



ELKFORD SECONDARY SCHOOL

December 2020 NEWSLETTER

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Phone: 250-865-4674 Fax: 250-865-2915

Website: <http://www.sd5.bc.ca/school/ess>

Michael Kelly, Principal

Ian Jarrell, Vice Principal

Principals Message

We are nearing the halfway point of a difficult school year. I think we should all be proud that we have made it to this point. Winter break is a time to recharge and ready ourselves for the remainder of the school year. I want to share two Aesop fables I think are important for all of us in the new year.

The Crow & the Pitcher

In a spell of dry weather, when the Birds could find very little to drink, a thirsty Crow found a pitcher with a little water in it. But the pitcher was high and had a narrow neck, and no matter how he tried, the Crow could not reach the water. The poor thing felt as if he must die of thirst.



Then an idea came to him. Picking up some small pebbles, he dropped them into the pitcher one by one. With each pebble the water rose a little higher until at last it was near enough so he could drink.

Belling the Cat

The Mice once called a meeting to decide on a plan to free themselves of their enemy, the Cat. At least they wished to find some way of knowing when she was coming, so they might have time to run away. Indeed, something had to be done, for they lived in such constant fear of her claws that they hardly dared stir from their dens by night or day.

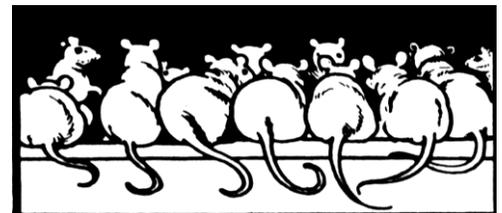
Many plans were discussed, but none of them was thought good enough. At last a very young Mouse got up and said:

"I have a plan that seems very simple, but I know it will be successful. All we have to do is to hang a bell about the Cat's neck. When we hear the bell ringing we will know immediately that our enemy is coming."

All the Mice were much surprised that they had not thought of such a plan before. But in the midst of the rejoicing over their good fortune, an old Mouse arose and said:

"I will say that the plan of the young Mouse is very good. But let me ask one question: Who will bell the Cat?"

Parents and students, I want to wish you all enjoyment and the chance to recharge over the winter break.



Attendance

I want to ensure all parents are clear on two things:

1. No student should be absent from the school unless the parent has notified the school of this absence. This includes leaving at lunch, if a student is not going to return after lunch parents should notify the school of this absence.
 2. Morning bell schedule: 8:30am - all students should be in the building and 8:34am - class starts and all students should be in their seats ready to learn.
(Morning bell is being adjusted to ring 2 minutes earlier to give students and teachers more of a warning)
-

Reminder: Smoking or the use of a Vape is prohibited on all school property. If any student needs assistance with quitting, please see the office for assistance.

Upcoming Important Dates at ESS

JANUARY		
	4	1st Day of School for 2021
	6	PE 9 - Cross Country Skiing (Boivin)
	8	PE 9 - Cross Country Skiing (Fernie/Sparwood)
	11 - 13	Grad Photos with Lifetouch
	13	PAC Meeting via Zoom, 6pm
	22	NI - Yellow Day
	27	Let's Talk (Mental Health Day)
	29	Q2/T4 - Ends
FEBRUARY		
	15	NI Day - Blue
	26	NI Day - Green

Reminders from the Office....

To contact a staff member in our school please email by using: firstname.lastname@sd5.bc.ca.

If there are any changes to your personal contact information (phone numbers, addresses, email, etc.) please let the office know by emailing: ess.mailing@sd5.bc.ca.

Grade 7 FSA

Upon our return to school in the new year, grade 7 students will be beginning the process of completing FSA (Foundational Skill Assessment) within the first week. Component's of the FSA include reading, writing and numeracy.

FSA is used as a tool for School Administrators, School Districts and the Ministry Of Education to collect data regarding rates of numeracy and literacy of students across British Columbia. This data helps education professionals support student learning, consider curriculum and implementation, and consider instructional practice.

