aht Ancestry, Spectrum Community School
Taralynn Atleo-George has Songhees Ancestry, Esquimalt Secondary School

Grade 11 Salmon Achievement Awards (\$150 each)

Keelin McNeil has Tlingit Thaltan and N'isga Ancestry, Reynolds Secondary School
Cayden Brune, has Cree Ancestry, Spectrum Secondary School

SJ Burnside Alternative Education Salmon Achievement Awards (\$75 each)

Azia Louie Gauthier, Ahousaht Ancestry
Alisha Paige has Cowichan Ancestry
Herman James has Tsartlip Ancestry
Dez Sheena has Nuuchahnulth Ancestry



2021 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. The winner of this scholarship is:

Maia Lacharity

Maia is graduating from Mount Douglas Secondary School and has Métis Ancestry. Maia has a very strong ability in science studies and plans to attend Camosun College in pursuit of an Associate Degree of Science in Biology. She then plans to attend UVIC to complete an undergraduate degree in Biology. She will eventually work in the field of health and medicine. Congratulations, Maia and all the best in your future studies!

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. The winners of these scholarships are:

Angelina Sam

Angelina is graduating from Esquimalt High School and is a member of the Songhees Nation. She has a natural helper's spirit and plans to attend post-secondary studies at Thompson Rivers University in the area of human services, working with children. Congratulations on your graduation and all the best in your future studies!

Calin Barber

Calin is graduating from Victoria High School and has ancestry from the Cree and Métis People. Calin is a student who excels in sports, academics and auto body engineering and design. He will take a gap year and then he plans to attend The Emily Carr University of Art and Design. He may also do an engineering degree. All the best to you, Calin and congratulations!

Hemasaka Scholarships

Hemasaka is the traditional name of retired teacher Victor Newman. In the Kwakwaka 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. The winners of these scholarships are:

Tulah Patterson

Tulah is graduating from Esquimalt High School and is a student with Métis Ancestry. Tulah plans to begin her post-secondary studies in art at Camosun College with a future plan to attend Concordia to complete a Fine Arts Degree. Her future goal is to become an art teacher. Congratulations, Tulah and all the best to you in your future endeavors!

Solona Taylor

Solona is graduating from Esquimalt High School and has ancestry from both the ‘Namgis Nation and the Ahousaht Nation. She is a creative and critical thinker and plans to attend the University of Victoria to pursue a degree in Humanities with plans to become a teacher. Congratulations, Solona and all the best in your post-secondary 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. The winners of these scholarships are:

Aidan Bennett

Aidan is graduating from Spectrum Community School and has ancestry from the Okanagan First Nations and the Haida Nation. Aidan is both an athletic and academic student and is enrolled to start at Camosun College in the fall and plans to pursue a degree program. Congratulations, Aidan and all the best in your post-secondary studies!

Cold Comfort Scholarships (cont'd)

Joshua Bryce

Joshua is a graduating from Esquimalt High School and is a member of the Songhees Nation. He is described as an athletic person who is a very hard worker. Joshua plans to attend Camosun College in the Sports Management Program. Congratulations, Joshua and all the best in your future plans!

Aiden LeBlanc

Aiden is graduating from Esquimalt High School and is a member of the Tlicho Nation. He has been active in the Professional Cooks Training Program at Esquimalt High and plans to continue his training at Vancouver Island University in the fall to further his professional cook training. Congratulations, Aiden, and all the best in your future studies!

Richard Morgan-Tom

Richard is graduating from Victoria High School and is a member of the Hesquiaht Nation. Richard will be attending Camosun College in the culinary arts program. He loves to bake and plans to work in restaurants. Congratulations, Richard and all the best at post-secondary!

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. The winner of this scholarship is:

Claudette George

Claudette George is graduating from Esquimalt High School. She is a member of the Songhees Nation and is a member of the Lekwungen Dance Group. Claudette plans to attend Camosun College in the fall and is enrolled in the professional cook training program. Congratulations, Claudette and all the best at post-secondary!

Freda Shaughnessy Sports/Academic Scholarship

Freda was from the Kwicksutaineuk Nation and a champion of the Kwakwala 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. The winner of this scholarship is:

Jaxson Smith-Peterson

Jaxson is graduating from Lambrick Park Secondary School and has Cree ancestry from the Peepeekisis First Nation. Jaxson will be attending Minnesota West Community and Technical College to play baseball and study communications. He is a high level baseball player and plans to continue his training alongside his pursuit of a degree in communications. Congratulations, Jaxson, and all the best 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. The winner of this scholarship is:

Gregory Atleo

Gregory is graduating from Esquimalt High School and is a member of the Ahousaht First Nations. Gregory is described as a hardworking and helpful student and he will continue his education at Camosun College in the trades programs. Congratulations, Gregory and all the best to you in your future studies!

Nella Nelson Legacy Academic Scholarship

This scholarship is sponsored by Hulitan Family & Community Services Society. It is in recognition of Nella Nelson, Klaapasugwela/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. The winner of this scholarship is:

Solona Taylor

Solona is graduating from Esquimalt High School and has ancestry from both the 'Namgis Nation and the Ahousaht Nation. She is a creative and critical thinker and plans to attend the University of Victoria to pursue a degree in Humanities with plans to become a teacher. Congratulations, Solona and all the best in your post-secondary studies!

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. The winner of this scholarship is:

Cayden Perreault

Cayden is graduating from Reynolds Secondary School and has ancestry from the Cree and Sauteaux, Cowessess First Nations. Cayden plans to attend university and work towards a science degree for a career in health care. He is described as kind, considerate and a hard worker. He is an honour roll student who excels in his studies. Congratulations, Cayden and all the best in your future endeavors!

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. The winner of this scholarship is:

Kalem Quocksister

Kalem is graduating from SJ Burnside Education Centre and is a member of the Songhees Nation. Kalem's references describe him as hard working, humble and thoughtful. He plans to enroll in a professional barber program after high school and looks forward to putting his training and creativity into his career. Congratulations, Kalem and all the best in your future endeavors!

The Creative Futures Scholarship

Lucas Bell is a local self-employed graphic designer and artist who graduated from Mt. Douglas High School in 2010. He attended the University of Victoria and obtained his Bachelors of Fine Arts with Distinction Degree in 2015. Lucas wanted to share his success by giving back to the community and to support a student who is pursuing a post-secondary degree in any creative field, including visual art, graphic design, music, theatre, writing, poetry, media arts or computer programming. The winner of this scholarship is:

Paige Swain

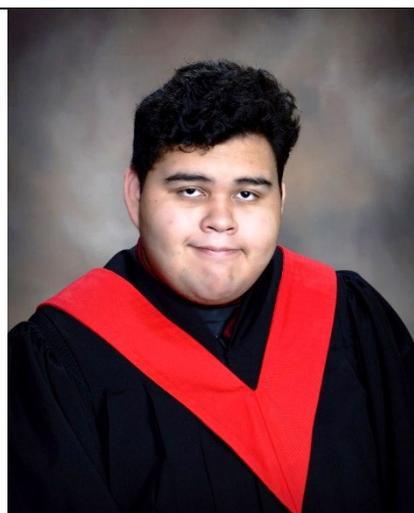
Paige is graduating from Spectrum Community School. She has Métis ancestry and is has a very creative spirit. She will be attending the Randolph College for the Performing Arts in Toronto next year and plans to earn a degree in performing arts. Congratulations, Paige and all the best to you in your future endeavors!

