

# SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5 (SOUTHEAST KOOTENAY)



JANUARY 2023

Students love to learn here, Staff love to work here, Families love to gather here



## A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



With the second semester in full swing, students, parents and staff will be invited to participate in the Student Learning Survey. This Ministry of Education and Child Care survey asks developmentally appropriate questions for grades 4, 7, 10, and 12 about their educational experience. It only takes approximately 30 minutes to complete, and it will provide the District with valuable information about your education experience. The survey asks questions about social and emotional well-being, academic and extra-curricular experiences, and overall satisfaction with school. Students will complete their surveys at school, and parents can access the link on their school's website. The results are available for the public on the Ministry's website and are used to help the District and schools plan for school improvement through the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning.

During this month's Principal and Vice Principal's meeting, the group and District Management looked at the book *Spirit Work* and the *Science of Collaboration* by Michael Fullan and Mark Edwards. The book was released on the heels of Covid and addresses racial inequity, polarizing politics, mass misinformation, and a myriad of other challenges that have made the future of education seem trickier than ever. *Spirit Work* and the *Science of Collaboration* speaks directly to leaders' hearts and advocates for developing two qualities that will bring back hope for the future of education: "spirit work" and the science of collaboration. Spirit work centers on the care for students, staff, and communities as the impetus for creating a positive culture, while collaboration is the vehicle for manifesting that work.

In partnership with [Interior Health](#), the District is testing all school district buildings for radon. The project includes reviewing radon results and supplementing ongoing testing efforts. Interior Health will work with the District if levels are deemed high. Radon is a radioactive gas that has formed naturally in the ground. It is colourless and odourless but can accumulate indoors, particularly in basements and ground floors. Please feel free to contact the District if you have questions about this pilot project.

Lastly, I have enjoyed attending schools and seeing amazing projects and events and learning in action. The Career Capstone fair at Fernie Secondary showcased students' passions and was a fantastic summative project for the grade 12s. Frank J. Mitchell Elementary School has created structured play groups to promote social well-being that encourages positive peer interactions. Sparwood Secondary School hosted an inaugural Elders meeting to promote the expansion of the Elders program to schools in the Elk Valley. We are fortunate to have so many amazing programs and support in our school system.

# LITERACY

## SUPPORT FOR UFLI

The primary teachers at Amy Woodland Elementary have joined the likes of 3 other district elementary schools and adopted a new explicit, systematic phonics resource. They were trained in implementing the UFLI resource in November and worked with Erin Jones, District Literacy Teacher, in January, preparing to roll out their new reading program. Teachers are excited to get started and see the difference this new resource will make for their students' reading.

With UFLI being trialed in some of our elementary schools, the Speech Language Pathologists were interested in learning more about this exciting resource. Erin worked with the SLPs going over the background of the program, what makes it different and how classroom teachers are preparing to implement it with their primary students. The SLPs are eager to see the emphasis on phonemic awareness and sound-spelling correspondences. This resource takes a speech-to-print approach and is taught explicitly through engaging, multi-sensory activities which develop strong decoding skills.

## LITERACY LEADERS

The Literacy Leaders working group is a group of teachers from all our elementary schools coming together to discuss the direction of Literacy in our district, focusing on reading assessment in the primary grades. These teachers engage in professional dialogue and collaborative planning about using universal screeners to support structured literacy instruction within a multi-tiered system of support in our elementary schools.



## NEWS FROM THE DRC

### “THE WILD ROBOT”

This year, three classes in School District No. 5 have enjoyed this novel study by New York Times Bestselling Author Peter Brown. Themes of friendship, family, nature vs. technology, bullying and helping others are some of the many topics that grab readers' attention. Explore this and many other titles on our Novel Studies Book List on the [DRC Resources Menu](#).

### TORSO MODEL

The young person's torso model at the DRC is a great way to bring visual and experiential learning to your classroom. Grade 5 students at Isabella Dicken Elementary have enjoyed using our torso model to explore Science this month.



