



Characteristics of the four animals of the
Spirit of Alliances

(Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement)



The Spirit of Alliances

(An Integral Approach)



BEAR

The Bear's gift to the learning process is self-awareness. This means being able to make meaning out of life, be creative, and act with intention. When the Bear's gifts are accessible to students and they are able to weave them into their learning experiences, the students' abilities to develop internal skills are enhanced. A principle of the Bear's gift of internal learning is the exploration of one's identity, which provides the foundation for students to make meaning of their place in family, school, and community. Students with a strong sense of self-awareness are able to make space for creativity in life, which enables them to act with intention. In order to experience this, learners need to be in a place where they are nurtured, valued, and feel a strong sense of belonging.



WOLF

The Wolf's gift to the learning process is relational. The Wolf thrives where communication, respect and reciprocity are valued, modeled and taught. When the Wolf's gifts are accessible to students and they are able to weave them into their learning experiences, their abilities to develop interpersonal skills are enhanced. When students have strong interpersonal skills, they are able to communicate clearly and respectfully when speaking with others and when advocating for themselves. A principle of the Wolf's gift to learning involves knowing one's history, generational roles, and responsibilities. Learners with this knowledge understand the interconnectedness of all aspects of life. In order to experience this, learners need to be blanketed by support from home, school and community.



RAVEN

The Raven's gift to the learning process is cleverness and imagination. The Raven weaves together old, new and emerging knowledge to create a basket of skills, opportunities and potentials. When the Raven's gifts are accessible to students and they are able to integrate them into their learning experiences, they have more opportunity to develop their inherent talents and capabilities. A key principle of the Raven's gift to the learning process is recognizing that story-telling, art, memory and culture are woven throughout learning.



SALMON

The Salmon's gift to the learning process is navigation. The Salmon moves through the environment and other systems, adapting to and participating in change. Aboriginal students inhabit multiple worlds and thus need to be able to navigate multiple systems and influences. When the Salmon's gifts are accessible to students and they are able to integrate them into their learning experiences, they have more opportunity to develop their imaginations, decision making skills, and courage. A key principle of the Salmon's gift is that learning supports the well-being of self, family, community, land and Spirits. In order to experience this, learners need to develop and use critical thinking skills, adaptability, persistence, and resilience to create tides of change.

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BEAR

Goal #1: To provide a sense of place, caring, safety and belonging for Aboriginal students in the Greater Victoria School District

Internal Skills

*Self-Awareness
Ability to Make Meaning
Creativity
Intentions*



RAVEN

Goal #3: To continue raising awareness and understanding of Aboriginal history, traditions and culture for all staff and students in the Greater Victoria School District.

Active Skills

*Cleverness
Imagination
Skills & Measureable
Knowledge
Behaviour*



WOLF

Goal #2: To honour, nurture and support relationships between the Greater Victoria School District, local First Nations, Aboriginal Nations, families and community.

Relational Skills

*Communication
Respect & Reciprocity
Culture
Family and Community*



SALMON

Goal #4: To increase success of all Aboriginal students.

Systems Skills

*Understanding Systems
Capacity to Navigate Systems
Critical Thinking
Resilience*



Artwork provided by Jamin Zuroski (N'amgis Nation) Victoria High School Alumnus '98

Greater Victoria School District

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