



Annual Report

2024 - 2025



2148 Lakeside Road, Duncan, BC, V9L 6M3

Tel: 250 743 7253

www.sunrisewaldorf.org

Faculty, Staff and Administration

2024 - 2025

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

Grade 1: Brad Burns
Grade 1 Assistant: Sara Wilson
Grade 2: Michaela Lohsen
Grade 2 Assistant: Geraldine Finch
Grade 3 : Naeem Datto
Grade 4: Raja Chrimes
Grade 5: Lisa Hitch
Grade 6: Angela Brooks
Grade 6 Assistant: Katia Rheault
Grade 7: Kelly Karran, Lily Greenwood
Grade 7 Assistant: Susan Thomas

French: Rose Powell
Handwork: Christiane Mothes
Handwork Assistant: Shannon Faughnan
Woodwork: Lyndon Crossman
Woodwork Assistant: Kurt Feltrin
Garden: Cyle Serra
Games and garden assistant: Shannon Faughnan
Physical & Health Education: Georgia Newsome
Strings: Alexis More
Therapeutic Eurythmy: Mary Brian
Learning & Resource Teacher: Alicia Helm

Head of School: Rae Calder
Education Director: Rachel Cameron
Finance Director: Joy Trapnell
Admissions Coordinator: Katherine Lampson
Reception: Stephanie Sayers
Maintenance: Ken Witt
Janitor: Brian Cathrine

Sincere appreciation to all Sunrise employees for their care, dedication and loving work that makes Sunrise Waldorf School shine.





From our Head of School

As I completed my third year at Sunrise Waldorf School, I continue to feel deep gratitude 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 year has been marked by meaningful progress across several areas of school life:

Land-Based Learning and Garden Expansion

We deepened our commitment to land and place-based education by hiring a permanent Garden Coordinator and Instructor. This role has allowed us to lean further into permaculture and biodynamic practices, enriching the curriculum and nourishing our community, literally and figuratively. The garden's harvest has contributed to school soup days and meals in early childhood, offering students a tangible connection to the land and the rhythms of nature.

Inclusive Education and Student Support

We continued to invest in inclusive education by maintaining our Resource Teacher position and strengthening the work of our Care Coordinating Group. This team supports students with diverse learning needs, ensuring that every child who needs it receives thoughtful, individualized attention.

Faculty Development and Retention

Recruiting and retaining qualified staff remains a top priority. This year, we took further steps to support our faculty by increasing salaries and enhancing our group registered retirement savings plan contributions. These measures reflect our commitment to sustaining a strong and stable teaching team.

AWSNA Self-Study and Faculty Reflection

A major focus this year was our AWSNA self-study, in which the full faculty engaged deeply with the AWSNA Principles for Waldorf Education. Through collaborative activities and reflective dialogue, we explored each principle and considered how they live in our school, and how we can strengthen them. This process has strengthened our shared understanding and reaffirmed our commitment to Waldorf pedagogy.

Enrollment Growth

We are pleased to note an increased enrollment across grade classes in 2024 2025, with particularly strong numbers in the upper grades. This growth reflects the trust families place in our school and the strength of our educational offering.

A Moment of Deep Significance

One of the true highlights of the year was the re-laying of the Foundation Stone, a culmination of study, preparation, and reverence. This ceremonial act reaffirmed our spiritual and pedagogical grounding, connecting us to the heart of Waldorf education, the local First Nation and Indigenous ways of knowing, and the intentions upon which our school was founded.

As we look ahead, I remain committed to nurturing the values, relationships, and practices that make Sunrise Waldorf School a place of warmth, wonder, and growth. Thank you for your continued support, trust, and partnership in this journey.

Warmly,
Rae Calder





From our Board President

Another year has come and gone, and we are still strong, united in our passion to educate our children, and thriving as a community rooted in purpose and care. Each year brings its share of challenges and triumphs, and through them all, Sunrise continues to stand as a place of light and learning where our shared values come to life.

This year we witnessed the re-burial of the Foundation Stone. I hope many of you had the chance to be part of that process or observe the work that took place to return it to its rightful place. I had the honour of holding the stone in my hands and could feel the power and intention imbued within it. It is now safely buried again, an act deeply important for the soul and continuity of our school.

As I walk through the grounds and watch our children, faculty, and staff in their daily rhythm, I often find myself quietly taking it all in, the conversations, the hugs, the laughter. These moments remind me that we are not simply maintaining a school; we are nurturing a living organism that grows stronger through connection and care. Together, we have built something truly unique and special at Sunrise.

