

January 2017

Attention Caregivers and Families of Mission Public Schools,

Mission Public Schools is happy to announce its partnership with the University of the Fraser Valley in a school based opportunity for 3rd year social work students to connect with Mission families and act as community navigators, offering a diverse range of supports and connections to local resources. These students will be working in three Mission schools: Windebank Elementary, Fraserview Learning Centre and Albert McMahon Elementary. Beginning in the first week of January, these students will participate in a three day orientation to learn about community resources in Mission, referral processes and other resources that may aid many Mission families. Individual school principals will suggest families for the students to connect with. If you feel a student navigator could benefit you and your family, please contact your school Principal.

These students will play an important role in the educational team by facilitating connections between the child, family, school and community. Their goal is to enhance the child's social-emotional learning. As every human being needs community and connection, these students will support and advocate for families and help build the community connections they may need. It is unrealistic to expect a youth or teen to flourish or excel in school when overwhelming stressors are present at home. These students will look for strengths and opportunities in every family and where they can offer their support. A strong, supported family contributes to a youth's ability to learn in the classroom.

Some areas the students can be of assistance include:

- Advocacy, assessment, referral to resources
- A liaison between school and family
- Community building and networking
- Support finding housing
- Support finding food resources
- Support with mental health and wellness
- Support with addiction resources
- Support with communicating/connecting with your child effectively
- Support with paperwork and forms for intake/referral/medical appointments/social supports
- Employment supports
- Connections with counselling supports
- Connecting to parenting supports
- Connecting to pregnancy or baby supports
- Intimate partner violence supports
- Support with connecting to free and low cost recreation
- Support with grief and loss resources
- Support with talking to your teen about dating violence, sex, relationships
- Support with any questions you may have regarding your youth or connecting to a community resource

All contact between social work students and families is confidential. This will be explained to you when you first meet with the student.

Students will be present in these three Mission schools January - April 2017.

Project Lead Contacts Include:

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Sincerely,



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