



Linnaea School Philosophy

We live in a world of constant change. Our children need to develop feelings of personal power and self-worth, as well as the practical skills that will enable them to live their lives as active, positive participants in a challenging world.

Donna Bracewell
Principal, Founder, and Teacher, Linnaea School

Linnaea School is a small, independent school located on Cortes Island in British Columbia. The school is located on Linnaea Farm, a beautiful land trust with 315 acres of forests, fields, organic gardens and lake-front. The School is a project of The Linnaea Farm Society, a registered non-profit, charitable organization.

Linnaea School offers a holistic approach to education which nurtures the inner spirit and strives to meet the needs of the whole child.

Our Vision

We believe that children who learn in a safe, supportive, and co-operative atmosphere will develop self worth, self expression, and personal power enabling them to grow into strong, creative, and caring human beings.

We believe in fostering in children an awareness and respect for the human spirit and the natural environment.

We believe that children who are taught in a non-sexist atmosphere and are made aware of gender biases have a greater opportunity to develop the full spectrum of their talents.

We believe that by fostering in each student a love and curiosity towards learning, children will be motivated to strive for academic excellence. These attitudes will prepare them for a life long process of education and allow them to be self-reliant and independent in their studies.

Our Mission

Our mission is to realize the beliefs inherent in our vision by fulfilling the following objectives:

Develop self-esteem through fostering respect for individuals and the human spirit by:

- teaching tolerance for, and acceptance of, individual differences
- providing a framework and language for teaching values through the Virtues Program
- nurturing self-empowerment and the development of leadership skills
- teaching conflict resolution and co-operative problem solving strategies
- providing forums for discussion of discrimination, gender bias, and inter-group conflict
- using material with unbiased gender language and illustrations
- encouraging the participation, interest, and achievement of all students in subject areas traditionally carrying a gender bias
- discussing and celebrating social issues and events
- celebrating multicultural holidays and creating 'World Tour' days

Deliver a dynamic curriculum that motivates, empowers, and inspires children by:

- combining the teaching of strong, basic academic skills with progressive and innovative approaches to learning
- encouraging academic excellence
- employing a high teacher to student ratio
- having multi-age groupings within classrooms
- individually tailoring academic programmes
- teaching democratic principles and procedures by involving students in decision making through both voting and consensus models
- teaching essential personal and co-operative problem-solving skills in all curriculum areas
- involving the students in their own learning through self assessment, goal setting, and the compilation of student portfolios
- issuing progress reports, consisting of both checklist evaluation and detailed comments, three times per year
- holding family conferences twice a year
- using a school-wide theme approach to delivering curriculum
- providing a comprehensive fine arts programme for all students
- providing a French programme from grade one through eight
- meeting the B.C. Ministry of Education requirements

Build a community of staff, students, and parents by:

- through morning circles, school meetings, jobs, and projects
- designing school buildings to create the atmosphere of a community centre
- eliminating separate spaces for staff and students, thereby making a commitment to share meals, space, and playtimes
- providing students with accessibility to staff
- using first names
- encouraging and modeling mutual respect
- bringing a variety of talented individuals from the community into the classroom
- requiring participation of parents in the classrooms
- keeping parents informed through regular contact, newsletters, and community meetings
- hosting celebrations attended by parents to promote pride in their children's talents and accomplishments

Create appreciation, respect, and responsibility for the natural world by:

- providing a beautiful lakeside farm setting
- educating students about Linnaea Farm's land trust status, ecological covenants, and reserves
- nurturing a sensitivity, respect, and responsibility for the farm environment
- discussing environmental issues on an on-going basis
- providing outdoor education programmes
- maintaining recycling and composting programmes
- working in the school's organic garden
- participating in the 'Green School Programme'
- participating in the school's heritage seed saving, stream stewardship and salmon enhancement projects
- keeping ongoing nature journals