

SEABIRD ISLAND EDUCATION DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

Toti:lt q'ep tset

Our learning together

Fall 2025

Volume: 1 Issue: 3

Youth Program

Employment

College

Lalme' Iwesawtexw | School



Seabird Island Band

Director's Message

Éy swáyel Seabird Island Community,

Welcome to the latest edition of Toti:lt q'ep tset, our Education Department newsletter. This period has brought exciting developments across all our programs.

At Lalme' Iwesawtexw, we welcomed families back with our best-attended BBQ since the pandemic—over 150 families connected with teachers and staff. Our weekly land-based learning Wednesdays now include carving, beading, dancing, drumming, Halq'emeylem, food preparation, and cultural teachings. Students helped create 200 candy bags with medicine wheel stickers and bracelets for the Agassiz Fall Fair Parade, where Seabird—with support from Finance, IGA, Health, Infrastructure, and ECD—won 1st Place for Individual Costume.

Through the Indigenous Education Council (IEC), we have strengthened support for Indigenous students in School District 78. We hired an Indigenous Support Worker Team

Lead and added 30 minutes of paid time per day for Indigenous Support Workers. We also increased per-student funding to enhance cultural programming district-wide.

Our Youth Program continues providing cultural activities, summer employment, and community outreach. Seabird College welcomed new staff and celebrated graduates from multiple programs.

These changes mean students receive more consistent cultural support, families have stronger connections with schools, and our youth maintain their identity while achieving academic success. These efforts reflect our vision: we support learners at every stage to build a strong future for Seabird Island. Thank you to our staff, students, families, and community partners who make this work possible.



Ts'íthomé,
Barbara White
Director of Education
Seabird Island

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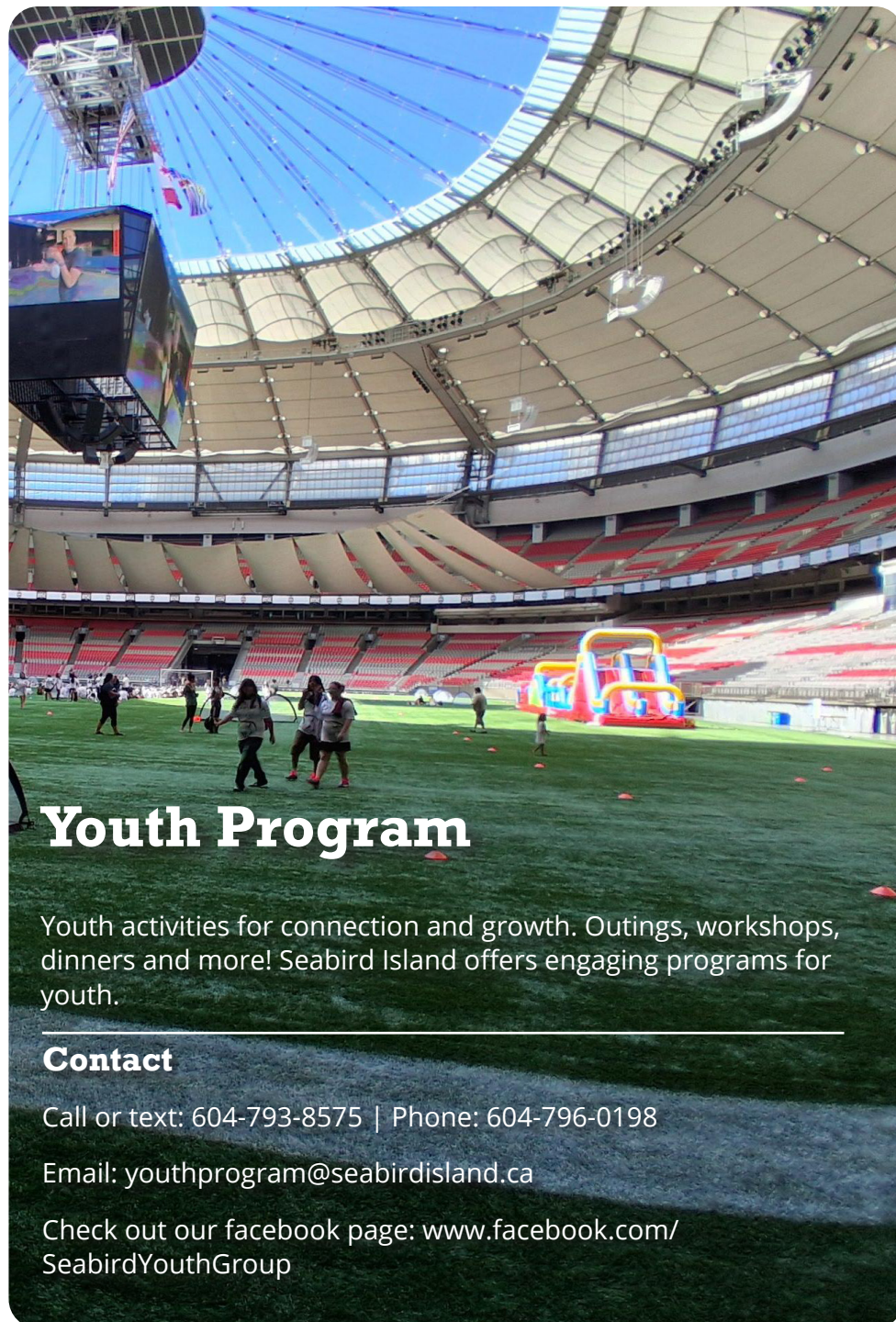
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Youth Program