**CONGRATULATIONS
TO ALL THE WINNERS!**

The Graduates of 2021

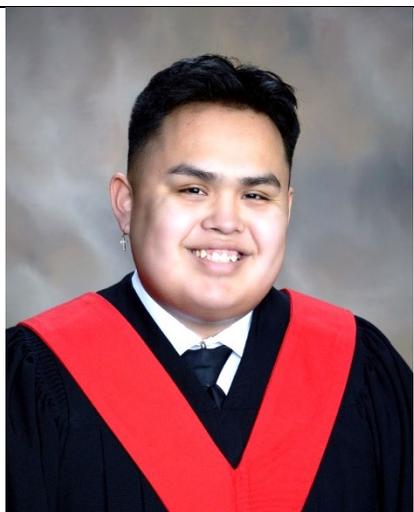


Esquimalt High School



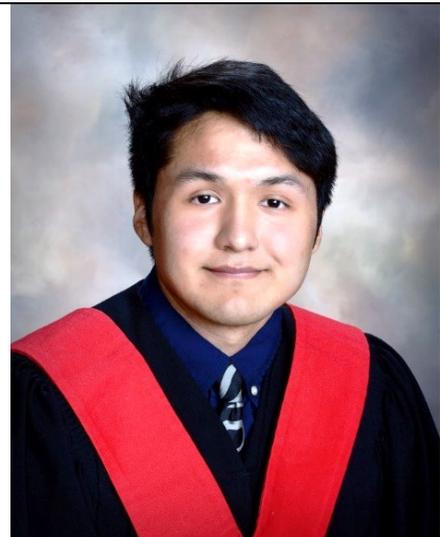
Brody Adams
Ahousaht

Brody's future plan is to work for a while and then enroll at Camosun College either to work towards his Red Seal in the culinary arts or computers. In his spare time he enjoys reading and playing video games. His favourite staff have been Mrs. O'Keefe and Chef Aris because they keep their classes interesting and fun. Brody would like to thank his parents, late grandmother (who's spirit he carries with him always), and uncles for all their support and encouragement throughout the years. His advice to fellow students, *"Work hard, focus on your path and it's okay to be lazy sometimes because this can come with creativity."*



Gregory Atleo
Esquimalt

Gregory's favourite staff member has been Ms. D. Payne because she made English class fun and always pushed him to succeed. His future plan is to either go into carpentry or auto shop. His special interests include his culture. Gregory would like to thank Char, Danielle, Rachel and Kalie for all their support and encouragement through the years. His advice to fellow students, *"It's always okay to reach out for help from the school. We have lots of support."*



**Joshua Bryce
Songhees**

Joshua's future plan is to do something related to international business. He enjoys playing rugby, lacrosse and he just wants to have fun with life. His favourite staff member has been Char because she supported him in many ways to help him graduate. He also recently received \$500 for the Phil Mac Award. Joshua would like to thank Char because she gets things done and is always determined and accepts a challenge. His advice to fellow students, *"Just have fun with high school. Enjoy the years you have with your friends. Just take the work as it comes."*



**Keisha Chester
Ditidaht**

Keisha would like to become an early childhood educator. She would like to thank Rachel, who has always been there for her, her sisters and parents for all the support and encouragement throughout the years. Her role models are her parents, grandparents and sisters because they are strong, never give up and are very determined people. Her advice to fellow students, *"Don't give up. It may seem impossible, but it isn't. Give it your best!"*



**Trenton Coe
Dene**

Trenton's favourite staff member has been Ms. Payne because she was always nice to him. He would like to pursue a career in firefighting and in his free time enjoys gaming. He has also been a participant in the Business Development Program. Trenton would like to thank and acknowledge his mom for all her support throughout the years. His role model is his granny, because she is a hard worker. His advice to his fellow students, *"Go big or go home."*



Latiesha Coulineur

Canoe Lake & Saskatchewan Woodland Cree/Métis

Latiesha's future plans are to go to Thompson River University and either pursue nursing or firefighting. Her favourite staff have been Mr. Thompson, because he is funny and helped her a lot with rugby and Ms. Atchison, who was kind and very helpful with her school work. Latiesha has been the recipient of a Grade 8 Achievement Award and also a winner of Rugby awards. She would like to thank L. Mackay, N. Clark, S. Leget, S. Mazur, Aunt M. Coulier, Heather and many more for all their support throughout the years. Her advice to fellow students, *"Work hard and get your high school diploma and do something that makes you happy."*



Carmanah Dick

Songhees & Esquimalt

Carmanah's interest is in art and would like to become a tattoo artist. She enjoys playing basketball, reading and playing the guitar. She received a MVP award at the Esquimalt Fire Tournament in 2019-20 and a You Rock Award. She would like to thank Sherry for helping her pass Math 10, her grandparents, teachers, friends and parents for all their support and encouragement. She looks up to her best friend Wali, because he inspires her to do better and to be the best she can be. Her advice to fellow students, *"Don't ever be afraid to ask for help."*



Linda-Jane Fisher

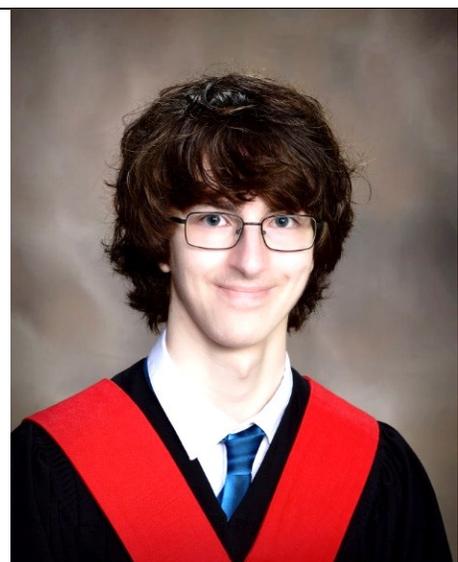
Songhees

Linda would like to go into early childhood education and become a pre-school teacher. She enjoys reading, writing, and English and Social Studies were her favourite subjects. Her favourite teacher is D. Payne because she is nice, funny and understanding. Lina-Jane has been involved with the Songhees Constitution Committee and the youth leadership SAYL team. She also participated in the Landbased Program. Linda-Jane would like to thank her family, teachers and EAs who have worked with her to help her finish school. Her role models are her whole family because they are strong and independent people. Her advice to fellow students, *"Never give up."*



**Claudette George
Songhees**

Claudette's goal is to someday open up her own bakery. Her favourite staff have been Mrs. Smith, Chef Aris, Rachel, Char and Brian because they are all really nice and helpful. She enjoys cooking, lacrosse, reading and has participated in the Culinary Program at school. Claudette would like to acknowledge and thank her parents and Chef Aris for all their support and encouragement over the years. Her advice to fellow students, *"Pursue your passions. Find out what they are and go after them!"*



**Liam Gleason
Kootney/Swampy Cree/Ktunaxa Tobacco Plains**

Liam plans to work part time over the summer and then to further his education in the fall. In his spare time he enjoys theatre, arts, roller skating and skateboarding. He also participated in the Belfry 101 Theatre Program for two years. Liam would like to acknowledge and thank all his teachers, A. Hermanson, tutor Bill and all his family for their support and encouragement over the years.



**Jack Gosnell
Esquimalt**

Jack's favourite teacher has been Mr. Rak because he's cool. He's not sure what his future plans are yet but his hobbies include learning about cars and playing video games. Jack would like to thank his mom and dad for all their support and encouragement throughout the years. His dad is his role model because he shares his interest in mechanics and cars with him. His advice to fellow students, *"Stay in school!"*



Anne Marie Jimmy
Esquimalt

Anne's favourite staff member has been Ms. D. Payne because she shared her classroom with her when she needed it. She would like to acknowledge and thank her mom, Auntie Mavis and sister Dee-Dee for pushing her to finish school. Her advice to fellow students, *"Don't give up on school. Keep going because you can reach the stars when you are done."*



Ryan Jimmy
Esquimalt

Ryan would like to acknowledge and thank Ms. Payne and his mom for all their support and encouragement they have showed him through the years. His advice to fellow students, *"Don't give up on school. Just keep going because you can do it!"*



Aiden LeBlanc
Tlichó

One of Aiden's future goals is to return to his community and to learn more about his culture. He also plans to work and pursue post-secondary. He enjoys baking, cooking, reading and playing board games and has participated in the cook training program, land based classes and won two English awards and baking awards. He has also sold his chocolates at the Esquimalt Farms Market and volunteered at the Six Mile Pub. His favourite teacher has been Chef Aris because his class is enjoyable and fun and Ms. Roberts because she is a great teacher with strong opinions and wonderful stories. Aiden would like to thank the staff at Esquimalt, his mom, dad and siblings for all their support and encouragement. Her advice to fellow students, *"Take your time and enjoy the experience of high school."*



