

NO. 9 LEARNING TOGETHER

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In the Schools

A picture says a thousand words...

Virtual Engagement Night

LEARNING TOGETHER IN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5 (SOUTHEAST KOOTENAY)



The start of the school year has been busy, with schools hosting open houses, Terry Fox runs, and Laurie Middle School organizing the annual Paarlauf fun run for grades 4-6 in Cranbrook. The exciting announcement of a much needed new elementary school in Fernie brought positive news, though uncertainty remains about the future of Amy Woodland Elementary School in Cranbrook. This situation continues to be a work in progress.

It's important for the District to acknowledge the tremendous effort that went into ensuring students and staff had spaces ready for the school year. The dedication of the Amy Woodland staff, who worked tirelessly over the summer to prepare classrooms and rebuild lessons, has been incredible. Thank you to the students, families, and staff who had to adapt to new locations, as well as to the schools that welcomed additional students and families with open arms.

As previously shared with Cranbrook families, to clarify any uncertainty, the District has not yet received direction or information from the Ministry regarding next steps for Amy Woodland. This process will, unfortunately, take time. The District will engage the larger Cranbrook community for consultation once we receive guidance from the Ministry. As we are in a provincial election year, this may also delay a final decision. We understand the difficulty in moving forward with one community in our District, where significant enrolment pressures exist, while awaiting further direction on an emergent need in Cranbrook.

I had the pleasure of attending Mount Baker Secondary School's first Truth and Reconciliation assembly. It was a respectful and somber event reflecting on identity, compassion, and the importance of understanding the truth. As a district, we are moving beyond just observing Orange Shirt Day and are deepening our engagement with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's 94 Calls to Action. I encourage everyone to mark their calendars for next year and participate in local events for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

The fourth edition of the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning is now available on our website. Section B outlines where we are as a District and aligns with the growth plan priorities of individual schools. These school growth plans, also available on the website, are developed in consultation with community rightsholders and reviewed by Parent Advisory Councils (PAC). If you're unfamiliar with your school's PAC, a list of PAC chairs is provided on the website, I encourage you to get involved.

We are once again proud to have a team of District leaders and counsellors participating in the Compassionate Systems Leadership (CSL) initiative. CSL is an integrated framework that enhances individuals' and collectives' ability to drive systems change. It focuses on three interconnected domains: personal mastery, reflective interactions, and systems thinking. CSL draws on practices that promote individual insight and well-being, while also strengthening interpersonal relationships and fostering a deeper understanding of how systems contribute to outcomes.

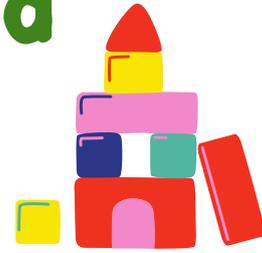
Lastly, the District hosted the regional chapter meeting for the Kootenay Boundary Branch of the BC Superintendent's Association (BCSSA) on October 23-24. The event was held at the beautiful Rocky Mountain Prestige Resort and included the tour of the Ktunaxa Interpretive Centre.

Viveka Johnson,
Superintendent



Early Learning and Child Care

District Principal of Early Learning and Child Care,
Laura-Lee Phillips



As part of our ongoing efforts to support the needs of our students and families, we are pleased to share updates on our commitment to school-aged care on school grounds. The District understands the importance of providing a safe, structured, and enriching environment for children before and after school. Offering school-aged care in schools ensures that students have access to child care while staying within a familiar, secure environment. It helps alleviate challenges for working parents and provides students with valuable opportunities for play, recreation, and social interaction outside of the classroom.

The District currently has school-aged care on school grounds open at Highlands Elementary and Gordon Terrace Elementary Schools.

For more information, please contact:

Highlands Elementary School

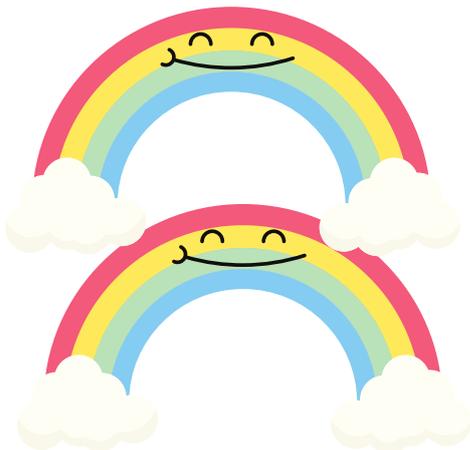
Candice Bennett j4k@ccssebc.com

Gordon Terrace Elementary School

Corra Scoville gt.staynplay@gmail.com



As we continue to refine and expand our offerings, we are exploring ways to increase the availability across school sites. We are working on other child care projects in Cranbrook, Jaffray, Fernie, Sparwood, and Elkford.



