



# Nature Based Learning UPDATE – January 28, 2019



*“In the end, we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand and we will understand only what we are taught.”*

- Baba Dioum

Well with the start of a new year and hopefully the weather getting a little warmer (although we have been fortunate with this year’s mild winter thus far) we are seeing more classes getting outside to explore our natural communities. This update along with further details will be housed in the Learning Hub (<https://learn.sd61.bc.ca/curriculum/enviro-ed/>) and I hope you will bookmark and check in to this area regularly. The next update will only be posted on the Hub although I will send you a notification that there is new information there as the hub is the place that we will be storing this type of information for all staff.

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This document contains three sections:

**Opportunities** – Information about various opportunities including the third year of the Dream Big program, as well as the Sierra Clubs Get Outside and Learn networking sessions, and an opportunity specific to high schools for students interested in learning more about

**Updates** – An update on our environmental plan as well as this year’s Nearby Nature Film festival.

**Experiences** – As mentioned at our meetings, I think it is important to share/celebrate our work. This month we are happy to highlight this year’s version of the “Dream Big Sustainability Challenge”.

As we spoke about in the Nature Based Learning series, the goal is to find ways to support and develop the great work that is taking place in our district! So, if you have other colleagues that may be interested in this information, please feel free to forward this to them. If you have any other thoughts, ideas, or dreams about nature based education in SD61 please share them with us. **The work you do is important and we are committed to trying to support it but would appreciate your thoughts, ideas and submissions on how best to do this!**

## Opportunities

### “Dream Big Sustainability challenge” Program

**Summary:** This day long program combines the IMAX “Dream Big-Engineering our World” with a series of sustainability challenges that combine curricular and core competencies (ADST, creative and critical thinking, communication and personal and social responsibility) as they work in teams to try to design and share more sustainable options for the future.

**Who:** Grades 6-8

**When:** Throughout the month of May 2019

**Registration:** First come first served. Please complete the registration link below to indicate the dates that may work for your class.

***There are no  
passengers on  
spaceship  
earth.  
We are all  
crew.  
- Marshall  
McLuhan***

**What:** The students start the day by viewing the IMAX film and then are given a variety of challenges in which they will try to design more sustainable options to some of our current technology. They will finish the day by sharing their ideas to the other classes which allows them to demonstrate their learning as well as gives them a chance to learn from others. There will be three classes taking part per day throughout the month of May and we are trying to ensure that your class gets to share their work with similar age students from other schools.

**Registration link :** <https://doodle.com/poll/kpe3h89bzmeq2sew>

### Get Outside and Learn

**Summary:** Do you ever wish you had the opportunity to get together with like-minded educators from throughout the district? The Sierra Club of BC is hosting their second year of these sessions to bring educators together and provide resources and opportunities to support your work.

**Who:** Grades K-12

**What:** This initial gathering will serve as an opportunity to meet and connect with other teachers in School Districts 61, 62 and 63 who are interested in outdoor learning, to share ideas and inspiration, and to have some fun! We'll also be asking for your input on what the upcoming gatherings might look like.

**Deadline:** First session is January 30 from 4:00pm - 5:30pm at Marigold Elementary school.

**Further information:** Please contact James Davis ([james@sierraclub.bc.ca](mailto:james@sierraclub.bc.ca)) from the Sierra Club to register or to get more information



### BCSEA Youth Involvement Project

**Summary:** Do you work with students that may be interested in learning about new opportunities in industries that are based on sustainable development? Do you have students that are looking to connect with businesses for volunteer experiences for their graduation requirements? Then this is for you.

**Who:** Grades 9-12

**What:** The BC Sustainable Energy Association Victoria Chapter has connections with local businesses that are looking for opportunities to share what they do with your students. The BCSEA will come and present some of the opportunities for sustainable development that are available in the Greater Victoria area and then share potential connections that your students may be able to make to get on the ground experiences. with these organizations

**Contact:** Please contact Rafe Sunshine at [victoria@bcsea.org](mailto:victoria@bcsea.org) for more information or to book a presentation for your students

**Further information:** <https://www.bcsea.org/chapters/victoria>

### Thoughts?

*Please take a minute to let me know if this type of information is important to you by emailing Aaron Maxwell or Dave Shortreed directly.*

## Updates

**Saanich School Park Stewardship Program** – As you may have heard we are working on expanding the Saanich School Park Stewardship program that will connect schools with parks in their neighbourhood in which they can work as

## Saanich School Park Stewardship Program continued –

stewards to help protect the area. If you are interested in having your school connected with a nearby Saanich Park then please contact Aaron (amaxwell@sd61.bc.ca) for more information. We are hoping to expand to include Victoria, Oak Bay, Esquimalt and View Royal soon so if your school is in these areas please feel free to reach out as well.

**Environmental Plan** – As you may know we are working at a district level to develop an environmental plan that will help reinforce and support the great work that is happening in the district. We have been developing specific district goals and are planning to have them finalized by this spring. We look forward to sharing those with you soon as we know that they are important to add further support to the great work that you are doing with your students as well as to provide direction as we aim to be more sustainable as a district.

**Nearby Nature Film Festival** – We NEED you and more importantly we need the story of the work that you are doing with your students. Once again we are planning our film festival which will be taking place at the end of May but we need to know the number of entries that we will be sharing. If you are able to document and share your students experiences please contact Aaron or Dave and let us know. Also if you have a story, but are not sure how to document the work, please contact about some potential solutions for that.

## Experiences – Dream Big

We are very happy to offer the third year of our Dream Big program. This program started with 6 classes in the pilot year, then last year we grew to 24 classes, and this year we have 45 spots for classes to come and take advantage of this partnership between the district, the RBCM and the IMAX theatre. Throughout the month of May, three classes per day will be working together to learn about potential sustainable solutions to some of the challenges that we are currently facing as a society. Students will watch the film “Dream Big” and then work in teams to imagine, develop and sometimes build their ideas so that they can share them with each other.



With a variety of materials, media, and ideas, the options are limitless when the students “dream big!”



The students get ready to share their final projects

## Feedback – It is Appreciated!

Please let us know what you think! If you have contributions, or connections that you would like to share in the next update please email Aaron Maxwell directly at [amaxwell@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:amaxwell@sd61.bc.ca). Also please email me if you would prefer not to be sent these communications/updates in the future.