Youth activities for connection and growth. Outings, workshops, dinners and more! Seabird Island offers engaging programs for youth.

Contact

Call or text: 604-793-8575 | Phone: 604-796-0198

Email: youthprogram@seabirdisland.ca

Check out our facebook page: www.facebook.com/SeabirdYouthGroup

Outdoor Youth Development Program

"Contented Spirit – Sthalethi seywelh"

We have coordinated with Youth Trauma Specialist, Indigenous Programming Matters, Raylene Mumford, to facilitate a series of workshops focused on equipping Youth with practical knowledge and skills within a culturally grounded framework, fostering resilience and well-being. We offer a variety of Workshops on Healthy relationships, substance use/misuse and even cultural crafting nights with Darren Charlie! Whether seeking adventure, career development, or friendship – our programs provide opportunity for empowerment, cultural connection, and preparation for bright futures.

- Outings to places like PNE, Whitecaps, rock climbing and more
- Weekly health and skills workshops
- Weekly drop-in dinners at the Youth Centre for hanging out and meeting peers

Drop-In Program

Join us every Wednesday and Saturday from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.



Located in the portable behind 2750 Sqewqel Drive.

Community Outreach

Throughout July and August, the youth team conducted extensive door-to-door outreach in Seabird and neighboring communities to build meaningful relationships with youth, families, and elders, strengthening community networks and supporting program engagement. The Youth team also participated in the Agassiz Fall Fair Harm Reduction project. The youth team offered support throughout the weekend with safety and harm prevention to youth and families.

Youth Activities & Engagement

Over the past few months youth engaged in a diverse range of activities, nurturing cultural connection, skill-building, and community outreach. These activities provide youth opportunities to explore new interests, build confidence, and engage with their community in meaningful ways.



Mission Powwow

Indigenous dance, music, community connection and ceremony.

Gill Net Making

Brenon McIntyre taught traditional gill net making.



Canoeing at Lightning Lake, Manning Park

Youth enjoyed traditional water activities in the beautiful Manning Park setting.



Hope & Health Soccer Camp

A soccer camp focused on health, teamwork, and skill development. We had 42 youth attend!



Pride Painting Project

An artistic painting initiative to honor diversity and inclusion, with 31 youth adding handprints to the sidewalk outside the band office.

Drum Making

Led by local Indigenous artisan Darren Charlie, youth learned to construct hand drums using traditional materials like rawhide and wood. The workshop included teachings about the cultural significance of drums in Indigenous ceremonies and storytelling.

Indigenous fashion week outing



Fish Camp

Youth visited the McIntyre camp and received lessons on traditional fishing techniques, dry racking, fillet, cleaning and preparing fish.

Upcoming

A Youth Gathering conference is being planned for Spring 2026, offering further opportunities for engagement, learning, and community-building. This will include our three partnering communities, Chawathil, Cheam and Shxw'ow'hamel and this initiative underscores a commitment to empowering youth through culturally relevant education and support, and fostering healthier communities. Stay tuned for dates!

Employment

Youth Summer Employment Program Recap

This summer, we offered participants valuable training and real-world exposure to career opportunities. Youth completed Ticket Training, First Aid certification, and Babysitting courses, equipping participants with practical skills for future employment. Youth also gained insight into various industries by connecting with employers from Manning Park Resort, Sq'ewqel Development Corporation (SqDC), Nations Creations, and Stqó:ya Construction. In addition, youth visited inspiring Indigenous-owned businesses, including Jade Green Interior Design and Tradish Café & Food Truck, where they learned about entrepreneurship and creative career paths.



Highlights:

Manning Park Resort

Talks with Manning Park Engineering and Park Services. Guest Services engaged youth with a fun towel art activity.



Tradish Café

Medicine Wheel cookies at the Tradish Cafe, Fort Langley.

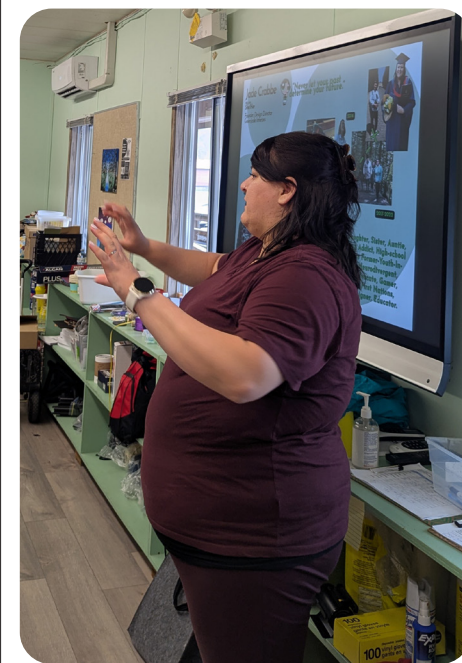


Aleesha Jones

Seabird's Holistic Nutrition Wellness Lead, teaching students how to support food security with harvesting techniques and fall garden bed clean up.

Jade Green, Interior Designer

Designer of the new Seabird Island Cultural Centre. Thank you to Jade Green for collaborating with the employment team this summer to present her Design Thinking workshop in our Summer Youth Employment Program. Jade also shared her career journey as an indigenous business owner.



Income Assistance NEW Office Hours

- 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.,
Monday to Thursday
- 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.,
Fridays

If you have any questions, please
contact our IA team for support.

Phone: 604-796-8048

Email: [Income.Assistance@
seabirdisland.ca](mailto:Income.Assistance@seabirdisland.ca)

Welcome to the team!



Alva Victor, Pre-Employment Outreach Support Worker, is an experienced mentor and family worker from Sts'Ailes. Alva enjoys working out and keeping fit! You might see her getting in her steps at the Seabird Band Office track.

SASET Employment Services Closure Dates

Professional Development Closures

- December 16th and 17th
(Tuesday & Wednesday)



Join the Community Labour Pool Program!

As a member of the Community Labour Pool, you will be called upon to assist with a variety of tasks across different sectors of Seabird Island Band.

Interested candidates can apply by visiting Employment Services at Seabird College or apply online at www.seabirdisland.bamboohr.com/careers/605

Pre Employment Programs

We have been busy planning training opportunities and work experience programs for our Pre Employment Support Program clients. We'll have registration information out soon!

December

- Custodial and Building
Service Worker

January

- Gaming and Gambling
Addictions
- Life Skills Programing

February

- Maintenance and
Landscaping Program
- First Aid Training

Labour Market Survey

The 2025 Labour Market Survey is still open. Receive a \$50 gift card for completing the survey!

See next page



Indigenous Labour Market Information (ILMI) Survey



**\$50 GIFT CARD
FOR EVERY
COMPLETED
SURVEY!!**

Responses are confidential, surveyor must be over the age of 15, no SIN required and only takes 15 – 30 minutes to complete!

Can be done at one of our
offices or request an email link
to complete it at home!

info@saset.ca

ACCESS
SURVEY HERE

Canada



Benefits of the LMI Survey:

- Providing essential skills
- Linking you with exciting careers
- Creating real change
- Investing in our youth
- Offering vital information for growth
- Educating our communities
- Discovering our strengths

SASET—Chilliwack Office
5B-7201 Vedder Road
Chilliwack, BC
Phone: 604-858-3691

SASET—Sts'ailes Office
4690 Salish Way
Agassiz, BC
Phone: 604-796-2116

SASET—Seabird Office
2895 Chowat Road
Agassiz, BC
Phone: 604-796-6865



Seabird College

We welcome Indigenous students from a variety of backgrounds and experiences—including youth, adults returning to education, and parents. It's never too late to further your education.

