



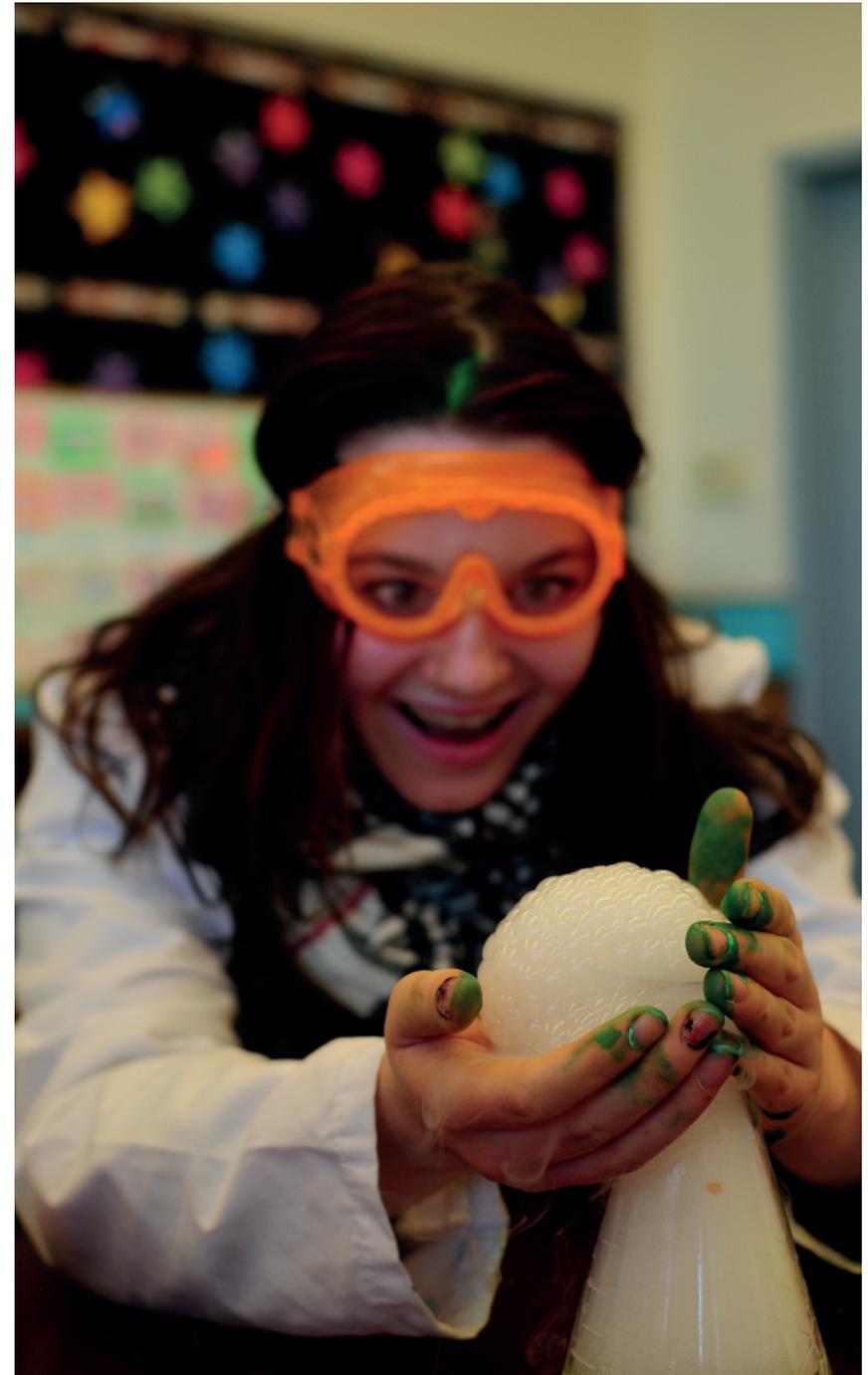
COMPASSION, POWER, RESPECT
artemis place
SOCIETY



2017-2018 Annual Report

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VISION:

Students experience educational success, find their voice, fulfill their potential and have the power to achieve their dreams.