### CURIO – CBC'S DIGITAL CLASSROOM

Are you looking to add current and thought-provoking clips to your Indigenous Education Secondary Classroom? Try looking at our Digital Resources, such as Curio. "The Pretendians," a 46-minute clip from "The Passionate Eye," depicts Anishinaabe author Drew Hayden Taylor investigating how and why Indigenous identity, culture and art are being appropriated by those who are not First Nations.



# NUMERACY

## COMMON NUMERACY ASSESSMENT

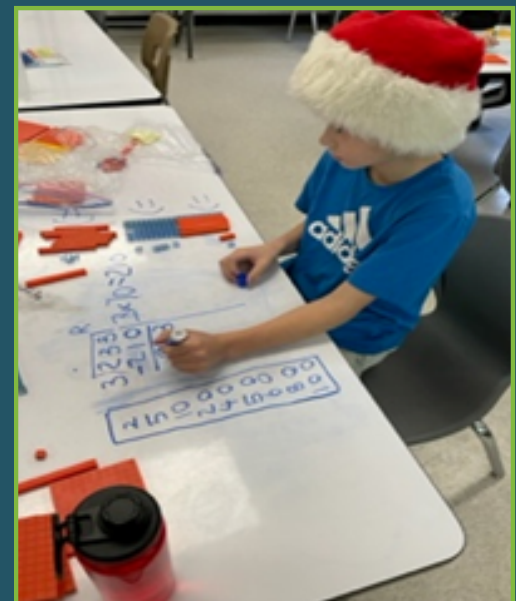
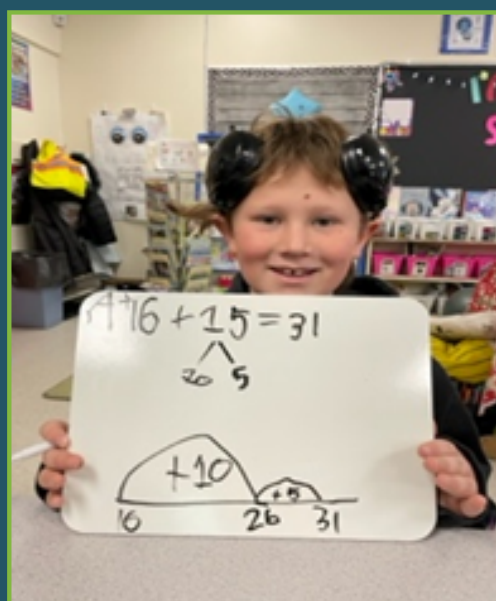
After implementing Carole Fullerton's Common Numeracy Assessment in grade 4 – 9 classrooms at Gordon Terrace Elementary, Parkland Middle, and Sparwood Secondary results indicated a need for additional teaching strategies for proportional reasoning. The Common Numeracy Assessment team worked with Carole Fullerton for a full day in January, experiencing lessons that promoted problem-solving and used manipulatives to encourage a deep understanding of fractions and ratios. The following day, 20 grade 4 - 9 teachers worked with Carole Fullerton on the same topic. Teachers left the workshops with a more profound knowledge of using set, area, and linear models with manipulatives to help students make deep connections between concepts and procedures.

## MATHEMATICAL MINDSETS BOOK CLUB

Teachers met virtually on January 5th and discussed using rich math tasks and how to continue fostering a growth mindset with students while assessing. We discussed how using tasks with multiple ways and representations to get to a solution was a more inclusive way of teaching. As a group, we challenged ourselves to try to ask the question before teaching the method more often in class. Teachers also agreed to continue implementing self/peer assessment, reflections/journals, exit tickets and diagnostic comments as feedback tools in the classroom

## CLASSROOM DEMONSTRATIONS

District Numeracy Support Teacher, Kathy Conlin, worked in K – 7 classes at Fernie Secondary, Frank J Mitchell Elementary, TM Roberts Elementary, Isabella Dicken Elementary, and Gordon Terrace Elementary to support teachers with implementing tasks that promoted reasoning and problem-solving using manipulatives to facilitate connections between concepts and procedures. Most lessons centred on addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division strategies. In each class, we celebrated that mistakes are valuable! They help our brains grow. Struggling, thinking, and making mistakes is like exercise for our brains.