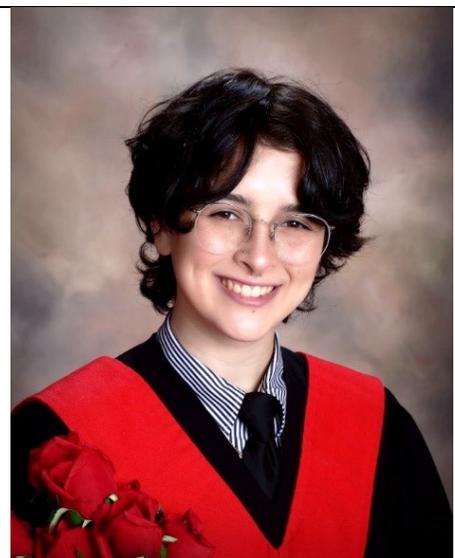
Seth Lushaw

Métis

Seth's favourite teachers are Mr. Beisher, Mrs. Chester, Mrs. Barker, Ms. Allison, Mr. Rak, Mrs. O'Keefe and Mr. Dickson because they were all so supportive and believed in him. He would like to go to post-secondary but is not sure which program. He enjoys art in all forms and reads a lot. Seth would like to thank Mr. Dickson for being fun and for all his encouraging support. His advice to fellow students, *"Just study! Study and don't procrastinate. You can do it. I believe in you!"*



Rebecca McCloskey



Eli McNabb

Mi'kmaq

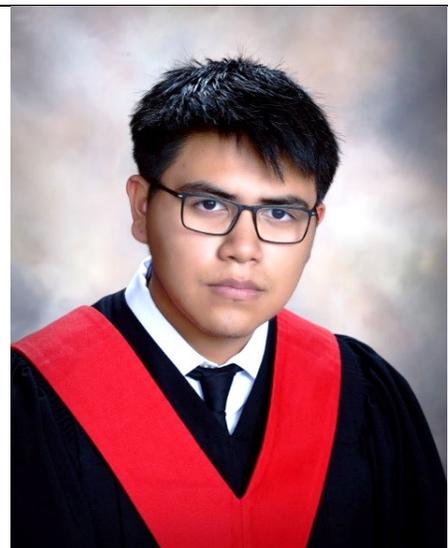
Eli would like to thank her favourite staff members Brian, Rachel, Ms. Coutts and Ms. Hermanson because they have all been there for her and offered their support. Her favourite hobbies include jewelry making, special effects makeup and costume design. Her advice to fellow students, *"If you never do it, you will never get another chance so go for it. Memories are forever, punishment is temporary."*



Tulah Patterson

Métis

Tulah's favourite teacher has been Ms. Roberts because she make her feel intelligent and her classes were fun and she let her bring her sister to class. Her future goals are to become an art teacher and travel. In her spare time she enjoys art, sport and reading. She has been the recipient of an Athletic Leadership Award and Community Leader Award in Grade 10. Tulah would like to thank her step-mom and dad for all their support and her role model is her step-mom Siona, because she is smart, organized, kind and loyal. Her advice to fellow students, *"Take advantage of the support staff and do your homework."*



Rylan Pelkey

Songhees

Rylan's future goal is to go into mechanical engineering and someday travel and see the world. His favourite teacher has been Aaron Witzke because he helped him a lot and was really fun to chat with. His hobbies include driving around in his car, listening to music and hanging out with friends. Rylan has been a member of the Songhees Academic Youth Leadership group since 2017. Rylan would like to acknowledge and thank Martha, Rachel and Brian for all their help over the years and his role models are his parents Jeannie and Floyd because they carry themselves in a respectful manner. His advice to fellow students, *"Don't skip classes. Be a good noodle."*



Angelina Sam

Songhees

Angelina's favourite teacher has been Ms. Abrioux because she always helped with her math and personal problems. In her free time she enjoys sewing and doing crafts. Angelina has also been the recipient of the Most Improved Dancer Award. She would like to thank and acknowledge all her teachers in the past, family and friends for all their support and encouragement. Her advice to fellow students, *"No matter what situation you are in, there is someone who can help you."*



**Kaleb Street
Sechelt**

Kaleb's favourite teacher has been Mr. Rak because he always helped him when he need it. He is not sure what he wants to do yet but he is interested in culinary school. His hobbies include video games and reading Manga. Before COVID hit he was involved in the Tim Hortons summers camps and thinks he would like to be a camp counselor. Kaleb would like to thank all his teachers for supporting and encouraging him throughout the years. His advice to fellow students, *"No matter the hardship, keep on trying until you get it done."*



**Solona Taylor
'Namgis/Ahousaht**

Solona plans to go to UVIC to continue her education. She loves to bead, read and spend time outdoors. Solona's favourite teacher has been Ms. Kirk because she helped and encouraged her through math and is a nice and patient person. She would like to thank Rachel, Danielle and Char for all their help and encouragement. Her role model is her mom and all of her wonderful colleagues and friends. She always had brilliant Ingenious women to grow and look up to. Her advice to fellow students, *"Don't skip classes. There is always somebody at the school that can help out. I wish I used those resources more when I started."*



**Kimberly Thomas
Esquimalt**

Kimberly's favourite teachers are Danielle, Rachel and Ms. Smith because they have been very supportive of her. She plans to go into the trades and live a good life with her child. Her hobbies are knitting with her mom as she is passing the Cowichan knitting teachings down to her. She has been part of the Sacred Circle play, Landbased learning and the T.A.S.K. program. Kimberly would like to thank her Aunt Mavis, Rachel, Uncle Tony, parents and daughter for all their support and encouragement. Her role model is her Auntie Mavis as she has taught her a lot and helped push her through, and her mom for letting her cry on her shoulder. Her advice to fellow students, *"Work hard but don't overwork yourself!"*



Linnya Thomas
Esquimalt

Nya would like to go to college, get a good job, save up and open her own business. She has been involved in the Landbased Program at school and would like to work at the Esquimalt Nation summer camp. She enjoys playing traditional stick games and beading. Her favourite teacher has been Ms. Payne because she is kind. Nya would like to acknowledge and thank her mom, Tina, Ms. Trebilco, and Ms. Lemon for all their support and encouragement throughout the years. Her role model is her mom because she is a hard worker, committed and consistent, traits that she looks up to. Her advice to fellow students, *“Go to school every day. I swear that it is the only hard part. Make it a goal to work hard each day.”*



Nolan Titian
Ahousaht/Litten Nation

Nolan is still undecided on what his future plans are but in his spare time he enjoys reading and sleeping. He was also involved in the Landbased program. He would like to thank his parents and grandparents for all their support and encouragement and his role model has been his dad.



Gerri-Jean Underwood
Songhees/Cowichan

Gerri would like to build her academic skills and start preparing to take courses at Camosun College. She would like to become either a writer or actress and plans to work at the Songhees food truck this summer. In her free time she enjoys writing fictional stories and coming up with movie ideas and other satires. She has been involved in the Landbased class, SAYL and the asacred Circle play at school. Gerri would like to acknowledge Mr. Scheaffer, Kai Barker, Mrs. Walker, Brian, Rachel, Char, Tensley, Ange Coutts and John Harris for all their support over the years. A special thanks to Char and Rachel because they have been there for her since grade 9 and helped her build up her courage to go to class. Her advice to fellow students, *“Make sure you know what your important priorities are because it is really easy to get distracted and lose out on amazing school experiences and learning.”*



Dylan Webster

Ahousaht

Dylan would like to work, relax and focus on himself and those he loves. His hobbies include working at wholesale, playing basketball, going to the beach and hanging with his girlfriend. He would like to acknowledge his teachers Ms. Elliot, Ms. Hermanson, Char, Laurel, Rachel, Mr. Prevost, Mr. Witzke, Brian, Danielle, Ms. Chester, Mr. Beicher and Mr T. for all their support and thank his grandfather, Martha, Ms. Elliot, and Laurel for all their encouragement. His role model is his brother because he helped him find the right path and his grandfather because he is a good and noble man. His advice to fellow students, *“Stay in class, don’t skip. Focus on yourself and other things.”*



Taylor Wickett

Métis

Taylor is planning on getting her BA in social work. Her hobbies include reading and making visual art. Her favourite teacher is Ms. Smith because she can explain math to her without making her feel stupid. Taylor would like to thank her parents for always supporting her. Her advice to fellow students, *“Don’t sweat the small stuff. You physical and mental health is more important that any school work could ever be.”*





Lambrick Park Secondary School



Eliza Carr
Yukon

Eliza's favourite teacher and role model is Mr. Gronow, Art teacher at Lambrick Park who has been very helpful to her over the years. She is looking forward to working in the future, possibly as a florist. Eliza loves art and drawing especially, and has been active in the Girl Guide program in her community. Her advice to fellow students, *"Don't worry about what people think, in five years it won't really matter"*.