MISSION:

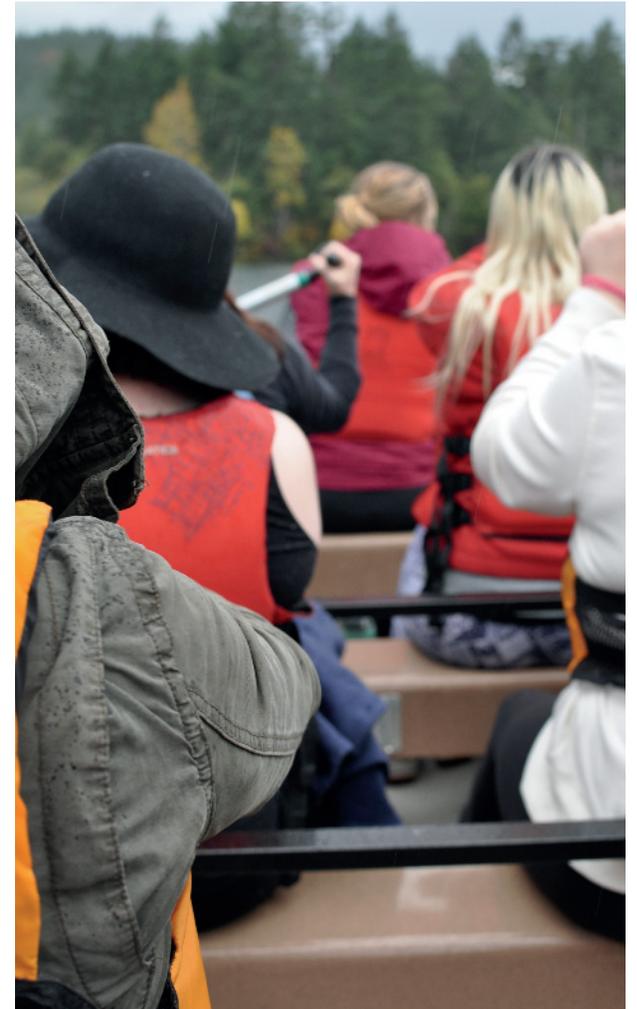
To provide:

- Holistic social and emotional support and high school education to young women and trans youth in our nurturing community
- An enriched early childhood experience to infants and toddlers of young parents while modeling care-giving and supporting each student in their parenting

HISTORY:

Artemis Place Society has been delivering integrated educational services in the Capital Region since 1971. The Society has been called the Victoria Society for Educational Alternatives, Artemis Options Society and the Girls Alternative Program.

Traditionally, our students have been young women and young moms although gender non-conforming students have attended for as long as the program has operated. As a component of our organizational development, the Society engaged in a productive process around trans inclusion and formally welcomed trans youth into our program in the 2015-2016 school year.



STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS:

The Strategic Plan priority areas and goals are:

1. Facility & Program Expansion

- a. Building design and construction input, planning and monitoring
- b. Fundraising, MCFD Capital Grant Application and other sources
- c. Moving Plan, including equipment
- d. Communication Plan, moving into a new building and neighborhood
- e. Research, plan and develop a program for the children of our students who are 3-5 years old (primarily) through the new multi-age license application and centre
- f. Explore feasibility and sustainability of the education outreach position and program

2. Enhance organizational excellence

- a. Incorporate and utilize professional development framework
- b. Meet new BC Curriculum requirements through sourcing and/or developing project-based/inquiry based learning materials and resources
- c. Have clearly defined policies and practices in place for all areas of the Society
- d. Commit and take steps to incorporating decolonization and Reconciliation through the Society
- e. Continue to increase awareness and understanding of providing a trans inclusive environment



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The 2017 2018 year flew by, supporting students in achieving their goals. I hope you enjoy reading through the program updates and happenings in the Annual Report.

We had two new additions this year: a Teacher, Emma, and Youth and Family Counsellor, Jae, had babies in January. Welcome to their littles, Sasha and Sparrow! We look forward to having Emma and Jae back in January 2019 after their maternity leaves, and watching their babes growing up in the daycare.

We are proud of our students who worked so hard this year. The total number of graduates continued to increase. They were celebrated at a beautiful graduation ceremony and dinner at Central Baptist Church, on Pandora. This was the 7th year the church has hosted our grad, with many of their volunteers helping in multiple ways, such as shopping, preparing dinner, cleaning and set up and take down. We couldn't hold such an event without this amazing support from Central Baptist.