[Let's Play! Activities for Families](#)



[Play Today: A Guide for Families](#)



News from District Teachers



District French Immersion Teacher, Marzia Bottoni

Bonjour et joyeuse rentrée! Hello and happy back to school!

The first professional development day was spent with Lindsay Cochrane, expert in French early literacy skills. The teachers learned in the morning with Lindsay and collaborated in the afternoon on how they can use the tools that they now have at their disposal to improve our students' reading and writing skills.

Along with workshops to inform practice, District French Teacher, Marzia Bottoni, has been busy sourcing and getting the appropriate resources into the hands of the French teachers. Grades 8 & 9 novels, French Math Up licenses and the reading platform Je lis! Je lis! are just a few examples of what teachers are trying with students.

The French teachers also love AIM (the Accelerative Integrated Methodology) so the District is ensuring that teachers have the kits that they need in order to use this proven method of teaching a second language. Marzia is now working with Core French teachers across the district who are interested in learning this approach by helping them access workshops and resources.

The big picture:

Start up is the time to support new teachers in particular, and set short term goals for the year and revisit long term goals for the future. As such, much collaboration has already begun with formalized meetings and regular school and classroom visits to both the French Immersion and Core French schools. Youpi!

What is on the horizon?

Teachers will be meeting in their teaching groups and will be trained in the reading screener, Acadience Reading Français, working on community presentations at each French Immersion school and continuing work on the curriculum guides and resource pages for both teachers and parents.

We are so excited and grateful to be doing this work!



News from the School Food Coordinator

School Food Coordinator, Vince Girimonte

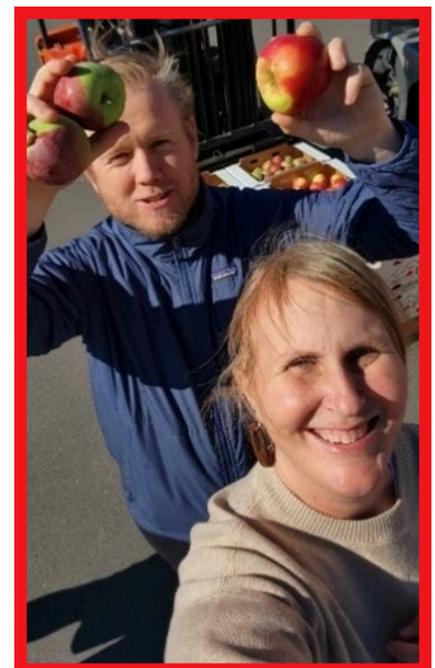
Meals and Nutrition in Schools

Principal Michael Kelly and the new School Food Coordinator, Vince Girimonte, have been busy for the past two months. They have been visiting schools to conduct research on food programs and meeting with staff including school administrators, Youth Care Workers and Indigenous Education Support Workers.

Vince has piloted purchasing fresh produce directly from BC Growers and distributing it to each school. He recently purchased a bulk order of apples from the Okanagan in collaboration with Cranbrook Food Bank. Each school received a 20 pound box of apples.

In addition, Vince has been co-managing the College of the Rockies Nursing Practicum and has created projects and a syllabus for nursing students as they focus on food assistance, food security, nutrition and health.

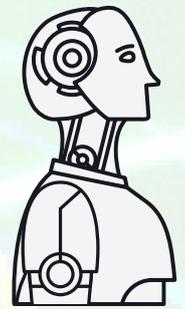
Both Michael and Vince also travelled to Vancouver on October 24 to attend the provincial Feeding Futures Fall Gathering.



School Food Coordinator Vince Girimonte and Cranbrook Food Bank Director, Julie Rose



DISTRICT DESIGN LABS



Teachers of Transformative Learning **Ryan McKenzie and Kim Froehler**

Discover Some of the New Tools at the Design Labs for the 2024-25 School Year!

Pixicade Pro:

Perfect for elementary to middle school students, this app lets students design and play their own video games using simple drawing tools.

Ozobots Robots and Magnets:

Suitable for all ages, these programmable mini-robots and magnets teach foundational coding skills through colour-based and block coding.

Micro:bit 2.0:

Ideal for elementary to high school students, this pocket-sized device brings coding and technology to life.

Stop Motion Studio:

Great for students of all ages, this app enables the creation of high-quality stop-motion animations.

