

News Release

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Stillaguamish Tribe talks with fourth graders about conservation to protect salmon

ARLINGTON- Members of the Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians visited Kent Prairie Elementary on April 18 to talk with fourth graders about conservation and its impact on salmon.

“Stillaguamish means ‘People of the River’ and there have been tribes in this area for over 10,000 years,” said Sam Barr who is with the Stillaguamish Tribe’s cultural department. “Salmon is a way of life for our tribe. In fact, our tribe’s logo is a salmon.”

Barr and Raymond Rehaume shared the tribe’s history, songs and stories with the fourth graders so they could understand more about the tribe.

Fourth grade teacher, Amanda Morrision-Williams, organized the tribe’s visit to Kent Prairie. This year, as part of the Salish Sea curriculum, the fourth graders have been learning about orca whales and the impact the diminished salmon runs have on the orca populations. A lot of the diminished salmon runs are based on the human impact on salmon habitat. The students have also been learning about the tribes of the Pacific Northwest.

“The fourth graders wrote thank you cards to the visitors and they mentioned they loved hearing the stories of the tribe,” said Morrision-Williams. “The students didn’t know a lot about the Stillaguamish Tribe and the stories made it real for them.”

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