Our Board is healthy and well, working collaboratively to support the life of the school. Yet our strength depends on engagement and we need your voices and perspectives. I encourage you to attend Board meetings: listen, learn, ask questions, and share your thoughts. This school is an ecosystem, and for it to flourish, it needs the participation of all its parts. Please consider joining the invite list for upcoming meetings; I'm confident there will be topics that inspire involvement.

I want to sincerely thank our former Board members, Camillo Costa and Mark McGivern, for their service and contributions. And to our current members, Diana Sharpe, Hazel Whitehead, Lucien Power, Erez Laxman, and Mark Brotherton, thank you for your continued commitment and care. It's an honour to work alongside such dedicated individuals.

Whether you are a parent, grandparent, alumni, faculty, or staff member, your perspective matters. You are always welcome at our Board meetings. Please reach out to me at president@sesboard.org if you'd like to attend or learn more about contributing to the future of our school.

With respect and appreciation,
Andrew Sawyer

Board Members: 2024 - 2025

Andrew Sawyer (President), Diana Sharpe (Vice President), Camillo Costa (Treasurer), Mark McGivern (Secretary)
Lucien Power, Hazel Whitehead, Mark Brotherton, Erez Laxman





From our Education Director

The 2024/2025 school year at Sunrise was a time of deep reflection, meaningful growth, and renewed connection to our roots and vision. Through collaborative efforts, we revisited our foundations, honoured our present, and imagined our future by mirroring the journey we take with each child in our care.

Foundation Stone

The relaying of our foundation stone and unveiling of the Gratitude Panel was a profound process for the school and the community. It allowed us the opportunity to collectively commit to the spiritual foundations of our school, reflect on our current practices, and envision our future. This ceremony honoured Indigenous Elders alongside our school founders, representing a heartfelt alignment with our core values.

Studying the Waldorf Principles

Through our Association of Waldorf Schools of North America (AWSNA) self-study, we explored how Sunrise lives into AWSNA's Eight Principles of Waldorf Education. This reaffirmed Sunrise's deep connection to the foundations of Waldorf education while celebrating our unique expression of it. Just as we honour archetypes in child development while meeting each child individually, we strive to ground ourselves in the roots of Waldorf Education while innovating to remain relevant and inspired.

Collaboration and Professional Learning

Our faculty continued to grow in strength and cohesion, and new team members contributed to a flourishing culture of collaboration. Teachers and staff engaged in ongoing reflective practice within the learning community of the faculty, with opportunities for professional development and growth. One of the key themes was diversifying the Waldorf curriculum to meet the needs of today's children. This is the essential task of the Waldorf teacher: to meet the children in their respective classes with relevance, responsiveness, and reverence. These efforts have supported our capacity to meet the diverse and unique needs of our student population.

Organizational Growth

As we underwent our AWSNA self-study process, we continued to work on strengthening our organization so that we are well poised to meet the individual needs of community members while simultaneously caring for the organization. Our organizational practices strive to embody the same love and care we dedicate to each student, ensuring that the school itself is nurtured as a living entity.

Thank you to each one of you for the ongoing care, participation, and support in creating a community where we can learn, grow, and celebrate together.

Rachel Cameron





From our Festivals Committee

For National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, we had an assembly where each class shared how they were working with the principles that were given to us by the elders of the Cowichan tribes. We had a full day at Bright Angel Park for the Grade School where we spent time with two of our Cowichan elders, Philomena and Bradley Sylvester. Each class had time with one of the elders who led them to understand various aspects of the heritage of the land. We are grateful to the Indigenous Elders who share their gifts and support our commitment and learning of Truth and Reconciliation. Michaelmas was celebrated by students, and many grades were involved in creating Michaelmas soup with the vegetables grown in the student gardens. Grade 3 baked apple crisps for all the classes with Sunrise apples, and Grade 4 made dragon bread. This feast was shared on the big field. After lunch all the grades were part of our Michaelmas play, performed outside for the families. Pumpkin Path was a great success and collaboration of community efforts, with memorable skits including the many dragons.

Lower grades and Early Childhood programs held lantern walks in November, when students took their shining lights and lantern songs into the night. The end of November marked Winter Faire where the Parent Association, along with the class parents organized and set up various activities throughout the school. Teachers and students helped prepare their classrooms by decorating the chalkboard and the room. The hall held a gift and craft market organized by the PA. All parents in the school volunteer during Winter Faire in some capacity. In December we held a Spiral of Light. A double spiral of greenery was laid in the darkened hall. Each student walked through the spiral to light their candle from the central candle while the room gradually filled with light. Kindergarten created Advent Spirals in their rooms as well. Hanukkah was also marked during a morning assembly in December, and some of our Jewish families were invited to light the Menorah and join in a Hanukkah song. For Santa Lucia, the alumni, both recent students and adults, dressed in white and carrying candles, through the school singing and delivering buns made by Grade 2 to all the classes. In April we celebrated Earth Day Birthday (Sunrise turned 45 years old), when all students worked outside on our campus and enjoyed some Earth Day Birthday carrot cake. A recital in April showcased the musical talent and hard work of all the grades for parents and friends.

