

Our School Story

What are the unique, positive characteristics that we celebrate in our school/community?

Our Ladysmith mascot is the Respectosaurus who teaches us to be respectful, safe, and responsible.

We have a collaborative school staff working on shared goals and updating learning resources to meet the most recent curriculum changes. Many of our staff live in Ladysmith and attended Ladysmith schools as children.

Using the Successful Learner Traits in our morning announcements helps students to self-assess their progress by identifying strengths and areas for additional focus in the areas of compassion, confidence, creativity, enthusiasm, industrious, risk taking, strategy and thoughtfulness.

We connect with daily check ins as a school and individual classroom using Zones of Regulation starting first thing in the morning with the grade 3 announcers identifying their zone and continuing throughout the day in each class.

What are the important demographics of our school and community?

Ladysmith Primary School is in the town of Ladysmith, BC on the traditional and unceded territories of the Stz'uminus First Nation.

Located on Vancouver Island, the school enjoys a neighbourhood setting, close to Ladysmith's two other public schools, the local recreation centre and various amenities.

Enrollment for 2021-2022 is about 285 students from Kindergarten to Grade 3. Students are enrolled in fourteen classroom divisions. In addition, our school is home to our Strong Start program. Thirty-eight of our students are indigenous.

We have a fine arts teacher, and a teacher librarian as well as a Hul'q'umi'num language teacher.

Staffing includes several positions to support student learning: An Indigenous Culture and student support worker (.2) supports learning and cultural programming; An Elementary Counselor (.5) works on a regular schedule within the school; A Child and Youth Family Support Worker (1.0); Inclusion Support Teachers (1.2) chair our School-Based Team and lead learning support and a team of eight EAs to work with individual students and groups on an in-class model.

Our principal is a full-time administrator available to focus on student, staff, and school community needs.

The Parent Advisory Council (PAC) at our school is very active and attendance at meetings is consistent. Each year the PAC hosts a variety of events that bring our school community together. In 2021-2022 the pandemic meant that PAC fundraisers and meetings were still held virtually but they continued to support many initiatives including special guests that could meet classes outside, literacy and technology initiatives, and a variety of other resources and opportunities. In addition, PAC executives are invited to meet with the administration to openly discuss school-based ideas and needs.

Our School Goals

Through whole class instruction in the area of social-emotional growth, students will develop the ability to express and manage their emotions

All school programming and instructions will weave a meaningful connection to First Nations Principles and Understandings

Through intentional teaching and commitment, we will increase our students' opportunities for free play and learning in our natural world. We will increase our students' awareness of our impact on our environment and reduce our negative impact on our natural world.

Our School Celebration Story

When we reflect on last year and the beginning of this year, we realize we have many things to celebrate. We truly have a dedicated staff that meet monthly in small groups to make sure the goals we have set for our school are being met. They work on ideas to share with the rest of the staff and provide materials and suggestions on how to implement these in our day-to-day teaching. This has led to our school wide focus on Zones of Regulation – a means of fostering self regulation and emotional control.

It was wonderful to see how excited the teachers were on two of our professional development days – they tackled science curriculum on day and Math on another. We have many materials in the school but some no longer align with provincial curriculum, so they worked together as a group to ensure continuity of learning across the grades, weed out old material and add new resources in shared spaced for all to use.

A new initiative this year is our grade 3 leadership group. We are unique in that we are the only primary school in the district – where other schools rely on their grade 7s for leadership, we have moved to give our grade 3s greater responsibility – and they are more than meeting the challenge! We now have grade 3 helpers with announcements, helpers on the playground with the Kindergarten and grade 1 students, assistants for fruit and milk delivery and a core group who have lunch with the principal weekly to discuss concerns and come up with new leadership ideas.

Although the Elemental Run is a PAC initiative and fundraiser, we cannot reflect on last year without acknowledging the fantastic effort that a few parents put forth to do the run in a virtual manner. The online fundraising successfully raised over \$35,000 which will go toward outdoor learning spaces for our school. We are more than thankful to our wonderful PAC!

