

After School Sport and Arts Initiative (ASSAI) Newsletter

Fall 2018

Welcome to the After School Sport and Arts Initiative Newsletter!

A special welcome to the three new school districts who are joining the ASSAI this year – SD 41 - Burnaby, SD – 67 Okanagan-Skaha, and SD – 46 Sunshine Coast! In addition, a warm welcome back to all of the ASSAI school districts. We hope you have a great year of dynamic sport and arts programs for children in your district. Thank you for all of your hard work in designing and delivering programs that inspire and teach children sport and arts skills that can impact their lives long after the 8-week session has ended.

In this issue

Each issue of the ASSAI newsletter is meant to connect, inform, and build awareness of what's happening across the province in after school sport and arts programs. In this issue, we'll be focusing on the arts. Plus, a sports funding opportunity through KidSport. We'll start off with recommendations from Miriam Aiken, Director of Community Programs with Arts Umbrella around considerations for incorporating arts activities in your program.

Next, we'll feature two arts activities, namely *Sewing* in Slokan and *Ropes for Hope* in Grand Forks. Thank you to Miriam, Sharon and Carol for your contributions!

Arts Umbrella -

Arts Umbrella is a not-for-profit arts education centre serving children and youth ages 2 to 19 throughout the Greater Vancouver area. Arts Umbrella began delivering after school programming with the Vancouver school district in 2016. They currently offer arts programming in dance, theatre, drawing and painting.

I had the opportunity to chat with Miriam Aiken, the Director of Community Programs and she had the following recommendations for ASSAI communities offering arts programming:

1) Provide appropriate space for arts activities:

For arts programming, appropriate space is essential. For example, when facilitating a visual arts program, ensure a sink is available. With ASSAI arts programming happening over eight or more weeks, storage space is needed for ongoing projects. If you're wanting to do theatre, a large space is needed - large enough for the children to move around. However, keep in mind that the gym may be too big. Recommended space for theatre programs is a multipurpose room. Sometimes classroom space can be used but moving desks around can be a hassle and is often not ideal.

2) Practice ongoing communication with arts leaders:

Arts staff often meet up with the ASSAI program leaders before programming has started. Here they discuss what activities will take place, approaches to dealing with challenging behaviors. This is also a great time – pre-program - to ensure that the school staff, including the Principal and office staff are familiar with the arts staff.

3) Include arts leaders in training:

It has been great for the Vancouver school district to be including her arts instructors in training opportunities. These shared opportunities ensure a coordinated approach to providing quality after-school programming.



Above: Examples of Drawing and Painting projects done with Arts Umbrella at Graham Bruce school in Vancouver



Above: Sewing in Slokan participants with their creations

Sewing in Slokan – SD 8 – Kootenay Lake

Contributor: Sharon Butler – ASSAI Coordinator

Sewing has been a big hit up in Slokan where we have been running this program for about three years. The program shown here was offered for children aged 6 - 12. We have also done a 10 year old and up group where the kids designed and made their own hoodies.

It all started when we discovered we had a dozen or so sewing machines that were unused at the school and a woman I knew from Nelson was interested in doing an after school sewing school. Combining the talents of a woman who loves to teach sewing, some very creative kids and tubs of fabric has resulted in some great sewing projects.

Our instructor guides the kids by starting with a paper template (pattern) of their project idea and gets them working through the stages incorporating both hand sewing and machine sewing. The instructor also donates the fabric and maintains the machines if needed. Our ever helpful ASSAI staff are on hand to help keep the machines threaded and projects moving forward. The success with the finished projects shows on the kids' faces, as they take something home to wear, have for their room, or give away as a gift.



Ropes for Hopes – SD 51 – Grand Forks

Contributor: Carol Mitchell – ASSAI Coordinator

Following the devastating floods that hit Grand Forks in May, many neighborhoods and businesses were shattered.

All of downtown and four neighborhoods and many rural properties were evacuated and when they were finally able to return to their homes and businesses many were in ruins.

Some have been able to return, some will return in the future and others will never return.

Going in to winter there are still many households in RVs. One neighborhood is slated to be bought out and the final outcome of the others is still unknown.

The whole town was impacted. If you weren't evacuated, you likely had someone who was staying with you. The schools were hugely impacted both students and staff. Many youth were sent home before the flooding, to become landlocked as roads washed out. Students came out of classes to sand bag, many lived out of their homes worrying about their families, pets and properties. Others were living in over-crowded temporary homes or RV's.

The after school art program resurrected the "Ropes for Hopes" project. In 2015, we had been asked to create banners that displayed words of encouragement and inspirational pictures to be hung in the fire ravaged blackened forests around Rock Creek and Westbridge.

In 2018, all our groups worked on banners and flags. We also put the word out to all of SD 51 that we would supply kits that included cut fabric, felts, paints and directions if the classes could make inspirational messages.



Above: Carol and other ASSAI staff and participants show some of the flags with messages of hope.

KidSport

KidSport provides funding for registration fees for children living in low income households. There are 41 community chapters across BC. Principals, counsellors and teachers can be financial endorsers for children wishing to continue on in community sport programming – one of the key goals of the After-School Sport and Arts Initiative. To apply for funding for a child or children in your ASSAI program, visit:

<http://www.kidsportcanada.ca/british-columbia/apply-for-assistance/>



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