

2023-2024 School Learning Plan

With deep gratitude and respect, we are honoured to be learning and unlearning on the ancestral and unceded lands of the x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), S_kwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) & səliiwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).

SCHOOL STORY

Pierre Elliott Trudeau Elementary School is a Kindergarten to Grade 7 school with over 240 students and 32 staff members. It is in the south-east area of Vancouver near Marine Drive between Fraser and Main Street. Many families have relatives in the immediate area, giving our school a strong, vibrant, stable community base.

Trudeau offers various academic, physical, artistic, and social programs that support students and their families. In addition to school programs, there are strong, ongoing links with community organizations like One-to-One Reading, Books for Me, the Vancouver Public Library, the YMCA which provides out-of-school care and South Vancouver Neighbourhood House. We have Chinese and Punjabi after-school programs and the Vancouver Extracurricular Music Society (VEMS) Choral Program operating in school at Trudeau, reflecting the needs and wishes of the community. Other community and school-based volunteers have offered their time and expertise to further support student learning and success. Also, the John Oliver Community Team has organized or provided various programs for students after school which include the Science World workshops, Geering Up, and Yoga Buddies. The programs are well attended and appreciated by parents. The Team has also provided opportunities for some students during Winter and Spring Breaks. Moving forward, we continue to strengthen ties with outside agencies and provide various after-school programs on-site at Trudeau.

Trudeau has a diverse, multi-cultural population with many of our families speaking additional languages at home. Within our school, we have 28 different language groups represented. They include English, Tagalog, Punjabi, Cantonese, Spanish, Hindi, Tamil, and Vietnamese. Some of our students have a Ministry of Education and Special Education Plan that represents their learning needs. Trudeau hosts a Vancouver School Board District Program called CORE (Communication and Regulation) and a District Mandarin Bilingual Program giving beginner language students an opportunity to learn Mandarin daily. The rich, diverse, exciting cultural population supports the school's belief in global citizenship and the interconnections of the world. We maintain that students

demonstrate an enthusiasm for learning how to be socially responsible. From Kindergarten onward, we encourage students to build positive and respectful relationships with each other and staff, engage in all learning activities, and to develop self-regulation skills and social emotional awareness.

At Trudeau, emphasis has been placed on increasing awareness of numeracy, applied skills and to developing an increasing passion for learning by becoming fluent, proficient readers, writers, and speakers of English. It is our hope and goal that we provide students with the skills to be responsible citizens. Along with the District IT Department and support from our PAC (Parent Advisory Council), we are endeavouring to improve the technology available to students in the school to better reflect equity of opportunity at Trudeau.

Enhancing learning and broadening the scope of possibilities for success for each student involves a collaborative and reflective approach. As a result, staff provide a variety of engaging learning experiences in different curricular areas with the use of technology and inquiry infused into the teaching and learning that takes place every day. The staff work also collaboratively together as a group in a variety of curricular areas and demonstrate interest in improving their practice as demonstrated by their input on this plan, through a book club and by engaging in numerous professional development opportunities that become available. Several teachers work closely with the Teacher-Librarian to enhance their students' learning experiences. Field Studies provides students with learning opportunities not otherwise possible for some students.

Staff and students work successfully to live up to the standards as outlined in our school Code of Conduct and summarized in the acronym T.R.U.E. - Trust, Respect, Understanding, Empathy. At Pierre Elliott Trudeau School, our goal is to create a safe environment that promotes positive academic, social, and emotional development. It is each student's responsibility to follow the Code of Conduct and school rules at school, while going to and from school, and while attending school curricular and extracurricular activities at any location. We want students to learn to take responsibility for their behaviour. Our school promotes the values expressed in the BC Human Rights Code, respecting the rights of all individuals in accordance with the law- prohibiting discrimination based on race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex or sexual orientation-in respect of discriminatory publication and discrimination in accommodation, service and facility in the school environment. Racism will not be tolerated at Trudeau.

