



Sparwood Secondary School

Newsletter

www.sd5.bc.ca/school/ss

NOVEMBER 2024



A Message from the Principal

We are already halfway through semester one and we have had a terrific start to the school year.

Our students have already had several great experiences this school year. Many students had the opportunity to play volleyball and represent Sparwood Secondary. Representing our school on a sports team or on a field trip is an important responsibility for our students and our coaches. We are very proud of our teams, and we sincerely appreciate it when our teams represent our school and our community well both on and off the court.

We have had several opportunities to gather as a whole school to learn and to celebrate. The annual Terry Fox Run and fundraiser for cancer research inspired Mr. Faucher to be willing to put his long hair and beard at risk to generate interest in this fundraiser. He was a great sport, and it has taken us all a little while to get used to his new look. All our teams have demonstrated excellent sportsmanship this season. Our senior girl's volleyball team has qualified for provincials in Nanaimo, and we are very proud of their success.

We have also gathered as a school for some important events. Our Indigenous Studies class led by Ms. Traub and Natasha Gamache, our Indigenous Education Support Worker created a school wide activity to recognize the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

We had a presentation from 'Live Different' for our grades 7-9 students about how to make positive choices to make a positive difference in the world. We had an Indigenous theatre presentation and invited the intermediate students from Frank J Mitchell here to join us. Spirit Week and Halloween were a great success. We appreciated the awesome participation from so many of our students. Most recently we held our annual Remembrance Day Ceremony with the staff and students from Frank J Mitchell in our gym. The presentations and performances from students of all ages was very powerful. It is nice to see how much Remembrance Day means to our school communities.

It is important for our school to provide these opportunities to gather to celebrate and learn. We want our students to have opportunities for leadership to help them grow and learn to be future leaders in our communities. I look forward to many more great experiences this school year.

If you ever have any questions or concerns about your child at school, please reach out to me (erin.hay@sd5.bc.ca) or Ms. Conlin (kathy.conlin@sd5.bc.ca). We are here to support your children with their education and school experiences.

Sincerely,

Erin Hay



December 20	Last day of Classes Before Christmas Break
December 23 – January 3	Christmas Break
January 24	No School – Yellow Day
January 27	Start of Second Semester

Outdoor Education

This year's Outdoor Ed class is off to a great start! The class successfully completed the 10km hike up Castle Rocks in Fernie. The students pushed themselves physically and should be proud! What a great day!



Indigenous Ancestry (First Nations, Metis, Inuit) your word is all that is required. Please share this information with others to help ensure all Indigenous students receive support/cultural opportunities. Please feel free to call or come in if you have any questions or concerns. Things to watch for: peer group, cultural field trips, class presentations, class fieldtrips, elder visits to our school and more. I can be reached by cell phone (250-425-4104) or Sparwood Secondary School phone (250-425-6666) I look forward to hearing from you.



Indigenous Studies

The students taking Contemporary Indigenous Studies this year visited Writing-On-Stone Provincial Park in Alberta this week. The students learned about First Nations culture, stories, and perspectives of the changing Canadian landscape. There was discussion of how the westward migration of Europeans impacted the lives of the First Nations people of this region. Afterwards, the students were able to explore this unique and exciting environment.

Indigenous Education 2024/2025

Hello! My name is Natasha Gamache. I am the Indigenous Education Support Worker for Sparwood Secondary School. I would like to give a brief introduction to what our program is about. All students who identify themselves as being of Indigenous Ancestry are eligible for Support Services through the Indigenous Program. Examples of support: advocacy, communicating between home and school, home and community, classroom presentations, and student support. Every year students with Indigenous Ancestry (or parent/guardian) have not identified themselves as Indigenous because they mistakenly believe they need Status or Metis card. This is not the case. If you know that you or your children have



Athletics

Sparwood Secondary School Athletics Department sent their old uniforms to the Philippines. They were very happily received, and we hope that the uniforms can help the students with team building and sportsmanship.



Basketball is starting! Please see our Facebook page for practice times and tournament schedules.



Bantam Girls



-Coach Alayna Pinchak

Senior Girls

Our senior girls have had a fantastic season this year, with lots of competitive play! They finished 1st in their most recent tournament in the Crowsnest Pass with a 6-0 record – not even giving up a single set. On the horizon, the girls have their zone championship which is being held in Castlegar on November 15 and 16th – come cheer on your Spartans!



-Coach Tanya Wagner and Erik Dennehey



Good luck at Provincials!!

Bantam Boys

Coaching the grade 7/8 boys bantam team this year was an absolute pleasure. It was an amazing group of boys who quickly turned into a team and many friendships were made. Just as much as I taught them, they also taught me a lot as well. It was a season of learning and adapting and much fun was had by all.

-Coach Christine Degagne



Junior Boys

The Jr. boys had a great season despite injuries in each game and tournament. Their teamwork and gameplay improved greatly. They came to each game ready to play hard and give it their all.

Thanks for the great season, Jr. Boy Spartans Coaches Kalyb, Carson, Taylie and Lyndsay



Senior Boys

The senior boys' volleyball team had an incredible season, showcasing skill, determination, and teamwork throughout the league. Despite fierce competition, the team consistently performed at a high level, earning them an impressive second place finish at the EK Zone tournament.

The season was marked by several standout moments, including thrilling comebacks, decisive victories, and a clear demonstration of the team's growth and resilience. The boys worked tirelessly in practices and matches, refining their techniques and focused on continually improving communication which helped to strengthen their teamwork.

Congratulations to the senior boys on a successful season.

-Coach Renee MacCormack



Remember the Core Covenants of our Athletic Program



Electives

So many cool things are happening in Sparwood Secondary's electives department! Here are a few of them:

Sr. Woodworking made some very sturdy stools.



Mr. Lund's Automotives

Here is a picture of the minibike that we have been working on in Mechanics. So far, we have designed and built a new seat frame, installed a new engine and modified the torque converter to fit the new engine.

Next, we will be painting the rims and mounting the new tires.



The Sparwood Secondary School has a Mastercraft snowblower for sale. It has been repaired and serviced by the Sparwood Secondary School Mechanics class. We are asking \$250.00, and all proceeds go towards our program. Please contact James Lund at james.lund@sd5.bc.ca for information.



The Sparwood Secondary School has a Poulan snowblower for sale. It has been repaired and serviced by the Sparwood Secondary School Mechanics class. We are asking for \$350.00, and all proceeds go towards our program. Please contact James Lund at james.lund@sd5.bc.ca for information.



SSS Foods made some spooky goodies such as mummy hotdogs and spiderweb cinnamon buns.



Our PE classes have been very busy skating with the Ghostriders, Golfing at Sparwood Golf club and practicing their skills at the archery range.



Halloween

Check out some of these amazing costumes from staff and students:

