

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

STRATEGIC PLAN REPORT: FINE ARTS

Submitted by Superintendent Kerr
February 9, 2022

Goal 1K: Our students will actively participate in expanded **fine arts** programs.

OVERVIEW:

The BC Arts Education curriculum promotes the arts as a means of self-expression and understanding of identity, and as a place to connect with artists, art processes, artwork, and arts learning in students' own community.

The Board has developed an arts policy which supports the work of staff in establishing solid arts programming in our schools and also provides support for keeping the arts as a key element for learning on the Sunshine Coast. The arts are central for many students' joyful engagement in their learning experiences.

The District Fine Arts Committee is comprised of staff from a range of vantage points including community schools, teaching, Indigenous, school and district leadership. The team meets regularly throughout the year to more deeply integrate the curriculum with students' interests, the talents of staff and the support of our community.

SYNOPSIS OF THIS YEAR'S INITIATIVES:

- The District Fine Arts Committee has composed the Art in Schools' administrative regulation, currently in circulation. This regulation provides the operational framework for the display of public art in schools and for student work to be displayed in public venues throughout the Sunshine Coast in partnership with our community.
- The purchase of musical instruments for elementary student music programs so that every child has access to instruments regardless of ability to pay.
- An annual subscription to the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra's virtual music room was purchased this year for staff to bring world class performances and resources right to their classroom.
- ArtStarts grant funding along with SD46 funding brings fine art performances in to our elementary and secondary schools annually. This fall, the Black Dog String Quartet brought a rich and moving program to our elementary schools and performances are lined up for the spring for another elementary show and a secondary production.

- District Musical Theatre: Sara Douglas and Tom Kellough are hard at work rehearsing with the cast of this year's district musical theatre production of Brigadoon set to take the stage in March.
- A Fine Arts resource on Engage is underway to build capacity for teachers.
- Working with the First Peoples communities and the arts community: a contact list for internal and community experts who could support Fine Arts in schools is being built.
- Indigenous communities and fine arts programming collaborations:
 - The Salish Weave Collection is an ongoing project where the Indigenous Learning Team members collaborate with school-based teachers to take the collection to schools (for two days to a week at each school), annually cycling through schools during the course of the year.
 - The cultural items donated by Ray and Christine Clayton are being used by the Indigenous Learning Team and are shared with students and teachers. As soon as COVID restrictions and health protocols allow, certain items donated by Ray and Christine Clayton will be assessed by the curator of the tems swiya Museum.
 - On behalf of the district, music teacher Meredith Bingham, along with shíshálh singer, weaver and language educator Kwayimin (Andy Johnson) and district principal Kerry Mahlman will attend the *Everything is Connected: Song, Relationships, and Indigenous Worldviews* music education conference February 17–18, 2022 at the University of Victoria.

DATA ANALYSIS AND REVIEW:

- The grade 8 MDI data from 2021 posed the question regarding after-school activities and 78% responded that they have never participated in after-school activities related to music or art and only 27% of students spent less than 30 minutes on arts and crafts or practicing a musical instrument after school hours.
- Sunshine Coast BC is home to world renowned artists in painting, sculpture, glass, ceramics, photography, digital imagery, woodwork, textiles, jewellery and the performing arts; providing SD46 with an unparalleled opportunity and access to collaborate and connect students with.

RESOURCES/BUDGET:

- ArtStarts Grant and SD46 allocated funding for ArtStarts programming, VSO subscription and District Musical Theatre
- Board of Education approved funding for elementary school musical instruments

EMERGING AREAS OF NEED:

- Developing educator practice in a variety of art mediums at the elementary level.

ADAPTATIONS/NEXT STEPS:

- Staff will begin outreach to the community to bring community art into schools, and student art into the community.
- Explore a connection with the DSLT and student voice for a District Wide Art Show