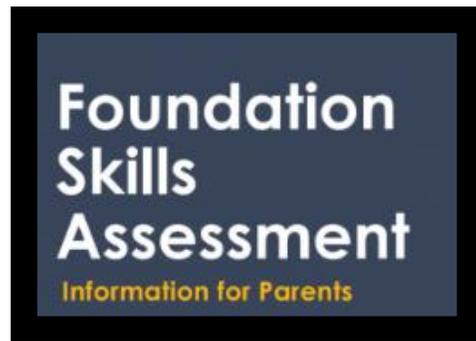
It is the expectation that all Grade 7 students complete the FSA and is a requirement under the BC's School Act. Information about every child is important to parents and to schools. When all students write the assessment, parents, teachers, schools, and the province receive accurate information on how students are learning.

Because students engage in reading, writing, and numeracy activities in their regular classroom work, no special preparation is required to prepare for the FSA. However, student's will be provided with an opportunity to discuss the FSA with administration and will be walked through the process to ensure they are familiar and prepared for what is being asked.

For additional information regarding the FSA, please see the Parent Information Brochure through following link: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/assessment/fsa-parent-brochure.pdf>

If you have any questions, please contact Ian Jarrell (Vice-Principal) at the school.

Ian Jarrell
Vice Principal
250 865-4674



FYI..

It is one minute faster to walk to Chauncies Food Mart / Asian Fusion on the sidewalk than to cut through the woods. Seems like the sidewalk is the best way to go.

New Way to Report Absences

One of our greatest priorities is ensuring that all our students arrive safely to school every day. To improve our safe arrival process, we are adding a new system that will make it easier for you to report – and respond to – school absences of your student.

The new student absence reporting system will let you use a mobile app, a web site, or an interactive toll-free phone line to report an absence *in advance*. As a result, it will take the school less time to verify student attendance, and less time to begin to notify parents and guardians of absences that were unexpected or unplanned.

This time savings makes it faster and more efficient to account for all students and their safety. If your student is marked absent and the absence hasn't been explained in advance, our new SafeArrival system will be able to rapidly contact you by automated phone call, text message, email, or mobile app push notification to get a reason for the absence. Calls and contacts will continue until you choose an option to explain the absence.

This new, automated SafeArrival process is part of our SchoolMessenger notification system from West, and our new SchoolMessenger mobile app for iOS and Android devices. It'll be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to make it convenient for you to report future absences.



You'll soon be receiving more details on how to sign up for SafeArrival and we look forward to all families taking part.

RISE Awards

Elkford Secondary is excited to announce that we have kicked off our new RISE Awards program and have presented our first awards! Congratulations to Nike Joy who was presented with the RISE Integrity award.



Thank You United Steel Workers

A big thank you to the United Steel Workers. This week, the United Steel Workers of Elkford have just donated \$500 to the PE program at Elkford Secondary School. Mr. Gulyas' PE program has been working to take students out into the local community and the Elk Valley, to experience community adventures and activities. This donation is intended to support the transportation costs of the program, so all students can have access to these local adventures.



Another big thank you to the Steel Workers, this financial support will help all students experience what their local community has to offer.

Interior Health

Interior Health will be offering in school immunizations for all Grade 9 students, in the early new year. Consent and supporting documents were sent home with your child on or around December 2nd. These personalized consents provide opportunity for students to be offered routine school immunizations as well as missing routine childhood immunizations. Public health will return to the school to collect the consent forms Dec 9th. If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Elkford Public Health at (250)865-2247. For more information on Grade 9 immunizations please visit the following link: <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthlinkbc-files/grade-9-immunizations-bc>

Thanks please let me know if any additional information is required,

KYLIE KWASNY, RN, BScN
Elkford Public Health
212 Alpine Way, Elkford BC V0B1H0
250-865-2658
Kylie.Kwasny@interiorhealth.ca



ESS Door Decorating Challenge

Once again Elkford Secondary School had its annual Christmas Door Decorating Challenge. The doors turned out amazing and added Christmas cheer to our hallways. Congratulations to Ms Buchan's Environmental Science 11 class who won the challenge this year.



Science 9

Science 9 students working on Mine Craft Chemistry, making different substances such as soap and glow sticks. They also explored the material reducer to investigate what elements certain objects are composed of. Thank you Mrs. Froehler for working with us on this project.



