**The Eagle Pendant:**

The grade 12 graduates will be receiving a sterling silver carved Eagle pendant, donated to the Aboriginal Education Department by Haida Artist Bill Bedard. I would like to take this opportunity to publicly recognize Bill for his generous donation, and giving us permission to cast his eagle design.

The Eagle design is known in Aboriginal culture as the Master of the Skies, and is a symbol of great significance. The Eagle is believed to have the closest relationship with the creator. By soaring to great heights, he can travel between the physical world and the spiritual world. Although every part of the eagle has separate and significant meanings, the Eagle as a whole signifies focus, leadership and incredible prestige.

The symbolic significance of wearing the eagle pendant – provides you with great strength; guidance of peace and giving you the ability to speak honestly from the heart, without hurt or anger. At this time I would like to share with the graduates the *7 Leadership Principles of Learning*, using the Eagle to symbolically guide you as you strive to pursue your goals and dreams, whatever that may be.

**7 Leadership Principles of Learning**

1. Eagles fly alone and at high altitudes. They don’t fly with sparrows, ravens and other small birds.

**Life’s lesson** - Stay away from narrow-minded people, and those that bring you down; keep good company. Eagles fly with Eagles.

1. Eagles have an accurate vision. The eagle’s eye is among the strongest in the animal kingdom. They have the ability to focus on something as far as 5km away. No matter the obstacles, the eagle will not move his focus from the prey until he grabs it.

**Life’s lesson** - Have a vision and remain focused no matter what the obstacles, and you will succeed

1. Eagles do not eat dead things. They feed only on fresh prey

**Life’s lesson** - Do not rely on your past successes, keep looking for new frontiers to conquer. Leave your past where it belongs, in the past.

1. Eagles love the storms. When the clouds gather, the eagle gets excited because he can use the strong winds to lift itself above the clouds. This gives the eagle an opportunity to glide and rest its wings.

**Life’s lesson** – face your challenges head on knowing that this will make you emerge stronger and better than you were. Use the storms of life to rise to greater heights. Achievers are not afraid to rise to greater heights, and are not afraid of challenges.

1. When a female eagle meets a male eagle, she tests him for commitment

**Life’s lesson** - Whether personal or professional, one should test the commitment of the people you surround yourself with. Make good judgements.

1. Eagles prepare eaglets for training

As the eaglets grow, the mother eagle removes the feathers and soft grass from its nest a bit at a time, to the point where the young ones get uncomfortable. Eventually the eaglets muster up the courage to spread their wings and fly.

 **Life’s lesson** - Leave your comfort zone, there is no growth there.

1. Eagle grows old

The feathers become weak and cannot take the eagle as fast as it should. This makes the eagle weak, as it struggles to maintain its physical health. So, the eagle retires to a place far away in the mountains. While there, he plucks out the weak feathers on his body; he breaks its beak and claws against the rocks until he is completely bare. He stays in this hiding place until he has grown new feathers, a new beak and claws. He reenters the world, feeling renewed, flying higher than before.

**Lesson of learning** – We occasionally need to shed off old habits no matter how difficult; things that burden us add no value to our lives – don’t be afraid to let it go.

In closing, I raise my hands to you. Remember your future will have many trials and tribulations; during these trying times, hold your pendant close to your heart and remember . . .

**Never give up, be an eagle, never ever give up!!!**

URL LINK:

<https://yourdost.com/forum/t/seven-leadership-principles-to-learn-from-an-eagle/4370>