

TYPES OF EXPLORATIONS CAMPS

Explorations

The Explorations program is designed to provide quality summer experiences for students in kindergarten through Grade 7. The aim of the summer camps is to complement and extend the delivery of existing school curriculum and community initiatives.

Camps pair coordinators with arts specialists or sport/recreation instructors from the school district or the community. Camp assistants, typically secondary school students participating in a volunteer or work experience program, receive leadership training and mentoring.

There are three kinds of camps: ExplorArts, Sport/Recreation Explorations and combined arts and sport/recreation. Specific programs and activities for 2007 have not been finalized.

ExplorArts

ExplorArts camps offer students a wide range of opportunities in the area of fine arts. The camps broaden students' exposure to the arts and provide access to activities which students might never have tried. The camps also feature specialists who would not normally be available to the students, and programs of a caliber that might otherwise be too expensive.

Examples of ExplorArts activities in 2006:

- Students in Ashcroft painted banners to hang along Main Street in anticipation of the annual fall fair.
- In the Kootenay-Columbia school district, students learned techniques in theatre, painting, mask-making and soap carving.
- At the Langley Meadows community school, students worked with clay, pastels, pencils, chalk, and acrylic and water-colour paint.

Sport/Recreation Explorations

Sport/Recreation Explorations camps offer a wide range of physical activities, and provide children with an opportunity to develop new skills and raise their fitness level. Students learn about the importance of teamwork and fair play. They also develop an understanding of the foundations for a healthy lifestyle.

Examples of Sport/Recreation Explorations activities in 2006:

- In Cranbrook, students tried a wide variety of sports such as badminton, softball, field hockey and volleyball.
- At a camp run by the Williams Lake Indian Band, students gained new skills by practicing outdoor activities like kayaking, rock climbing and rappelling.

- At Mile 108 elementary school, children learned about circuit training and took part in the SportFit™ Challenge, which involves eight physical tests measuring strength, stamina, speed, agility, balance, flexibility, power and endurance. The students also received instruction in sports such as mountain biking and tennis.

Combined Programs

Some camps combine arts and sport/recreation activities.

Examples from combined programs in 2006:

- In the Nechako Lakes school district, numerous community specialists taught students photography, fiddling, weaving, kayaking, First Nations dancing and baseball.
- At Lake Trail middle school in Courtenay, students learned about a wide variety of visual arts techniques and developed the required skills to participate in a number of sports. They worked with clay, paint and papier-mâché, and practiced agility, balance and ball handling in order to play volleyball, soccer and baseball.
- Walnut Park elementary school in Smithers offered students daily instruction in guitar-playing and soccer.

-30-

Media Contacts:

Karen McDonald
Director, Communications
2010 Legacies Now
Ph: 778.327.5180
Cell: 778.840.8779

Lara Perzoff
Public Affairs Bureau
Ministry of Education
Ph: 250.356.5963
Cell: 250.920.9040