3D Printing with Bambu Printers and 3D Pens:

Perfect for upper elementary to high school students, these activities foster creativity and problem-solving skills.

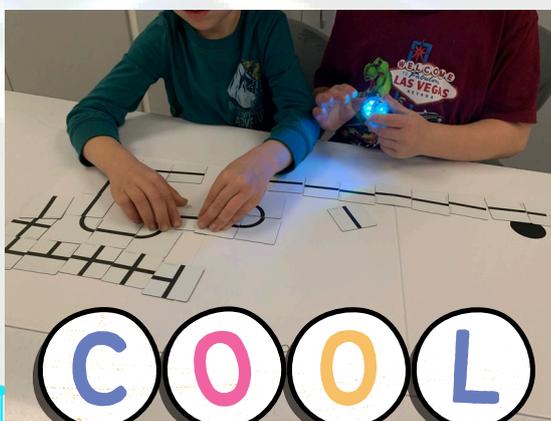
GoCube:

Suitable for all ages, this smart cube transforms the traditional Rubik's Cube experience into an interactive learning tool.

LEGO BricQ Prime:

Ideal for elementary and middle school students, these kits integrate play with learning, teaching numeracy and science content such as Newton's Laws and simple machines.

To view some of the other activities available at the Design Lab or in the classroom, please visit the Transformative Learning Menu at: <https://portal.sd5.bc.ca/public/vwbngbj/Blog/default.aspx#/>





OUTDOOR AND



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Michael Kelly, Principal

Kootenay Orchards Elementary Garden

Mrs. Shadeli's grade 4/5 class has been caring for the school garden. The first harvest was the zucchini. The class made zucchini chocolate muffins and then sold them in a bake sale to raise funds for their class field trips and they also donated a portion of the funds raised to the Amy Woodland class that has joined the school.



Elk River Alliance Live Stakes



2024 Harvested 510 (goal 100)
2023 Harvested 125 (goal 25)

Kootenay Discovery School



The Kootenay Discovery School Fernie blended program grades 4 to 9 spent the morning of October 9 volunteering with the Elk River Alliance. Students learned about the cottonwood restoration projects through the Elk Valley, and how the cottonwood trees contribute to reforestation and flood prevention. They spent the morning cutting over 512 live stakes for future planting



Gordon Terrace Elementary

Grade Three students from Ms. Ruoss' class went to Elizabeth Lake to listen to Ktunaxa legends and to look for signs of Fall.



Fernie Secondary

Grade seven students had an incredible camping trip that included a climb up Castle Mountain.



Mount Baker Secondary

Mount Baker students learnt canoeing and canoe rescue skills at Campbell Meyer Lake prior to a 3 day canoe trip on Columbia Lake.

Sparwood Secondary

Students from Sparwood Secondary were given the opportunity to hone their skills in Golf and Archery. Thank you to the community volunteers from the Sparwood Golf Course and Sparwood Fish and Wildlife.





AROUND THE DISTRICT

Doug McPhee - Board Chairperson

Doug McPhee serves as the Chairperson of the Board for School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay). A long-time trustee, Doug brings extensive experience in educational governance, having previously held roles such as Director of Student Learning before retiring. His leadership emphasizes collaborative governance, and under his guidance, the board strives to maintain clear communication and a strong focus on policy and educational standards. Doug's commitment to student success is central to his leadership style, and he continues to focus on ensuring the District meets its educational objectives while remaining accountable to the public.



Trina Ayling - Trustee

Trina Ayling is a trustee representing Cranbrook and Electoral Area C. She has been re-elected multiple times, a testament to her dedication to local education. Trina is actively involved in various community and educational initiatives, striving to advocate for policies that best serve students, staff, and parents. Her role on the board is marked by her passion for improving educational outcomes and maintaining a supportive learning environment across the District.



Bev Bellina - Trustee

Bev Bellina has dedicated over two decades to public service and education, making significant contributions to both the Sparwood community and School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay). She has served as the District's Board representative for the BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA) for 20 years and the BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) for 18 years. Bev has also been elected as President of the BCSTA Kootenay Boundary Branch, a position entrusted to her by trustees from various school districts.



Irene Bischler - Trustee

Irene Bischler represents Cranbrook and Electoral Area C and brings a wealth of experience to the board as the former president of CUPE Local 4165, the union representing support staff within the District. Her leadership in the union gives her a deep understanding of the challenges faced by educational support workers, and she is passionate about ensuring that all school staff receive the recognition and resources they need to support students effectively. Irene's focus is on fostering equity and inclusivity within the District while advocating for the needs of both students and staff.