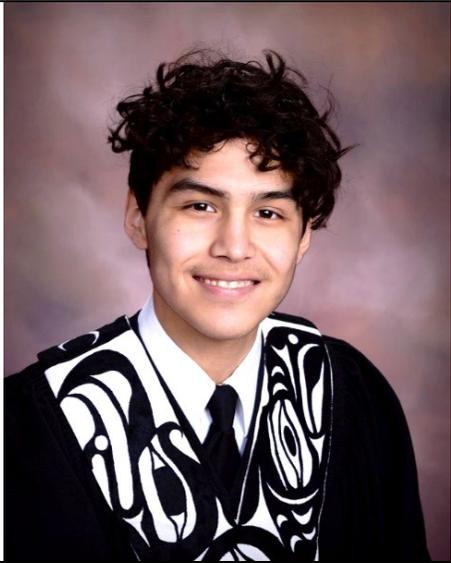
Jaxson Smith-Peterson
Cree/Peeppeekisis Nation

Jaxson's favourite teacher is Mr. Gronow and his role model is his baseball coach Mike Chewpoy because he is so positive. He would like to acknowledge and thank his mom, for all her support and encouragement throughout the years. Jaxson will be attending Minnesota West Community and Technical College to play baseball and study communications. He is a high level baseball player and plans to continue his training alongside his pursuit of a degree in communications. His advice to fellow students, *"Have fun and work hard."*



Tristan Thomas
Songhees/Sayisi Dene/'Namgis

Tristan has been accepted into Camosun College in the fall and has aspirations of becoming a published writer/artist. Tristan thanks his friends who have always supported him and pushed him to dream big, as well as his family. Congratulations, Tristan and all the best in your future studies!



Theo Webster
Nuu-Chah-Nulth

Theo is currently working at Farmer Construction as a Youth Work In Trades student and has been very successful there. He will be receiving a Youth Work In Trades Scholarship for Construction. Theo's family's support is especially important to him but he also wants to thank all the staff for the support and encouragement he was given over the years he was at Lambrick Park Secondary.



***Mt. Douglas Secondary
School***



Edith Johnny
Gwa'sala 'Nakwaxdax'w

Edith's favourite teachers have been Mr. Sprigg, Ms. Reid and Ms. Fehr. In her spare time she enjoys music and First Nations culture. Edith would like to acknowledge and thank Mr. Sprigg, Ms. Reid and her mom and dad for all their support and encouragement throughout the years. She has been involved in attending the First Nations student meetings at school and has attended potlatches and naming ceremonies.



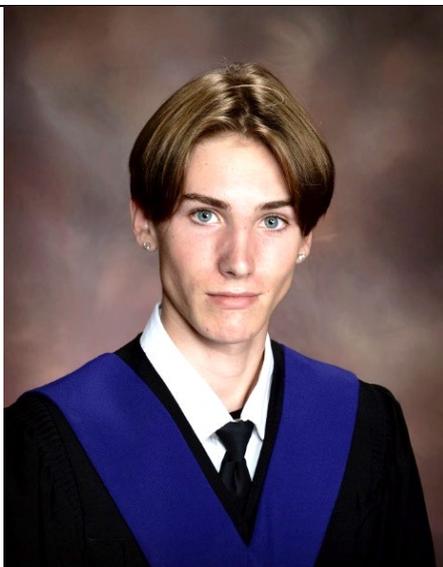
Helen Johnny
Gwa'sala 'Nakwaxdax'w

Helen's favourite teachers have been Mr. Sprigg and Ms. Fehr. Her future plans are to either work with animals or become an Esthetician. Her hobbies include music and First Nations culture. Her cultural interests include going to potlatches, naming ceremonies and has been involved in and attended the First Nations student meetings at school. Helen would like to acknowledge and thank her family for all their support and encouragement throughout the years.



Maia Lacharity
Métis

Maia's favourite teachers have been her Spanish and Music teachers because they have taught her for four years and helped her stay inspired. Her future plans are to study Biology and Linguistics at UVIC. Maia would like to thank and acknowledge her teachers who have helped her achieve her best and family who have supported her throughout her school years. Maia was part of and attended the First Nation student meetings at school. Her role model has been her older sister, because she always admired her confidence and determination. Her advice to fellow students, *"Just enjoy it, it goes by so fast so make sure to get involved and take advantage of all the opportunities presented."*



Kaleb Rogers-Doerksen
Métis

Kaleb's future plan is to start his own business. He enjoys cars, fitness and football and has participated in the TASK Program. His favourite teacher is Mr. McMillon because he had him for four years in a row for Active Living. Kaleb would like to acknowledge and thank his mom for all her support and encouragement. His role model is his dad because he has shown him how to develop good work habits.



Alex Thomas
Ts'ashaht

Alex plans to take a year off to work, save money and take time to explore her interests to plan a career path. Her favourite teachers have been Ms. Morson for her honesty, and Mr. Quast for his understanding. In school she found an interest for dance and is something she would love to continue doing. Alex would like to thank her friends and family for all their help and support through school. Her advice to fellow students, *"Take a break when you need it and don't overwork yourself."*

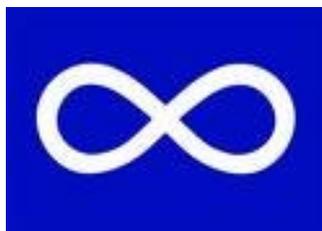


Oak Bay High School



Caeden Bourne
Métis

Caeden plans to attend UVIC to explore the Humanities. He enjoys playing sports and hanging out with friends and family. Caeden would like to acknowledge and thank his family, friends, coaches and teachers for all their support and encouragement throughout the years. He really enjoyed the vibe at Oak Bay. His advice to fellow students, *"Hard work and attention to detail are very important, not at school, but at life."*





Matthew Callow
Quadra Island, Kape Mudge

Matthew's favourite teacher has been Mr. MacKenzie because he was very helpful with providing support with projects and assignments. He is planning to work during the summer and then furthering his education at UVIC. He enjoys playing basketball, was on the school team and received a MVP award from the Vikes team. Matthew also has an interest in business. Matthew would like to thank his father and cousin Cassandra, for supporting him throughout the years. His role model is his mother, who inspired him to work hard and be passionate and kind to others. His advice to fellow students, *"Always try and push yourself each day and find out more about yourself through different programs"*.



Sophie Gagnon
Mikisew Nihiyaw, Montagnais, Dene-Za, Chipewyan

Sophie admires her teacher Ms. Yarr, because she praised her writing skills and is a wonderful character. Her future plan is to open an Inn. Her hobbies include snail keeping and aquascaping. Sophie would like to thank her mom, Elders and Ms. Pass for all their support and encouragement. Her advice to fellow students, *"Rest and eat well!"*



Caitlyn Huffman

Caitlyn's future plan is to move to Montreal and student History at Concordia University. She enjoys dancing and creative writing. Her favourite teacher has been Ms. Alana her dance teacher because she provided her with a welcoming space. In 2020 she won the dance Choreography Award. Caitlyn would like to thank her friends and family for all their friends and family for all their support and encouragement throughout the years.



Reynolds Secondary School



Jaden Goudie

Jaden's favourite teachers are Jacqui Loughton and Gary Crocker. His future goal is to train to be a "voice-over" actor. In his spare time he enjoys to draw. Jaden would like to thank and acknowledge his mom and younger sister for all their support and encouragement throughout the years.



