Sunrise Waldorf School

Annual Report

2025 - 2026



2148 Lakeside Road, Duncan, BC, V9L 6M3
Tel: 250 743 7253
www.sunrisewaldorf.org

Faculty, Staff, and Administration

2025 - 2026

Preschool: Shaylynn Cummings, Meaghan Taylor-MacDonald
Preschool Assistant: Natasha Paunovic
Bright Angel Kindergarten: Dorota Ignaszewska
Bright Angel Assistant: Sara Wilson
Shining Star Kindergarten: Mima Djordjevic
Shining Star Assistant: Dana Crudo, Marti Smith
After School Care: Meaghan Taylor-MacDonald

Grade 1: Schuyler Witman
Grade 1 Assistant: Shannon Faughnan
Grade 2: Brad Burns
Grade 3: Michaela Lohsen
Grade 2 Assistant: Geraldine Finch
Grade 4: Naeem Datoo
Grade 5: Raja Chrimes
Grade 6: Lisa Hitch
Grade 7: Angela Brooks
Grade 6 Assistant: Katia Rheault
Grade 8: Lily Greenwood, Regina Montag, Pepper Couelle-Sterling
Grade 7 Assistant: Susan Thomas

French: Angele Verrier
Handwork grades 1 - 5: Christiane Mothes
Handwork grades 6 - 8: Barb Ernst
Handwork Assistant: Shannon Faughnan
Woodwork: David Martinello
Garden: Cyle Serra
Games and garden assistant: Seairra Courtemanche
Physical & Health Education: Georgia Newsome, Denzil Brown
Strings: Alexis More
Hul'q'umi'num': Monique Joseph
Learning & Resource Teacher: Alicia Helm

Head of School: Rae Calder
Education Director: Rachel Cameron
Finance Director: Joy Trapnell, Shannon Gammie
Admissions Coordinator: Ellen Zelikovitz
Administration Coordinator: Stephanie Sayers
Maintenance: Ken Witt
Custodians: Trevor Tallis, Seairra Courtemanche, Alexis Hutchinson, Edwin Quezada









From our Head of School

Dear Sunrise Families and Community,

As I begin my fifth year at Sunrise, I continue to be deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve and support this vibrant and dedicated community. It is a true honour to witness the growth and development of our students and to work alongside a faculty whose collaboration, coherence, and commitment to Waldorf education continue to inspire me.
This past year has been marked by meaningful progress across several areas of school life:

Collaboration
Our faculty spent time developing a Collaboration Statement to articulate our shared commitments and ideals around meaningful professional collaboration. This work has helped us reflect on how we work together, how we support one another as colleagues, and how strong collaboration strengthens both our individual practice and the school as a whole.

Inclusive Education and Student Support
We continued to strengthen our commitment to inclusive education by increasing the FTE of our Inclusive Education Teacher position, formerly known as the Resource Teacher. This additional capacity has further strengthened the work of our Care Coordinating Group, which brings together faculty and administration to support students with diverse learning needs. Together, this team works to ensure that students who need additional support receive thoughtful, individualized attention and that their teachers and families are supported as well.

Faculty Development and Retention
Recruiting and retaining qualified, dedicated staff remains an important priority for Sunrise. This year, we took further steps to support our faculty by increasing salaries and enhancing our group registered retirement savings plan contributions. These investments reflect our commitment to building and sustaining a strong, stable, and valued teaching team. We also held our first staff camping trip on the Cowichan River this year. It was a wonderful opportunity to spend time together outside of our usual work environment, strengthen relationships, and build team cohesion. We look forward to making this an annual tradition.

AWSNA Accreditation
In the fall of 2025, Sunrise successfully completed its AWSNA accreditation process. Over the preceding couple of years, we engaged in an extensive self-study that invited us to reflect deeply on the AWSNA Principles for Waldorf Education and their application within our school. This work culminated in an external assessment of our school and our ongoing commitment to Waldorf education. For the first time, Sunrise received accreditation without conditions, a significant achievement that reflects the strength and ongoing development of our school community. AWSNA accreditation is a significant undertaking that takes place on a seven-year cycle. We are proud of the work of our faculty, staff, and community in reaching this milestone and grateful for the opportunity the process provided to reflect on both our strengths and our continued areas for growth.

