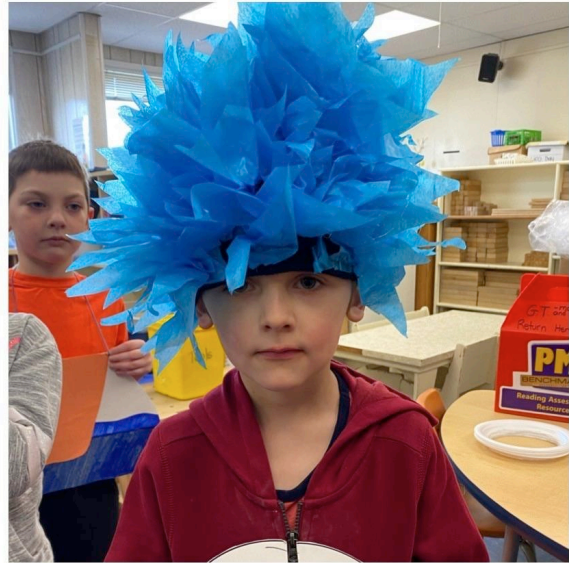


# SOUTHEAST KOOTENAY PATHWAYS TO LEARNING



PIC·COLLAGE

Dr. Seuss Day at Gordon Terrace Elementary School

April, 2021





## School District 5 (Southeast Kootenay)

### PATHWAYS TO LEARNING

Vision	Mission	Values
Students love to learn here, staff love to work here, families love to gather here	Our students will graduate with dignity, purpose and options	Respect, Vision, Fairness, Collaboration, Integrity, Inclusion

#### Engaging All Learners

**Goal:** To inspire all learning partners to create and contribute to an engaging, personalized educational experience for our learners.

- Provide a safe, supportive environment that fosters continued growth in a rapidly changing environment
- Honour all pathways to graduation
- Acknowledge deeper learning opportunities based on individual strengths and abilities

#### Advocacy

**Goal:** Advocate for specific needs in our District and for public education in general.

- Encourage governments to fully fund public education
- Advance the replacement of aging schools through Ministry and community partnerships
- Provide a forum for the development and celebration of innovative practices



#### Effective Communication

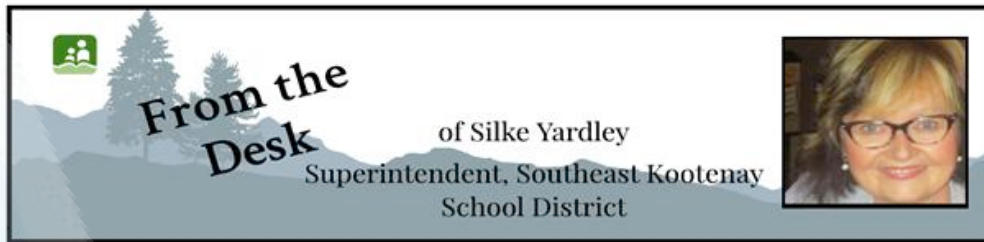
**Goal:** Continue to foster two-way, ethical communication between the District and all learners, students, staff, parents and community in a timely, concise and inclusive manner.

- Ensure information is current
- Provide user-friendly platforms
- Create opportunities for meaningful dialogue

#### Inclusive Partnerships

**Goal:** Cultivate opportunities for shared community awareness, engagement and resources to enhance student learning.

- Engage community participation in providing meaningful student learning opportunities
- Promote educational partnerships that enhance student learning and are beneficial to the community
- Advance active community engagement in real-world learning opportunities for students



April 1, 2021

Dear students, staff, parents and caregivers:

Welcome back! I hope you had a restful two weeks with your family enjoying our beautiful communities. Spring Break is always such a great time to rest and recharge as the school year starts to wind down. While we still have plenty of learning to do, this is the time where we start to reflect on the year and the schools and the district start to look at next year.

Kindergarten registration for the 2021/2022 school year is open and most students have registered already. If you know of any kindergarten parents who have not registered their children, or are new to the neighbourhood, please remind them to call the school in their catchment area for our new "COVID" safe registration procedures.