Elleanna Hunt

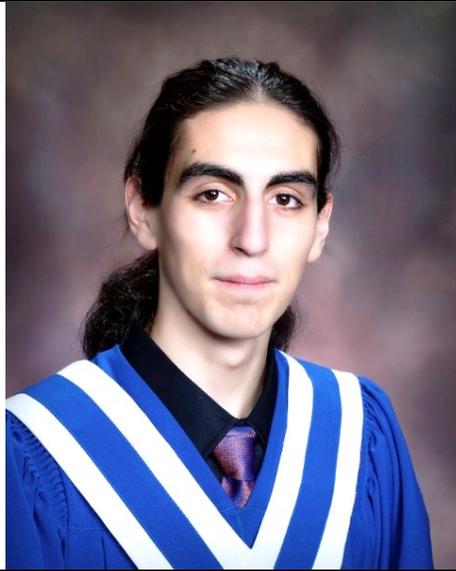
Elleanna's future plan is to attend post-secondary and get a degree in Psychology. She enjoys writing, keeping active, gaming and has a special interest in politics and psychology. She is also a recipient of a Grade 10 Achievement Award. Elleanna would like to acknowledge all her teachers, Taily, Brad Cunningham, John Gray, J. Attenbury and Gary Crocker, for all their support throughout the years. Her role models are her parents and brother because of their resiliency, emotional intellect and strong will. Her advice to fellow students, *"Don't be afraid to ask for help. Don't be ashamed of who you are. If people dislike you, that is their problem, not yours."*





Gabriel Nodin Martin
Ojibwae

Nodin's favourite teacher is Mr. Basi because he has a good sense of humour. He enjoys skateboarding and playing the guitar and plans on taking a year off to work and travel. Nodin would like to thank and acknowledge his mom and friends for all their support and encouragement over the years. His mom is his role model because she is kind and hardworking. His advice to fellow students, *"Stay motivated and look forward to being done!"*



Cayden Perreault
Cree Cowessess

Cayden's favourite teacher is Mr. Ratsoy because of his teaching style and that he helps his students. Cayden will be pursuing post-secondary and has been part of the excellence and honours program. In his free time he enjoys swimming, travelling and rock climbing. Cayden would like to thank his parents, teachers, counsellors and friends for all their support throughout the years. His advice to fellow students, *"Don't burn out, pace yourself."*



Jesse Tearne
Métis Cree

Jessee's future plan is to go into post-secondary training for either auto mechanics or carpentry. He enjoys auto mechanics, mechanical hobbies, photography and carpentry and was a participant of the F.I.R.S.T. robotics team. His favourite teachers have been Kaz Karim and Ken Packford. Jesse would like to thank and acknowledge his parents and all his teachers for all the support they have given him throughout the years. His advice to fellow students, *"Balance your courses."*



SJ Burnside Education Centre



Justin Davies Okanagan

Justin plans to attend Camosun College and enroll into the Trades Program. His favourite teachers have been Jack, Lisa and Leah. They were always super nice to him, had positive and encouraging words and he appreciated their humor. His hobbies include long boarding. Justin would like to thank Leah, Mimi and Deborah for all their support throughout the years. His advice to fellow students, *“Just put your head down and get through your time in school so that you can graduate.”*



Owen Johnson `Namgis



Kalem Quocksister Songhees

Kalem likes to have fun, chill with friends and biking on his days off. His favourite teachers have been Mike, Jack, Asher and Myles because they are like the Jedi Council. Kalem also participated in the Rugby Academy at Esquimalt High School. His future plans are pursuing a career in barbering and then moving to California. Kalem would like to acknowledge and thank the Jedi Council for all their support and encouragement throughout the years. His role model is Nate Diaz, because he is the baddest dude on the planet. His advice to fellow students, *“Come to class and don’t skip.”*



Victoria Sheena Mowachaht

Victoria's future plans are to attend college to become an Esthetician. She enjoys playing the violin, making art and helping others. She has been the recipient of the Felix David Award and participated in the West Saanich Secondary Leadership Program. Victoria would like to thank and acknowledge all her teachers who have helped her along her journey and the SJ Burnside staff for all their support. She looks up to Michael Jackson and Ru Paul because of their public challenges, they have found ways to show love and compassion and laid the foundation for others to follow. Her advice to fellow students, *"Everyone is different, so be kind. You never know what others are going through. Love is free."*



Alaya Van Rysset

Alaya enjoys making art, listening to music and being around friends. Her future goal is to go into some line of conservation work. Her favourite teachers have been Gwyn, Mike and Myles because of their caring and understanding natures. She has worked with the Victoria Youth Coalition to End Homelessness until COVID happened. Alaya would like to thank and acknowledge her Grandma and Carolyn Hekle who without their support none of this would have been possible. Her Grandmother has been the biggest role model in her life because of her gentle nature and inspirational viewpoints. Her advice to fellow students, *"Hold on to your dreams, don't ever give up. Remember that you can dream and that you should. Don't neglect the execution."*



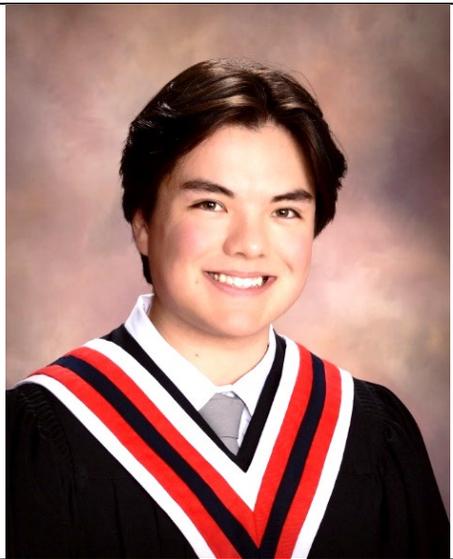


Spectrum Community School



Jade Beil
Ojibwe

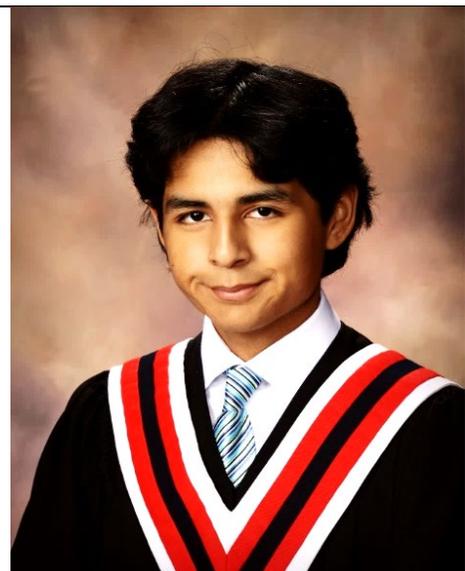
Jade's plans to take a gap year to gain experience in fields of her interests. Her hobbies include piano, volunteering and enjoying the outdoors. Her achievements have included receiving Spectrum Academic Excellence awards and one of her goals in life is to never stop learning. Her favourite teacher has been Mr. Jolliffe because of his sense of humour and overall support. Jade would like to thank her teachers, friends and family for all their support over the years. Her advice to fellow students, *"Take advantage of the clubs, extracurricular activities, courses and the teachers and counselors advice. If you put in the work, effort and dedication towards your dreams and goals, have faith in your own abilities, there is nothing you cannot accomplish."*



Willem Belanger
Nisga'a

Will enjoys playing sports, hiking and mountain biking and his future plans are to become an automotive technician. His favourite teachers have been Mr. Anderson and Mr. Gordon, because they have always allowed him to be himself in their classrooms. Will would like to thank and acknowledge his family, teachers and all who have helped him along the way. His role models are his parents because they have always been there for him no matter how much adversity. His advice to fellow students, *"Just enjoy school while it lasts."*





Aidan Bennett
Okanagan

Aiden plans on going to college and then university to pursue a degree. He enjoys playing and watching hockey and lacrosse. He would like to acknowledge and thank his mom and all his family for all their support and encouragement throughout the years. His advice to fellow students, *“Get good grades and have fun.”*



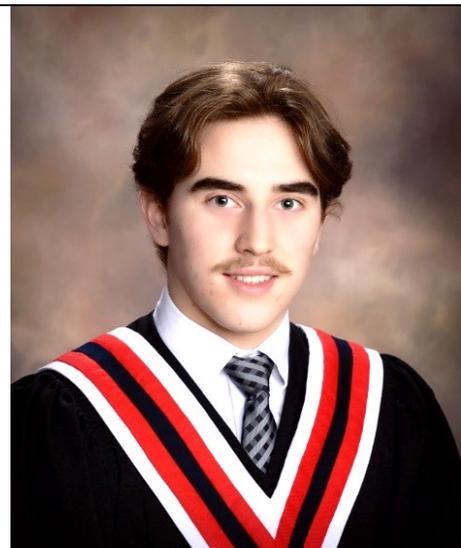
Brooklynn Bitze
Cree

Brooklynn’s favourite teacher has been Ms. Pickstone because she has always supported her and pushed her to do her best. She would like to further educate herself and learn more about her culture and take some Indigenous studies courses. Her achievements include receiving a Grit and Determination Award and an Academic Award. Brooklynn would like to acknowledge and thank her parents for supporting her and her foster mom who is strong and determined and has inspired her to set boundaries and helped her grow and flourish. Her advice to fellow students, *“Work hard, take advantage of tutors and help from teachers and don’t forget to say thank you.”*