BC Ministry of Education and Child Care
This year, Sunrise also completed its biannual monitoring inspection with the BC Ministry of Education and Child Care. Independent schools are required to undergo regular inspection in order to maintain eligibility for provincial funding. The inspection process includes a review of school policies, practices, staffing, curriculum, and other areas of school operations. These processes provide important opportunities for us to reflect on our responsibilities as a BC independent school and to ensure that our practices continue to meet the requirements of the Ministry while remaining grounded in our Waldorf educational philosophy.

Looking Ahead
As we look ahead, I remain committed to nurturing the relationships, values, and practices that make Sunrise Waldorf School such a special place for children, families, and staff. Our work is grounded in our shared values of Connection, Creativity, and Integrity, and I look forward to continuing to build on the strong foundation we have created together.
Thank you for your continued support, trust, and partnership. It is a privilege to be part of this community and to share in the important work of educating and supporting our students.
Warmly,
Rae Calder, Head of School



From our Board President

I am so proud of the work that our Board has done over the past year. The Sunrise Educational Society Board is on the path to becoming a strong and positive force that: supports the school with long-term planning that aligns with our values and strategic plan, contributes meaningfully to legal and fiscal oversight, and maintains a supportive and trusting relationship with the school's leadership team. I offer my sincere thanks to Erez Laxman, Lucien Power, Mark Brotherton, Eric Finney, Rae Calder and Rachel Cameron for their contributions to the Board this year. Thanks also to Alexis Hutchison for being our Parent Association representative, Mima Djordjevic for being our early childhood representative, and to Michaela Lohsen for being our grades representative. It has been a pleasure working with all of you.

Over the last couple of years, we have worked to create a strong structural foundation for the Board through updating and refining policy and procedure to help us work more effectively and to make sure that the Board acts in concert with the school's foundational documents and strategic plan. At our last AGM we approved new Board bylaws that are clear, unambiguous, and reflect both how we have been functioning and how we want to function. This past year we have continued the work of creating a strong structural foundation. We have updated the Board job descriptions, worked on Board self-evaluations, and spent time studying the school's foundational documents.

I would like to uplift the great work of our Campus Development Committee. Thank you to Nick Neisingh, Davin Lewis, Cyle Serra, Brad Burns, Lyndon Crossman, Amanda Knapp, and Rae Calder for your contributions, and congratulations on getting an application into the Agricultural Land Commission asking for permission to build a middle school building on the sight of the hall. Your contributions are much appreciated. Thanks also to those who have made meaningful contributions this year to the Policy Committee, Board Development Committee, and Finance Committee.

Lastly, a special thanks to our two outgoing Board members, Lucien Power and Erez Laxman.

Yours Sincerely,
Hazel Whitehead
SES Board President

Board Members: 2025 - 2026

Hazel Whitehead (President), Erez Laxman, Lucien Power, Mark Brotherton, Eric Finney, Rae Calder, Rachel Cameron









From our Education Director

The 2025/2026 school year was marked by meaningful growth and renewal at Sunrise Waldorf School. Together, we strengthened our educational programs, expanded student support, invested in professional learning, and celebrated important organizational milestones. Throughout the year, our focus remained on creating a thriving learning community for students, families, and staff. Guided by the Waldorf vision that by nurturing the whole human being, we nurture the world itself, we continued to build a school culture rooted in relationships and care.

Supporting Excellence in Teaching and Learning

A central priority this year was supporting excellence in teaching and learning through collaboration, reflection, and professional growth. Faculty engaged in shared learning opportunities, mentoring relationships, and professional development that strengthened classroom practice and student engagement.

A professional development highlight was reconnecting with regional Waldorf colleagues through the first in-person Pacific Northwest AWSNA Conference since the pandemic. Several faculty members attended, and Sunrise later welcomed internationally respected Waldorf educator and researcher Dr. Martyn Rawson for workshops, classroom visits, and a parent presentation. These experiences provided valuable opportunities to explore how the living principles of Waldorf education continue to respond to the needs of today's children and young people.