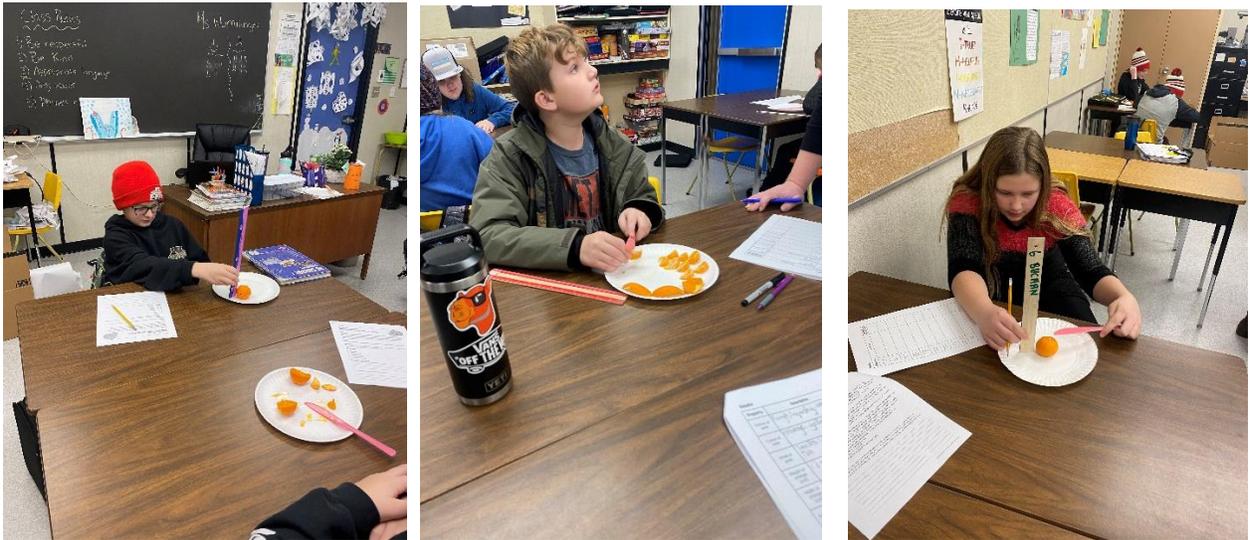
French 7

French 7 students enjoying “la raquette” (snowshoeing) and “la neige” (the snow). Students did a great job on this adventure and came back to school for a “chocolat chaud” (hot chocolate). Well done Grade 7.



Science 7

In science 7, the students have been learning how to conduct a chemistry experiment. On December 4th, they had a chance to do one of their own. Each student had materials needed to document some qualitative and quantitative properties of oranges. They worked in pairs or groups and got to explore using their senses and measurements and then record their observations on a data sheet. The grade 7s showed how they would conduct an experiment in a chemistry lab, and did an awesome job!



Elkford Secondary School PAC

Every parent and guardian that has a student at ESS is automatically a member of our Parent Advisory Committee (PAC). Each year the ESS PAC distributes funds for extracurricular materials and activities for our students. This ranges from presentations at our school and help with field trips to maintaining equipment that has previously been purchased by PAC. We also provide new equipment to our sports teams and support for any other club in the school as well as any extracurricular supplies needed. Without volunteers this support would not be possible. Please consider attending monthly PAC meetings. Due to COVID meeting will be virtual on Zoom. IF you would like to attend please contact the Office and a link will be sent to you.

2021

PAC Meetings

2nd Wednesday of other month at 6pm

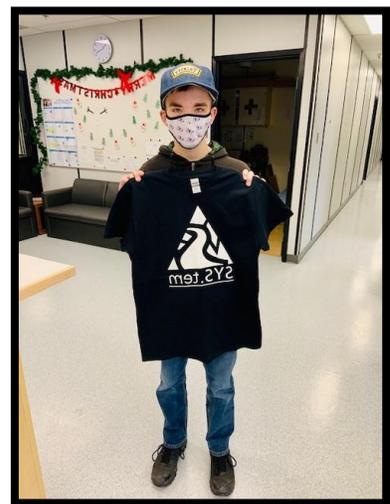
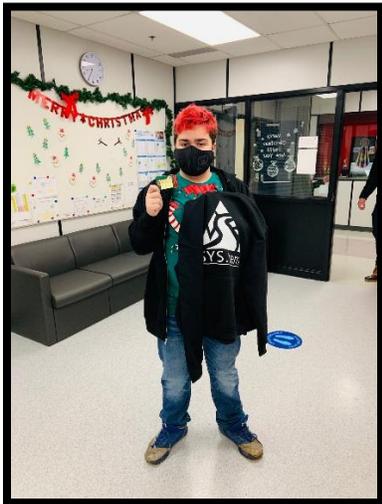
January 13

