



Wild Schools

Project Profile



Haldane Elementary

Haldane Elementary School, located in Chase, BC joined HCTF Education's Wild School's program in 2018. Since then, they have increased their capacity for environmental learning while also building stronger relationships with nearby Chase Secondary, the Shuswap First Nation, and community environmental groups.

Some classes at Haldane also participated in HCTF Education's **Environmental Exchange Box** program which gave students the opportunity to share about their local environment with a class in a different region of BC.

Haldane Helpers & Salmon Ambassadors

During their Wild Schools journey, Haldane strengthened their relationship with Chase Secondary through initiatives such as storm drain repainting, garden box planting, Earth Day events and as Salmon Ambassadors for the Adam's River Salute to Sockeye Event.

On Earth day both Chase Secondary and Haldane students spent the day at Tsutswecw Park planting trees and engaging in other learning activities. Chase Secondary students led stations alongside a community partners covering the threat of invasive species, and the importance of native species to their local ecosystems and the Shuswap First Nation.

The Wild Schools program has truly encouraged our students to see both indoor and outdoors as learning opportunities. Over the past 4 years, staff have begun to include more and more outdoor activities to illustrate learning concepts and improve student engagement.

Our school participated in many field trips, projects and community partnerships over the last 4 years. We have planted in conjunction with a local forestry company, created school flower gardens, participated in community earth day activities, learned about fish conservation, learned about trees and implemented weekly outdoor learning activities across all of the grades.





Big Rocks Learning Circle

The Wild Schools program served as a catalyst to help complete an outdoor learning circle that the school's PAC had been fundraising for. This past summer, their long-awaited big rock learning circle was created, with a final goal of enhancing biodiversity on their school ground by establishing a pollinator garden next spring. With this new installation, teachers will now have another option for their students to learn outdoors.



Our desire to learn outdoors will definitely continue to flourish! We look forward to using our Big Rock learning circle regularly for outdoor lessons. We will continue to participate in community Earth Day events and weekly outdoor learning activities, in every season. This hands-on learning approach fits well with our rural students.

Connecting with Community Partners

Haldane worked with community partners such as Invasives Species Council of B.C. and the Adams River Salmon Society to learn about and connect with their local ecosystems. Teachers and students also worked with the Shuswap nation to learn Indigenous knowledge including uses of plants and trees for food and medicine.



Haldane's final Wild School event, their 32nd Earth Day celebration, was carried out with special significance as 60 grade 6 students were joined by Ivy Chelsea, their Secwépemctsin Language teacher to plant 215 trees in memory of the Kamloops residential school victims. These special opportunities provided Haldane school with a rich learning experience and helped lay a foundation for their school-wide project to evolve.

The Wild Schools program is a free, whole-school, three-year initiative for K-8 schools supporting outdoor and place-based learning. To learn more visit hctfeducation.ca/programs