This long-awaited re-laying of the Foundation Stone marked more than just the return of an object to the earth. It was reconnecting to the founding intentions of the school, reaffirming community, a commitment to the future of Sunrise, and to honouring the land and it's First Peoples. And now, once again, the Foundation Stone rests in its rightful place, quietly anchoring the heart of the school.

In May it was lovely to see old friends on Alumni Day. Many former students attended, shared pizza and dessert, and even joined a Council to reflect on their time at Sunrise. Mayfest was a school and Parent Association collaboration, with Maypole dancing by the students, a wheelbarrow of salad, afternoon tea, treats and market tables.

First Nations elders were invited to visit and share a meal with us for National Indigenous Peoples Day in June, so that we could share our gratitude with them for all that they have brought to us over the year.

We would also like to acknowledge the SWPA Parent Enrichment Committee for the diverse creative learning opportunities for the Sunrise community, including the parent choir. Collaboration with the wider community, as well as ongoing AWSNA principles work, has been a highlight this year. Many thanks to colleagues, parents and community partners for the richness these activities bring to students at Sunrise Waldorf School.

Alexis More
Festivals Committee



Year Highlights

Left to right from top: Burying the Foundation Stone, Elders and Founders at the Foundation Stone Ceremony, May Fair Celebrations, Grade 6 Collaborative Learning at Recess, Indigenous Education Day, Grade 7 and Grade 6 Play Performances





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, 2025

	2025	2024
REVENUES		
Tuition	\$ 1,218,558	\$ 1,047,992
Grants	1,109,129	1,002,880
Special education fund (schedule 1)	103,860	81,586
Capital fund (schedule 2)	91,210	89,360
Interest income	48,934	46,080
Activity fees	32,703	28,945
Donations	22,885	7,431
Miscellaneous	13,540	11,515
Multiple rental schedules A	-	-
	2,640,819	2,315,789
	2025	2024
EXPENDITURES		
Salaries and related benefits	1,683,819	1,599,494
Special education fund (schedule 1)	108,912	160,328
CCFRI Discounts	100,431	64,046
Capital fund (schedule 2)	63,686	52,598
Class supplies	51,256	54,923
School food programs	38,152	22,641
Repairs and maintenance	36,553	34,972
Insurance	34,355	38,145
Bad debts	30,778	-
Office	30,388	39,182
Activity costs	28,212	14,609
Training and education	26,161	17,664
Telephone and utilities	22,115	23,647
Dues and memberships	15,116	16,093
Gardening	12,236	10,985
Accounting and legal	11,964	27,699
Travel	4,693	2,096
Advertising and promotion	3,765	4,234
Fundraising expenses	2,329	465
Interest and bank charges	2,217	2,669
Community outreach and public relations	1,260	654
Security	531	758
	2,308,929	2,187,902
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	\$ 331,890	\$ 127,887

SUNRISE EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

(Unaudited)

AS AT JUNE 30, 2025

	2025	2024
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 357,304	\$ 310,105
Short term investment (note 3)	1,459,189	959,043
Accounts receivable (note 4)	2,549	73,653
Inventory	4,051	4,051
Prepaid expenses	32,953	21,020
Grant funding receivable	-	62,792
Goods and services tax receivable	4,416	3,516
	1,860,462	1,434,180
Other assets		
Long term investments	-	151,212
Capital assets (note 5)	739,949	719,906
	739,949	871,118
	\$ 2,600,411	\$ 2,305,298

SUNRISE EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION — continued**

(Unaudited)

AS AT JUNE 30, 2025

	2025	2024
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 64,355	\$ 35,986
Employee payroll source deductions payable	22,146	41,995
Salaries and other benefits payable	106,506	137,048
Deferred tuition (note 6)	52,650	66,438
	245,657	281,467
Long-term liabilities		
Deferred capital contributions (note 8)	9,213	10,180
	254,870	291,647
Unrestricted	2,182,629	1,873,651
Internally restricted, capital fund	112,524	85,000
Internally restricted, special education fund	50,388	55,000
	2,345,541	2,013,651
	\$ 2,600,411	\$ 2,305,298

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'yiqu'n', 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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