March 10

May 12

Elkford Food Bank

Congratulations students! You all dug deep into your pockets to make donations to the Food bank and they will be receiving a cheque for \$800. The winning class was Ms. Buchan's Math 10 class with a total of \$184.05. Ryder Borys is the winner of a SYS.tem hoodie and \$20 Tim's card for his contribution of \$85. Second place winner is Aria Shank and third place goes to Hunter Ferenc. Your generosity and thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated. ESS – you rock!



Mr. Gulyas' PE 8 and 9: Outdoors and Indoors



Grade 8s and 9s have been hustling this new quarter. Some of the highlights have been climbing mountains, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, working on their field craft and swimming.

We started this quarter with an introduction to making winter survival shelters and then moved on. All students have had a chance to snowshoe, the school district had a class set to share with Elkford students, as well as students brought their own. For many, this was their first time they ever put on snowshoes independently of parents, they had to work together to make sure their gear was dialed in and



ready to go. Students climbed and snowshoed into the wilderness, up steep terrain, worked on route choice, directional navigation and making a fire from just matches (making a nest out of combustible materials that



could generate enough heat to burn the kindling and then the thicker wood).

For the first time in many years, Elkford Secondary students had the opportunity to go swimming down at the Elkford Aquatic Centre. Students were introduced to the career of lifeguarding, aqua fit

and life guarding drills and skills. There was also winter safety discussions about being on ice and the thickness required do such things as skating. Students also simulated falling through the ice by rolling around in the snow, experiencing the shock of being instantly cold and wet. They also simulated climbing out of broken ice and trying to climb to safety; as well as a rapids self-rescue. There was also time to work on diving skills; such as, stride entry, shallow dive, slip and disorienting. This was a wonderful experience of water fitness, learning to be safe around water and an introduction to lifeguarding.

Finally, a huge thank you to PAC and Elkford Secondary for fully funding this adventure, as well as the Aquatic Centre's Staff for for providing such dynamic and educational activities. It has been a pleasure getting to know these students, seeing their strengths, willingness to learn and working together. I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday, where they stay safe and healthy. I hope to see you all early in the New Year.



Computers 7/STEM Numeracy

Season's Greetings! Computers 7/STEM and Numeracy class have been busy over the past month. Each class we start with 10 minutes of Numeracy Ninjas, 20 minutes of Mathletics on the computers, and 15 minutes of keyboarding skills on Elkford Typing Club. We have done some online design assignments in SketchUp, some block-based coding in Scratch, and some photo manipulation in Photoshop. We have talked about digital literacy, history of computers, and a little on the hardware and software aspects of how computers work. We have escaped the computer lab many times by playing card games, playing Monopoly, and going snowshoeing. The long classes have been challenging at times, but majority of the time, the students have been on task and focused. I have been very happy with the class, and I hope they continue to develop their computers skills in the future.



