

SOUTHEAST KOOTENAY PATHWAYS TO LEARNING



Pinewood students from Mrs. Morrison's and Mrs. Williamson's classes at St. Mary's Lake for Wilderness Wednesday

December, 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

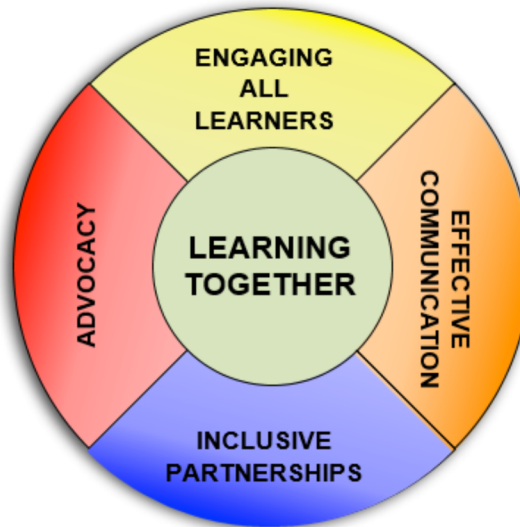
Goal: To inspire all learning partners to create and contribute to an engaging, personalized educational experience for our learners.

- 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

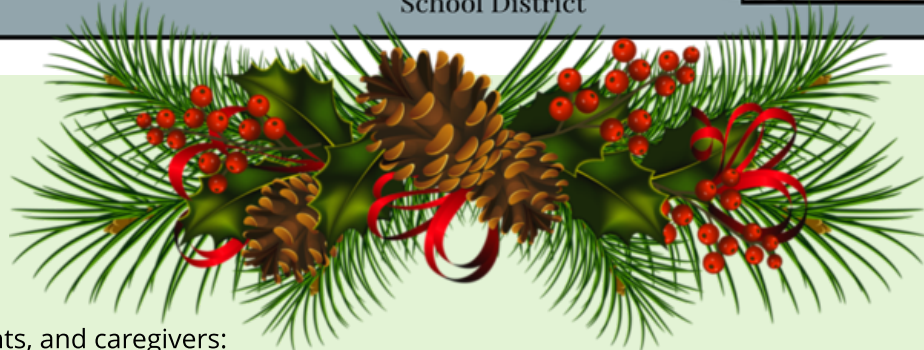
Goal: Continue to foster two-way, ethical communication between the District and all learners, students, staff, parents and community in a timely, concise and inclusive manner.

- 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



December 14, 2021

Dear students, staff, parents, and caregivers:

It is hard to believe that we are almost at the Christmas break. My hope for you is to have a well-deserved, restful holiday with your family and your friends and take some time for yourself and for each other. Go skiing, hike up a mountain, swim in the local pool, skate with your kids, snuggle with your children or loved ones on the couch and enjoy what the season has to offer you.

As we go into our second school year where it feels as if things are still flipped upside down at times, I am so proud of all of you who contribute each and every day to learning, to teaching, to caring and supporting each other and our students/children.

There are times where I can feel and hear your stress: please know, I hear you, and I appreciate you.

When I get the chance to go into a classroom and talk to our students, when they show me their crazy hats on crazy hat day, when they show me their printing or their artwork they are proud of, when I see all our wonderful staff supporting our students, it makes me proud and humbled to be your team leader.

Take care of yourself. Have a very Merry Christmas and all the best for 2022!

Silke

Please continue to send in your pictures to our district email at SD5mailing@sd5.bc.ca of all the good things happening! We love posting thing about students, and schools!