As you may have heard, due to recent changes in cases of COVID-19 in BC, the Provincial Health Officer has recommended changes to the mask requirements for K-12 schools. **All staff, adult volunteers and visitors, and all Grade 4 to 12 students are required to wear a non-medical masks or face coverings at all times while indoors at school and on school buses, subject to some exceptions (detailed on Page 30 of the updated [SD5 Protocols](#)).** Students in Grades K to 3 are encouraged to wear masks, but are not required to do so.

We are in the process of sourcing reusable masks for students although we request that parents/caregivers send their children with masks when returning to school on April 6.

Additional information will be coming directly from your school with respect to the availability of masks and updated school protocols. Please watch for information from your school principal. We will continue to send updates as we get new information.

Take care, and enjoy the excitement of the first week back to school!

Silke Yardley

[BCCDC Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools](#)

[Provincial COVID 19 Health and Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#)



940 Industrial Road #1, Cranbrook, BC V1C 4C6 • Tel:250-426-4201 • Fax:250-489-5460 • www.sd5.bc.ca

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# Engaging All Learners

## Summary of February 26, 2021 Professional Development Day

February 26 was a professional development day for our staff. Topics of learning were decided on at a school level. Below is a brief summary of what our teachers were learning during this time:

- Technology – Green Screen filming and editing, resources at the DRC, Media Smarts, Zoom, Virtual Open House planning, iPad training
- Wild Schools presentation
- MasterClass on negotiation and communication with Middle School kids
- UBC Gearing Up STEM seminar
- Learning through Play; Play is the Way program, Adventure Smart BC Training, Outdoor Games with Janelle Park
- Dr. Jody Carrington: ReLit Review
- Dr. Jody Carrington: Stay Lit webinar online
- Dr. Jody Carrington: Kids' These Days modules
- Trauma Informed Practice; how trauma affects the brain, what does a stressed brain look like, soothing the stressed brain, school and home based interventions, resources
- Mind Up presentation
- Math groups
- Literacy; Reading with Powerful Understanding – Adrienne Gear, books with themes of connecting, transforming, questioning, visualizing, inferring and books for Aboriginal Education
- FSL/FI exploration
- Student supports for a diverse classroom
- Science, space based learning and resource curriculum
- Health & Wellness: Burnout Prevention & Recovery, Mental Resilience – Thriving through Rapid Change & Connecting and Wellness through humour, brainstorming frustrations
- Collaborative planning: Primary & Middle School Team planning
- Self-Directed

## Get Outside & Play WEBINAR SERIES

Get Outside and Play is offering 6 webinars to deepen your professional practice and knowledge around outdoor play and learning. This is an exciting series with experienced educators covering the following topics:

- March 17 Supporting Young Children with Diverse Abilities
- March 24 Loose parts - Inspiration for Indoor and Outdoor Play
- April 7 Pedagogical Documentation in Outdoor Environments
- April 12 Assessing Outdoor Play Spaces, What to Look for and Why
- April 21 Physical Activity in the Early Years
- April 28 Talking with Parents and Colleagues about Outdoor Play

Learn more at:  
[getoutsideandplay.ca/events](http://getoutsideandplay.ca/events)

## Bugs, Rodents and Robots

Amy Woodland Elementary School students from Mrs. Kessler's Grade 2 class started their coding journey with the Code-A-Pillars and Coding Mice available from the District Resource Center. They learned about computer languages such as binary and symbols and then programmed their mice and Code-A-Pillars to complete different exploratory challenges. The great thing about the Coding Mice and Code-A-Pillars is how they introduce coding with robotics without any devices and at a level that all students can participate.



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# Engaging All Learners



## Enhancing Communication with Parents and Students

School District 5 has opened the [MyEducation BC student portal](#) at Mount Baker Secondary, Elkford Secondary and Parkland Middle Schools. The student portal was also temporarily set up for students at Fernie Secondary, Sparwood Secondary and Laurie Middle Schools (grade nine students only) to help facilitate the 2021/2022 student course selection process. The student portal provides students with online access to demographic and academic information. Schools and teachers can use the portal to communicate with their students in a variety of ways, including distribution of published reports (i.e., report cards), access to gradebook assignments, and sharing of content.



## SchoolMessenger Communicate and SafeArrival – A Powerful Way to Stay Connected

SchoolMessenger Communicate and SchoolMessenger SafeArrival are being utilized by most schools within School District 5. The SchoolMessenger Communicate system has also been very successfully embraced by our transportation department.



## We are Still Smarter Than the Bots

Students from T.M. Roberts Elementary School Grade 6 French Immersion class were challenged to create an invention using the Lego Spike kits at the design lab. They learned how to code and planned their ideas in a few short classroom sessions before coming to the lab to build their designs. There were toy pets, armoured vehicles and encrypted safes. All the students were excited by the group who followed a complex set of directions to create a Rubik's Cube solver. Most of the projects went through multiple iterations, mistakes and rigour to realize their vision. One of the students who is a self-professed Rubik's Cube aficionado raced the robot and was able to beat it by over a minute!

Check out the video of the Rubik's Cube Solver [below](#).

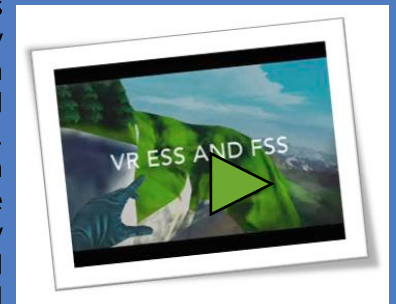


## Mental Wellness and the Design Lab

Mr. Cullins brought his physical and health education class from Fernie Secondary School to the design lab to explore how using technology appropriately and working as a team to achieve a goal can have a positive effect on a person's well-being. Students worked together to complete various Lego Spike robotics challenges and others used the time to explore virtual reality. Recent studies show that virtual reality can have positive impacts on a [person's mental health](#).

## VR Explorations

Students in Mr. Roszell's class at Elkford Secondary School will be conducting a research project on virtual reality and the brain. Students have been given the opportunity to explore some different virtual reality applications to understand what it feels like to wear and experience a virtual reality headset. Check out the [video!](#)

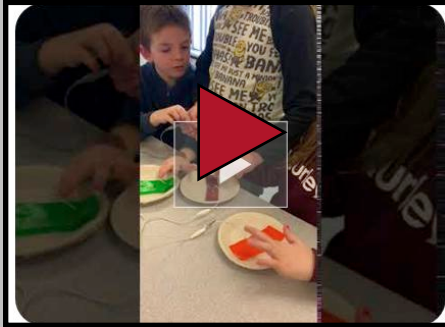


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# Engaging All Learners

## Making Music with Jell-O!

Students in Ms. Kennedy's class at Rocky Mountain Elementary School learned about electrical conductivity, computer science and music when they made Jell-O pianos. Students coded 3 notes for their pianos and played music for each other. We invited Principal Ehman to take part in the fun!

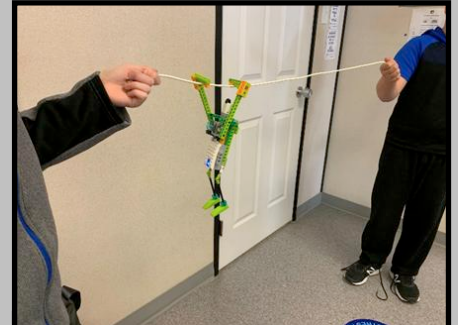


Jell-O



## Going Above and Beyond with Lego Wedo

Some students from Ms. McMullan's grade 5 class from Rocky Mountain Elementary School were challenged to find a Lego Wedo design that was not from the Lego Wedo app. One group wanted to build and code a shark, while another group built a forklift. Mrs. Froehler built a robo-monkey! Kids can do hard things!