Art 11 and 8

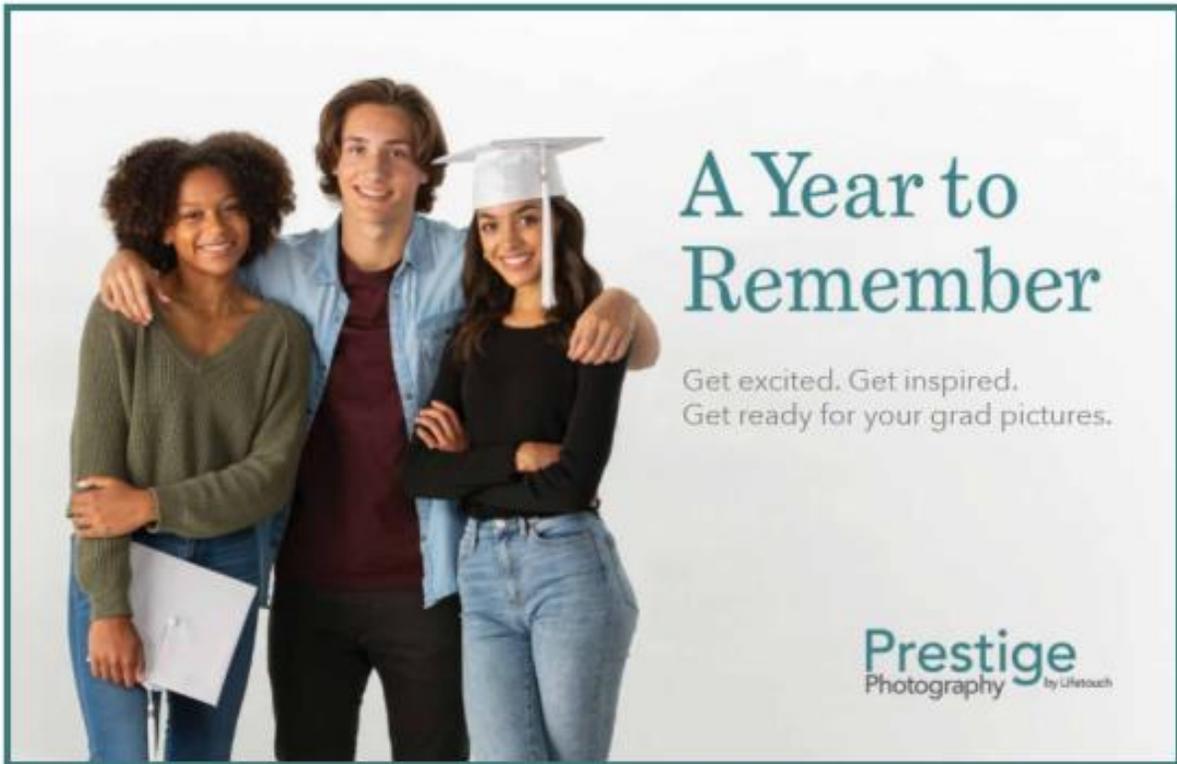
Students have been working very hard to finish their last two projects – Gold Leaf Painting inspired by Gustav Klimt and The Coffee Painted Portrait. Both projects are on display in our display window in the hallway. We are currently in process of hollowing clay sculptures inspired by Aboriginal Ways of Knowing. Take a look at these wonderful creations!



Foods 11/12

The class has learned how to bake bread and Dutch Babies. We have also dehydrated apples for a healthy snack and made apple sauce for the muffins. Students learned how to preserve foods and prepare healthy, homemade, and delicious dishes that don't have a negative impact on the





A Year to Remember

Get excited. Get inspired.
Get ready for your grad pictures.

Prestige
Photography by Lifetouch

BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT

prestigeportraits.ca

(click here)

Elkford Secondary School

Portrait Sittings Start: Monday Jan 11

Location: ESS

Notes: Please review our COVID-19 precautions

COVID-19 Precautions

In order to ensure your safety and that of our staff we have made a few adjustments to our operations:

- If you are experiencing any symptoms related to COVID-19, as outlined by the BC Ministry of Health, please do not come to your appointment. We will be happy to reschedule you to a later date.
- Please arrive for your appointment five minutes prior to your scheduled time. We will not be able to accommodate you if you are late for your appointment. Only the graduate will be allowed into the Photography area.
- At this time we will not be including pets, friends or family members in portrait settings.
- We will only be accepting debit and credit for payment of sitting fees.
- The use of props provided by Lifetouch is voluntary. We have implemented safety protocols for sanitizing props or will provide one time use props for each sitting. Graduates can bring appropriate props to be included in their sitting.
- We will be providing sanitized gowns for your sitting however we will not be providing graduation caps at this time

Plan and prepare for your graduation photo sitting at

prestigeportraits.ca

(click here)