The
Rainbow
Connection

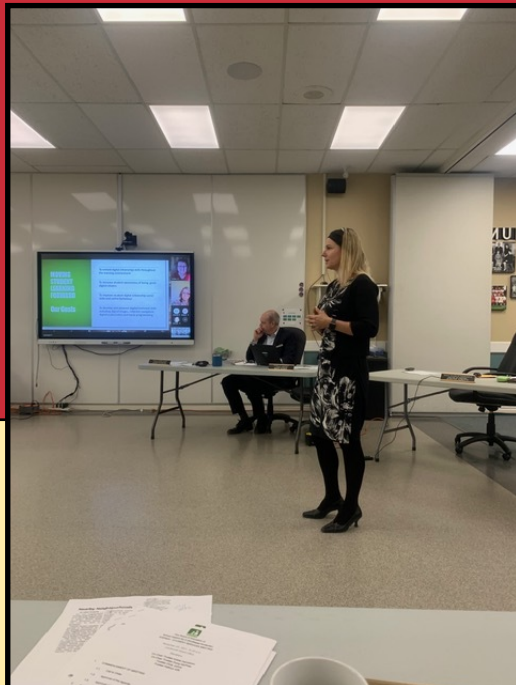
Professional Learning in
School District 5

Story Workshop January 6	Project of Heart January 21
Shifting the Balance—Book Study January 17	Take Action for Reconciliation January 21
FESL Project with Dr. Louie January 18	Reimagining Math Seminar January 29
Resources to Teach & Learn for Sustainable Future January 20	Teach Mental Health Literacy Ongoing Registration

Have you checked out the [Rainbow of Learning](#) lately? Not sure how to use the Rainbow of Learning? Instructions [here](#).

Engaging All Learners

Rocky Mountain Elementary and Elkford Secondary School joined together with Nasu?kin Joe Pierre, Numa ka•kin (drummers), and Metis Elders for a Blessing of the Stones ceremony. Staff and students got to participate and learn the meaning of these stone circles. We all enjoyed the beat of the drum and the sound of the singers. The sun was shining and the beautiful view of the mountains enhanced this amazing experience. Our school community is thankful they came to Elkford to share their culture and bless our stones.



Jennifer Roberts, District Principal of Transformative Learning, presented her Framework for Enhancing Student Learning Project to the Board of Education at the Advocacy/Education Committee in November.

Jennifer's project was on Digital Citizenship. Great job Jennifer!



Swimming Programs have started again on Tuesdays and Wednesdays in Cranbrook at Western Financial Place. Kids worked on gross motor and socialization skills while learning to swim. We have approximately 80 kids over the two days participating in this project. It's going swimmingly well. All are happy to be participating.

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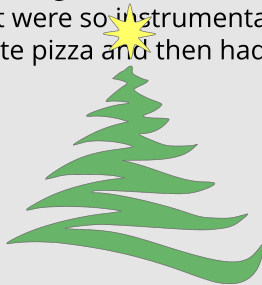
Mandt Training

We wrapped up our first phase of Mandt training for the calendar year. For the physical skills training, we had a little help from some special guests. The in-person training was a welcome and refreshing experience after having only virtual sessions last year.



Student Services Teachers (SSTs) & Itinerants met at the Jaffray Hall, November 3rd, 2021

All student services teachers and itinerants met on November 3rd and shared updates from district student services specialty areas. A presentation around the pandemic and the learning gap we are experiencing was received and discussed and self-care strategies were demonstrated and practiced. The Framework for Enhancing Student Learning was presented and the role of the SST was discussed along with school based team positive practices. New assessment protocols were also shared. A celebration of the 2020 Special Education Audit was held as this was the first time that we have been able to gather as a student services team. We discussed the successes that were pointed out by the audit team. Congratulations were given to the SSTs and Itinerant staff that were so instrumental in our success. We ate pizza and then had cake.