## Strawberry DNA Extraction Lab at Sparwood Secondary School

Students in Mr. Powell's Grade 9 Science class at Sparwood Secondary School extracted the DNA from strawberries earlier this month. Students crushed up a mixture of frozen strawberries, salt and dish soap and then added the mixture to a graduated cylinder. Students added alcohol that was chilled to approximately -15 degrees celsius which helped form a layer of DNA material. Students were then able to extract the DNA from the mixture and observe it.



Students were encouraged to think about the composition of DNA and its importance in coding genetic information for all living organisms. They were also able to better understand the fact that DNA is made of the same basic components regardless of the species. Finally, students reflected on the fact that the genes coded in DNA molecules are passed on through sexual and asexual reproduction, and that variation in genes is the driving force for diversity in species and evolution of species. The Grade 9 students were very engaged and asked a lot of great questions!

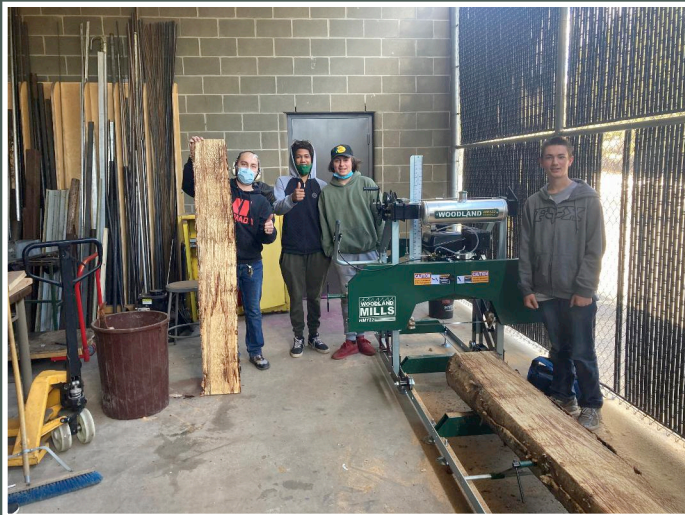


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# Engaging All Learners

## Industrial Arts department mills boards

The Industrial Arts department at Sparwood Secondary School milled these boards with their new sawmill on March 16. They have been working hard to raise money to purchase this new piece of equipment. The staff and students are excited about the new learning opportunities that this equipment will bring. This valuable project would not have been possible without the collaboration and generous donation from the Elk Valley Thrift Shop Society.



Hunter, a Youth Train in Trades student in the welding program at the College of the Rockies.



Cheyenne, a Youth Train in Trades student in the electrical program at the College of the Rockies.

## **Reconciliation: A Slow Journey**

by Shelley Balfour, Cranbrook District Teachers' Association President and Teacher Magazine Advisory Board member

Click on the picture to read her story



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# Inclusive Partnerships

## Internet Smarts

White Hatter presentations are being arranged at many of our schools. Teachers will be showing the Internet Safety and Digital Literacy for Pre-teens Ages 12-13 (grade 6-7) and Cyberbullying, Sexting, Nudes, Intimate Images, and The Law ages 15+ (Grade 8-12) in class. The Leveraging the Internet & Social Media to Create Opportunities ages 16-18 (grade 10-12) presentation will be presented in the evening as it is a great opportunity for parents to understand some of what their children are doing online and how it may help their future.



## Upcoming Online Workshops for Educators

1. April 20 - [Imaginative Ecological Education](#)
2. April 27 - [The Sky Above and the Mud Below](#)
3. May 4 - [Water Education Resources](#)



**New and Exciting** things to report at the District Resource Centre next month! Stay tuned!



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# Inclusive Partnerships



**FSI ZOOM FAMILY HANGOUT**

JOIN US FOR AN INTRODUCTION TO THE FAMILY SUPPORT INSTITUTE OF BC  
MONDAY APRIL 19TH. 6:30 PM

Ben Postmus – Regional Network Coordinator for the Kootenays will introduce Families to Family Support Institute and peer to peer support model.  
The Only Grass Roots Family to Family Support Network in Canada.