Courses Underway

Starting in September these courses are now well underway:

- Piping Foundation Program
- Adult Dogwood
- Halq'emeylem Language courses
- Indigenous Coach Training Program (ICTP)

Benefits for Students

- Free tuition for Indigenous and Indigenous-identifying students
- Transportation assistance (case-by-case)
- Childcare support
- Student support services on campus (by appointment)
- Smaller class sizes for personalized attention
- Daily breakfast and lunch provided
- SASET Employment Services on campus
- Access to driving school
- Open to all seeking Adult Dogwood Diploma completion

Learning in your community helps students maintain connections to family, culture, and local opportunities while building skills that benefit both themselves and the nation.

Stay Connected:

www.facebook.com/SeabirdCollege

Building Connections

The college participated in a series of recruitment events and activities over the past few months, utilizing opportunities to share information about our upcoming programs; including the career fair at the new Tzeachten building, and engaging visits with students at GW Graham and Sardis Secondary.

Additionally, we participated in many events and activities at Seabird Island including the Youth Employment Program in the summer and the Back-to-School Event in the fall.

Our team also engaged with families during parent-teacher nights in SD33, the third annual Powwow at Hope Secondary

School, and participated the impactful "Walking the Path Together" event. This final gathering provided a meaningful opportunity to connect with Indigenous students in Grades 10–12 and their families. It also facilitated valuable connections with the School District 78 Indigenous Graduation Coaches, allowing us to offer insights into program offerings and admission requirements.

We have also hosted two successful open houses at Western Community College campuses; this was a new initiative, and the events were held at their Abbotsford and Surrey locations bridging connections with potential students looking to attend courses closer to home.

In partnership with Seabird Island Community School, we have also engaged Black Press to provide a year-long advertising campaign; advertisements in the local newspapers, social media and news articles.





College Grad

Seabird College was thrilled to host a dinner on November 5th celebrating graduands from the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 academic classes. We were pleased to celebrate with the friends and families of the forty graduands who were able to attend, representing all the programs the college has offered over the past two years.



Celebrating Staff!

The college was pleased to help our colleagues in Human Resources celebrate the pending arrival of "Baby Jordan" by co-hosting a baby shower for Jessica Jordan. Jessica works closely with the Education portfolio and has been a constant source of practical wisdom and assistance. The baby - a boy - is due later in December.

Agassiz Fall Fair Parade

The College assisted the Agassiz Fall Fair Parade organizers with developing and constructing the parade float and ordering T-Shirts. The Harry Family Dance Group joined the parade procession in traditional regalia. The parade float and accompanying Seabird participants did an exceptional job in representing Seabird Island in a good way; drumming, singing, sharing a part of their culture and handing out candy and swag to the crowd!



Hallowe'en with the Community

The Education Department participated in the annual Hallowe'en event for Seabird families. The college was pleased to sponsor face painters and volunteers for the event. Additionally, the college participated in the Seabird Island Band trick-or-treat route for the students attending Seabird Island Community School and Early Childhood Education. College Receptionist, Daniel McNeil-Bobb, dressed the part as Mr. Halloween and thoroughly enjoyed handing out candy to the kids.

New Staff Welcome!



We are pleased to welcome our new Culinary and Food Services Program Lead, **Mitchell Williams**. Mitchell will be instructing our Indigenous Culinary Arts program starting this January. Mitchell is building the curriculum for this program and designing menu plans for the Meals on Wheels Program. To date, applications for the program have been steady, so sign up while seats last!

Student Well-Being Supports

At Seabird College, we understand that hunger can be a barrier to learning. That's why we provide free breakfast and lunch to all students every school day. Meals are thoughtfully prepared with a focus on nutrition and feature locally sourced ingredients whenever possible. Mornings can be hectic, and it's not always easy to grab breakfast or pack lunch. Our meal program ensures that students are well-fed and ready to focus on their studies — because learning is easier when you're not running on empty. Our student services team is here to support the well-being and success of students in culturally appropriate ways. We offer counseling by appointment for students seeking guidance or someone to talk to, as well as cultural support services that celebrate the identity, belonging, and community of our students.

Post-Secondary Student Support (Seabird Band Members)

The Post Secondary Student Support Program and University and College Preparation Program receive funds annually to assist Seabird Band Members with their education journey.