Zane Blondeau
Métis

Zane’s favourite teachers have been Mr. Verdes and Ms. Mauld because both their classes made him feel good and he always left them with a smile on his face. His future plans are to work and perhaps when classes are back, attend university. In his free time Zane enjoys playing golf and playing video games with friends online. He has achieved athletic leadership and academic excellence throughout his secondary school years. Zane would like to thank his stepfather, grandma and brother for always being there for him and acknowledge his mom who is his role model. She has always shown him that everything happens for a reason and wants nothing but the best for her family which has led him to always wanting the best for himself. His advice to fellow students, *“Try your best and don’t focus on what others think. Be yourself, don’t hide who you are.”*



Benjamin Brant
Mohawk/Bay of Quinte

Ben's favourite teacher is Ms. Havelaar because she is really nice and makes French class fun. His future plan is to continue playing Junior Hockey and then go to university. He enjoys hockey, golf, working out and playing video games. He was selected to play for Team BC at the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships where he won a bronze medal. Ben would like to thank and acknowledge his mom, dad and all his family for all their support and encouragement throughout the years. His role model is his dad because he is hard working and dedicated, he loves hockey and golf as well and has taught him a lot about both. His advice to fellow students, *"Work hard and believe in yourself."*



Vanessa Crowfoot
Dene

Vanessa would like to pursue a career in early childhood education. Her interests include doing crafts and spending time with her guinea pigs. Her favourite teacher is Mr. Gordon because he is a good storyteller and his classes are never boring. Vanessa would like to acknowledge all who have helped her get to where she is today and her role model is her mother, who always told her to be herself and to think positive. I love you mom! Her advice to fellow students, *"Always try your best and even though it feels like it will never end, take it day by day and minute by minute."*



Cameron Dennis
Métis

Cameron's future goal is to become a Registered Nurse. In his free time he enjoys playing basketball and skateboarding. His favourite teacher has been his counselor because she has helped him throughout high school. Cameron would like to thank Tanya, his Grandma and Uncle for all their support and encouragement. His role model is his Grandma because she has shown him nothing but compassion and love for most of his life. His advice to fellow students, *"Keep your head up, life isn't easy but someone always loves you."*



Bailey Drinkwalter
Métis/Cree

Bailey is thinking about pursuing a career in the medical field and/or content creation on YouTube. Her hobbies are participating in the Victoria Bowmen archery group and is the junior representative for the B.C. Wildlife Foundation of Victoria. Her favourite teachers have been Mrs. Havalaar and Mrs. Yaxley who have been supportive and kind to her. Bailey would like to acknowledge and thank both her parents and grandma for all their support and encouragement. Her role models are her parents, because they have always given her opportunities to follow her dreams and they have never given up on her. Her advice to fellow students, *“Don’t let others convince you that something you enjoy is weird. If it is not hurting anyone and you are having fun, don’t give it up.”*



Elliott Ferguson
Chippewa

Elliott would like to acknowledge Mr. Berry, Ms. Milliken and Chef Humeniuk for being such great mentors during their time at Spectrum. Their future plans are to go wherever life takes them. They enjoy making music, baking, roller skating and being in the outdoors. They also have Foodsafe certification. Elliott would like to thank all the staff who have helped them over the years, acknowledging family and friends for the endless love, and their cat who always meows at the door to wake them up for school. Their advice to fellow students, *“School is important, but your mental and physical wellbeing comes first. If things become too much to handle, don’t be afraid to talk to someone because there are so many kind and caring staff here who would stop at nothing to help you succeed.”*



Kaylee Francis
Lax Kw’alaams

Kaylee’s future plan is to work. Her special interests include singing. Kaylee would like to acknowledge and thank her mom, dad and step dad for all their support and encouragement throughout the years. Her advice to fellow students, *“Get your work done!”*



Amelia Gass

Métis

Amelia would like to thank Ms. Milliken for all her help in getting her through high school. Her future goal is to work and in her spare time she enjoys listen to music and going for drives. She has been a recipient of the Spectrum Luncheon of Champions Award for Grit and Determination.



August Lundgren

Siska/Métis

August's favourite teachers are Miss Lexy from their dance school and Ms. Milliken because she is cool and helpful. Future plans for August include pursuing Indigenous Affairs Law. Spare time hobbies include dance, music, kandi bracelets and dying hair. August would like to thank and acknowledge Mr. Parker, Jenn and Mr. Thomas for all their support and encouragement. Tom Holland is their role model because of his kindness and he cares about his fans. Their advice to fellow students, *"Do your homework and/or paper work for Paul"*.



Zoë Meyers

Métis

Zoë's future plans are to take a year off and later attend post-secondary. Her hobbies include music and photography. She would like to acknowledge and thank all her family and friends for all their support and encouragement throughout the years.



Emily Mudrak

Métis

Emily's future plan is to live on a mountain and vibe with her partner. She has been awarded Music Achievements and Cadet Awards with Academic Honours. Her favourite teacher is Mr. Jolliffe, because he is inspiring, friendly, encouraging and always gave her a reason to smile. Her role model is retired Captain Keith Gordon Thomson, because he is the kindest man you will ever meet. Her advice to fellow students, *"Do what you want, the things other people may want for you are often not what will make you happy."*



Elisabeth Pillipow

Métis

Elisabeth would like to become a veterinary technician for large animals. She enjoys camping, fishing and riding horses. Her favourite teachers have been C. Granger & J. Ractliffe because they are amazing and care for their students. Elisabeth would like to thank C. Granger for all the support and encouragement throughout the years. Her role models are Bruce Pillipow and Tyana Nutt because they are very strong, hardworking people who care so much for the people around them. Her advice to fellow students, *"Do the work. I know it doesn't seem worth it and you can just push it off, but you will really regret it later on."*



Deandre Powell

Ochapowace

Dre would like to thank his auto shop teacher Mr. Anderson, his uncles, Graham and Ken for all their encouragement and support. His future plan is to live a good and wealthy life. His advice to fellow students, *"Be the best grown up you can."*



Jaxon Roorda

Métis

Jaxon's future plan is to attend UVIC and pursue a career in education. His hobbies include sports, music and cinema. His favourite teacher has been Ms. Ractliffe because when he left class he felt that he learned and accomplished something. During his time at Spectrum he participate in the Athletic Leadership program. Jaxon would like to thank and acknowledge his family and friends for all they have done for him throughout the years. His role model has been Kanye West because of his passion, drive and work ethic which shows what is needed to succeed in life. His advice to fellow students, *"Make sure you are always up to date with work but also to make sure to have fun and enjoy high school as it goes by fast."*



Paige Swain

Métis

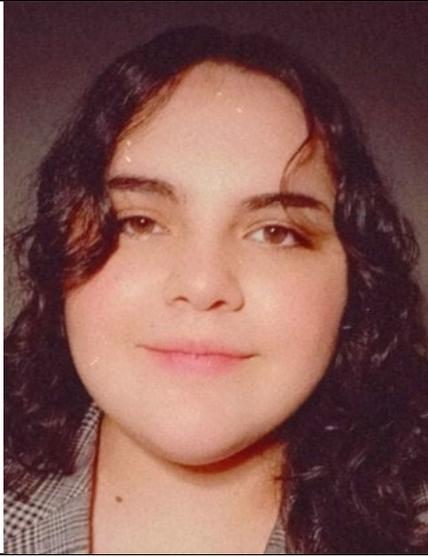
Paige loves to dance, sing and act and anything to do with fine arts. Her favourite teachers have been Ms. Shannon and Ms. Schwartz because they helped her train in fine arts which is part of her future career plans. She received a Senior Dancer of the Year Award at the Island Showchoir in 2019. Paige would like to acknowledge and thank her family and friends for all the support they have showed her throughout the years. She is inspired by many people; teachers, her mom, past directors etc. Her advice to fellow students, *"Stay true to yourself."*



Ethan Taylor

Métis

Ethan's favourite teacher has been Ms. Porter, because she supported him in Math. Ethan has been mentioned in five or six Honour Rolls and is hoping to get a scholarship for hockey and possibly going into engineering. He enjoys hockey, baseball, working out and spending time with family and friends. Ethan would like to acknowledge and thank his parents, teachers and friends for all their support and encouragement throughout the years. His parents are his role models as they have shown him how to be a good person and always give 100%. His advice to fellow students, *"Ask for help when needed and enjoy yourself in high schools as it doesn't last forever."*



Jade Thomas
Esquimalt

Jade's future plan is to go to Camosun College and pursue a culinary designation. Her hobbies include cooking, baking, drawing, writing and playing video games. Her favourite teacher has been Chef Lauri Humeniuk but she wants to acknowledge all her teachers equally. Jade would like to thank her counselor Lisa Clarabut, and all the staff for their continued support and encouragement. Her advice to fellow students, *"Don't procrastinate, just get it done."*



Calaab Thomsen
Okanogan

Calaab's hobbies include playing with technology and swinging in the shade. His favourite teacher has been Kat Perri, and he would like to thank and acknowledge her for all her support and encouragement. His future plans are to own his own company and invent flying cars. His advice to fellow students, *"Run and stay on your teachers' good side!"*



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In Memory of Keoni Wilson, Gitxsan

Keoni passed away suddenly just short of his graduation. Our deepest condolences go out to his family.