“We support any family, any disability, anywhere in the province”  
[bpostmus@fsibc.com](mailto:bpostmus@fsibc.com) / 250-231-7712 for more info.

[Click To Register](#)  
You can find links to the Zoom calls and other great tools and resources here:  
<https://familysupportbc.com/covid/>

**FSI SUPPORTS AND SERVICES ARE FREE TO ANY FAMILY.**

**FAMILY SUPPORT INSTITUTE OF BC**  
*family supporting families*

Toll Free: 1 800 441 5403  
Email: [fsi@fsibc.com](mailto:fsi@fsibc.com)  
[www.familysupportbc.com](http://www.familysupportbc.com)

Family Support Institute of BC (FSI) is a provincial not-for-profit society committed to supporting families who have a family member with a disability.  
FSI is unique in Canada and the only grass roots family to family organization that has a broad volunteer base.  
**FSI SUPPORTS AND SERVICES ARE FREE TO ANY FAMILY.**

## Inclusive Education Committee

The Inclusive Education committee met again on February 24, 2021. Discussions were held about how to best serve our vulnerable students, budget priorities and potential budget redistributions. The Inclusive Education committee is focussed on creating short term, long term and a 3 year plan in regards to budgets and student services. We're thankful for the dedication of this team and their commitment to our vulnerable students.



## Student Services – Speech Pathology and Assisted Technology

Communication is a basic need. All people, regardless of their age, status, ability, or communicative capacity have the right to receive and convey messages, to hold opinions, and express themselves. Everyone should uphold others' right to communicate as they interact with people in daily life to enhance equality, justice, and human dignity.

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media regardless of frontiers. (United Nations, 1948)

Speech Language Pathologists use Core Boards and picture symbol communication with non-verbal and low verbal visual learners. The boards contain “core words” which are some of the words we use most frequently.

Students, Jun Mi and Declan, work with their Core Boards at Amy Woodland Elementary School. These students practice and use their vocabulary and expression every day. Communicating builds relationships and a sense of belonging in a group of peers.

Jun Mi is seen here using a step-by-step communication device. This helps Jun Mi express a pre-recorded message when asked a question.



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# Inclusive Partnerships

This first week back from Spring Break will hold the annual general meeting of the leaders of Indigenous Education in British Columbia. We are hearing that there may be changes to the Indigenous Education Targeted Funding Regulations, so this will be an important timing for gathering; not just for the usual outstanding examples of practice from around the province, but now potentially for some process-driven discussions as well.

We have recently met with the Indigenous Education student data statistician from the Ministry of Education who has shared some valuable insight into our District's Indigenous student data, as well as hearing our concerns around tracking post-secondary transitions out of province. It sounds like they may have some solutions at the provincial level. More information to come!



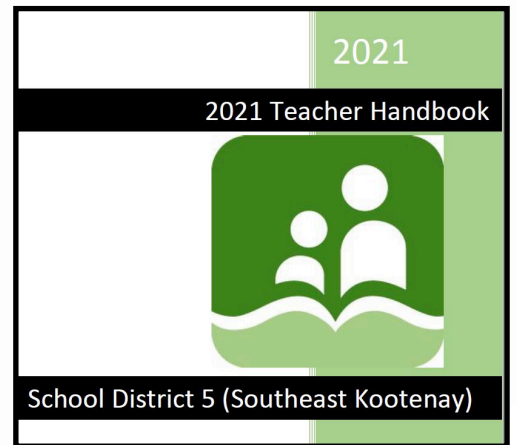
## Advocacy

The 2020/2021 school year was a year of tremendous growth for our CUPE support employees and we are on our way to well over 250 postings when we normally average 130-150/year.

Our teacher postings will top up at just over 220 this year.

The teacher initiated transfer process will be reviewed at the end of April at the same time we will also look at any necessary district initiated transfers. Once the transfer processes are complete, teacher post and fill for the next school year will begin.

As we move into late May we will begin our intake for teacher teaching on-call opportunities for the 2021/2022 school year.



