

Hope Mountain Centre for Fraser Cascade Mountain School.

2010

Darlene Chrapko
Student Awards & Agency Funds Officer
The Calgary Foundation
700, 999 – 8th Street S.W.
Calgary, AB
T2R 1J5

Dear Ms. Chrapko:

Earlier this year we were fortunate to receive a grant from the David Elton Outdoor Fund to assist us in preparing young students to safely hike and camp in the back country. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, the Fund and the Calgary Foundation for their support of this venture and to report on the manner the funds were dispensed.

Early in May of this year a group of 24 grade 6 students, their parents and teachers spent two days and a night camping in, and learning about the Skagit Valley in south western British Columbia. Although back country safety was a key focus for the two days, students also completed curriculum units on the Skagit River riparian zone, the generation of hydroelectric power in the valley, the critters that inhabit the area and the human history of the Skagit.

Prior to their Skagit excursion a group of students, parents and teachers spent a day preparing to hike, explore, learn and camp in the Skagit safely and respectfully. They used a Fraser-Cascade Mountain School curriculum unit called "Trail Etiquette and Backcountry Safety" as the basis for instruction. The key concepts covered prepared our students for a variety of potentially life threatening outcomes –what to do if they were lost, pre-planning an outdoor adventure safely, survival essentials in the back country, bear and cougar safety, low impact hiking and wilderness ethics. Please find attached a copy of the curriculum specifics.

The Fraser-Cascade Mountain School is an outdoor education and experiences program sponsored by B.C. School District 78 (Fraser-Cascade). For more than 20 years the Mountain School has provided opportunities for students to explore the back country in all four seasons. The funding provided by the David Elton Outdoor Fund has assisted us in preparing our younger students for safe, respectful experiences in their later years. We would be very interested in offering similar courses to our grade 6 students in years to come and would gratefully appreciate any assistance the Fund and the Calgary Foundation might offer.

Thank you again for your assistance in offering this valuable component of our program.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Scott Benwell
Assistant Superintendent of Schools