

ELC FIELD TRIP HUGE SUCCESS



Students in school districts from Saltspring Island to Sooke were warmly welcomed to Camosun College Interurban Campus to learn all about the Early Learning and Care (ELC) program, as well as the benefits of taking advantage of the South Island Partnership (SIP) dual credit programs. Becoming a dual credit student allows you to enroll in Camosun courses as a high school student. So you can take college level post secondary courses for free as your tuition is sponsored by your school district. It's basically a free jumpstart on your career, or a "try before you buy" as stated by Nicola Priestley, Camosun SIP Director, meaning you can try some courses from the post secondary programs, at no cost to you, while still in high school, determine if it's a fit for you, before deciding to move forward with registering for the full time program at your own cost after graduation. An ELC diploma is a two year, full time program that prepares you for a career as an Early Childhood Educator and sets you up for entry into an in-demand field with a 100% job placement rate! Wages run up to \$35/hour as the BC government offers a wage enhancement program topping wages an additional \$4/hour to provide incentive to work in this field.

After the brief introduction and a campus tour, students were divided into groups and treated to a warm drink and a snack before they set off on a more in depth exploration of the areas of the campus used by the ELC students. First stop was the play classroom, a vast space equipped with large windows, natural light and organic wooden toys and play materials. Next up, they were treated to moving testimonials by first year students, explaining their "why" and how they are enjoying the program so far. They learned that the Early Learning and Care Diploma program is designed to provide learners with the knowledge, skills and values to create responsive and nurturing early learning experiences. Graduates are prepared with a strong foundation for many professional opportunities in the field of Early Learning and Care, however if you decide to pursue a degree, once you have earned your diploma in ELC, you may apply for a transfer credit toward a Bachelor of Child and Youth Care Degree at UVic and/or VIU on the island, as well as other participating universities in BC. Our guests were moved, motivated, and excited about the possibility of registering for this exciting program, and thrilled to learn of the multiple pathways of opportunities it provides.

If you are interested in the ELC Program, please reach out to your Career Team!