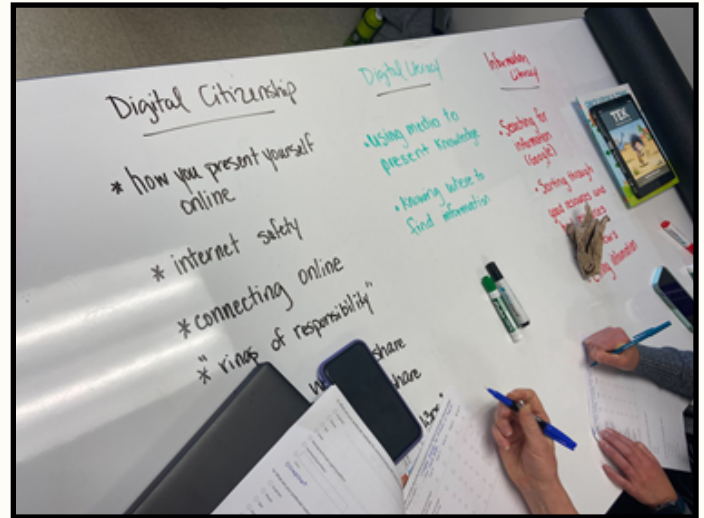


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Teachers from multiple Schools in Cranbrook and the Elk Valley got together for their second meeting on December 1 to continue with the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning sessions surrounding the topic of Digital Literacy. They continued to explore the diversity of this topic and the resources that will help students build social and technical skills when working with digital mediums. The goal of the project is building and following digital literacy skills of these grade 4 students over the next few years.

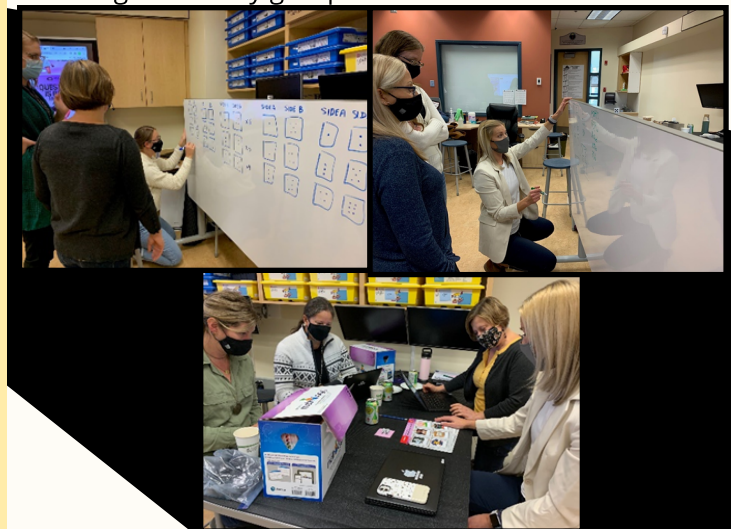


Teachers from across the district met in Fernie for a day to explore the Thinking Classrooms book written by Peter Liljedahl. They played with multiple problems then discussed and tried out the three main qualities of the Thinking Classroom Philosophy: rich numeracy tasks, random grouping, and vertical non-permanent surfaces (i.e. whiteboards).

You can find many of the rich tasks in the [Portal on the Numeracy page.](#)

Teachers from Rocky Mountain Elementary and Jaffray Elementary Junior Secondary school participated in a live webinar with a presenter from Pearson Education at the Design Lab in Fernie. The presentation was the second in a series that gave an in-depth tour of the online platform called **Mathology.ca** and corresponding print resources.

The goal of the session was to create a math unit plan using these new resources available to teachers participating in this Framework for Enhancing Student Learning Numeracy group.

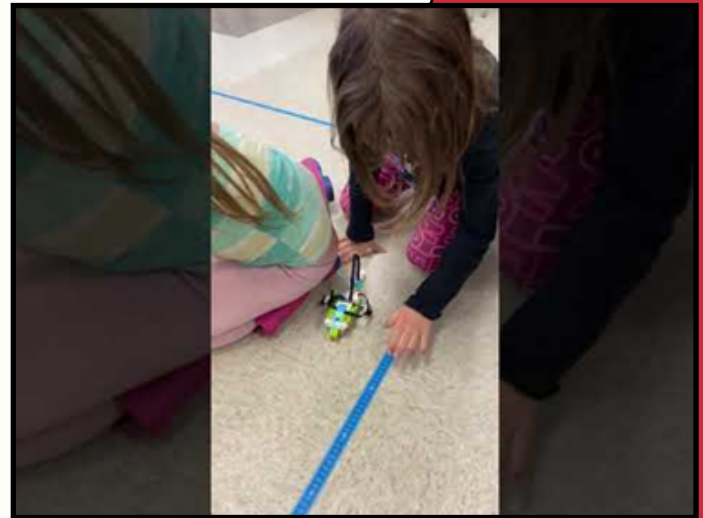


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Artificially Intelligent Frogs

The Lego frog challenge has always been a popular design challenge at the Cranbrook Design Lab. In the past, the students have learned how to build and code the frogs, but now they are learning to make their frogs smart. Students from Mrs. Enns' class made their frogs smarter by adding different sensors so they could react like real frogs. Once coded, their frogs participated in a real frog race that had students smacking the ground behind their "botphibians" to make them leap. See it in action here [Botphibian Race](#).



