



“Let’s Learn About How People Celebrate in Many Ways.”- Tom Hunter

I would like to begin, by acknowledging that we gather on the ancestral homelands of the Coast Salish Peoples, who have lived in the Salish Sea Basin, throughout the San Juan Islands and the North Cascades watershed, from time immemorial. Please join me in expressing our deepest respect and gratitude for our indigenous neighbors, the Lummi Nation and Nooksack Tribe, for their enduring care and protection of our shared lands and waterways.

For those of you who have children in the Ferndale School District, you may have noticed that Ferndale Schools are closed on January 22nd to honor Treaty Day. Having schools closed on this day is new this year, even though Treaty Day has a long-standing history starting in 1855.

Our school will be OPEN on this day, and we will encourage families to take time that day to research and educate themselves in the history of our Lummi and Nooksack tribal neighbors and take time to understand the importance of honoring them as first peoples of this land as we work to build community and respect.

I will be sharing links on our Facebook page of different books, articles or events you could attend to show support. Our local Whatcom Museum has beautiful displays of historical artifacts from our local tribes and it may be a fun outing!

Keeping ourselves always open to learning more, is how we can continue to grow in heart and mind.