Environmental awareness experiences include regular school clean-up and neighbourhood walks. Gardening projects by several divisions will continue in the future giving students the opportunity to put into practice the notion of "Taking Care of This Place." The outdoor classroom is unique and provides teachers and students with an opportunity to learn in a natural setting. We participate in the B.C. Fruits and Vegetable Snack Program, which is well received by the students.

We are proud of the multi-sensory room that helps students become ready and prepared to work on their individual education goals. We value our school as a safe, caring, and engaging learning place for all students and families. We feel fortunate to have our Artist in Residence Studio (AIRS) Program that provides all students with socially relevant, equitable, high quality and consistent access to visual arts

education. Each year, at the end of the residency, we celebrate our successes by highlighting the work done throughout the year. By bringing outside performers into the school, we provide students with opportunities to engage and even participate in musical, dramatical, and cultural experiences. Along with a variety of performances, we try to focus on Indigenous themes. This year students will be participating in a gymnastics program through an outside provider and sponsored by our PAC.

There is an involved, dedicated Parent Advisory Council (PAC) executive who works toward developing an inclusive environment through a variety of PAC sponsored events such as the City of Vancouver School Streets program in May last year. Plans are in the works this year for activities such as a Spring Dance and Sports Day involvement. In December we had a successful Movie Night with over 200 people attending. To enhance the connectiveness of parents, Friday morning coffee and tea once a month has been started. The hope is to increase its frequency.

Presently, student leadership opportunities have included student-led assemblies and monitoring volunteerism. Student voice is considered an essential element in the school. A Student Leadership Group has been created this year to further extend leadership opportunities throughout the school and to provide a forum for student voice. Over thirty enthusiastic students have joined the Group and are sharing ideas and organizing and implementing events at the school spirit days and assemblies.

The school encourages physical education and healthy living through participation in the Terry Fox Run, gymnastic lessons, and extra-curricular activities such cross-country, basketball, volleyball, and track and field. Open gymnasium times provide extended opportunities for physical fitness thanks to the support and supervision of school staff.

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THE COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS?

At Trudeau, the students express a keen sense of acceptance and empathy towards others. Kindness is a term used by many staff members when describing the students at the school. School is a place with a sense of safety, warmth, and a caring community. Overall, social emotional regulation is a strength. Issues on the playground are usually minor in nature and quickly solved and remedied. Students can be seen in the classrooms helping each other and are eager to help where needed. Trudeau has a diverse group of learners with many recently immigrated families and those with various levels of community connection.

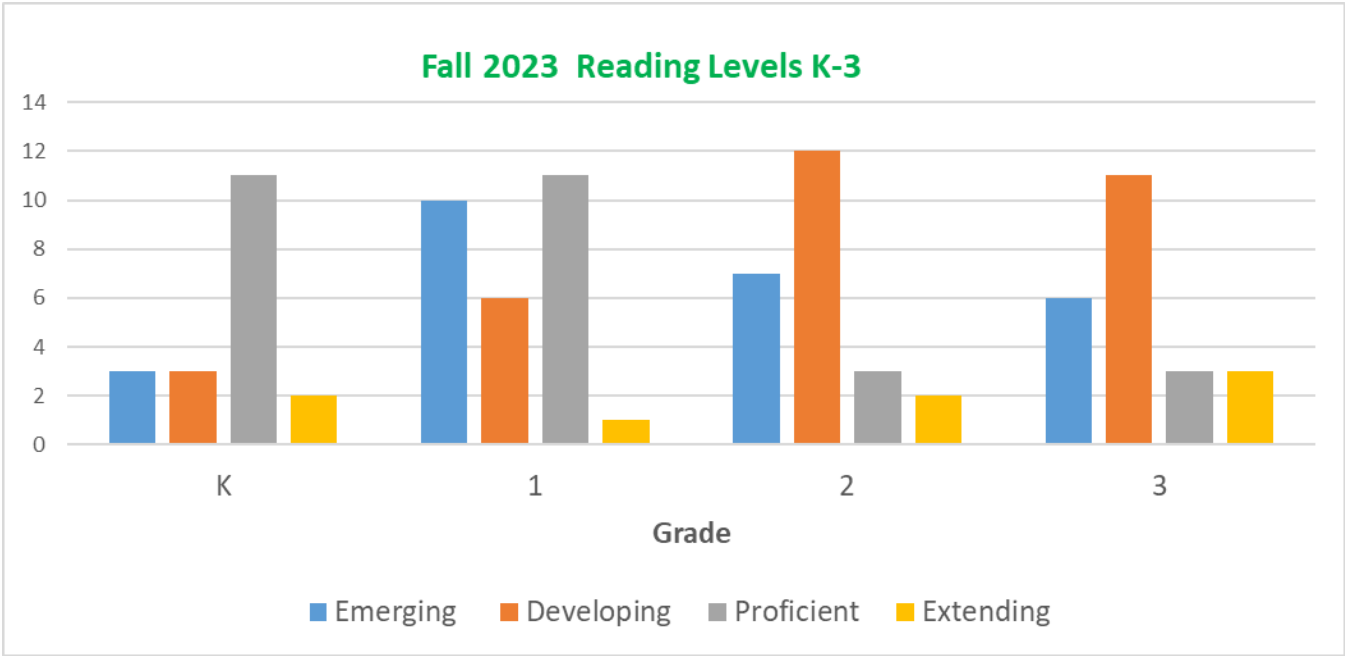
There is leadership across the grades resulting in a strong connection between children on the playground and during multi- grade activities. Overall, the students are well motivated towards their learning and show enthusiasm when sharing their projects. Artistic expression is a strength of many students, as evident by their creative and thoughtful pieces of art proudly displayed in the hallways. They look forward to the art celebration later in the year.

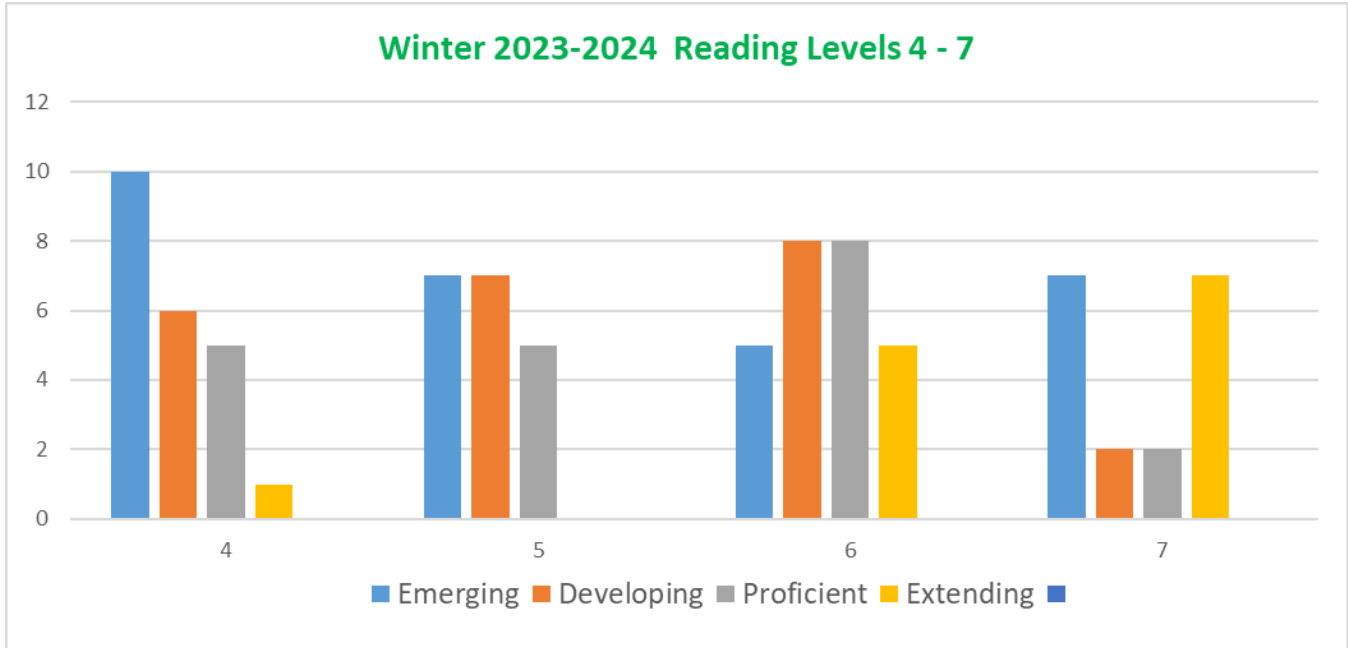
Indigenous learning remains a focus for the school. With ever increasing resources available in our library and district, our teachers and students can draw upon a richer, more authentic connection to Indigenous history. In the next section is some data on the thinking of our students regarding their learning of Indigenous cultures.

As in any educational setting the needs of the students vary, but a few themes are emerging over time as per staff conversations. The steady increase in our English Language Learner (ELL) population at the school is leading staff to reflect and re-evaluate on how best to provide curricular experiences in an inclusive and meaningful manner. Also, as we move on from the educational impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, there are several academic needs staff identified requiring to be addressed, immediate and long term. There is a need to develop stronger critical thinking, problem solving and independent thinking skills amongst our students. These are key components in the curriculum’s Core Competencies. Coupled with low literacy scores, an increase in reluctant readers and writing remaining a major challenge for many students, literacy connected to critical thinking development will be the focus of staff conversation, collaboration, and professional development over the next few years.

Encouraging a growth mind set among our students and supporting parents in understanding how we approach such an outcome is also key for the direction we plan to take moving forward.

Below are the current overall results of our students’ reading levels. We can also look at individual results for even greater clarification. This data will help guide our focus next year and identify which learners require the most intervention.





AS A SCHOOL COMMUNITY, WE ARE WORKING ON THE FOLLOWING TO:

Improve student achievement in literacy and numeracy, physical and mental well-being, and belonging

There are a variety of strategies Trudeau staff will continue to follow in supporting our school literacy objectives and goals as well as innovative approaches to consider and implement. We decided to maintain our participation in the Collaborative Early Learning Inquiry project (CELI) that targets support for our students in grades K-3. We have created a structure and purchased assessment tools that tracks student literacy development from K-7 in reading and writing. As represented in the charts above, attention will continue to be given to identifying student reading levels and therefore, staff can pinpoint instruction strategies in a focused manner across the grades, supporting all students at their current level. For example, staff will use this information to plan how best organize literacy groups during collaborative release time. Below are action items to support the approach we are taking to improve literacy at Trudeau Elementary.

Action Items currently in practice:

- Continue with Reading Recovery
- Guided Reading groups across the Intermediate grades
- Support for Learning Assistance and English Language Learners separately
- Increase engagement with through book discussions and a Kids Book Club
- Bring experiences into the school along with field studies opportunities
- Create a safe place for students to share thinking
- Create an organized staff resource sharing channel in TEAMS
- Purchase more reading materials that reflect student cultural contexts
- Play and risk-taking activities in literacy/assessment language around risk taking
- Use literacy mentors/Lunch & Learns/Pro-D Days with full staff level engagement

Action Items to pursue in 2024-2025:

- Use technology to support literacy development
- To understand and use the Critical Thinking Set of Profiles
- Regular timetable collaboration time each month
- Develop literacy scaffolding expectations across the grades
- Hold a PAC session on how parents can be reading with kids
- Use Reading Power in Intermediate – consistent, explicit reading strategies
- School wide activities/celebrations around literacy

