

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

STRATEGIC PLAN REPORT: FINE ARTS

Submitted by Superintendent Kerr
December 7th, 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. A strong arts education benefits all students, communities, and societies by contributing to the development of well-rounded, educated citizens.

The Board has developed an arts policy which supports the work of staff in establishing solid arts programming in our schools and 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 who offer a range of lenses including community schools, teaching, Indigenous Learning, 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:

- ArtStarts grant funding along with SD46 funding brings fine art performances in to our elementary and secondary schools annually. This year's shows include:
 - Elementary: Jess Dance and DuffleBag Theatre production of "Peter Pan"
 - Secondary: Brendan McLeod "Ridge"
- A Fine Arts resource on Engage and staff newsletter 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.
- Fine Arts and Music Teachers:
 - Halfmoon Bay and Gibsons Elementary Fine Arts Teachers
 - Elementary School Music Teachers at West Sechelt, Madeira Park, Langdale, Cedar Grove, and Davis Bay Elementary
 - Elphinstone Secondary Music Program

Data Analysis and Review:

- Fine Arts teachers at Halfmoon Bay and Gibsons Elementary verbal feedback on how Fine Arts teachers have enriched the learning at the school:
 - At Gibsons Elementary the Fine Arts teacher works with primary classrooms:
 - Singing and dance have been the focus this term
 - Imagination, joy, laughter, and moving creatively are infused in the Fine Arts experience
 - At Halfmoon Bay Elementary the Fine Arts teacher works with each division from K to Grade 7 two times per week:
 - 'The advantage of having a fine arts program is that students will be provided opportunities to communicate and create in a multitude of ways: Visual Arts, Musical Arts, Dramatic Arts, and Dance.'
 - Ideas to integrate Fine Arts into the regular classroom experience with support from the Fine Arts teacher include:
 - additional communication between classroom teacher and fine arts teacher about topics/strands that are currently being taught.
 - "explore your passion" blocks where students have the opportunity to pursue their interest further in a variety of genres.
 - class discussions with fine arts teacher for students to share their preferred interests and areas they would like to learn about this year.
 - "teacher for a day" opportunities for students to teach their peers in fine arts class (ie. teach them jazz dance, origami, mime etc.)
 - celebration assemblies
 - The school has also booked the Jess Dance company for an entire week in early January.
- The grade 8 MDI data from 2022 posed the question regarding after-school activities and 72% responded that they have never participated in after-school activities related to music or art and only 37% 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

Emerging Areas of Need:

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

Adaptations/Next Steps:

- Staff will continue 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