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# Ministry of Education Update

**New Assistance for Young Adults from Government Care:** Young adults who are participating in the Agreement with Young Adults (AYA) program, or who are eligible to participate, may apply for the Canada-BC Housing Benefit to get help paying their rent. Young adults interested in this opportunity should contact Provincial Centralized Screening at 1-800-663-9122. More information about eligibility and the application process can be found in the Renting section on the [COVID-19 support for youth and young adult web page](#).



**Update on Grade 10 Literacy Assessment (LTE10/LTP10) Exemptions:** This year's Grade 12 students are not required to write the Grade 10 Literacy Assessment, including Évaluation de littératie de la 10e année – Français langue première. Please note that schools no longer need to submit spreadsheets for exemptions. The Ministry is applying exemptions to all students in Grade 12 on the BC Graduation Program (2018). The timing of the 'XMT' application may vary depending on the [session release date](#) or whether there have been multiple registrations. If concerns, contact [TRAX.Support@gov.bc.ca](mailto:TRAX.Support@gov.bc.ca).



The 2020/21 District/Authority scholarship [allocations and awarding guidelines](#) are now available for administrators. Instructions for reporting conditional recipients will be provided next month, in advance of the June 30 reporting deadline. Additional information about this program is available on the [District/Authority Scholarships web page](#). Contact [scholarships@gov.bc.ca](mailto:scholarships@gov.bc.ca) with any questions.

**New Children and Youth in Care Web Pages:** The Ministry has published two new web pages to help support children and youth in care: one for [educators and administrators](#) and the other for [students and caregivers](#). The websites provide a wide variety of resources to support students in care in educational settings. Any questions please contact [inclusive.education@gov.bc.ca](mailto:inclusive.education@gov.bc.ca).



**Curriculum and Learning Support Fund:** More information is now available on the [Curriculum and Learning Support Fund](#) that will continue to be provided to districts for the 2021/22 school year.

**Gangs and Guns Online Resources:** The Ministries of Education and Public Safety & Solicitor General and Safer Schools Together are pleased to announce the launch of the [Gangs and Guns Online Resources](#): a suite of videos and guides to increase awareness, knowledge and competencies related to gang and gun violence prevention for educators and school support staff, parents and students.

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# Schools

## COVID Eliminators

T.M. Roberts Elementary School students Nandini and Isla, share their knowledge of how to eliminate the spread of COVID-19.



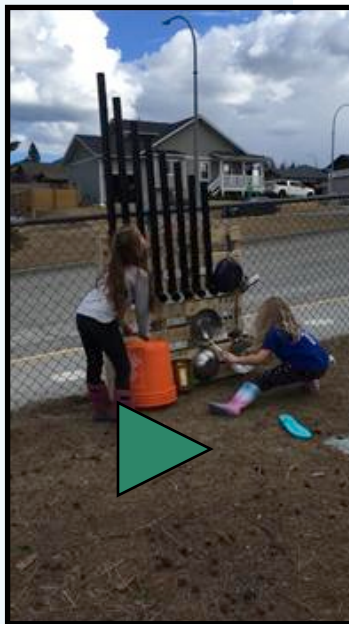
Sparwood Secondary School student, Tyler, proudly displays his woodwork project from Mr. Lund's Wood Shop.



SSS ski day!



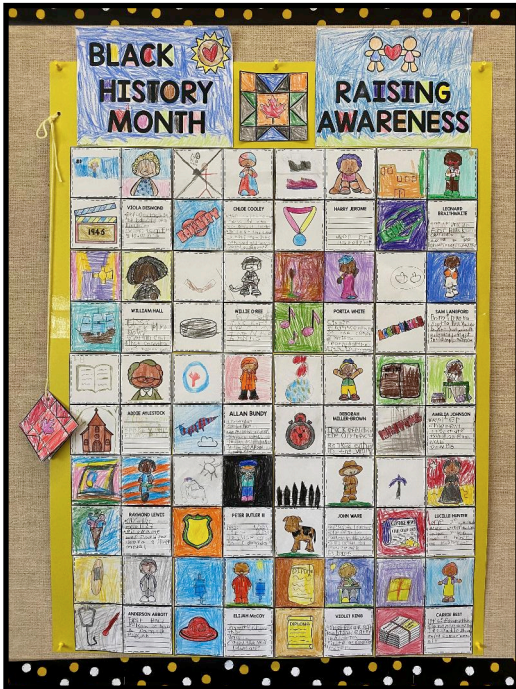
On March 4, the Outdoor Education class at Sparwood Secondary School cross-country skied to the Montane Hut in Fernie. The trip was the culmination of the students' nutritional unit. It involved meal planning, prepping, and determining the nutritional needs of each individual on the excursion. While at the hut, the students took part in team building activities and worked on their leadership skills. The students pushed their boundaries, successfully accomplishing the 8 km loop and had a fantastic time doing so!