Reflections from Spectrum school staff:

When I first met Keoni he had the brightest smile on his face as he introduced himself at the office. That day and the days after when we met I knew we had a very special young man coming to our school. Keoni was so well spoken and polite. I could see how very proud his family was of him as he was mature beyond his years. Keoni's sense of humour and personality allowed him to navigate a new school with success and build relationships not only with the students but the adults. Keoni made a lasting impression on all of us and we will never forget him.

Bruce Bidney, Principal

I loved working with Keoni, as a school counsellor at Spectrum. I instantly liked him from the first time he and his mom came to check out Spectrum. He was wise beyond his years and his introspect led me to refer to him as an old soul. He had an amazing quick wit and lovely sense of humour. He was working his plans for the future and curious about the Indigenous Education program at Camosun. He was thinking of possibly becoming a teacher. He wanted to work with people in some capacity—definitely talking to people. He was gifted at connecting. He was a bright light and a pleasure to be around. His loss will be felt by those that knew him and the world will have lost a beautiful soul. The world is a better place with kind souls in it. I am honoured to have worked with him and to have known him, if only for the time he was here. My thoughts go with his family and close friends. He was well loved.

Celeste Bradshaw, Counsellor

Thank-you Keoni for sharing your positive, happy and carefree outlook with us. Your thoughtful input to our discussions and learning about your life philosophy was always much appreciated by those of us around you. May you find peace.

Moira Raynor-Atterbury, Art Teacher

I am grateful to have had the wonderful opportunity to have had Keoni as a student on two occasions this year. Shortly after Keoni joined us at Spectrum, I had him as a student in English 12. After that, he was in my History of Rock and Roll course. In each course, Keoni was an insightful, thoughtful, mature, positive member of the class. He contributed to classroom discussions, he asked fascinating questions, and was always looking to extend his knowledge. Nearly every day afterschool, Keoni would stay behind after the other students had left, and we would talk. It is those conversations I will miss the most, but also cherish the most. We might talk about English, or music, or just life and things in general. He was never in a hurry to leave, but instead he just seemed to enjoy a chat. I enjoyed them very much. Keoni was not a 'typical teenager.' He was a very special person. In the short time I knew him, Keoni made a significant impact on me. He as a student, but more so as a person, is someone I am thankful to have known, and he is someone I will never forget.

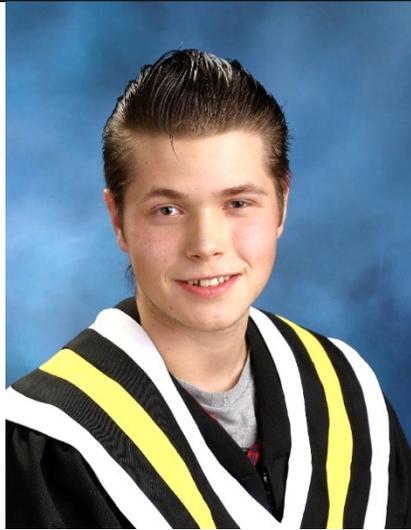
Chris Parker, English 12 and History of Rock & Roll Teacher

In the short time I had the pleasure of getting to know Keoni, the thing I grew to love most about him was his propensity for thinking out of the box. "I'm an ideas guy," he once told me. On any given day, I would be at the front of the room explaining some principle or other to the class, and before I could finish his hand would go up. Keoni had been processing what I'd been saying, and more often than not he had a question. Not a straightforward, easy-to-answer question, but one for which there were a myriad of 'correct' answers, many of which I had never thought to consider. I appreciated those questions as they showed his desire to challenge the established rules of storytelling. On one occasion, he asked a question for which, after thinking long and hard, I couldn't give him an answer at all. I was resigned to replying, "That's a good question." Keoni snickered and said, "Thanks. I get that a lot." His questions were genuine in nature, asked in an attempt to push boundaries with the story he was intending to write. It saddens me greatly to know that that story will never be written. I will never get to find out what happened to the protagonist he created, the mysteriously-named Q, a curmudgeonly trucker with a painful past. Maybe, as I write this, Keoni is writing the story right now. Maybe the ideas guy is busy getting those wonderful, crazy ideas down, as he questions why things have to be the way they are. He taught me, the teacher, that there are no rules if you don't want there to be. That the ideas you have, as much as they may not fit into any ready-made box, are yours to do with what you will. Your story may not be to everyone's liking, but will it be better for it? I know the answer to that question. Thank you, Keoni.

Tom Gordon, Writing 12 Teacher



Victoria High School



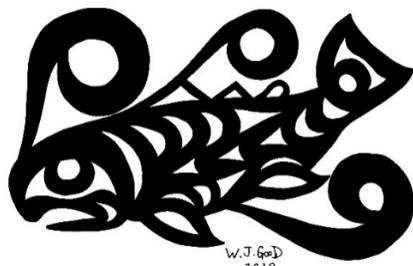
Calin Barber **Cree/Métis**

Calin loves cars so it is no surprise that his future goal is to work in an autobody shop and then pursue industrial design/engineering so he can design his own car. He also plays electric guitar, loves building things, art, reading and watching shows. His favourite teachers have been Mr. Hurlaar, Mr. Conibear, Mr. Vanader, Mr. Martin and Mrs. Picard because he got along with all of them and they are just cool. He participated in the Autobody Apprenticeship Program, received multiple honour awards and a CWA Foundation Award for welding. Calin would like to acknowledge and thank his parents, family, friends and teachers for all their support over the years. His role models are his dad, uncles and family friend Dave Campbell because they inspire him to build and be creative. His advice to his fellow students, *“Try doing anything that seems remotely interesting.”*



Katarina Bater **Métis**

Katarina’s future plans are to take a gap year and then pursue post-secondary. She enjoys cheerleading, sewing and fashion design. Her favourite teacher has been Ms. K. Sholinder because she always provided a welcoming and fun classroom environment. Katarina has been a team leader for musical costuming and received a most improved Cheerleading Award. She would like to acknowledge and thank all the teachers who have supported her over the years and her role model is Maddie Ziegler because of her hard work and determination. Her advice to fellow students, *“Get involved in extra curriculars!”*





Erika Beaton
Ojibwe/Mohawk

Erika's favourite teacher has been Mr. Sakiyama because he makes a connection with all of his students. Her future plans are to go to post-secondary. Erika enjoys drawing and playing guitar and has been a participant in the Aviation Program. Erika would like to thank her family and friends for all their support and encouragement and her role model is her mom because she is very hardworking, positive and independent.



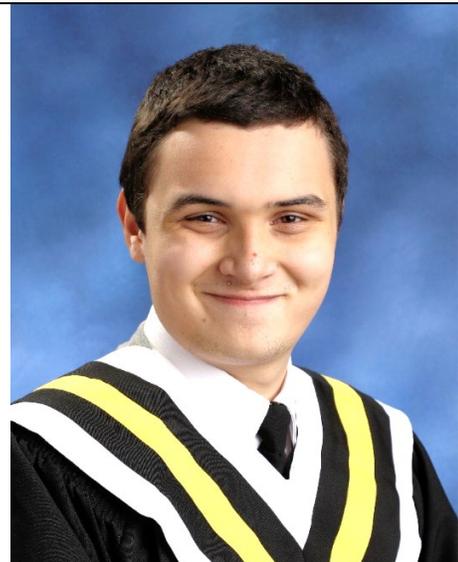
Xander Burrows
Songhees/Ahousat

Xander plans to take some time to upgrade his education and then take a Massage Therapy course. He enjoys dance, skateboarding, arts and crafts and collecting pop culture items. He is the recipient of a Breakfast of Champions Award, a You Rock Award from the Songhees Nation and a Best Male Dancer Award. His favourite teachers have been Kerry Krich, Mr. Conibear, Mr. Forsberg and Mrs. King from Sundance Elementary. He would like to thank and acknowledge Kerry Krich, Mr. Conibear, his mom, sisters, friends and dad from the other side, for all their support and encouragement. His role models are his mom, for her strength and wisdom; Kerry Krich, for boldness and support; Spiderman, for his athleticism and sense of humour. His advice to fellow students, *"Don't fall into pressure of going to post-secondary. Think of an alternative plan for work where you can be yourself, be creative, stay fit and make money."*