Application deadlines for 2026 funding:

- April 1st for September Enrollment
- October 1st for January Enrollment
- January 1st for May Enrollment

Any applications received after the deadlines will be on waitlist for the following registration. Funding is limited and not guaranteed.

Connect with our Post Secondary Coordinator for an application or additional information.

Shannon Beaty

Phone: 604-796-8001
Email: postsecondary@seabirdcollege.ca

Upcoming Courses Starting in January!

Applications for courses beginning in January are currently being accepted.

- Early Childhood Education Post-Basic Infant and Toddler Specialization
- Level 1 Cook Indigenous Component
- Education Assistant

Connect with our Recruitment & Marketing Coordinator, Stephanie Smith for more information on our upcoming courses.

Stephanie Smith

Phone: 604-796-7037
Email: stephanie.smith@seabirdcollege.ca

Check out more details on our website: www.seabirdcollege.ca

You are also welcome to visit the College office. We are open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., excluding statutory holidays.

www.seabirdcollege.ca



Seabird College
EDUCATION FOR REAL LIFE

NEW & EXCITING

now accepting ongoing applicants for

EDUCATION ASSISTANT

Full time program, Monday – Friday

OVERVIEW:

This diploma program equips students with the knowledge and practical skills necessary to serve as integral members of educational teams within British Columbia's Kindergarten to Grade 12 school system.

LOCATED @
Seabird College

In partnership:



**WESTERN
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE**

For more information, contact;
Stephanie Smith

College Recruiter & Marketing Coordinator
Email: colrecruit@seabirdisland.ca
Phone: 604-796-6839
2812 Chowat Road, Agassiz BC



www.seabirdcollege.ca



Seabird College
EDUCATION FOR REAL LIFE

LEVEL 1 PROFESSIONAL COOK WITH INDIGENOUS COMPONENT

Full time program, start date *January 12, 2026.*

OVERVIEW:

Professional Cook 1 offers students a foundational introduction to the culinary arts, equipping them for careers in the hospitality industry or paving the way for advanced culinary training. The program emphasizes industry standards while integrating traditional and Indigenous knowledge and techniques.

LOCATED @
Seabird College

**SIGN UP TODAY...
LIMITED SEATS
AVAILABLE!**

For more information, contact;
Stephanie Smith

College Recruiter & Marketing Coordinator
Email: colrecruit@seabirdisland.ca
Phone: 604-796-6839
2812 Chowat Road, Agassiz BC



Lalme' Iwesawtexw | Seabird Island Community School

Schools are for children, and they come first!

At Seabird Island Community School, we are deeply committed to nurturing the whole child and empowering them with the knowledge, values, and skills to lead successful enriching lives while honoring Indigenous roots.



Registration Information:

Registration packages are available at Seabird Island Band Office or through the below contacts.

Phone:
604.796.3061 | 1.800.788.0322

Email:
education@seabirdschool.ca

Website: www.seabirdschool.ca

School Highlights

- School Food Program
- Literacy, Numeracy and land-based learning focus
- Halq'emeylem Language Classes
- Cultural Connection
- Cultural morning protocol: drumming, singing, dancing
- Eymexw Awards: recognition for students for character and good attendance
- UFV Trades Sampler: learn six different trades while earning graduation credits
- Full Day Junior Kindergarten



Welcome Back BBQ

On September 9th we hosted our annual welcome back barbeque for families. This event is always a great opportunity for families to meet staff, see the classrooms, and share a meal, in a casual environment, and build connections with new teachers. This event is always well attended, but this year in particular was incredible, with over 150 people attending!

Fall Fair Parade

On Saturday September 13th, Seabird entered a float in the fall fair parade for the second year in a row. The float was a collaboration between the Education Department, the Elders, and the Band office. This year's theme was the medicine wheel, with the float sporting a giant medicine wheel, and candy bags including information about the medicine wheel, as well as information about the school. We had a number of students and staff join the parade, dancing, drumming, singing, handing out candy, or just waving to the parade-goers. The result of this parade was a first-place ribbon, and lots of positive interactions with the community.



Land-Based-Learning

Throughout September we had three land-based learning days that the whole school took part in. Each day incorporated elements of culture, land, and create. This has been our framework that we have started with for these days. Each section is 90-minutes long and led by different people.



