



Living Lab Network Winter Newsletter 2025



Welcome to the Living Lab Winter Newsletter!

Fall and Winter have been a time of connecting, cooking and collaborating as we prepare for the growing seasons and outdoor adventures in Spring and Summer. Learn about inspiring schools and community projects; check out the new Insect Guide and 2024 Eco-Youth Report.

Living Lab is a community-school-campus partnership supporting land-based learning/healing, eco-cultural restoration and Indigenous resurgence.

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SCHOOL NEWS



Jess Joseph, Songhees Nation and Living Lab Arts and Community Engagement Coordinator and John Harris, Elders and Indigenous Knowledge Facilitator for SD#61 Indigenous Education, work together throughout SD #61 schools in ləkʷəŋiʔnəŋ Territories to provide creative land-based learning programming.



Jarring Fish with Esquimalt High School



Fire roasted fish during a pitcook at Lambrick school

Highlights for Fall 2024 include:



Jessica Joseph supports controlled burn at Highrock Park

Indigenous Garden Stewardship at Margaret Jenkins Elementary



This multi-year project includes building a new Camas garden, learning about Coast Salish art from Jessica Joseph and planning a new mural.

Learn more about [SD#61 IED](#)



Devils club salve



Devils club salve process

The WSÁNEĆ Leadership Secondary School piloted a new Traditional Foods Course during the Fall-Winter 2024–2025 term, led by teachers Lyndsey Henry, PENÁWEN and supported by Principal John Lyall. The course included venison preparation, salmon canning, traditional medicine, and tea processing. Jessica Joseph and John Harris played supportive roles in this exciting new land-based learning and wellness program.



Venison processing with WSÁNEĆ Community member/hunter Mike Morris



COMMUNITY NEWS



ÁLENENEĆ/ - Land-Based Learning and Indigenous Justice Project

The ÁLENENEĆ/ LBL and Justice Project, funded by the Law Foundation of BC's Indigenous Justice Grant, runs from Fall 2024 to Fall 2026. The project is led by the WŚÁNEĆ School Board as the primary host, with the Living Lab Network as the community partner. The core team includes Desiree Jones, Tye Swallow, SXEDFELISIYE (WSB), Maeve Lydon, Nick Stanger, and Jess Joseph (Living Lab). The Program Advisory Committee held its first meeting on January 17th to establish priorities and guide the project's implementation.

[Learn more here.](#)



ÁLENENEĆ/ Gathering info: L to R: Nick Stanger, Darcy Mathews, Mavis Underwood, Ruth Lyall, SXEDFELISIYE and John Price



The WŚÁNEĆ Leadership Secondary School, Whiteswan Environmental, Whatcom Intergenerational High School, and Western Washington University students at WTÁEMEN, 2023