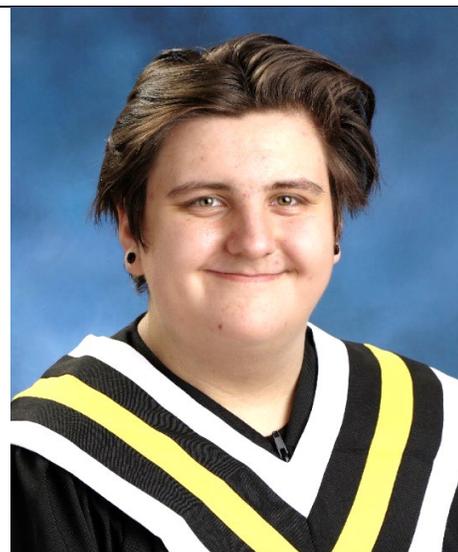
Braedon Coupal-Harding
Homalco Coast Salish

Braedon's favourite teacher has been Mr. Conibear because he always went above and beyond to help with his education, career and well-being. Braedon would like to get into the R.M.O.T. program at V.I.U and become a conservation officer. In his spare time he enjoys skateboarding. Braedon would like to acknowledge and thank his mother, Mr. Blecic, Mr. Wheeler and Mr. Conibear for all their support and encouragement. His role model is Andy Anderson because of his view on life and his confidence to make him better. His advice to fellow students, *"Sometimes it feels like your life is ending but in reality you have nothing but time."*



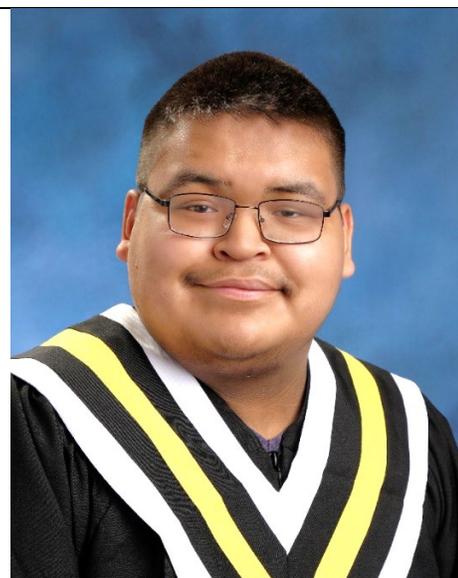
Liam Hall
Métis/Cree

Liam enjoys writing, watching movies and doing research. His dream career would be to go to university or college and become a screenwriter. He is also a recipient of a Breakfast of Champions Award. His favourite teachers have been Mr. Watson, Mr. Conibear, Mr. Poy, Mrs. Hope and has respect for all of his teachers. Liam would like to acknowledge and thank his parents and all of his teachers he ever had for all their support and encouragement throughout the years. His role model is Sylvester Stallone because he never gives up and always looks ahead, no matter what. His advice to fellow students, *“Always focus on the present and be open to trying new classes.”*



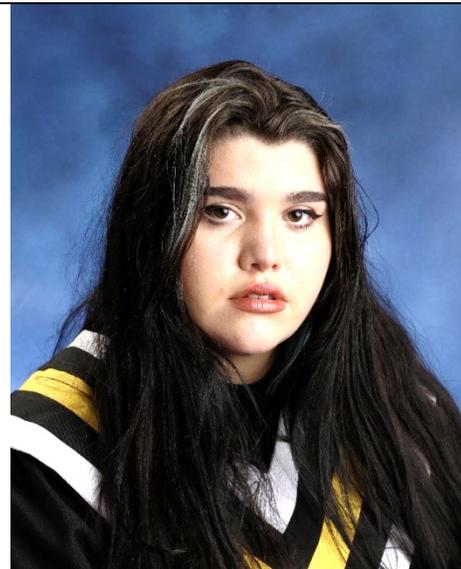
Elan Lacroix
Swan River First Nation

Elan’s favourite teacher has been Mr. Dunstan because of the emotion he puts into his lessons. His future plan is to work in construction and his hobbies include cars. He has also received a gold medal with the Tide Rugby Club. Elan would like to thank his mom and dad for helping him any way they can and his role model has been his dad because of his work ethic which is a trait he would like to follow. His advice to fellow students, *“Stick with what you’re doing and think about now.”*



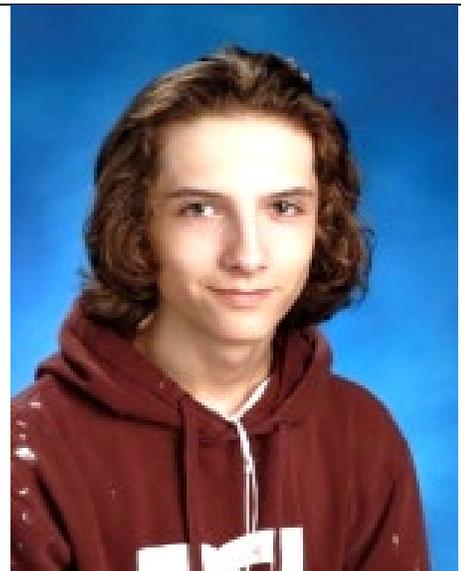
Richard Morgan-Tom
Hesquiaht

Richard would like to go to college or university and study in the culinary arts. He likes to draw and be creative. He would like to acknowledge and thank his whole family who have shown him the support and encouragement throughout his education. His advice to fellow students, *“Go to class and just be yourself.”*



Ashley Pearce
Interior Salish, Lower Nicola

Ashley would like to take a gap year and then go to post-secondary to become an Indigenous Counselor. She enjoys art, photograph and playing video games. Her favourite teacher has been Mr. Conibear because of his mentoring and helping her through high school. Ashley was also involved in the CBC's Indigenous Journalism workshop. She would like to thank her brother Nicholas who is also her role model, and her mom Desiree for all their support and encouragement throughout the years. Her advice to fellow students, *"Take your time. It feels like life is passing super quickly but it's okay to take a moment and breathe and relax."*



James Spicer
Ochapowace

James will be working full time after graduation. His interests are older trucks and recently, glass art. His favourite teacher has been Mr. Phillips because of his enthusiastic teaching style. James would like to acknowledge and thank his mom, who is also his role model, for all her support and encouragement. Without her he would not have gotten this far. His advice to fellow students, *"Take the opportunities given to you in schools. You will regret it if you don't."*



Jon Su
Nuu chah nulth

Jon enjoys art and playing with the Thunder Indigenous Rugby Team. His future goal is to go to post-secondary. His favourite teacher has been K. Sholinder because she is fun and cool. Jon would like to acknowledge and thank his grandpa for all his support and encouragement and he is everything he aspires to be. His advice to fellow students, *"Stop thinking so socially. School isn't just about friends."*



Phoenix Underwood
Tsawout



Artemis Place Secondary School



Michaela Horne
Tsawout

Michaela would like to work for a while and then possibly pursue post-secondary. Her favourite teacher has been her English teacher because she is always in a good mood and motivates her when she is tired. Michaela would like to acknowledge and thank her mother-in-law Alice, for all the support she has shown towards her, her partner and daughter and also her parents Jack and Noni for all their encouragement. Her advice to fellow students, *“No matter what, there will always be a way. Do not every give up on your dreams. You can do it if you put your mind to it.”*



Emma Hubert

Ehattesaht/Nuu chah nulth

Emma's future plan is to pursue Indigenous Studies and Cosmetology. She enjoys fashion and art. She would like to thank all her teachers, counselor and friends for all their support throughout the years. Her role model is herself because she is open to change and self-growth. Her advice to fellow students, *"Take the advice and put it towards your decisions, it really helps."*



Justice Panter

Métis

Justice's future goals are to become a teacher and travel. She enjoys drawing and playing video games. Justice would like to acknowledge and thanks Erica, her Youth Transition Worker and her partner for all their support and encouragement throughout the years. She considers herself as her role model for her inner strength to keep moving forward. Her advice to fellow students, *"Friends aren't more important."*

***Congratulations to all the
Graduates of 2021!***