

The CanoeCurrent

Campus Cousins Monthly



Monthly Theme: Connection

Socials Tag: #CampusCousinsSD61

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SAVE THE DATES

June 21st National Indigenous Peoples Day

On this day we get to celebrate, lift up and honour Indigenous peoples, culture and community across Canada. Hup Hup!

NOTEWORTHY DATES

June: National Indigenous History Month

June 4th: SD61 IED Grad Ceremony

June 21st: National Indigenous Peoples Day

July: Pride Month

June 2026

Camossung is a sacred place to Lekwungen peoples. Located around the “Tillicum narrows” under the Tillicum Road Bridge, it is one of only three places in Western Canada with reversing falls - in high tide the water rushes into the narrows under the bridge, and in low tide the water rushes back out the other way. June feels like this place, looking both forward and back. This has been the second, very successful year of our Campus Cousins program, and there is much to celebrate. Some of the highlights include the Grade 8 Transition Day at VNFC, the Lahal Tournament, Camp Pringle Retreat, VNFC scholarship night, the Vic High Wellness Fair, the May Pro D gathering, transition events, the Indigenous Recognition Ceremony and many school - based activities. We have all been so busy! We are so proud of your continued growth, leadership, and learning - Hay’sxw’qa Siem, Maarsii, Klecco Klecco, G̱ilakas’la for another year of leading with compassion, creativity, humour and kindness.

To our graduating Cousins, we will miss you and wish you all the best as you transition into the next phase of your journey. For those of you who are with us next year, we can’t wait to plan with you and see what next year brings.

MONTHLY THEME

Connection

Every Indigenous community seems to have a word for it: We are all connected/ We are all one. We are related to the water that flows forward and back, we are related to the sacred rocks of the Camossung story that are under the moving tides. The eagles and ravens, the fish and insects, the playful wind and warming sun are our relatives; we

are never alone. Finding connection within our world and with one another is the root of the Campus Cousins program, and it's something that we Guardians love watching the most - Cousins finding connections together and then extending it out to others. As you step into summer and different routines, and - especially for the grade 12s - onto different paths, remember that you are never alone, and look for moments of healthy connection. They are never far away.

As our Campus Cousin circle closes for now, let's end this year with a round of gratitude. I am grateful for the land, my family, my friends, my colleagues, the youth, and the work I am fortunate to do. In this work, I am so grateful to be able to walk alongside you all, to get to know you better, and to watch us all grow and learn together. I can't wait to see where our canoe takes us next year!

What are you grateful for? ❤️

RESOURCES AND IDEAS

Transition for Grade 8s

As Campus Cousins, supporting grade 8-9 transition is an excellent opportunity to reconnect with the grade 8s you've met, and practice leadership. As the year comes to an end, our Campus Cousins teams can plan finals events that include the grade 8s who will be joining you next year. The more these grade 8s become familiar with you and your schools, the better they will feel about high school in September.

If you would like some ideas for what this can look like, please feel free to reach out to us!

Planning for Next Year

For Cousins who are returning, it's never too early to start planning ahead. If there are ideas brewing in those creative minds of yours, organize a get-together with Guardians and one another to sketch out what next year might look like. Is there an event you'd like to take part in or create? What could September look like as you welcome the new grade 9s into your schools? **Grants** are out there and available to help make some of your dreams come true, so now could be the time to explore funding and make sure you don't miss deadlines. This one is a great place to start:



Youth Action Grants

The Youth Action Grants (YAG) were created by McCreary's Youth Advisory & Action Council (YAC). The purpose of the YAGs is to provide BC youth (ages 12–19) from school districts that participated in the most recent BC Adolescent Health Survey (BC AHS) the opportunity to deliver a project to improve youth health in their school or community.

YAGs fund projects which are:

- Youth-led
- Focused on one or more of the key findings from the BC AHS.
- Benefitting youth in your school or community.
- Supported by at least one adult (such as a teacher, counsellor, youth worker, adult mentor, etc.)

SHOUT OUTS!

Shout out to the Cousins who were able to make our May Pro D gathering on the 15th at SJ Burnside. It was a fun afternoon with fantastic discussions... Extra props to James Power-Sedgmore for his awesome presentation, and thanks to UVic Campus Cousin Lauren McLean who came and spent the afternoon with us, and gave us the low-down on how CC works at UVic.

Shout out and huge **“Congratulations!”** to all of our graduating Cousins! We are so proud of you, and wish you the absolute best in everything you do. Come back and help out or visit any time!

Shout out to our non-graduating Cousins who came and helped at the Indigenous Recognition Ceremony! Hay'sxw qa Siem for your time, energy and care that helped us celebrate the grade 12s!



EXTRAS!

Happy Summer! We are down to a few weeks of school, so keep working hard until the end of the year, then get those shades out and we wish you a safe, fun, wonderful summer! Guardians and Cousins alike get to relax, visit friends and family, maybe make some money, and find things to do that fill our baskets.

Looking forward to seeing you in schools over the next few weeks. If we don't get to see you...

Until September, stay cool, stay true, and stay connected! Hup Hup HUUUUUUP!



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*Hay'sxw'qa - Klecco Klecco - Gjlakas'la
Maarsi*