Orca Teachings
By: Jessica Joseph

Recipes for Resurgence SSEEPSA Partnership

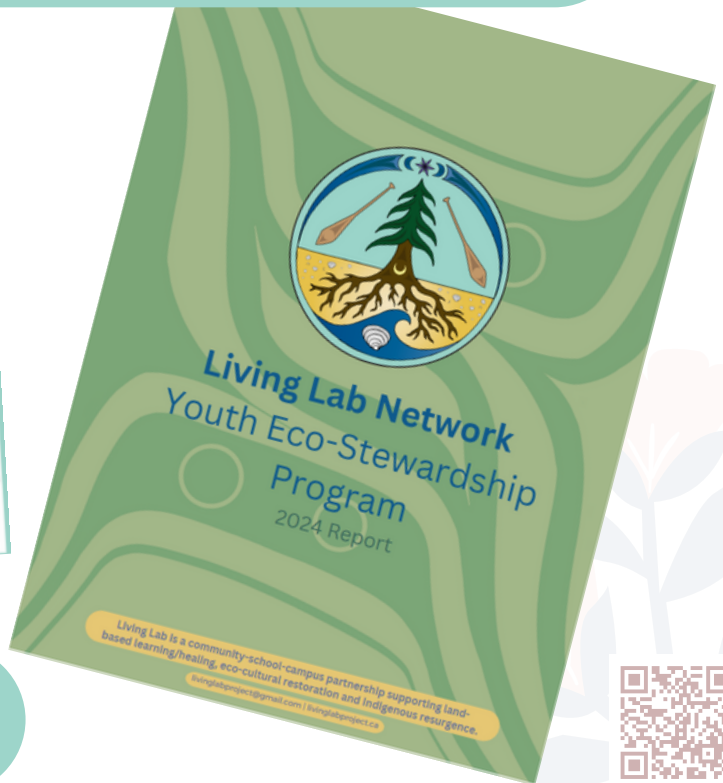
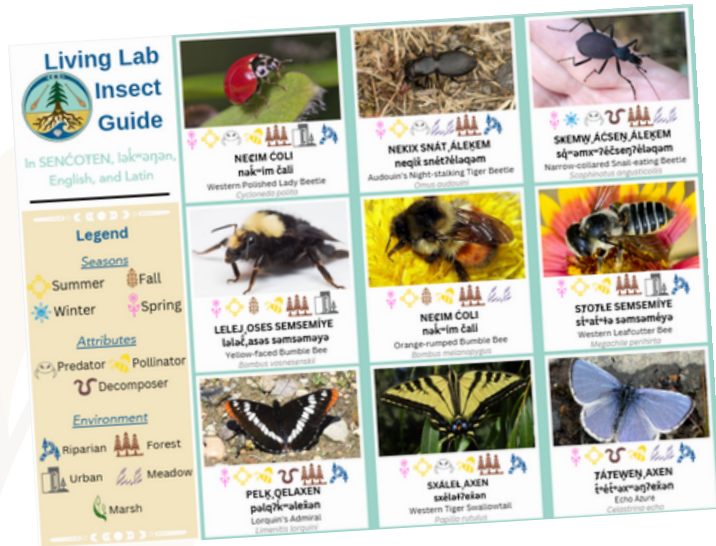
On November 19th, Living Lab partnered with the Salish Sea Environmental Educators Professional Specialists Association (SSEEPSA - part of the BC Network) for a cooking and connection workshop focused on local and Indigenous food systems, well-being, and zero waste. Lead cooks included Eric Scholfield (Stelly's Culinary Arts) and John Harris (Indigenous Education, SD#61), with special guests WŚÁNEĆ Elder Curtis Olsen and Lyndsey Joseph (Songhees Nation, WŚÁNEĆ Leadership Secondary). Exciting plans for 2025—stay tuned!



L to R: Eric Schofield, John Harris and happy cooks.

Learn more about [Salish Sea Environmental Educators Professional Specialists Association](#)

New Living Lab Resources



Check out our new Insect Guide and 2024 Eco-Youth Report on our website

OUR GOALS

Educational Transformation

Develop land-based learning and school programs connecting sustainability and environmental/science education with student well-being and success.

Restoration and Resurgence

Organize community-driven ecosystem and climate action projects which affirm Indigenous knowledge, rights, and access to/use of traditional lands and waters.

Community-Driven Research

Lead and support community-driven research projects based on Indigenous and community knowledge and priorities, healing and wellness, and restoring the connection to lands and waters.

Capacity Building and Engagement

Create community skills, capacity-building activities, and a regional Indigenous eco-stewardship program focused on children and youth.

OUR PARTNERS AND FUNDERS



Songhees

Aboriginal Service Plan
Ministry of Advanced
Education



**University
of Victoria**



SD 61 Indigenous
Education Department



Office of Indigenous Academic
and Community Engagement
(UVIC)



TETACES
Restoration
Initiative



Parks
Canada



**WSÁNEĆ
SCHOOL BOARD**



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