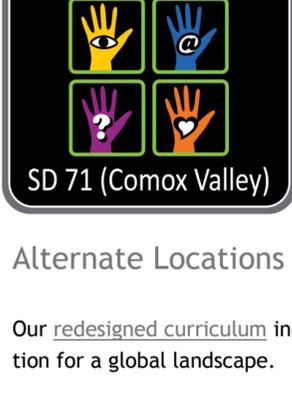


INNOVATIVE INKLINGS

Comox Valley School District Newsletter for Innovation

May 27, 2016



Alternate Locations

- Links
- John Dewey
- Quotes
- Revolution
- Tribune Bay
- ISP
- Mawhinney House
- Real Community

Alternate Locations for Learning Links

Our redesigned curriculum increases flexibility and personalization for a global landscape.

You can find some great articles about the value of having a Global Perspective by [clicking here](#). There are also some good pieces about developing Global Perspectives.

[Edutopia](#) also has a number of good pieces about global learning.

What does the research say about the value of outdoor learning? Find out by [clicking here](#).

John Dewey put forth many prophetic ideas including the value of [experiential education](#).



"Our environment, the world in which we live and work, is a mirror of our attitudes and expectations."

- [Earl Nightingale](#)

"Diversity is an aspect of human existence that cannot be eradicated by terrorism or war or self-consuming hatred. It can only be conquered by recognizing and claiming the wealth of values it represents for all."

- [Aberjhani](#)



Around the District

Innovative events and efforts from around our district

Tribune Bay Outdoor Education Centre

Every spring and fall students from around the district have opportunities to go to camp and to have great outdoor learning experiences. Our district has an outdoor education centre on Hornby Island. The [Tribune Bay Outdoor Education Centre](#) is located on 7 hectares in [Tribune Bay Provincial Park](#). The Centre is a partnership between our district and [School District 69 \(Qualicum\)](#). Capital funds for the Centre are raised solely through grants and donations.

The Centre's primary mandate is to offer exceptional outdoor education (experiential and environmental) programs to youth. While the programs are built in consultation between the school and the program directors, there are many shared activities that provide rich memories. The various high and low ropes courses, water based activities, and cooperative games provide rich experiential learning opportunities.

Tribune Bay also has specific programs for a variety of audiences. This past spring they ran a [Connected Outdoor Leadership Series](#) program which was for students more than 15 years old who wanted to get some practical certificates and develop their outdoor leadership skills. They have also offered a [Ground Search and Rescue program](#) for students in grades 10-12 interested in learning skills and operations required to be a Ground Search and Rescue Technician in BC. Next year there are plans to work with Thompson Rivers University to offer dual credit Outdoor Skills courses that not only provide students with marketable skills, but also University credits.



International Student Program

We welcome students from around the World and benefit greatly from doing it.

As part of our [International Student Program](#), over 250 students from 20 countries live and study in the Comox Valley every year. This provides local students with daily opportunities to engage with students from very different backgrounds to their own. These students are integrated into our families through the [homestay program](#) and into our schools through their classes and extra-curricular activities. There are several different programs for our international students: some come for [short-term stays](#) (mostly looking for language development and cultural experiences) and others come for our [High School Graduation Program](#) (these are students wanting to graduate with the Internationally valued BC Dogwood). Our school district also offers [summer programs](#) (focus is language development and taking advantage of our incredible geography) for our international students as well as [exchange opportunities](#).

Now, the exchange opportunities have another part and that is for local students. Currently we have two types of exchanges: Cultural Exchanges (groups from each of our high schools rotate through exchanges with groups from Verbania, Italy; Ulm, Germany; and Shanghai, China) and one-for-one exchanges with partners in Austria, Denmark, Germany, Japan, and Spain. Our students also have the opportunity to attend International Academies such as the high performance one for soccer and basketball in Denmark. When these students return to our schools, they bring their experiences and learning with them, enriching the learning for those who have stayed home. Over the past two years, we have also introduced a teacher exchange program with our partner school ([New Hongqiao High School](#)) in Shanghai, China.

It is important to note that our International Student Program is self-funding and actually injects funds into teacher staffing and enrichment programs. Furthermore, it is estimated that each full time equivalent student spends a further \$10,000 annually on travel, recreation, entertainment and clothing while here. Many in our district also [house our international students](#). Not only is there a monthly honorarium, but these students also bring a different dimension that enriches local family life.

In a truly global landscape, our International Student Program enriches and improves learning for all.

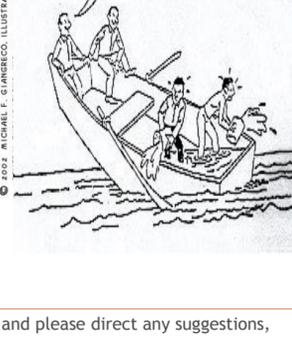


Mawhinney House

The Student Services Department "Life Skills" House at Mark R. Isfeld Secondary School is close to completion due to the exceptional work of Ian Heselgrave, Dan Dalglish and the Maintenance Department. This house is designed to provide students, predominantly in our program for moderate to severe disabilities, with an opportunity to develop their skills to live independently.

The house has been officially named "Mawhinney House" after the very popular Lock Mawhinney. Lock began his lengthy professional career in the Comox Valley in 1964 and was a teachers, consultant, coordinator, supervisor and eventually Director of the large and diverse department serving the needs of students with special needs. He was an advocate for the rights of all students to fully access appropriate educational services in inclusionary environments. Lock spent the majority of his thirty-four year career implementing this goal in the challenging and rapidly changing field of disability education. He led the school district from segregated to inclusionary practice. Throughout his career he received a number of Provincial Awards for his work in Special Education. Lock retired from the School District in 1998 to become the founding Community Leader of [L'Arche Comox Valley](#) and held the position until a second retirement in 2002.

Lock Mawhinney was an inspirational leader, visionary, mentor and innovator. Alongside his colleagues he worked tirelessly for the inclusion of the developmentally disabled to broader educational opportunities in the community at large. Mawhinney House will be an added resource to our community, allowing our students another opportunity to bridge from school to community.



Thank you for taking the time to read this and please direct any suggestions, questions, or inquiries to me directly: Gerald.Fussell@sd71.bc.ca