

SenPokChin School Goes Global



To empower indigenous identity and become a community of global thinkers

August 9, 2018 (Oliver, BC) – SenPokChin School is excited to announce that on August 8, 2018 this local First Nations, on-reserve school received confirmation that they have been authorized as an International Baccalaureate School – Primary Years Program (IB PYP). They are proud to be the first authorized PYP school in the Okanagan Valley as well as the first on-reserve PYP school in North America.

The International Baccalaureate was founded over 50 years ago in Geneva, Switzerland, and today there are over 5000 IB schools worldwide in over 95 countries. There are 3 IB Programmes: Primary Years, Middle Years and Diploma, which is the world's top university preparatory curriculum. Sen Pok Chin is one of 1700 PYP schools globally. IB schools are commonly found in the world's major cities as the top level of education offered.

Curriculum Coordinator, Julie Shaw, states “that in a quest to strive for educational excellence and to raise public perception of indigenous education, the staff and community stakeholders embarked on a long, 3-year journey to implement the rigorous written curriculum that IB is known for world wide.” First Nations culture uses the medicine wheel as a guide to find balance in all areas of student development. The IB philosophy of developing, “student’s academic, social and emotional well-being, focusing on international-mindedness and strong personal values (ibo.org)” overlaps with this culturally rich indigenous belief structure of child development. Head of School and sqilxw educator Valerie Allen is “proud to be a part of this exciting and prestigious announcement for her community.”

Being part of an IB world school organization ensures that this school is informed by research into “how students learn, how educators teach and the principles and practice of effective assessment (ibo.org).”

Staff at SenPokChin are excited to see the positive changes in students' attitudes and interest in their personal learning over the course of the past three years. Students at the school are taking initiative to engage and ask questions as well as to take civic action that is rooted in their personal explorations of significant, relevant, challenging, and engaging units of inquiry using indigenous knowledge, nsyilxcn and the identity of the sqilxw people.

For more information, please contact:

Head of School, Valerie Allen OR Curriculum Coordinator, Julie Shaw

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(Left to right, back row: Chief Clarence Louie, Julie Shaw – curriculum coordinator, Valerie Allen – Head of School, Veronica McGinnis and Theresa Gabriel – Governing Body. Front Row: Kaden George, Taylor Rae Gallagher – students