

FMTY UPDATE: SALMON RUN EXTENDED STUDY FIELD TRIP



Almost 50 Third Academy, *ursa*, and LYNX junior/senior high school students participated in our extended study field trip 10-13 October 2023 to south-central British Columbia. In keeping with our 2023-2024 system wide theme—The River—one of the goals of the trip was to provide our students the opportunity to witness the 2023 salmon run. Additionally, given the rich First Nations, history and presence in this region, we sought to enrich our curriculum's FNMI component with experiential learning.

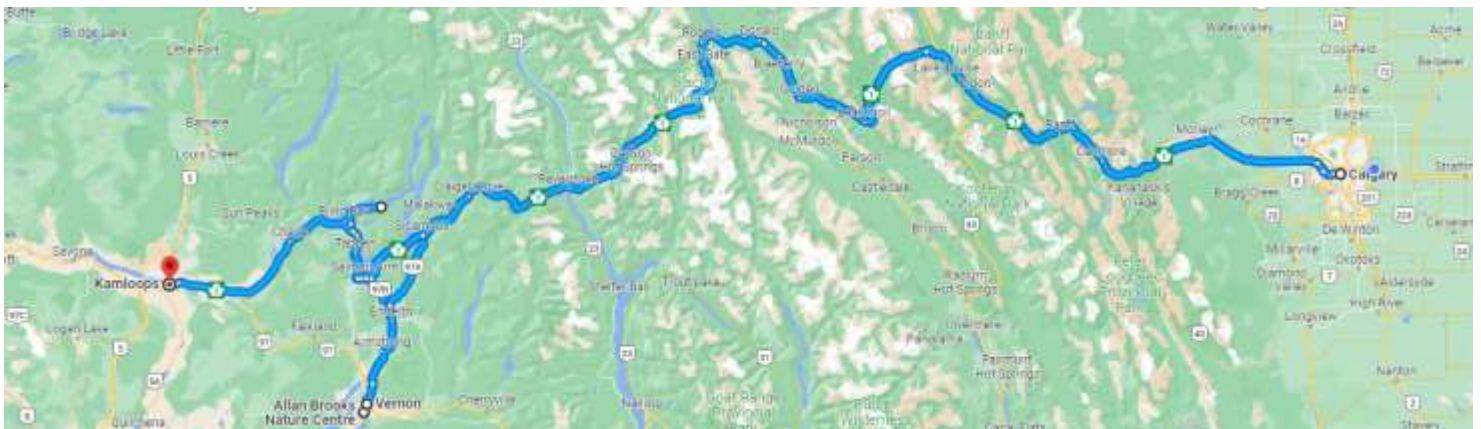
Many thanks to all of the parents, staff members, volunteers, bus drivers, and



on-site personnel that made this trip a success for our students. Looking forward to the next extended study trip!

Sunil Mattu
Head of Schools





Departing our East Campus location on Tuesday, 10 October 2023, we travelled on two chartered motor coaches. Our destination was the beautiful Eagle Bay Camp on the southern shore of Shuswap Lake. There we were stayed in cabins and were provided meals by the camp staff.

Using Eagle Bay Camp as our base, we also travelled to Kamloops, Vernon, and the Allan Brooks Nature Centre as day trips before our return to Calgary on Friday, 13 October 2023.

The weather cooperated throughout our travels and the scenery was spectacular.



"The food was great....pancakes, bacon, and eggs for breakfast!"



Wednesday's highlight was a guided tour of the Kamloops Indian Residential School. Many thanks to our guide, Ellie, who provided an informative and heartfelt account of the experiences at the school by her elders.

The experience prompted a great deal of discussion amongst the students and an opportunity for personal reflection.

"It was very serious....they hurt a lot of people...it was very sad everything that went on there."

"The lady that gave us the tour told us we were the most respectful group she had ever had."



Thursday was devoted to exploring the life cycle of salmon. We travelled to Creekside Park in Vernon to view the salmon that had migrated from the Pacific Ocean back to the freshwaters they originated in to spawn. We also travelled to the nearby Allan Brooks Nature Centre for a grasslands tour. Then it was back to camp....and more fun by the fire!

"The salmon were beautiful."

*"I wanted to see a salmon flip.
And I did...a few times...they
flipped for me!"*



WHY EXTENDED TRAVEL STUDY FIELD TRIPS?

Third Schools recognizes the value of extended travel study field trips for our students. Prior to COVID, we held overnight trips annually for our high school students and frequently for junior high and even some elementary classes. Unfortunately, COVID impacted our ability to continue these important and rewarding excursions. We're delighted that they are able to resume these activities. They are extremely important on a number of levels.

Foremost, these trips provide the opportunity for experiential learning. Students are engaged in hands-on learning. They are actively engaged with the subject matter. There is something special about learning in nature. Secondly, travel study trips support personal development. Students have an opportunity to develop social relationships with their peers. They learn to get along in safe, shared settings while supervised by professional educators. Thirdly, field trips promote cultural understanding. They afford students the opportunity to look at things from a very different perspective when they are taken out of their "comfort zone". Our students were 'happy and learning'. They are lucky to have enjoyed a positive life experience.

At a time when most school systems are reducing or even eliminating field trips, Third Schools remains committed to providing the best experience possible for our students. Please let your student's teachers know you appreciate the effort they make to these trips possible.

*"The **ursa** and LYNX students were great...always happy and super funny!"*

Third Academy student