Improve equity

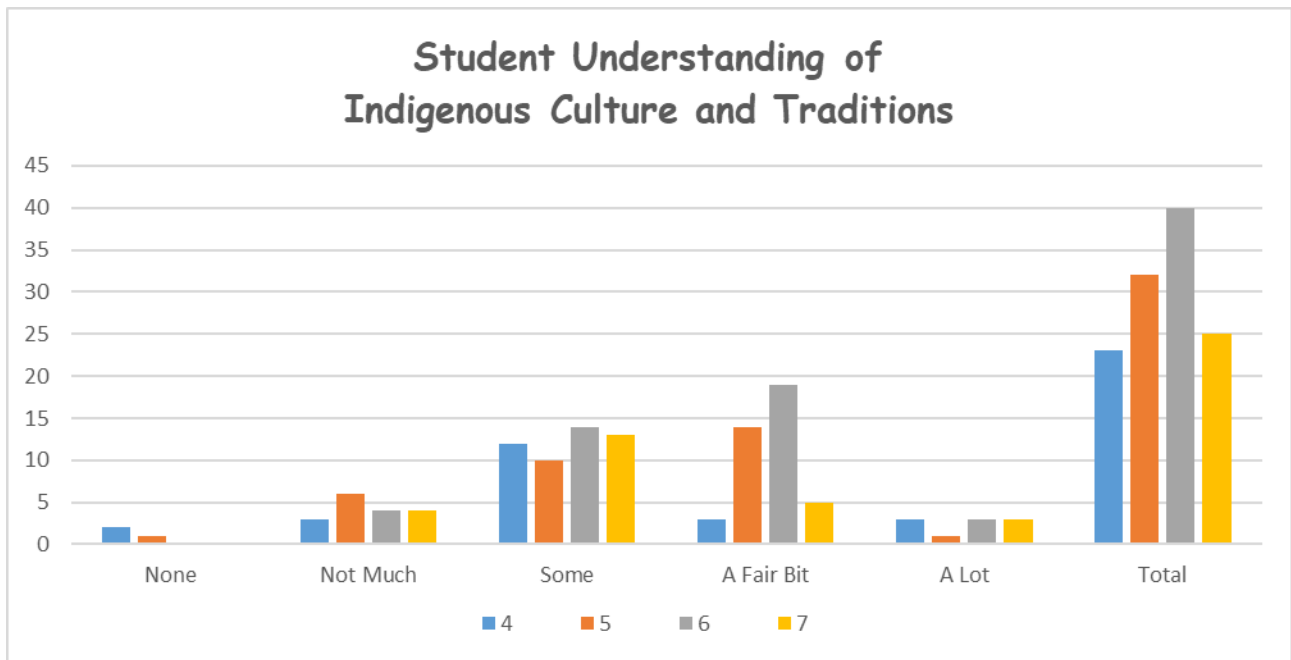
In its foundational statements, the Vancouver School Board commits ‘to creating an equitable learning environment where every child can experience a deep sense of belonging and is free to pursue pathways of learning in ways that are authentic to themselves.’ Ever mindful of this statement, Trudeau Elementary staff are continuously looking for ways to support all students in their academic and social development through a particular focus on literacy and subsequent activities and strategies that give students opportunities for success. The above-mentioned action plan will help us support and define equity for our students along with parallel, concerted focus on maintaining and improving the technology in the school. Developing strong skills around technology will give our students better opportunities and open doors for them in their future endeavours.

