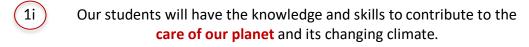
# REPORT TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.46 (SUNSHINE COAST)

## STRATEGIC PLAN REPORT: CARE OF OUR PLANET & ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

Submitted by Superintendent Bocking October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019





"Let your walks now be a little more adventurous"

- Henry David Thoreau

#### **Background:**

Environmental education results in longer attention spans, more creativity, higher levels of self-confidence, greater academic success, improvements in cognitive development, self-discipline, imaginative and creative expression, language skills and social interactions. Here, on the remarkably beautiful Sunshine Coast, our students experience the wonders of nature as a normal part of their learning.

#### Discussion:

• The District's Environmental Action Committee has developed an Environmental Action plan (attached) that presents a comprehensive strategy for meeting goals 1(i) and 3(d).

#### Next steps include:

• We are proud of our staff for having achieved remarkable growth in environmental education and facilities upgrades. Our new Environmental Action Plan includes goals that will build upon the district's rich tradition of environmental awareness and action.

# SCHOOL DISTRICT 46 - SUNSHINE COAST

# Environmental Education Action Plan May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020

## 1. CIRCLE OF CARE: STUDENTS

- a. Our students' voices will be supported for addressing environmental issues.
- b. Match provincial early years framework with environmental connections.
- c. Formalize links between the Core Competencies and Environmental Education.
- d. Support teachers through the CARE project to teach global citizenship through a sustainability lens. Enrich the ecological literacy (the ability to understand the natural systems that make life on earth possible) of our students.
- e. Our students will identify patterns in our natural world and will use math to understand & protect our environment. Our students will use data to be more energy and waste efficient.
- f. Our students will learn that being outdoors supports their **positive mental health**.
- g. Our students will engage in **physical activity outdoors** in wild spaces on school properties and nearby.
- Our students will understand the connection between care of the planet and the Spiritual Connection to the Land/Waters and the Traditional Ecological Knowledge of Indigenous Peoples.
- i. Our students will understand and act upon **climate change** in **developmentally appropriate** ways.
- j. Our students will apply technological skills to enhance their environmental learning. Students will recognize bias in digital resources when researching environmental issues. Students will apply digital tools to collect data to test hypotheses. Students will create animations documenting local events.
- k. Our students will apply fine arts skills in their environmental learning.
- Our students will learn about new and emerging career opportunities in the "green sector".

## 2. CIRCLE OF CARE: STAFF

- a. Our staff will develop **environmental initiatives** in the classroom, schools and the community with their students.
- b. Our staff will have **professional development opportunities** related to environmental education.
- c. Our staff will ensure that all students learn outdoors.
- d. Our staff will develop unique strategies for **ecological literacy** relevant to our context and share beyond our district.

e. Our staff will develop school yard gardens, outdoor classrooms, and **involve local community members** and families.

# 3. CIRCLE OF CARE: COMMUNITY

- a. Our district will effectively **communicate environmental issues** with students, staff, and the community.
- b. Our district will continue to foster partnerships with local governments to support **Environmental Policies and Practices**.
- c. Our district will deepen partnerships with local environmental education organizations, and other private and public organizations, to develop a **shared approach** to environmental stewardship.
- d. Our district will research and lead environmental initiatives, both in our **facilities** and in our educational practices.
- e. Our district will lead in energy efficient travel.
- f. Our district will grow green transportation strategies.
- g. Our district will develop **cross-cultural environmental connections** with international students.