

# Intergenerational Project

TECUMSEH ELEMENTARY - VANCOUVER



Kudos to teachers Tilia Prior and Marion Collins, twenty-six students in grades 5 and 6, and thirteen residents at Shannon Oaks Seniors' Residence! The Intergenerational Project at Vancouver's Tecumseh Elementary School was a Golden Star Award winner for 2020. In its fourth year, the goal of the Intergenerational Project was to help students develop personal and cultural identities by building relationships with local seniors through art, film, poetry and music.

Every senior was partnered with two students for each year of the program. Seniors played games with the students during the first joint session. During the remainder of the sessions, seniors and students shared drawings, weaving, storytelling, personal artifacts, music and photos. Interviews between students and seniors were recorded by taking notes, videos and audio recordings. Students worked with their senior buddies to create a fine arts based project that was shared at the seniors' residence.

The students were deeply involved in their relationships with their senior buddies and worked diligently and thoughtfully as they created poems about their buddies, illustrated with portraits drawn by the students. During the program, students also produced short animations and films featuring their buddies and created playlists of their buddies' favourite songs and music. Students gained experience and skills in leadership, arts, and social intelligence.



Both seniors and students commented on the fun they had while mutually developing life expanding relationships and skills that led to program outcomes. When COVID -19 restricted personal contact, students wrote letters to their senior buddies.

Golden Star Award monies will be used to provide microphones for iPads for recording interviews, splitters for headphones for students to work on film making, art materials to create portraits with and for seniors, funds to work with artists and indigenous mentors, field trip funds to tie the project in with the community, and music for the intergenerational choir.

Congratulations to all involved!

*Excellence in Education Committee*



## GOLDEN STAR AWARDS

# Intergenerational Learning

### THETIS ELEMENTARY - THETIS ISLAND



Congratulations to teacher Genny Redman, her students and seniors from Thetis Island! For the past three years, this program has flourished in the unique setting of a one room school house on Thetis Island. Students from Kindergarten to grade six, seventeen in number last year, interacted with at least twenty-five seniors who live in their community. Both students and seniors benefitted from the strong connections that developed between the generations. Students received enhanced learning opportunities and a diversity of perspectives.

Intergenerational activities were rich and varied. At least three times a week, seniors and students read to and listened to one another. An extension of this activity is an annual “Drop Everything and Read” event. During the year, students and seniors came together to learn about mason bees, local marine life, indigenous culture and history, Canadian history, music and singing, ukulele lessons and soccer.

Students and seniors participated in the creation and maintenance of an in-school seaquarium and held an annual beach walk led by a retired marine biologist. In June 2020, the beach walk was socially distanced.



Due to COVID – 19 restrictions, BCRTA is unable to visit the school to present the Golden Star Award trophy and certificates. However, we are hopeful that an in person celebration can be held in the future. The award monies were sent by mail and will be used to purchase a video camera for the school’s seaquarium and a variety of books to serve the multigrade classroom. Kudos to everyone involved!

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