Culture

Incorporates traditional storytelling, Halq'emeylem language, drumming and singing, Slahal, and medicine making. Thus far students have made salve and smudge spray. Senior students also worked with Mark Point to begin building a sweat lodge. Mark took some students to cut down willow trees for the base, and taught students how to bend and tie them together to form the dome of the sweat lodge. This will be finished through November; the hope is that students will be able to participate in sweats with Mark in late November and early December.



Create

Includes students working alongside our cook to make lunch for the entire school, learning knife skills, measuring, and simple menu planning. Additionally, create has included art projects, such as making keychains for our fall fair parade, painting rocks for decoration, and making cards for the Elders.



Land

Classroom teachers utilize this opportunity to do something fun and engaging with their students on the land like canoeing, exploring the slough, mapping and compass reading, photography, fire making with the support of Seabird's Firesmart crew, designing and making walking sticks, and exploring the local land. Students also participate in the school garden and greenhouse to grow, harvest, and maintain the space. Additionally on land-based days classes take turns going to Earthwise farm to learn more about growing, harvesting, and food security and sovereignty. There is also a group that rotates each week to go on a full-day hike at a local trail. This gives students an opportunity to see more than just what is immediately around Seabird.



Eymexw Celebration

On October 8 we celebrated our Eymexw Celebration with the whole school. During this time, we celebrated 55 students who achieved perfect attendance in September! Four classes also achieved an attendance rate of over 90% for the month. This was an incredible start to the school year!

Students who were recognized for positive attitudes will be presented with a sweater, and students with perfect attendance have a chance to win a bi-monthly award. Additionally, the class in the high school and the class in the elementary with the best overall attendance won a pizza party. For September, this was the grade 3 class with 92.9% attendance and the grade 8 class with 91.7% attendance. Great work Seabird Students!



Sto:lo New Year

In October the school celebrated Sto:lo New Year. This day was led by our cultural team and featured many crafts and activities, including rattle making, carving, drumming and dancing, and Slahal. Students learned to make fried bread and tried a variety of salmon that had been traditionally preserved, including smoked, salted, candied, and canned.

The day ended with a full school jam out. Some students invited their families, and many drummers and dancers came in to celebrate with the students. This began outside, but eventually came into the gym, as the drums were getting cold outside. This was a great way to end the day and have all students celebrate Sto:lo New Year together.

Spirit Week

During the week of the 27th – 31st October, the school participated in their annual spirit week. Days included Halloween colours, PJ Day, wacky hair day, and witch and wizard day. On the 31st, students dressed in costume and were invited to the college and band office to trick-or-treat. This was a great experience for the students, and everyone went home with a bag of candy.



Community Coat Drive

One of our grade 12 students, Kya Patterson, is organizing a Coats for Hope Drive at the Hope Recreation Center, a drop box for donations will be in the Rec Centre lobby starting between November 1 – December 21. The goal is to help the unhoused and local families stay warm during the winter months.

Email for drop off/pick up:
coatsforhopebc@gmail.com

Or text: 604-938-3710

High School ADST

During the start of the school year, students in grade 10 and 11 build small walls in the classroom. These walls were wired with a plug, light, and switch. Students had to wire all the elements to code and then plug everything in to see if it would work. All students managed to get their lights to turn on and their plugs to charge their phones.

Next, they will be moving on to full walls through the building of a shed that will include a door and window as part of the design. This course is meant to give students a picture of what a career in trades might look like and also gets them thinking about participating in the trade sampler with UFV when they are in grade 12.



Upcoming Events

- **Coats for Hope Drive** – November 1 - December 21 at Hope Recreation Center
- **SASET Professional Development Closures** – December 16-17
- **Pre-Employment: Custodial and Building Service Worker** – December
- **Indigenous Culinary Arts Program Starts** – January 2026
- **January Courses Begin** – ECE Post-Basic Infant & Toddler, Level 1 Cook, Education Assistant
- **Post-Secondary Funding Deadline** – January 1 for May enrollment
- **Pre-Employment: Gaming & Gambling Addictions, Life Skills** – January
- **Pre-Employment: Maintenance & Landscaping, First Aid** – February
- **Post-Secondary Funding Deadline** – April 1 for September enrollment
- **Youth Gathering Conference** – April 2026 (dates TBA)

Contact Information

*Toti:lt q'ep tset is published by the Seabird Island Education Department.
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EAtEdu@seabirdisland.ca

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