



**Imagine High**

INTEGRATED ARTS & TECHNOLOGY SECONDARY

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2023

Imagine High is situated on the ancestral and unceded, shared territory of the Ts'elxwéyeqw, Semath and Pilalt Tribes. We are honoured to live, learn, work and play on this land.

Follow us!

@imaginesd33



## DEEP DIVES 2023-2024

Our first round of Deep Dives has just wrapped up - we can't believe how quickly those two weeks flew by!

During Deep Dive Institutes, learning in the integrated core and elective sessions are paused. Deep Dives are dynamic and engaging immersive learning institutes that offer opportunities for students to go deep into interests within specific arts, technology, and personal passion focus areas. During the institutes, students collaborate with peers, teachers, experts, and community creatives to partner on real-world projects and problems. These intensive learning opportunities support students to hone in on personal passion areas, prepare for internships/work experience, and learn with industry standard tools. Deep Dive experiences prepare students for self-directed personalized learning projects at the Grade 11/12 level, and students earned 2 credits towards their graduation path every Deep Dive.

This year's Deep Dives were: Philosophy & Film, Video Game Development Game Jam, Theatre Production & Design, Art Studio, Medieval Weaponry, Culinary Arts, Outdoor Ed, Songwriting, Spanish, and 2D Animation.



# ARTIST IN RESIDENCE- SALISH WEAVE

## FREIDA GEORGE TEQWOTENOT

SQUALA FIRST NATION, CHILLIWACK BC

As our first Artist in Residence, Freida George became a much loved and appreciated member our school community this past fall. Her beautiful weaving is complete! Freida comes from generations of weavers, her grandchildren are the 7th generation weavers. Freida has learned to weave from her grandmothers and the Salish Weavers Guild. This is her third Artist in Residency and has taught numerous classes and workshops in the Fraser Valley. The weaving Freida and the students made resembles the Fraser Valley and uses the traditional symbols from the Salish Weavers Guild.

The first Deep Dive of the year saw one of our students embrace her exposure to Ms. Frieda George's Coast Salish weaving residency by doing a deep dive to learn it herself. She began by making her own loom! With the support of Ms. Frieda popping in to help guide the weaving process, our student made excellent progress. It was a beautiful opportunity to reconnect with her cultural heritage and improve her skills alongside a Master Weaver.

The Indigenous Education Department at Imagine High is entering 2023 with some new and exciting partnerships. Students will be connecting with more leaders and advocates in the community. Our grade tens will be digging into local Indigenous history, learning from elders, and engaging in acts of reciprocity with the natural environment. We can't wait to show you some of the projects and learning experiences!



 INDIGENOUS EDUCATION ENHANCEMENT TEACHER:  
DONNA'LEE IRWIN

## KEEPING IN TOUCH

- For key family information(Calendar, School Information, No Bell Schedule, Etc), please visit our website [imagine.sd33.bc.ca](https://imagine.sd33.bc.ca)
- Follow Imagine on facebook, twitter, youtube, and instagram [@imaginesd33](https://www.instagram.com/imaginesd33)
- Email [iss-alloffice@sd33.bc.ca](mailto:iss-alloffice@sd33.bc.ca) for any information you need

## IMAGINE PAC

- If you are interested in being part of the **Parent Advisory Council** at Imagine High, please email: [iss-pac@sd33.bc.ca](mailto:iss-pac@sd33.bc.ca)
- PAC meetings and information will also be posted at:<https://imagine.sd33.bc.ca/imagin-e-pac>



# CHILLIWACK GAME JAM

On January 27-28, thirteen of our students competed in the Chilliwack Game Jam. This 24-hour competition put participants' coding and creative skills to the test as they worked around the clock (literally!) to create an entire video game, prepare a pitch, and then deliver that pitch (along with a business model), to a panel of game-industry-veteran judges.

It was a wild ride! Mr. Slykhuis battled to stay conscious as he supported the 4 teams from our school who competed against adults and university students in the jam. This made for an unforgettable event of creativity and collaboration!

During the evening, students had two opportunities to meet with industry veterans, including a mobile game CEO, a senior programmer, and an art designer. We took a couple of short brain breaks for expeditions to Starbucks and other local dispensaries of food-like substances. But the rest of the time was spent in serious collaboration and creation.

In the end, all four Imagine teams were successful in completing and submitting their games before the deadline. They showed poise and maturity, competing against adults. And one of our teams, even managed to secure 3rd place overall in the final judging.



CURRICULUM INTEGRATION SUPPORT TEACHER  
MATT SLYKHUIS



## LOOKING AHEAD: Important Spring Dates

**February 7** - IAT K-12 Town hall F2F

**February 14** – Valentines Day Dance

**February 17** – No School – Pro D Day

**February 20** - STAT - Family Day

**February 21** – PAC Meeting

**March 12** - Daylight Savings Time BEGINS

**March 16** - Learning Conversations  
(Parent/Teacher/Student Evening)

**March 17** - Early Dismissal, Last Day Before Spring Break



**Connect.  
Create.  
Contribute.**

# COURSE SELECTION 2023-2024

The 2023-2024 Course Selection Guide is available now at:

<https://imagine.sd33.bc.ca/2023-2024-course-selection-guide>

Also attached to the course selection guide are the unique programming opportunities offered at the district level.

Course offerings are driven by student interests. Based on the survey data, we will create integrated offerings for next year.

We will send formal selection forms to families in March. Stay tuned for these headed your way later in the spring!