We ended the year saying goodbye to a few staff: Tara, Carrie and Maria, all will be dearly missed. Maria retired after many years of commitment and service to Artemis Place. Maria taught for the GAP (previous name of partner program with School District 61), for several years going back almost twenty years. When she left that position, she volunteered on the Artemis Place Society Board for over ten years, and in her retirement from School District 61, we hired her for a few short (four) years, to be our Principal and Art Teacher. Maria practiced the art of teaching with her heart wide open and has graced all of us with her love and her commitment to the well-being of our students, families and overall community.

We only received two parent/guardian surveys this year! We may have to start offering chocolate bars to parents to increase responses, (as we do for students); we find this really increases student survey completion! The two received included these final comments:

"You guys are absolutely awesome keep up the great work :)"

"I am so grateful that Artemis exists and is such a quality organization. My child seems to be slowly emerging from a world of painful suffering."

Thank you for your support, on all levels, for the past, current and future success of Artemis Place. If you have any feedback, suggestions or other reasons to connect, feel free, at (250) 598-5183 ext 1 or rachel@artemisplace.org.



Rachel Calder, Executive Director

ANNUAL SNAPSHOT

This year, Artemis again had the highest number of grads in its history, eight, and course completions were also up by 30% compared to last year. Staff have begun discussion to look at transitioning more work into the digital realm by way of Google Apps for Education; this process will continue into next year to be able to expand the ways we engage with students.

The program had some staff turn over with new babies, retirement and staff moving on to pursue other things. We finished the year having 17 staff, some part time and casual, all who build the school community with their caring and thoughtful practice.

Artemis Place partnered with BC Transit to offer the UPass program to our students. It is a terrific advantage for students to have bus passes go through the entire year. It has been well received and we will continue this initiative next year.

Artemis Place partnered with Learning Through Loss to organize a 20-year Memorial to remember the loss of Reena Virk in our community, on November 14th 2017. Remember Reena was an event to highlight the issue of youth violence, and how learning from such tragedy should continue to inform us as we continue to work towards a violence-free society. It was an honour to hold space for the Virk Family and many media outlets covered this important event.



Ongoing work around trans inclusion looked at materials that were created in partnership and are now available online to the community at generally.ca. The facilitators, Joyce and Anna, presented to staff to encourage use of the materials within the program. This initiative was funded by the Victoria Foundation.

We engaged with a new community partner this year, a group of students from a 4th year Sociology class at UVic, with Professor Bruce Ravelli. The students compiled a qualitative paper reflecting on the work of the Young Parent Program and it has been saved with other projects the Society has been involved with at <https://artemisplace.org/resources/research/>.

Using Dr. James Doty's "Alphabet of the Heart", we brought attention to a value each month and used them as inspiration for student works, conversation starters in small groups and at community meetings. For the list of the ten items, go here: <http://www.jamesrdotymd.com/alphabet>. Next year, we are looking at focusing on the three Society values as stated on our logo: Compassion, Power and Respect.

Artemis partnered with the Child and Youth Health Network to contribute some organizing efforts to an Earth Day event, with a focus on family connectedness in nature, held at Esquimalt and Saanich Gorge Parks.

2017/2018 STATISTICS

First Nations/Metis
Students: **17**

Pregnant
Through
the Year: **6**

Designated
"Special Ed":
100%

Number
enrolled over
program year:
55

Involved in
Criminal Justice
System:
4

Incoming
Referrals:
34

Course
Completions:
132

Maximum
Students
Enrolled
At One
Time: **48**

Hours Youth/Family
Counsellors Spent
One on One with
Students:
634

Living in foster
care/care home:
9

Graduates:
8

Prior School Absence
> than 12 months:
30%

Life Skills
Groups **105**
Offered:

Living
Independently:
17

Homeless at
some point
during the year:
2

YFC Outreach
Hours:
296

One on One
Youth/Family Counsellor
Support Sessions:
917

Brief Contacts:
2227

Children in
Daycare: **10**

MCFD
Involvement:
22

Total Attendance
Counts in Life Skills
Groups:
847

Meals **1811**
Served:

ARTEMIS PLACE SECONDARY SCHOOL

As the BC Ministry of Education has been rolling out new curriculum, Artemis Place has been looking at creative and interesting ways to both meet the revised curriculum and deliver cross-curricular learning. The teaching team has been working hard to engage students, increase attendance and support students to achieve their academic goals.

