

Coal Tyee News Flash



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March 4, 2022

What's in a name? Continuing the story of Ki'et'sa'kun.

Part four

Respectfully retold based on the story shared by Snuneymuxw Elders Joe and Jennie Wyse as told to Beryl Cryer.

It did not take long for a ship to arrive with white men, looking for Coal Tyee. Ki'et'sa'kun put on his tall hat and long coat and showed the men the black rock in the water. Sometime later, a man from the Hudson's Bay company came to see Chief Sugnuston (Joe Wyse's father). "We want to talk to you and your people about this coal" (p. 191). Both Chief Sugnuston, and another chief from a different tribe, Chief Shuna'h'un went to the meeting. Joe Wyse remembers the meeting, for he was there! "I can remember all the people in that house, and lots outside, but I was only a small boy standing beside my father" (p. 191). The men from the HBC talked about the coal, saying "This coal that is here ... is no good to you, and we would like it, but we want to be friends, so, if you will let us come and take as much of this blackrock as we want, we will be good to you... the good Queen, our great white chief, far over the water, will look after your people for all time, and they will be given much money, so that they will never be poor." (p.191) Each chief was given a bale of Hudson's Bay blankets, shirts, and tobacco. There was enough for every man in the tribes to get something, a present from the HBC. Sadly, when the Snuneymuxw people later asked about the money for the coal, they were told "Oh, we paid you when we gave you those good blankets!" But those two chiefs knew that the man had said, "The Queen will give you money" (p.192).

Cryer, B. M., & Arnett, C. (2007). *Two houses half-buried in sand: Oral traditions of the hul'q'umi'num' Coast Salish of Kuper Island and Vancouver Island*. Talonbooks.

MORE ABOUT THE BOOK: TWO-HOUSE HALF-BURIED IN SAND – Beryl Mildred Cryer

The book where the story of Ki'Et'Sa'Kun appears has an interesting history. The stories were originally published in the early 1930s in the *Daily Colonist*, a newspaper in Victoria. Sixty articles were written over a span of 3 years and provide an ethnographic account (relating to the scientific description of peoples and cultures with their customs, habits, and mutual differences) of the Hul'q'umi'num' Coast Salish peoples. When Beryl Cryer first visited with Joe and Jenny Wyse here in Nanaimo, Joe shared the importance of being able to share his stories. Speaking in Hul'q'umi'num through his wife, Joe shared, "He thanks you, white lady, for coming to hear his stories. Always he has wanted to tell what he knows to the white people, not nobody has time to listen. If you write it for him, he will tell you ..." (p.21). Some of what is recorded in the accounts written by Cryer are the only, including the signing of the last Douglas Treaty in 1854 at Nanaimo (p. 25), are the only accounts available from an indigenous lens and therefore are considered significant to BC history. Joe Wyse, who shares the story of Ki'Et'Sa'Kun, was the son of Sugnuston - the leader and signatory to the 1854 Douglas Treaty.

FIRST MEETING OF THE RENAMING COMMITTEE

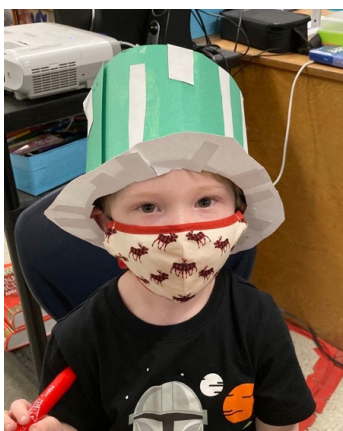
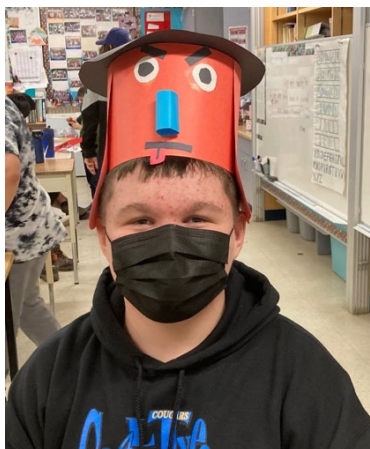
As shared last week, we had our first official meeting of the Renaming Committee. The conversation at this first meeting focused on joining the circle of learning, listening, and healing. Twenty-five years ago, it was decided to name this place for the Coal Trade, using the name given to Ki'Et'Sa'Kun by the HBC. The renaming of the school will honour the connection to the land, to the Snuneymuxw people who have been here for time immemorial. Through truth, we can get to reconciliation – but we must know the truth first to heal. Ms. Dickie is part of our committee. This morning, she took her class to the forest and spoke about the importance of connecting with the land and healing the land. The students



SCENES FROM THE WEEK



Students in Div 10 spent their afternoon painting



Big buddies (Div 15) and little buddies (Div 2) donned hats, created by Div 15 students



Creative play in Division 6

Students from Div 14 did some impromptu fundraising in support of an upcoming field trip



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CALENDAR UPDATES



- March 9 – PAC Meeting
- March 11 – Jump Rope for Heart
- March 11 – Last day before Spring Break!
- March 28 – Schools reopen

CHILD GOING TO BE AWAY?

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**BE
KIND**

SPORTING NEWS! BASKETBALL UPDATE



On to the quarter finals! Our Basketball team won their first playoff game - a real nail-biter against Quarterway on Wednesday, outlasting the buzzer to pull off a 1-point win! Next up- Hammond Bay on Monday. Congratulations!

TRACK AND FIELD IS BACK!

A true sign that the worst of the pandemic is over is the return of Track and Field. We will be needing lots of parent help for our School Track Meet, scheduled for April 19th! Yep! We have 4 weeks after Spring Break to get this organized. The Zone and District meets will happen late May/early June. Please work on getting your Criminal Record Check completed if you have not already done so if you would like to help. The best place to watch the running races is at the finish line (hint hint). More to come ...

Tips for safe walking

- Be careful at intersections and watch for drivers turning left or right through the crosswalk. Drivers may be focused on oncoming traffic instead of scanning for you.
- Always cross at designated crosswalks. Follow pedestrian signs and traffic signals and never cross once the signal has turned yellow or red.
- Always make eye contact with drivers and never assume that a driver sees you.
- Remove your headphones and take a break from your phone while crossing the road.
- Wear reflective clothing or gear and flashlights to make it easier for drivers to see you in wet weather, at dusk and at night.
- Areas without sidewalks- make yourself visible and always walk facing traffic so you can see oncoming drivers.
- When allowing vehicles to pass- move to a safe distance, well back from harms way.

The message to "Be Kind" is included in every NewsFlash. Please take a few moments this weekend to speak with your children about what this means. Is it kind to knock someone's hat off and run away with it? Is it kind to poke people or to call someone mean names? We are seeing an increase in "pesky" behaviours - and we are seeing an increase in true frustration with each other. We have one more week until our Spring Break - let's focus on kindness to each other, to Mother Earth, and to ourselves.