Géographique Nationale

Mme Ashley's class built some custom animals. They were able to choose a template from the Lego Wedo sets and then were encouraged to creatively customize their designs. Then they created a short narrative and had their animals square off in front of the green screen to make a National Geographic style movie. Check out the reel [here](#).

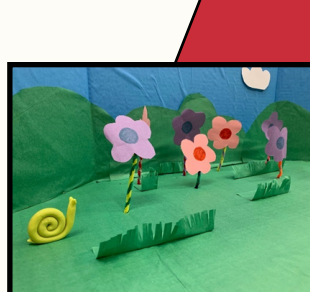
Immersing Ourselves in the Past with Virtual Reality

Students from Ms. Davies' Socials classes at Fernie Secondary School took some time to reflect and learn about the past using virtual reality. On the days leading up to November 11, students "visited" Anne Frank's house in Amsterdam. Students "picked up and held" various objects in the home to learn about the significance of that object. For example, students were able to "hold" Anne's diary in their hands and stand in Anne's bedroom. After the experience, Mrs. Froehler explained that Anne lived in hiding for about two years. One student exclaimed, "Two years!?" By using virtual reality, students were able to glimpse into Anne's life and to see things through her perspective by stepping into The Secret Annex. To see a non-virtual reality view of The Secret Annex, go to



<https://www.annefrank.org/en/anne-frank/secret-annex/>

Stop Motion in Action- Students in Ms. Gibson's class at Fernie Secondary School (FSS) worked diligently to create sets and props for their stop motion movies. Students learned how to take photos using a stop motion app and then import these films into iMovie. Some students used the Garage Band app to create music for their mini movies. This was a highly motivated group of students, and their ideas, sets, props, and filming were unique and well done. Great work FSS students!



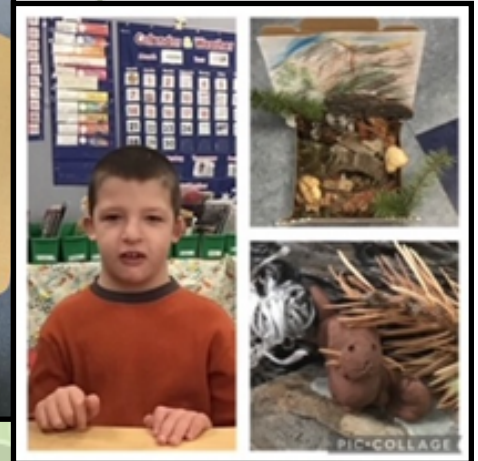
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Story Studio

During Story Studio, students from Steeples got the opportunity to explore Story telling technologies throughout history. They painted on the walls, carved clay tablets, made pictographs, wrote on papyrus, printed on wooden blocks, and “wove” tapestries.



Animal Inquiry

After starting an Animal Inquiry, students put on their fact-finding hats and used online resources to find out more about their animal.

Each student created a picture collage to represent their learning and use as a title page for their handmade books.

Multi model Literacy Learning at its finest

Students at Gordon Terrace Elementary and Highlands Elementary are using Ozobots to code CVC words. All students were engaged!

Literacy Series

Our District Literacy Support Teacher, Erin Jones, hosted the first and second parts of a 3-part series on Grade 2 Literacy. Each day was well attended with representatives from each elementary school.



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Inclusive Partnerships

School District 5 proudly recognizes Southeast Kootenay employee recipients of the "British Columbia Teachers' Federation Honourary Life Membership".

Chris Johns - 2009

Carol Johns - 2020



CalmConnect

20 Teachers and Counsellors in our District are part of a pilot project with CalmConnect. CalmConnect is a powerful program that helps everyone calm their body and mind. It can be used before learning activities, bedtime and anytime someone is nervous or feeling anxious. CalmConnect helps transition between subjects, activities, and daytime routines.



Backpack Buddies

We received our first delivery from Backpack Buddies during the last week of November. 102 food bundles, plus apples, were delivered to the schools who will distribute these packages to students who need food supports for the weekend.



Human Resources (HR) update - HR continues with postings for many of our CUPE support jobs as it is difficult to fill some of the trades positions. Teacher bargaining continues in both Cranbrook and Fernie.

CalmConnect

Through Pain and to Wellness: Community Based Suicide Prevention Workshop with Thira Consulting

During the week of October 25th, 5 of our Counsellors and 4 Aboriginal Education Support Workers participated in this workshop with Darien Thira. The workshop was held at the Chief Joseph Centre in Cranbrook, and was a joint collaboration between SD5 and Ktunaxa Kinbasket Child and Family Services. The training identified the deep wounds of colonialization for Indigenous people, suicidality and assessment rooted in anti-colonial perspectives, and wellness planning using strengths-based approaches.

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Changing Results for Young Children

The Changing Results for Young Children group met again in November. These Kindergarten teachers, Community Early Years coordinators and StrongStart facilitators share such a passion for children. We are thankful that they are a part of this project and our District.

This same group of participants also joined the Story Workshop: New Possibilities for Young Writers. The Story Workshop will be held as a 3-part series hosted by the Burnaby School District.



Mount Baker Secondary School Metis Flag Raising Ceremony - November 16, 2021
Metis Flag Raising Video

IT4K12 Virtual Conference

The IT4K12 Conference was hosted virtually again this year. It was an excellent two-day conference with a plethora of IT related and educational technology themed sessions focused on technology and moving forward together. Two of our Helping Teachers of Transformative Learning presented at this conference. Both sessions were very well received by the attendees.

Kim Froehler presented on the topic of Using Digital Escape Rooms to Promote Student Motivation and Collaboration.

Ryan McKenzie presented on Making Machines Smarter: The Foundations of AI for the Classroom.

[Have you checked out CBEEN's Resources?](#)



RESOURCES FOR ALL EDUCATORS



Outdoor Learning Store



Climate Change Resources



C2C Network



NAAEE

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Thank you Just Liquid

The Compass Program at Laurie Middle School received a generous donation of winter gear from Just Liquid in Cranbrook. What an amazing and purposeful donation to the program!

Accessible Math

The District Resource Centre has been working with the Numeracy Group to explore ways to make learning math fun and remove barriers that impede our students. Here are some resources on loan for you to use in your classroom.

Power of 10 Kit



Scholastic Math Place Manipulatives Kit



Teacher Reference: "Mathematical Mindsets" Jo Boaler (find the Google book review [here](#))

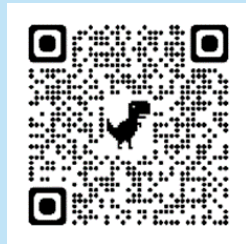
The Great Outdoors!

Outdoor lessons lead to increased engagement in the classroom! ([research article](#) from 2018 Journal of Educational Psychology). This is just one of the benefits of outdoor education and the District Resource Centre is here to help you get your class outside.

Outdoor Adventure Backpacks



Juggling Kit(QR code to how to Juggle for kids)



Teacher Reference Books such as "Dirty Teaching" by Juliet Robertson (find the google review [here](#))



Sean Reker is working on his wood box as part of his grade 8 shop class at Elkford Secondary School. Woodworking is a good class because it lowers stress while also promoting more movement of your body. It boosts mood and mental sharpness and reduces anxiety and stress. Woodworking is good to utilize math and communication skills. The hands-on part of woodworking can improve cardiovascular health and fine motor skills. Woodwork trains the student to hone a creative skillset that can be used later in life.

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Ministry of Education Update

As part of the Province's ongoing work to combat the surge in youth vaping, the Youth Advisory Council for Anti-Vaping and the Minister of Health created the [BC Lung Toolkit](#) with new classroom presentations for Grades 5-7 and 8-10, and a [video](#). These resources are intended to support school administrators, educators and parents in talking to children and youth about the risks of vaping.