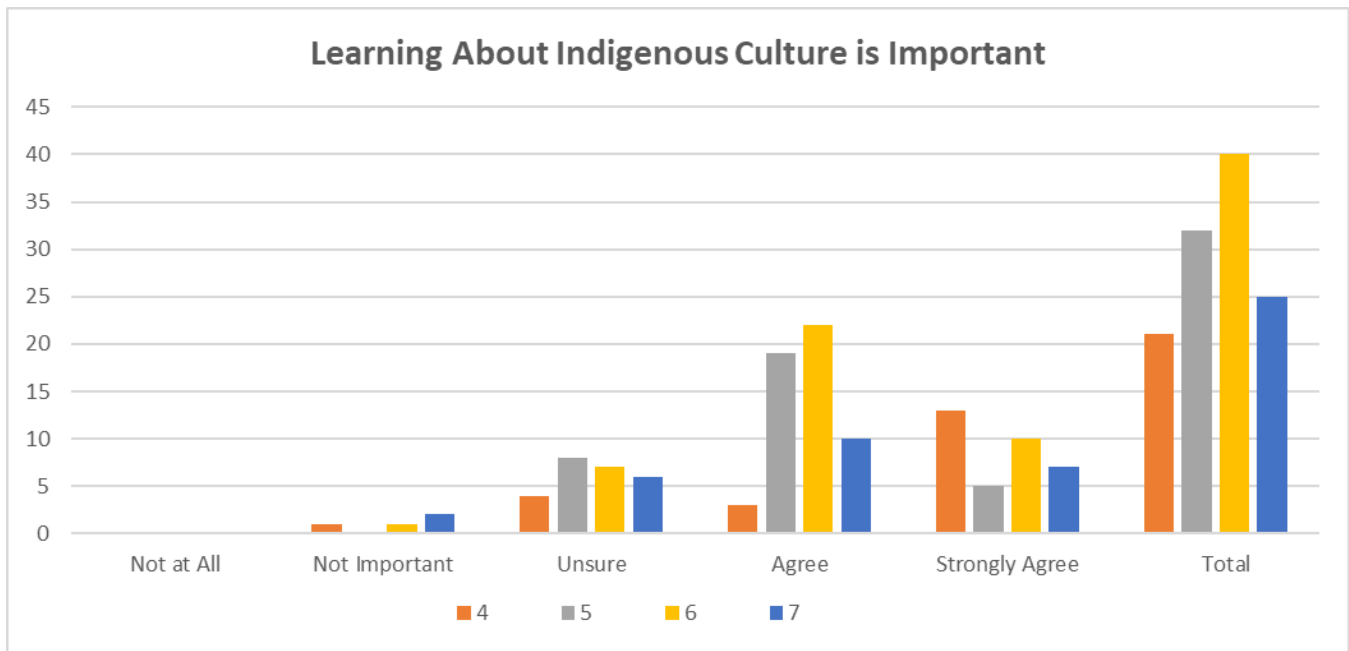
Continue our journey of reconciliation with First Nations, Metis, and Inuit

We desire to see a greater number of school and class-wide activities that have an Indigenous focus next year. The goal to embed Indigenous Principles of Learning and perspectives into all curricular areas will be a focus for discussion and implementation. Examples of Indigenous Education-focused activities that we would like to see more of at our school next year include:

- Include time for discussion and reflection on Indigenous content and education at Staff Meetings, particular focus on the ‘First Nations Principles of Learning.’
 - Incorporate time on a Pro-D Day around Indigenous content
 - Field trips to the Museum of Anthropology and Grouse Mountain (one led by an Elder)
 - Performances such as those offered by 3 Crows Productions who came this year.
- Outdoor education on Indigenous viewpoints on the land and indigenous plants
 - Urban hikes to connect to traditional stories about the territories we are living on
 - Continuation with the procurement of additional library and class resources

Below is some current data on Intermediate student understanding and thinking regarding Indigenous culture and traditions.





HOW WILL WE KNOW WE'RE ON TRACK?

As we move forward with our literacy goal next year, we will continue to monitor our progress and approaches through a variety of means such as the following:

Reading Assessments: K Protocol/Development Reading Assessment (DRA)/Benchmarks (Primary)/Gates-MacGinitie Assessment (Intermediate)

School-Wide Writes in the Fall and Spring

Collaborative Early Literacy Intervention (CELI) data

Class Reviews

Learning Updates data collection and review with staff using POWER BI

Student Self-evaluations

Profiles rubric/reading rubrics

One to One Reading Program results

Speech Language Pathologist support and assessment

School Based Team conversations and student reviews