Regular programming through the year included a variety of arts programming: ceramics, painting, drawing, print-making, art-metal, knitting, sewing, and photography. Artemis received an Art Starts grant enabling us to bring in Farheen HaQ, for the fifth year in a row, to be our Artist in Residence; under her guidance, the students' works were exhibited at the Annual Youth Arts Festival at Cedar Hill Arts Centre.

LifeCycles and UVic's Science Ventures continue to deliver programming on alternating Fridays and continue to be popular offerings with students. Some field trips this year included the Royal BC Museum, Madrona Farm, the Belfry, Camosun College, the musical Hair at Vic High and the HeartSpace Art Show. PE programming included hiking, outings with Power to Be, yoga, basketball, tennis, mini golf and a fun year end day out at Y Camp Thunderbird.

Our Indigenous Support Worker facilitated beading, drum, moccasin, rattle and medicine bag making workshops as well as cultural opportunities to be in circle and participating in smudging. Local Elder May Sam also came for a visit to meet with students. The staff team worked together to compose a territory acknowledgement to be able to support students in also sharing in the responsibility of acknowledging the land we are on.

This year we had 8 graduates who graduated either with the standard Dogwood Certificate or the Adult Grad Equivalent. The Artemis Summer Program continued with students being able to finish up graduation requirements and access support through the month of July. The summer program also provided opportunity for new students to start being in the school before the busy month of September.



ARTEMIS YOUNG PARENT PROGRAM

Artemis Young Parent Program supports pregnant teens and young parents in a nurturing community while also providing a safe, stimulating environment for their children. In the on-site licensed infant/toddler centre the staff of experienced Early Childhood Educators provide responsive care for the children along with building respectful, trusting relationships with their families. Some quotes from this year's parent survey aptly describe this relationship: *"they are so nurturing and caring, I like how accommodating they are, the caregivers care greatly about my child, it feels so positive when you walk in, the staff genuinely care and love the students and children"*

The team of ECE's, counselors and a Public Health Nurse offers pre-natal and parenting education, individual and group counseling, support and advocacy. Parents are also given the opportunity to connect with other students to share the joys and challenges of parenthood. There were numerous guest speakers (e.g. nutritionist, dental hygienists), presentations (e.g. financial literacy, Island Sexual Health) and field trips for families (e.g. butterfly world, Beacon Hill Park) throughout the year which were very enriching experiences.



We began the year with 4 moms and babies in the program which increased to 10 in December and stayed consistent until June. We enrolled the toddler of one of the teachers as well as a community family. One third of the children were First Nations. One child was in the care of a grandparent with his mom having supervised visits in the daycare and several other families lived in supported housing. Early in the fall we hosted a family dinner for the moms, their partners and/or parents which was a wonderful way to start the year as staff and families get together and lots of connections are made. Three moms graduated with one going into Camosun's Health Care Assistant Program in September. With the growing numbers of children, we needed a new staff for the daycare, the first hire in over 18 years!

We supervised 2 Camosun College ECE practicum students who brought in new ideas and activities into the program including some songs in Hul'q'umi'num. As part of Family Studies, students at Artemis are given the opportunity to do a practicum in the centre and this year one student came in weekly to be with the children. Staff attended various workshops throughout the year e.g. The Strength of Indigenous Early Years.

We also hosted the annual Young Parent Program Conference at Artemis Place, From Ideas to Action: Empowering Young Parent Programs through Collaboration.

This spring 3 University of Victoria Sociology students worked on a project with us to explore the current state of the Young Parent Program and to help inform its future directions.

A quote from one of the mom's interviewed was used in part for the title of their report:

"It's just an amazing place to be. If I didn't find Artemis Place I wouldn't be graduating. I don't know where I'd be."

ARTEMIS COUNSELLING AND LIFE SKILLS

Each Youth and Family Counsellor (YFC) has a caseload of up to 16 students. YFC's support students to articulate and work on goals throughout the school year and connect students to needed community resources. Goals are made with consideration of students' strengths, interests, challenges, needs, and preferences. Accordingly, life skills groups, guest speakers and presenters are planned to meet topics that are coming up from within the community. The YFC's take primary responsibility for setting up the life skills component of the programming.

