



COMPASSION, POWER, RESPECT  
artemis place  
SOCIETY

2020-2021 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 children of young parents while modeling care-giving and supporting each student in their parenting.

## HERSTORY:

Artemis Place Society operates Artemis Place Secondary School and the Artemis Young Parent Program. It is a non-profit society overseen by a volunteer Board of Directors. The Society has been providing alternative programs for young women since 1971 and is highly respected throughout the province. Since 2016, Artemis Place has specifically been a trans inclusive and trans affirming space. Artemis Place is a holistic and nurturing school community where young women, young moms and transgender youth aged 15-19 years are supported to experience success in academics, life skills and personal well-being. The staff assists students to enhance confidence, skills, and knowledge by building trusting, caring relationships in a small school environment. As a Society, we are working towards understanding and responsibility for reconciliation, in response to Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

There are 3 programs delivered in an integrated model at one site: Artemis Place Secondary School, Artemis Young Parent Program, which includes a childcare centre, and the Life Skills /Counselling Program.

The inter-disciplinary staff team is made up of Youth and Family Counsellors, Teachers, Academic Coordinator, Occupational Therapist, Garden Coordinator/Educational Assistant, Admin Coordinator, Program Coordinator, Early Childhood Educators and Director.





# ANNUAL SCHOOL SNAPSHOT

As it was for all schools, 2020-2021 was a challenging year with the ongoing Covid-19 considerations and impacts. Despite the mounting stress and pressure everyone in our community has been facing, our staff team showed up each day with energy and commitment to support our students and families. We are especially proud of our students who pursued their goals, worked hard and especially those students who graduated. We had a total of seven graduates from our program in the grad class of 2021!

For our graduation, while we met the guidelines set by public health, we hosted the ceremony outside in our incredible new garden space – coined Artemisia – and utilized our impressive new outdoor classroom building. This was our second year hosting the grad ceremony in our garden and it was a lovely occasion once again. We had a special guest, John Harris, who was a little one in our daycare many years ago and he kindly facilitated a salmon feast and song on the day. There was much to celebrate!

Following last year when we shared two rooms of our building with Lansdowne, it was a highlight to move back into our newly renovated kitchen, complete with a long island that many people fit around! The design is bright and open and is an ideal layout for collaborative cooking and learning. There were also some updates to our west (art) room that opened it up and included new sinks and cabinets/counter.



The art programming included clay being worked and fired into cool projects, casting material was used to cast hands and create sculptures, skateboards were painted and entered in a local contest, poppies were felted for Remembrance Day, and the Spring included a series of jewelry making sessions. There was an outside-in gallery with art filling the windows for folks to walk around the building and see much of the painting and drawing students had done. Our art teacher was also a yoga instructor so regular yoga classes were held through the year. We had a special beading workshop and associated field trip to Legacy Art Gallery's show that included incredible beadwork by Indigenous artists.

Two of our youth and family counsellors participated in a train the trainer offering by the YMCA-YWCA to offer the Y-Mind mindfulness training to our students and they offered the group over several weeks in the Spring. Some other groups offered this year were One Circle, which included a series of topics on social emotional wellness, plus sessions on challenging negative self-talk, sexual health, sleep, a series of mental health workshops called mending mindsets, Ready to Rent and a week of focus on immune health. Field trip highlights included the medicine horses at Thirteen Moons Farm, a beach-clean day for Earth Day, and a visit to Goldstream Park.

Regular garden workshops were offered through the year and an incredible project titled Cultivating Reciprocity was facilitated. Occupational Therapy was offered on an individual and group basis as well. We continued to host Science Ventures who ran a weekly science lab/class for our students and remains a highlight of each week. We were lucky enough to partner with Story Studio who ran weekly writing workshops on a range of topics and culminated in an anthology that was published for our students. Some sessions of slam poetry were offered as well as a visiting illustrator and a graphic novel workshop. Regular careers support was offered through GT Hiring including an online job fair. PE/Active Living outings included hikes/walks, sailing at the Royal Victoria Yacht Club, Boulder House, Power to Be outings and Boxing Club.

# 2020/2021 STATISTICS

First Nations/Metis  
Students: **21**

Parenting or  
Pregnant  
Through  
the Year: **9**

Hours of OT Sessions/  
Groups  
**125**

Number  
enrolled over  
program year:  
**56**

Involved in  
Criminal Justice  
System:  
**4**

Incoming  
Referrals:  
**19**

Annual  
UPasses  
Distributed: **56**

Maximum  
Students  
Enrolled  
At One  
Time: **49**

Course  
Completions:  
**132**

Hours Youth/Family  
Counsellors Spent  
One on One with  
Students:  
**576**

Living in foster  
care/care home:  
**5**

Graduates:  
**7**

Living with Parents  
**18%**

Life Skills  
Groups **91**  
Offered:

Living  
Independently:  
**8**

Homeless at  
some point  
during the year:  
**7**

YFC Outreach  
Hours:  
**131**

Meals **1521**  
Served:

One on One  
Youth/Family Counsellor  
Support Sessions:  
**677**

Non-binary &  
Trans Students  
**20%**

Children in  
Daycare: **14**

MCFD  
Involvement:  
**19**

Total Attendance  
Counts in Life Skills  
Groups:  
**662**

# CULTIVATING RECIPROCITY

Through a partnership with the Compost Education Centre, Artemis Place took on a new program titled *Cultivating Reciprocity*. The program offered a dynamic skills training program for 10 of our students and recent graduates through real life work experience, horticulture skills development, and the opportunity to complete Work Experience 12 through their participation. Facilitated by our Garden Coordinator, Chris Dufour, *Cultivating Reciprocity* set out to develop our 6000 square permaculture and restoration site here at Artemis Place Secondary. With design input from youth, the team installed a model food forest, mycelium pathways, raised food beds, greenhouses, herbal medicine gardens, a garry oak restoration site, native rainwater garden, and a native plant hedgerow. This work was done in tandem with the support of many community educators, including Saanich Native Plants (now Satin Flower Nursery), Hatchet and Seed Edible Landscaping, PEPAKIYE Ashley Cooper, microbiologist Paige Whitehead, Twin and Stone Botanical Medicine, and local mycologist Vadim Junea (to name a few). Through *Cultivating Reciprocity*, meaningful connections between youth and pioneers in our community were made, learning about real life techniques in applied regenerative agriculture and community initiatives to further youth education and experience.

Our students worked diligently over 16 weeks to complete this project conducting a full transformation of the site, previously a field with a couple of laurel bushes. The garden, which was a dream of Artemis' for years, could not have been completed without the dedication and passion of our youth to take on issues of ecological stewardship and mutual respect of the lands and communities we're a part of. Throughout the duration of the project, our youth were integrating questions on how to conduct land-based work on unceded lək̓ʷəŋən and SENĆOŦEN territories and working together to understand our obligations as treaty people to uphold reciprocal relations in our work. This work included students taking initiative to research the histories of these lands, learning and sharing of their history as an airport, farm, and imagining the stewardships of these lands for time immemorial.



In this quick transformation, we saw abundance show up in a new way to Artemis Place with beauty, pollinators, and food exuding from the space. Our *Cultivating Reciprocity* team created a magical space to be utilized in all aspect of our goals here at Artemis, including occupational and recreational therapy, integrated course completion, and environmental stewardship. It is without a doubt, that we express gratitude and pride for the magnificent work of our youth in the *Cultivating Reciprocity* in taking on this project with passion, a strong community ethic, dedication, and vision. We are enthusiastic about the success of this project and look forward to continued development of this biodiverse teaching and learning space.



# OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

This year students had the opportunity to participate in Occupational Therapy groups and individual sessions. Most of the groups were held outside and focused on a variety of wellness skills including physical movement and body awareness, social connection, sensory awareness, grounding strategies and connecting with non-human beings.

The goal of individual sessions was to meet the students where they are at and focus on their goals to support physical and mental health. This often included work on occupational/activity planning and engagement, executive function, sensory regulation, improving sleep, emotion regulation and physical activity. Although we plan to have Occupational Therapy again in the future, the individual who provided these services is unavailable for the 2021/22 school year and we look forward to having her back in the Fall of 2022 for more OT programming.



# ARTEMIS YOUNG PARENT PROGRAM

Artemis YPP supports young moms and pregnant students while they work on their high school education by offering on-site childcare, healthy snacks and lunches, individual and group counselling, lifeskills, advocacy, prenatal and parenting education.

Five families were enrolled in July 2020 while their moms either attended summer school or were employed. In September we welcomed returning families to the program and greeted the new ones. There were 14 children enrolled throughout the year- 6 student moms (one with 2 children under 3), 2 past moms and 5 community families. Two pregnant students were also in the program and their babies are registered for this school year. We followed all Covid guidelines for health and safety and had very consistent attendance.

Our amazing team of Early Childhood Educators provided exceptional care for the children, while supporting their parents and grandparents. We hosted 2 practicum students from Camosun College and were honoured to have the opportunity to learn several First Nations songs and stories from one of them. ECE's had several Professional Development opportunities; a workshop with Human Nature Counselling, the BC Council for Families Young Parent Program Conference *Connecting During Covid-19* and a Screen-Time webinar.

In January we opened a Multi-Age Centre also on-site to provide childcare for past student parents while they continue their education or start their life in the workforce. With their children able to stay in the program until school age, we continue to support our young parents after they graduate. Along with renovating the indoor space we expanded the outdoor area and created a magical space where the children can play and safely explore the natural world.

Parent Group was facilitated by a teacher and Youth and Family Counsellor and students received credit for Child Development and Caregiving 12. They worked through the Power Source Parenting course material (Lionheart Press) and read and discussed parenting topics such as: making a tight bond, concepts of core-self for ourselves and our babies, building trust, healthy relationships, communication skills, health and nutrition.