Kootenay Orchards Elementary School has created an outdoor classroom. The newest addition to the outdoor classroom is the sound garden for all to enjoy. Have a listen!

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# Schools



Candace Ivanco's Grade 1/2 class at T.M. Roberts Elementary School took on Black History lessons and created this amazing "patchwork" quilt...brilliant learning experience!



Yaj Lavarius and David Steiner from Mt. Baker Secondary School are the winners of the Skills BC TV/Video Regional competition. The competition had teams from the West Kootenays and 2 teams from the East Kootenays.

Yaj and David will move on to compete in the provincials on April 15th. Congratulations and Good Luck!!



Mrs. Jones' Grade 6 black history presentations at Isabella Dicken Elementary School.



Ktunaxa cultural discussions with Chief Joe Pierre and the Grade 1s at Gordon Terrace Elementary School.

Madame Webster's Grade 2/3 class at T.M. Roberts Elementary School - tableau periodique de l'histoire des Noirs au Canada.



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# Schools



Gordon Terrace Elementary School had a Dr. Seuss spirit day.

Dr. Seuss inspired art by the Grade 5/6 class at Gordon Terrace Elementary School.



St. Patrick's Day mayhem at T.M. Roberts Elementary School!



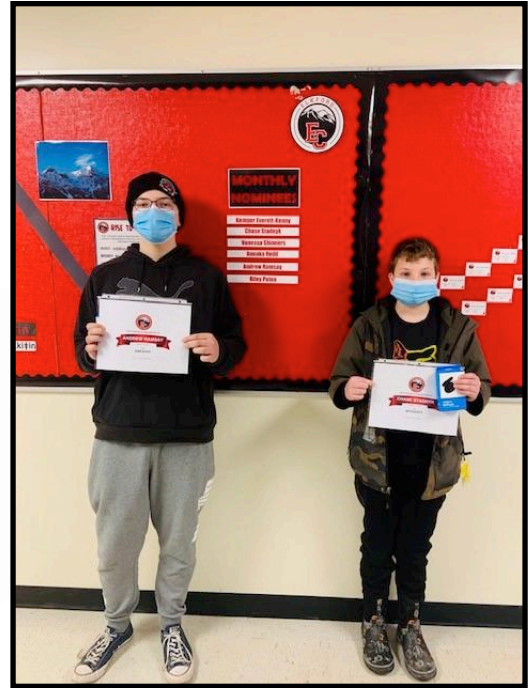
Experiential learning in Elkford's wilderness - all English 7 students at Elkford Secondary School have been experiencing their learning. The current theme for English 7 is survival. Students are reading stories about characters that find themselves struggling to live in the harsh Canadian wilderness. Students also snowshoed into their local forests and wrote from their own perspective about their experiences. These grade 7 students showed grit and creativity.

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# Schools



March RISE Awards at Elkford Secondary School! Way to go!



Chase and Andrew!



This was the Kindness Captains' final good deed before the March break. Students from Isabella Dicken Elementary School bought the fire fighters donuts and stopped in for a visit. The fire fighters were so excited they let them take a picture on their fire truck!

Another kindness project during our month of Kindness Connections from our amazing Youth Care Worker and Aboriginal Education Support Worker.

## Kindness



Leadership and Community Connection- Fernie Women's Center



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