Yearly Process:

## Building Integrated Course Offerings



**Student Interest Surveys**  
(interests & desired courses)

### Data Analysis

School team creates yearly integrated course combinations based on student interest

### Students select pathways

Students are supported to personalize within integrated core & elective offerings

### Personal Education Planning

Students are supported to track credits and courses for graduation pathway & future goals

## IMAGINE ATHLETICS

Starting up a new sports program has its challenges – and competing against grade 12 teams when we don't yet have any grade 12s is just one of them! That said, our senior girls have risen to the challenge and managed to secure a strong foundation to build upon next year. These girls are warriors! They've learned to play against larger players, and they've battled through being short-handed, under-sized, and plagued injuries! But the results have been amazing! In just one season, our veteran players from last year have grown into leaders and commanding presences on the court. Adding to that is a number of rookies, who've gone from never playing before to being capable of scoring against some of the top teams in the province. One of our highlights this year was a trip into Surrey, where we participated in a top-tier tournament, and got to match up with some of the best teams in the province. Not only was there some great basketball, but the girls also got to treat Mr. Slykhuis to some gang-vocal Disney musical singing in the van.

These girls have grown in tremendous leaps and bounds this year, and I can't wait to see what next year will hold for them!



BASKETBALL COACH  
MATT SLYKHUIS



# INCLUSION AT IMAGINE:

## Post-Secondary Education is an Option for Youth with Disabilities

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The high school years are a time of growth and curiosity for youth. The opportunities that are provided to students at this time of their life, including planning for post-secondary education, will set the stage for how they will contribute to their greater community after graduation and helps form both their student and career identities. Our education system's vision for student success has been created to "enable learners to maximize their potential and to acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to contribute to a healthy society and prosperous and sustainable economy" (B.C. Ministry of Education). Advocating for an inclusive education and life path is within reach!

STEPS Forward, the BC Initiative for Inclusive Post-secondary Education, was founded by families who wanted their family members to have equitable access to post-secondary education and benefit from the experience as any student would, including greater autonomy, choice, paid work, and social opportunities. Through partnerships with post-secondary institutions across the province, students who have finished their high school education are supported to enroll at their local university or college to complete a program of study in the field of their choice.

As more post-secondary institutions adopt Universal Design for Learning, students complete coursework and have opportunities to benefit and contribute to their campus life in ways that are typical for any post-secondary student. The post-secondary institution recognizes students with a certificate of completion at regular convocations alongside peers earning their credentials in the same field of study. The initiative has the commitment to support students with significant and complex support needs. There are no minimum academic or behavioural requirements to receive support and enroll at our partnered universities; the only pre-requisite is a desire to continue learning at the post-secondary level.

The knowledge that students with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities can go on to post-secondary education if they choose to gives families and school staff permission to think broadly about the future. This validates students' full inclusion through the high school years toward higher learning. The vision for an inclusive post-secondary education is connected to experiencing full inclusion in the typical high school pathways.

Here are some ideas, resources, and steps you can take to get your youth on this path:

- [Casey's story](#) is an example of how having a vision for post-secondary education guided their decisions during her high-school education.
- Use the [Advocacy Guide](#) for inclusive post-secondary education for ideas on how to create the vision with your youth, make a plan, and know what steps to take during high school.
- Connect with [Steps-Forward](#) to learn more about this initiative for inclusive post-secondary education and connect with other like-minded families.



- SONJA WYKPIS - LA/ELL
- JENNIFER ANGLEHART - RT
- IZABELA SZCZUR - LA/RT
- KIANA OLAFSON - TEACHER COUNSELLOR

# WINTER WELLNESS

Physical health is an important component of our overall health and wellbeing. Improving our physical health by staying active can in turn improve our mental health. During the winter months, it can be difficult to remain motivated to stay active. Here are 10 ideas for getting exercise throughout the cold winter months:

1. Bundle up and go for a winter walk with a friend or family member
2. Go skating at one of our local rinks. The Chilliwack Coliseum and Sardis Sports Complex offer drop-in skating after school and on weekends (prices range from \$2-4.20)
3. Try going to the gym (the Chilliwack and Cheam Leisure Centres offer cheap drop-in rates for students – only \$3.95)
4. Do some Just Dance or Zumba at home, or Look up a strength or cardio fitness video on YouTube and follow along
5. Invite a friend to go to the local pool with you (you can drop in at the Chilliwack and Cheam Leisure Centres for only \$3.95)
6. Try yoga ! “Yoga With Adriene” on YouTube offers a variety of beginner yoga videos.
7. Take up a new winter sport (skiing, snowshoeing, etc)
8. Explore one of our local trails and appreciate the beauty of nature. The Vedder River Rotary Trail, Seven Sisters Trail, Great Blue Heron Nature Reserve, and Hope River Rotary Trail are all easy, beautiful trails to explore.
9. Try out our new local indoor rock climbing gym. More information can be found on their website:  
<https://projectclimbing.ca/chilliwack/>

Whether trying something new or sticking with one of our favourite activities, remaining physically active throughout the winter can help us overcome the winter blues.



TEACHER COUNSELLOR:  
KIANA OLAFSON



Imagine High's Youth Explore Trades students had the opportunity to visit UFV's Trades Campus where they toured the shops and learned about the trades and technology programs offered. The students wrapped up the day by going head-to-head in a series of hands-on challenges hosted by the Carpentry instructor Patrick Watchorn. Thank you to The University of The Fraser Valley's Trades, Technology, and Applied Science staff for organizing an excellent field trip.