Regular self-care teaching also happens through a block called Relaxation and can include activities like meditation, ritual, storytelling, walks, and mindfulness practices. This year the One Circle group included a range of topics that were well attended and received, some examples were healthy relationships, positive communication, visioning, etc. We have worked with Julie Cormier for several years, who has co-facilitated One Circle with an Artemis YFC; and, this year she also delivered a wonderful talk to our Grads at the 2018 Graduation Ceremony. Other life skills topics included Gender Identity, Substance Use, Music Therapy, Mindfulness, Gardening, Crafting, and Financial Literacy. Autumn from Discovery Counselling delivered a series of groups around wellness and substance use. The YFC's contribute to group outings and some examples were the 2 Spirit Conference at the Victoria Native Friendship Centre, Galey Farm, Shaw Ocean Discovery Centre, and the Medicine Horses at Thirteen Moons Farm.

We partnered with many other organizations such as Learning through Loss, Island Sexual Health, Foundry, Aids Vancouver Island, Mobile Youth Services Team, Thirteen Moons Farm, the Didi Society, Victoria Sexual Assault Centre, GT Hiring and the Victoria Fiddle Festival. The YFC's plan and deliver Moms Group which includes the parenting education curriculum. This is a weekly group that all Moms participate in. They also work with community partners such as the Public Health Dietician & Nurse, Greater Victoria Library Baby Storytime, Young Parent Support Network and other young parent supporting professionals in the community.



FUNDERS AND SUPPORTERS

Artemis Place Society gratefully acknowledges all of our donors, funders, supporters and volunteers.

Apologies to anyone we inadvertently missed!

We acknowledge the financial support from the Province of British Columbia, the Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Children and Family Development.

ORGANIZATION/BUSINESS DONORS:

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Gorge Narrows Rowing Centre	Central Baptist Church
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Root Cellar	St. Margaret's School
	The Didi Society

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Art Starts in Schools

We would like to thank all of our individual volunteers, donors and makers who have generously shared their time and talents with Artemis Place:

Amar Sethi, Lane MacLean, Andrea Katz, Heather Dubasov, June Baker, Judy Strelieff, Tara Campbell, Elaine Reed, Diana Nicholson, Joan Howard, Robin Burgess, Mrs. Mary Addison, Donald and Irene Camp, Kerry Robertson, Sara Baker, Sharon Glover, Lynn Pritchett, Enid Elliot, Elizabeth Hawkins, Betty Sherwood, Chanel Avarello, Yvonne Haist, Leith Leslie, Vicki Drader, Diana Nicholson, Terry Loepke, Amanda Niddrie, Keith Baker, Kristin Watson, Linda Baker, Sheryl Cooper, Melody Weimer, Lynn Beak, Anne Swannell, Suzanne Beauchamp, Patricia McMahon, Herb Girard, Susan Kerr, Elaine and Allan Dakin, Cynthia Smith, Karen Foxall, Peggy & Paul Palmer.

We would like to especially acknowledge our Board of Directors who served over the 2017 - 2018 year:

Jane Arnott, Enid Elliot, Joss Hurtig-Mitchell, Patricia Maedel, Diana Nicholson,

Erin Wood, Sandra Bitz, Barb Peck, Winnifred Williams, Dawn Mintie

STUDENT FEEDBACK

In the Spring of 2018, students were surveyed about their perceptions and experience of Artemis. Here is a snapshot of some of the results.
We received between 18-23 responses to each of the following question:

(Please read the statements below and mark response)

	<u>% Agree</u>
The structure of the academic programming supports my learning needs.	80%
The guest speakers, groups, and workshops are useful interesting.	70%
The food available is an important part of the program.	90%
I receive adequate guidance and support to complete coursework.	71%
I am supported to progress on my goals.	80%
I am referred to community resources as needed.	80%
Artemis programming offers me adequate choice in what I do and how I do it.	84%
I am more engaged in my learning at Artemis than at past schools.	85%
Artemis staff incorporates my input and ideas into the programming offered.	76%
I feel physically and emotionally safe at Artemis Place.	80%
I feel respected by staff at Artemis Place, and that they work to create a respectful atmosphere in the Artemis community.	83%
The learning spaces at Artemis meet my needs.	75%
I am interested in attending summer school programming.	62%



Student Feedback Examples:

“Artemis is the best school I have ever gone to and I hope it continues to be that way”

“I’m excited everyday coming to school surrounded by nice people and have complete motivation while I’m here cause I can actually focus”

“I love this school I wish I could keep going here after I grad next year, so much support!”

“Definitely need more snacks”