Summer Program to Learn French in Quebec: The Explore program (formerly the Summer Language Bursary Program) is an intensive French language program for students ages 13 and up, with any skill level in French. All meals, lodging and instructional fees are covered through the program. Secondary students can receive four French elective credits to put towards their Dogwood Diploma. Those interested in this opportunity must apply on the [Explore website](#) by February 15, 2022. Please contact Marc.Labelle@gov.bc.ca if you have any questions.

COVID-19 Vaccination for Children Ages 5-11: COVID-19 vaccination is now authorized by Health Canada for children five and older. Getting young people vaccinated helps protect them and the people around them. Principals are expected to support families to receive trusted information about vaccines by printing the [BCCDC COVID-19 Vaccination for children 5-11 years old resource](#) and distributing it to families of students aged 5-11. Please also see this week's [COVID-19 update](#) for more information and resources on this topic.



[Students teaming up with BC Lions to end racism in schools](#)



[Joint statement on Health Canada approval of COVID-19 pediatric vaccine](#)

[Legislation strengthens transparency, modernizes local election financing](#)

[New act protects important services from disruption](#)

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Schools



Elkford Secondary School Pumpkin Carving



This is inspired by Jaqueline Hurley's "war poppy" art. Created by Ms. Dureski's grade 5/6 class and Mr. Pettifor's grade 6 class at Rocky Mountain Elementary School.



Highlands Elementary School singing their Remembrance Day song, We Are One.



Remembrance Day Art at Isabella Dicken Elementary



RISE TO THE SUMMIT

'Celtic Character Award' celebrates the culture of ESS, while supporting students in developing the character it takes to be successful and happy individuals at school and in the world.

RESPECT - ha#kaxuma#ti#

INTEGRITY - emakki

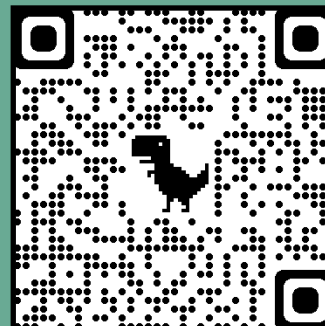
STRENGTH - emakqa

EMPATHY - haki#wiki#in



Made with PosterMyWall.com

To learn more about this program at Elkford Secondary School please check out the QR Code



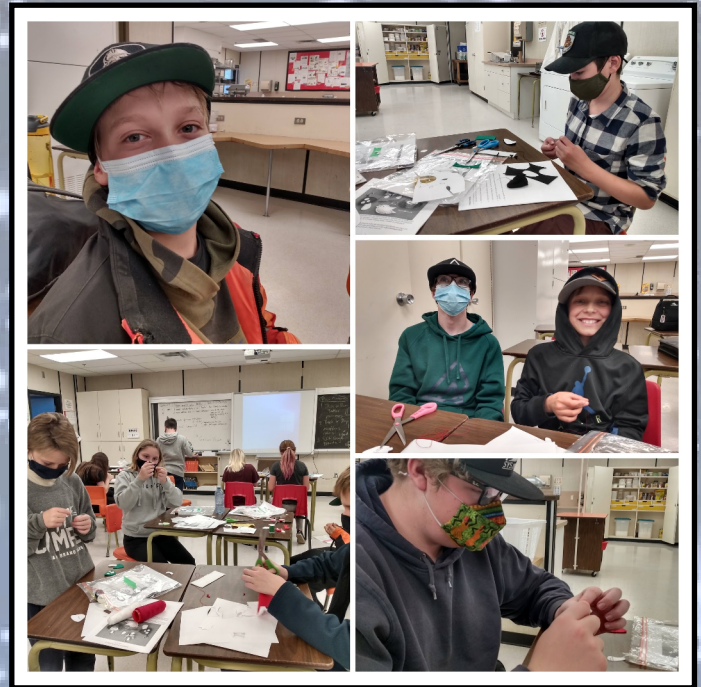
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Drop Everything and Read in forts at Frank J. Mitchell Elementary School



Fire Chiefs for the day at Isabella Dicken Elementary School

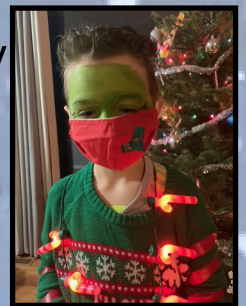


Mrs. Wenda's Home Ec. 7 class at Elkford Secondary School during their kitchen lab and finishing the sewing project.