Alysha Clarke - Trustee

Alysha Clarke represents the Jaffray and South Country region. Alysha is committed to enhancing the educational experience for students in rural areas. She advocates for policies that address the specific needs of her community, including access to resources and opportunities for all students.



Nicole Heckendorf - Trustee

Nicole Heckendorf represents the City of Fernie on the board. She is eager to contribute to the ongoing development of educational policies that focus on student achievement and well-being. Nicole brings a community-focused perspective to the board and aims to strengthen the District's support for local students and educators.

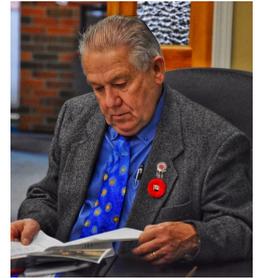


AROUND THE DISTRICT



Chris Johns - Trustee

Chris Johns is a long-standing trustee representing Cranbrook, with a history of leadership and advocacy in the educational sector. Prior to joining the board, Chris served as the president of the Cranbrook and District Teachers' Association (CDTA), where he represented educators and worked to improve working conditions for teachers and learning environments for students. His experience as a union leader brings a unique perspective to his role on the board, ensuring that both staff and students benefit from supportive policies. Chris remains committed to the continued success and development of District schools, with a focus on high-quality education for all.



Sarah Madsen - Trustee

Representing Elkford, Sarah Madsen is passionate about representing her community and ensuring that educational resources and support are accessible to students in more remote areas. Sarah's focus is on advocating for rural education and addressing the unique challenges faced by students in Elkford.



Wendy Turner - Trustee

Wendy Turner, re-elected multiple times to represent Cranbrook and Electoral Area C, is a dedicated advocate for educational excellence. Her experience includes serving as the president of the Cranbrook and District Teachers' Association (CDTA), where she worked to support educators and ensure positive working conditions. Wendy's union leadership experience enriches her contributions to the board, where she continues to prioritize student well-being and equitable access to education. Her long-standing service and commitment to the District's growth make her a vital part of the board's decision-making process.



Other News from Around the District



Streamlining the Hiring Process with Make a Future

The Human Resources Department is excited to announce the transition from EJP PowerSchool to Make A Future for all external job applications. This move will simplify the recruitment process and enhance efficiency.

Why Make A Future?

As a leading job platform for BC's education sector, Make A Future provides access to a wider pool of qualified applicants across the province and Canada, helping attract top talent for schools in the District.

What Does This Mean?

To date, the Human Resources Department has posted 209 teaching and 108 support roles for the 2024/2025 school year. Transitioning to this new platform applicants will enjoy a smoother, user-friendly experience, with easier navigation, application submissions, and status tracking—all in one place. For the District, this reduces administrative work, allowing Human Resources to focus on finding the perfect fit for each role.

Exciting Update:

There will be a new added feature for internal applicants in the coming months, making it even easier for current staff to apply for opportunities within the District.

Explore new opportunities today at [Make A Future!](#)





IN THE SCHOOLS



News from Schools Across the District



Fernie Falcons Invitational

Over 100 athletes competed in the Fernie Falcons Cross Country Invitational in October.



Pinewood Elementary hosts Saturday Volleyball Camp

Pinewood held a Saturday Volleyball camp for grades 4-6 to get ready for upcoming season. Thanks to Ellie Oestreich and Matt Warynychuk, former MBSS players, for taking the time to work with the students.



Fernie Secondary Hockey Class Hike

The members of the Fernie Secondary School (FSS) Hockey Class traded in their skates for hiking boots on Tuesday, September 24, 2024. This unique program was created by Mr. Cullins last school year.

The purpose of the class is to provide students from grades eight through twelve the opportunity to develop various skills and positive character traits while engaging in the sport of hockey at the Fernie Memorial Arena. This year's group of players involve experienced, skilled players and individuals that are new to the sport—everyone is welcome!



Frank J. Mitchell Playground Grand Opening

The grand opening of the Frank J Mitchell Elementary playground was held on October 8, 2024.



A picture says a thousand words...



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5 (SOUTHEAST KOOTENAY)

VIRTUAL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT NIGHT

NOVEMBER 7, 2024
6:30-7:30 p.m.

This is an online event hosted
on TEAMS

Reflect

- What will we do differently?

Develop

- What is our focus?

Act

- How will we implement?

Evaluate

- Review, Assess and Update

TOPICS

The Framework for
Enhancing Student
Learning for the District
and the Community

Strategic Plan