Expanding Inclusive Education and Student Support

Sunrise continues to strengthen its ability to support diverse learners and create inclusive learning environments where every child can thrive. Over the past year, the school enhanced its systems for identifying and responding to student needs through the Care Coordinating Group and a revised Student Action Plan that places greater emphasis on restorative approaches to student guidance. Increased investment in inclusive education also expanded support for students, teachers, and families, allowing the school to successfully meet a wider range of learning needs while remaining committed to the well-being and success of every child.

Building a Culture of Continuous Improvement

Partnership, reflection, and continuous learning remain central to educational excellence at Sunrise. Through classroom walkthroughs, evaluations, conversations, and professional growth planning, teachers continue to be supported in their professional journeys. This commitment extends beyond the classroom. Significant preparation was undertaken this year for both the AWSNA re-accreditation process and a Ministry monitoring inspection. These processes provided valuable opportunities to celebrate our strengths, reflect on areas for growth, and affirm the school's ability to authentically integrate Waldorf educational principles while meeting provincial requirements.

Investing in Early Childhood Education

Another important focus this year was the Early Childhood program structure review. Through collaboration among educators and leadership, the school examined program design, student placement, and pedagogical approaches. This work supports Sunrise's commitment to meeting the developmental needs of young children while ensuring strong continuity between kindergarten and the grade school.

Leadership Within the Waldorf Community

Sunrise continues to contribute meaningfully to the broader Waldorf movement both provincially and across North America. School leadership participated in AWSNA initiatives focused on leadership, governance, and organizational health, while also remaining actively engaged in the BC Waldorf Collective. Through these partnerships, Sunrise both contributes to and benefits from collaborative learning, shared resources, and emerging best practices.

Looking Ahead

As I reflect on the year, there is much to celebrate. We have strengthened our programs, expanded inclusive education supports, invested in professional learning, and deepened our engagement within the wider Waldorf community.

The progress achieved this year reflects the dedication of our students, families, faculty, staff, volunteers, and board members. Together, they help bring the values of Waldorf education to life each day and ensure that Sunrise remains a place where children are known, nurtured, and inspired.

As we look ahead, we do so with gratitude, optimism, and a shared commitment to the continued flourishing of our school community.



From our Festivals Committee

Throughout the year, festivals and community celebrations have continued to bring richness, connection, and a shared sense of belonging to Sunrise Waldorf School. These gatherings offer meaningful opportunities for students, teachers, families, and community members to come together in celebration, learning, and collaboration.

In recognition of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30th, we gathered for an assembly where each class shared how they had been working with the Principles entrusted to us by Quw'utsun Elders. The Grades students also spent a full day at Bright Angel Park learning alongside Elders Hwiemtun, Pamela, and Qwiahwulthw, who shared stories and teachings connected to the heritage of the land. We are deeply grateful to the Indigenous Elders who generously share their knowledge and gifts, enriching our ongoing commitment to Truth and Reconciliation.

Our Michaelmas celebrations brought students together through shared work, food, and storytelling. Many grades helped prepare Michaelmas soup using vegetables grown in the student gardens, while Grade 3 baked apple crisp with apples harvested at Sunrise, and Grade 4 prepared dragon bread. Students enjoyed the harvest feast in their classrooms, and all grades participated in the traditional Michaelmas play, performed outdoors for families. Pumpkin Path was another wonderful example of community collaboration, with parents, teachers, and volunteers coming together to create an evening filled with memorable skits and seasonal magic.

As autumn gave way to winter, our Early Childhood and lower grades celebrated their Lantern Walks, carrying their handmade lanterns and singing into the November darkness. Later that month, we gathered for the Spiral of Light, a quiet and beautiful tradition. A double spiral of greenery was laid in the darkened hall, and each student walked inward to light a candle from the central flame, gradually filling the space with light.