Mrs. Wenda's senior foods class was challenged to make savory and sweet perogies - look at the great results!

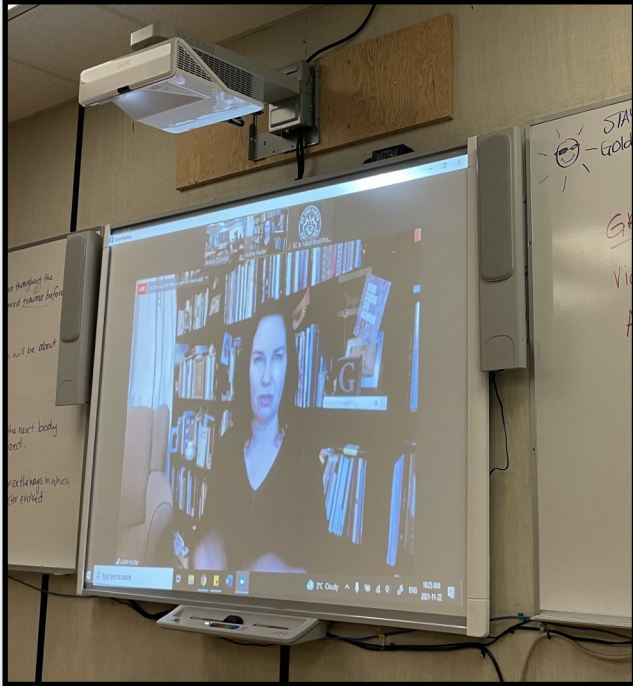
Crazy hair day at Highlands Elementary School!



Grinch Day/Dress like a Who at Highlands Elementary

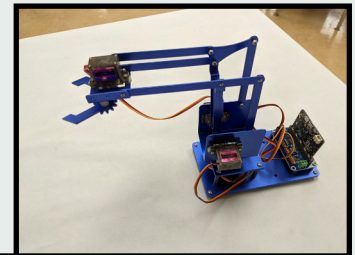
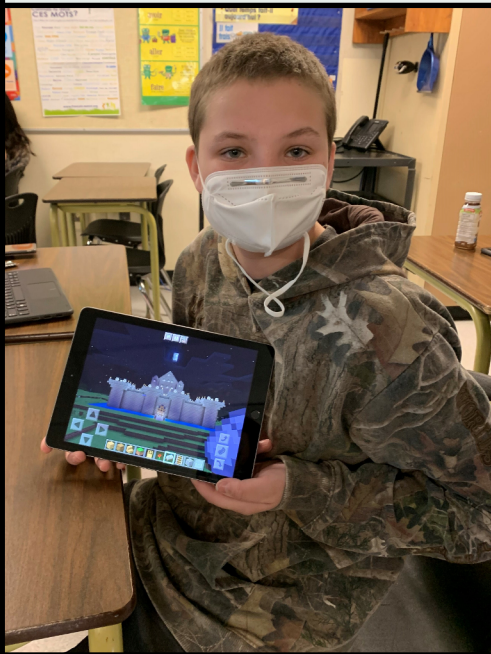
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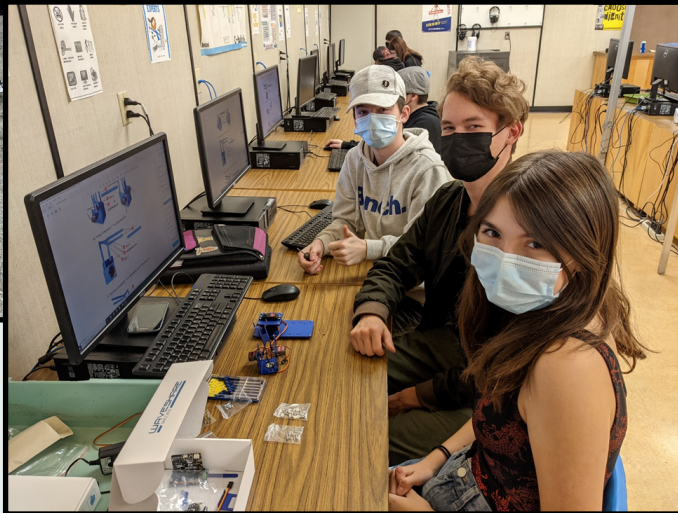


Earlier this month, the Grade 11 English class at Elkford Secondary School was fortunate to have a video conference with Canadian author Aislinn Hunter, who is a BC/Yukon Prize Author. Aislinn has several books published and one that has been transformed into a film. She talked to the students about her writing process and then did some writing exercises with the students focusing on adding details when creating characters and setting. It was a valuable experience!