Artemis Place was nominated by a former student and her daughter for a 100 + Women Who Care Victoria Grant and we received \$20,000.00 for the Young Parent Program. In thanking the organization one past student who has gone on to post-secondary education spoke about how much it has meant to her and her family to have her daughter continue in the daycare. She was pregnant at 16 and worried about finishing high school but after researching resources found Artemis Place and enrolled in the Young Parent Program. She was able to focus on her education knowing that her daughter was being well taken care of just down the hall in the child care centre. She graduated last year and continued to bring her daughter to the new centre while she went on to post-secondary education. She ended by saying: "Artemis Place has not only changed my life but it also changed my daughter's and we will be forever thankful for all the hard work everyone has put in to supporting us."





# 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.

## ORGANIZATION/BUSINESS DONORS:

Pocket Clothing	Kiwanis Club of Victoria
100+ Women of Victoria	Knox Presbyterian Church
1000x 5 Children's Book Project	Hendry McKenzie Reynolds
Breakfast for Learning	Breakfast Club of Canada
DC Marine Offshore Services Inc.	KidSport Victoria

## FOUNDATION DONORS:

Victoria Foundation  
The Gwyn Morgan and Patricia Trottier  
Foundation

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

We would like to especially acknowledge our Board of Directors who served over the 2020-2021 year:

Jane Arnott, Enid Elliot, Shailoo Bedi, Erin Russel, Sandra Bitz, Ardis Myette, Karen Demeo

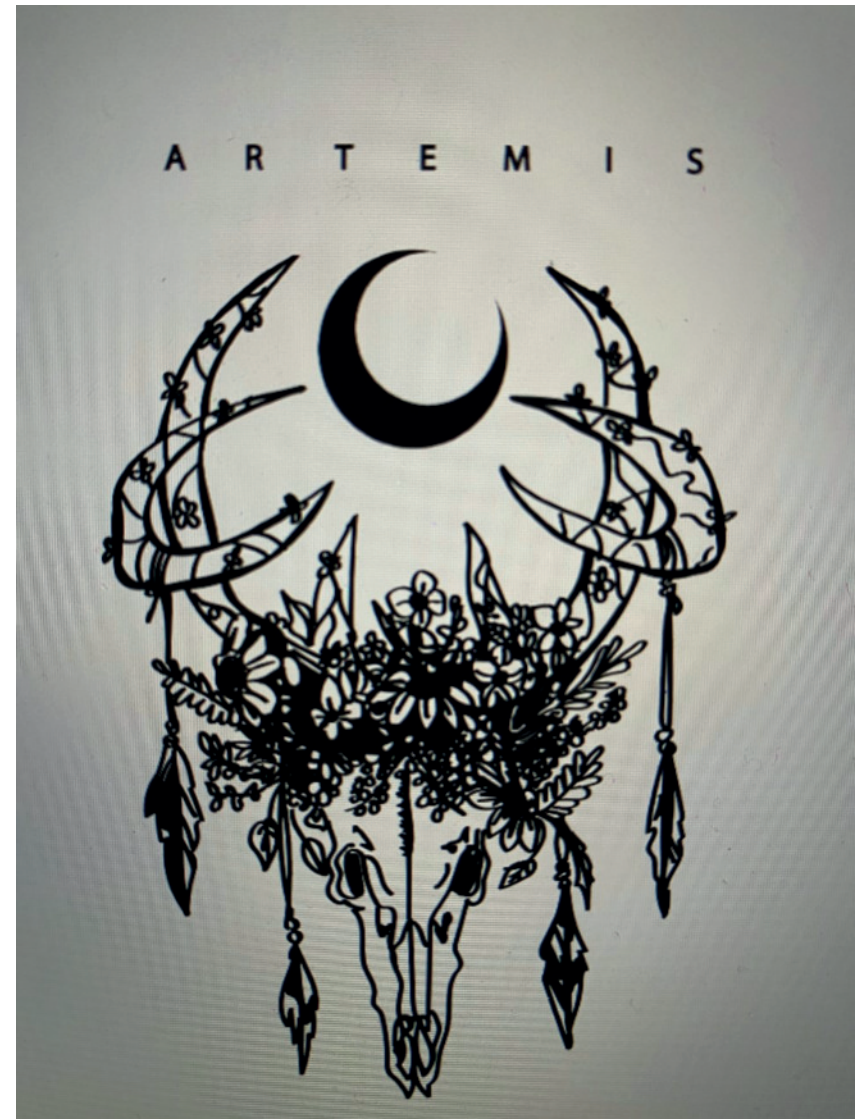
# FEEDBACK

"It's given me a place to heal and learn, I've grown a lot from the school and the staff." ` student

"It's the best school I've been to, I don't know what I would change" ` student

"The teachers have supported me by being amazing and actually helping me learn."` student

"Friendliness of all school personnel have helped my daughter a lot. She requires the flexibility of self-directed learning. I appreciate how accommodating the school has been about getting extra services for my daughter. My daughter says she feels very safe at Artemis." ` parent



Original design by an Artemis Student