In early December, the Parent Association and Class Reps organized a wonderful Winter Faire, transforming the school into a festive gathering place. Families enjoyed activities throughout the campus. The hall was filled with a gift and craft market organized by the Parent Association. The event was a wonderful reflection of the generosity, creativity, and volunteer spirit of our parent community.

December also brought celebrations of Hanukkah and Santa Lucia. During a morning assembly, the Grades students celebrated Hanukkah by singing together and lighting the menorah. For Santa Lucia, our Grade 8 students dressed in white and carried candles through the school, singing as they delivered saffron buns lovingly prepared by Grade 2 to each classroom.

As the new year unfolded, students also celebrated Lunar New Year, with each grade having the opportunity to explore Chinese calligraphy. Our February Class Sharing Recital offered families a glimpse into the rich learning taking place across the grades, while the May Music Recital celebrated the musical growth, dedication, and accomplishments of our students.

In April, we celebrated Earth Day Birthday, marking Sunrise's 46th year with a day of shared work and care for our beautiful campus. Students from across the grades worked outdoors in their newly established Houses, a whole-school initiative developed by the Festival Committee in collaboration with faculty. The five Houses—Salmon (red), Beaver (yellow), Bear (green), Orca (blue), and Wolf (white)—bring students of different ages together, fostering meaningful connections and collaboration across the grades.

May brought further opportunities to celebrate our community. On Alumni Day, it was a joy to welcome former students back to Sunrise to reconnect with old friends, share refreshment, and reflect on their experiences. Several alumni also participated in feedback groups, offering valuable perspectives to help inform the school's strategic planning. Our Mayfest celebration was another joyful collaboration between the school and Parent Association. Students welcomed spring with traditional Maypole dancing, while families gathered to enjoy fresh salad, treats, and market tables.

Reflecting on the year, we recognize that our Early Childhood programs and Grades have often celebrated festivals separately. Looking ahead to 2026-2027, one of our goals is to strengthen the sense of unity across Sunrise by creating more opportunities for collaboration and shared celebration between Early Childhood and the Grades.

Throughout the year, our festivals have been enriched by the generosity and participation of the wider community, including our growing relationships with the Quw'utsun Nation. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our colleagues, parents, volunteers, Elders, and community partners, whose contributions bring such depth and meaning to these experiences. Together, they help nurture the traditions, relationships, and sense of belonging that make Sunrise Waldorf School a vibrant learning community.





Year Highlights

Left to right from top: Eurythmy Performance; Library renewal; Santa Lucia; Welcome Potluck; Lantern Walk; Grade 7 ceremony; Michaelmas play; Mayfest musicians; Grade 5 Greek Olympics

















GRADUATING CLASS OF 2026



River Faughnan
At Sunrise Since: Kindergarten
Next Adventure: Frances Kelsey
Sunrise gem: Drawing, baking and singing in kindergarten, and the epic surfing trip in grade 7



Anna Urbanoski
At Sunrise Since: Grade 3
Next Adventure: High School
Sunrise memory: friendships and class trips, violin and singing



Emmet Grupp-Hammond
At Sunrise Since: Preschool
Next Adventure: Brentwood College
Sunrise gem: I'll miss the rainbow and gnomes, and loved the 6th grade camping trip exploring caves



Alexandria Attew
At Sunrise Since: Grade 2
Next Adventure: QMS
Sunrise learning: I'll carry the strong sense of community into the rest of my life, and learning the master weave at MayFest



Sofina Carroll
At Sunrise Since: Parent & Child
Next Adventure: Frances Kelsey
Sunrise memory: grade 7 surfing trip because we strengthened friendships, and overcoming the challenge to learn the cello



Amelia Ruszel
At Sunrise Since: Preschool
Next Adventure: DCS
Sunrise memory: Mayfest (every year!), and the grade 6 and 7 trips because it brought us close together as a class



Quinten Yao
At Sunrise Since: Grade 4
Next Adventure: DCS
Sunrise learning: cursive writing and how to be a creative thinker



Marli Pressman
At Sunrise Since: Parent & Child
Next Adventure: Frances Kelsey
Sunrise learning: Learning how to overcome things that are hard and the value of close relationships



Ava Magnuson
At Sunrise Since: Preschool
Next Adventure: Frances Kelsey
Sunrise memory: surfing in grade 7, strings class, and handwork



Isaac Mills
At Sunrise Since: Grade 8
Next Adventure: QMS
Sunrise gem: spending time with new friends, playing basketball and learning to write an essay











MISSION STATEMENT

"To educate and inspire students to reach their full potential through a rich and artistic Waldorf curriculum."

SCHOOL VALUES

Connection Creativity Integrity







SUNRISE EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

(Unaudited)

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2026

	2026	2025
REVENUES		
Tuition	$ 1,216,336	$ 1,218,558
Grants	1,046,187	1,109,129
Capital fund (schedule 1)	90,450	91,210
Interest income	41,720	48,934
Activity fees	30,953	32,703
Miscellaneous	14,113	13,540
Donations	5,282	22,885
Special education fund (schedule 2)	152,385	103,860
	2,597,426	2,640,819

	2026	2025
EXPENDITURES		
Salaries and related benefits	1,918,009	1,683,819
CCFRI Discounts	106,377	100,431
Class supplies	64,384	51,256
Capital fund (schedule 1)	55,157	63,686
Office	39,735	30,388
Repairs and maintenance	33,677	36,553
Insurance	30,555	34,355
Activity costs	30,042	28,212
School food programs	27,328	38,152
Dues and memberships	25,259	15,116
Telephone and utilities	20,489	22,115
Accounting and legal	13,525	11,964
Gardening	11,350	12,236
Training and education	8,666	26,161
Bad debts	7,660	30,778
Interest and bank charges	5,656	2,217
Travel	3,102	4,693
Advertising and promotion	3,090	3,765
Community outreach and public relations	941	1,260
Fundraising expenses	804	2,329
Security	622	531
Special education fund (schedule 2)	119,318	108,912
	2,525,746	2,308,929
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	$ 71,680	$ 331,890







SUNRISE EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

(Unaudited)

AS AT JUNE 30, 2026

	2026	2025
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	$ 282,713	$ 357,304
Short term investment (note 3)	1,524,460	1,459,189
Accounts receivable (note 4)	135,166	2,549
Inventory	4,051	4,051
Prepaid expenses	18,936	32,953
Goods and services tax receivable	2,936	4,416
	1,968,262	1,860,462
Other assets		
Capital assets (note 5)	704,887	739,949

	2026	2025
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	$ 45,536	$ 64,355
Employee payroll source deductions payable	28,117	22,146
Salaries and other benefits payable	125,384	106,506
Deferred tuition (note 6)	48,553	52,650
	247,590	245,657
Long-term liabilities		
Deferred capital contributions (note 8)	8,338	9,213
	255,928	254,870
Unrestricted	2,165,852	2,182,629
Internally restricted, capital fund	167,914	112,524
Internally restricted, special education fund	83,455	50,388
	2,417,221	2,345,541
	$ 2,673,149	$ 2,600,411

School Verse

To wonder at beauty,
Stand guard over truth,
Look up to the noble,
Resolve on the good.
This leadeth us truly
To purpose in living,
To right in his doing,
To peace in his feeling,
To light in his thinking.
And teaches him trust,
In the working of God,
In all that there is,
In the width of the world,
In the depth of the Soul.

– Rudolf Steiner



TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 2025

Sunrise Waldorf School acknowledges the injustices and harms committed against Indigenous peoples in this land now known as Canada. Our school commits to a path of Truth and Reconciliation, with special attention to the roles of schools in this history. We strive to engage respectfully and meaningfully with local, Indigenous communities and collaborate in meaningful learning, planning, and relationship building.

We respectfully acknowledge that our school stands on the territory of the Hul'q'umi'num speaking-peoples of Quw'utsun and honours the original seven villages of Kwa'mutsun, Qw'um'yiqun', Xwulqw'selu, S-amunu, Lhumlhumuluts', Xinupsum, and Tl'ulpalus. We are grateful to live, work, learn, and play on this land and commit to understanding and honouring truth and reconciliation.



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