Social Studies 8 students have been using technology to explore castles and learn about attack and defense methods during the Middle Ages. They completed a digital breakout room, used virtual reality, and are now designing castles with MinecraftEdu.



Canadian kids playing their favorite sport at Highlands Elementary School



In Mr. Roszell's senior computer class at Elkford Secondary School students were working on building some robotic arms this week. Next week we will be programming them to have a contest to see which team can pick up the most objects in a given time!

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Here are some pics of Ms. Chiasson's grade 4/5 class using the wild spaces around the school! With Frank J. Mitchell Elementary School being a Wild school our classes spend time learning outdoors everyday!



Equine Therapy sessions at Amy Woodland Elementary School have now come to an end. It was a very successful project! The kids attending mastered self-control and emotional regulation around the horses and were able to end the session by riding the horses. Our equine therapist, Emily, was phenomenal in supporting the students!

Thank you so much to the District for supporting this!

Check out these pictures!

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/QQXXR1RKXyvf2rFA>



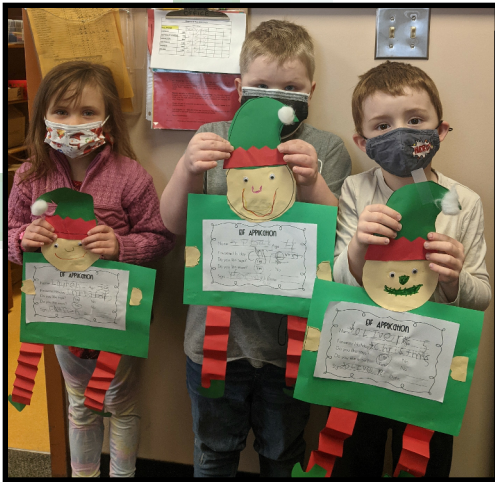
The snow is here! Mr. Sanford and Mr. Preston's PE 7 class at Elkford Secondary School succeeded in building the world's largest snowman. It required a team of highly skilled fabricators and one rubber chicken. Students built ramps and coordinated lifts to move pieces into position. Students have the option of going outside every Monday, Tuesday, and Friday, regardless of the weather. We encourage students to come prepared with boots and warm clothes since they will be out for the entire period.

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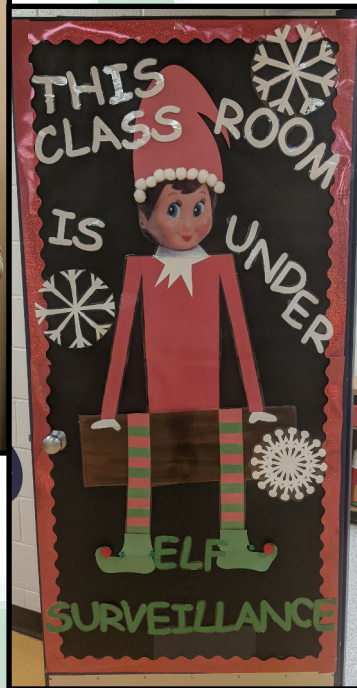
Schools



Look at how nicely Donny Nelson decorated his bus! Our lucky students were treated to this festive transportation on the way to gymnastics. We have the best bus drivers in School District 5.



Kindergarten class at Pinewood Elementary School and their classroom door!



Rigamajig in the classroom at Isabella Dicken Elementary School - Rigamajig Basic Builder is a large-scale, loose parts wooden building kit that inspires STEM/STEAM learning, innovation, creativity, and problem-solving skills through collaborative hands-on, and open-ended play.

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