Prestige
Photography by Lifetouch

If you have any questions regarding booking an appointment or what to expect please contact us:
Calgary 403-255-5440 | Lethbridge 403-327-2658 | Red Deer 403-356-9410 | Medicine Hat 403-487-5256



Introducing the Family Portal

Enhancing Communication with Parents and Students

School District 5 (Southeast Kootenay) is launching the [MyEducation BC Family Portal](#) in three phases. Phase One of the launch will include the following schools:

- Mount Baker Senior Secondary
- Elkford Secondary

[MyEducation BC](#) is the system used across the province for managing student information such as attendance and report cards. The family portal allows parents to have access* to the [MyEducation BC](#) system where you can view report cards, attendance, demographics, and progress towards graduation.

*(*not all features may be available in the Family Portal initially)*

Benefits of the [MyEducation BC Family Portal](#):

- Parents can easily access their child's report card
- Increases the security and privacy of student information. With the Family Portal, report cards are stored and accessed on a secure web server as opposed to sent out via email or on paper.
- Parents can view up-to-date attendance information on the same day it is entered.
- Parents can view demographic information and contact the school should updates/changes need to be made

In the next few days, you will receive an email from [MyEd BC](#) providing you with your username and password to access the Family Portal. You will also receive an email from the school with further instructions on how access the portal. Please add sysadmin@myeducation.gov.bc.ca to your address book to make sure it does not end up in your junk mail. The message will look like this:

```
Parent,  
Welcome to the Southeast Kootenay MyEducation BC FAMILY PORTAL which will  
allow access to course information.  
  
To Access the MyEducation BC System  
1. Visit www.myeducation.gov.bc.ca/aspn  
2. Make sure popups are enabled for your browser  
3. Your username will be: (sd5-firstinitiallastname)  
4. Your temporary password will be: (system generated code)
```

For instructions on how to use the portal, please refer to the [Family Portal Website](#). The [SD5 Family Portal Instructions to Parents](#) is found under the support button. There are also many useful support documents on this site for your reference.

Please see the attached approved calendar for the 2021-2022 school year.

School District 5

2021-2022 Annual School Calendar

July 2021						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

August 2021						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

September 2021						
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			1	2	3	4
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

October 2021						
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

November 2021						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

December 2021						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

January 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

February 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

March 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

April 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

May 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

June 2022						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

- School Breaks
- Professional Development Days
- Stat Holidays
- Administrative Day
- Second Semester Starts/1st day of Q3 (if necessary)

Approved - December 8, 2020

Local School Calendar (School District No.5, Southeast Kootenay)

From the School Act, sections 87.01 and 87.02 and the new
School Calendar Regulation

Days in Session	180
Days of Instruction	173
Non-Instructional Professional Development Days	6
Administrative Day	1
First Day of School	Tuesday, September 7, 2021
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 11, 2021
Remembrance Day	Thursday, November 11, 2021
Christmas vacation period	Monday, December 20, 2021 - Monday, January 3, 2022
Schools reopen after Christmas vacation	Tuesday, January 4, 2022
First day of second semester/1 st day of quarter 3 (if necessary)	Monday, January 31, 2022
Family Day	Monday, February 21, 2022
Spring vacation period	Monday, March 14, 2022 to Friday, March 25, 2022
Schools reopen after Spring vacation	Monday, March 28, 2022
Good Friday	Friday, April 15, 2022
Easter Monday	Monday, April 18, 2022
Victoria Day	Monday, May 23, 2022
Last day of school for students	Thursday, June 23, 2022
Administrative Day	Friday, June 24, 2022
Minimum Hours of instruction (Kindergarten)	853 hrs
Minimum Hours of instruction (Elementary)	878 hrs
Minimum Hours of instruction (Secondary)	952 hrs
Minimum Hours of instruction per day (Elementary)	5 hrs 5 min
Minimum Hours of instruction per day (Secondary)	5 hrs 31 min

Professional Development Days	School Breaks	
	Semester 1	Semester 2
October 1	November 26	March 14-25
October 22	December 20-January 3	May 20
January 21		June 27-30
February 18		
April 25		
June 3		

Approved – December 8, 2020