# FRENCH IMMERSION

## FRENCH IMMERSION (FI) CURRICULUM SUPPORT TEACHER, MARZIA BOTTONI

What an amazing first couple of months! I have met with all French Immersion schools and administrators to learn what curricular support is most needed. Being on-site allows for spontaneous and instant collaboration.

Resources:

Finding appropriate language-level student resources is one of our FI teachers' most time-consuming and difficult tasks. Here are some resources shared with our FI teachers in December and January. These resources and strategies were used immediately with students.

- AIM gestures approach – late FI gr. 4
- Sch 8 lesson/activities files and websites
- Le Canada, Un pays à Bâtir – Sch 10
- Speech-to-text Windows – FI students with writing output difficulties

Here are some resources currently being vetted and discussed during collaboration:

- Chapter books TPRS – late FI gr. 5
- Chapter books Scholastic – late FI gr. 5
- Math Up – French version – early & late FI
- Modulo Sciences & Sch Colombie Britannique

Collaboration:

On January 13, our late FI teachers from École Isabella Dicken and Fernie Secondary met to discuss the big picture of our late FI program in Fernie. We started with the scope and sequence of the late program. Together, we began to build and document what competencies should be taught, what resources can be used, how to assess those competencies and examples of proficiency. We are building a physical and digital resource for our late FI teachers, admin and community to help maintain the vision and scope of the program.

## FRENCH NUMERACY RESOURCES AND ROUTINES

Teachers from École Isabella Dicken, TM Roberts Elementary, and Parkland Middle School met to explore and share French Immersion numeracy resources and routines based on effective math teaching practices. The district is currently trialing a digital resource called Mathup! created by Marian Small (a Canadian author, speaker and educator). We also explored numerous websites to support students' reasoning and problem-solving, including 3-Act Tasks, Sherry Parrish number talks, and number talk images. Teachers had an opportunity to design a lesson for the upcoming week based on the resources shared.

## THE MAPLE MAN

Renée Turmel, The Maple Man, visited Isabella Dickens Elementary School on January 23rd and Kootenay Orchards Elementary School on January 24th. Mr. Turmel showed a short movie on the traditional way that maple syrup is made, played some traditional French fold songs on his accordion, showed the kids how to play "Les cuilleres" (wooden spoons) and shared a French-Canadian folk dance. At the end of the presentations, the students got to do some snow maple taffy tasting.





## HUMAN RESOURCES

---

We are happy to announce that after some rather long bargaining sessions, we are in the concluding stages of the CUPE bargaining process. We hope to have a ratified bargain in the next few weeks.

Hiring continues to be ongoing as we increase our casual lists in various areas, including Education Assistants, Bus Drivers, Tradespersons and Custodians. In particular, we struggle to attract tradespersons to the Elk Valley communities.

### LOOKING AHEAD TO 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

We have begun to accept out-of-catchment student transfer requests for the 2023-2024 school year as of February 1 for consideration for the next school year. These applications are processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Requests will be accepted until February 28th.

Kindergarten registration has also begun. We are excited to be able to offer online registration this year. More information and the link to the online registration can be found on our [website](#). Parents are encouraged to register their children at their catchment area school early. It is important for school planning to have as many kindergarten students registered as soon as possible.

## INDIGENOUS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

---

### ELDERS IN RESIDENCE

This past week, we hosted information lunches with prospective Elders in Residence, both in the Elk Valley and Cranbrook. These lunches allow prospective folks to meet with our existing Elders, Indigenous Education Support Workers and staff. We have now had two meetings in the Elk Valley and look forward to expanding our awesome Elders in Residence (or Knowledge Holders in Residence) into our Elk Valley communities. This was our first meeting in Cranbrook this year, and we are also looking to expand into other schools in the Cranbrook area!



### DR. DUSTIN LOUIE WORKSHOPS

We are pleased and honoured that Dr. Dustin Louie is back in our district to work with another cohort of educators to further his work in Indigenizing and decolonizing our classrooms. Following up on his Professional day work and a first cohort last year, he is working with teachers and principals from across our district with a focus on those teaching the new Mandatory for Graduation Indigenous courses.



## AROUND THE DISTRICT

### THE TOURNAMENT OF BOTS

Students from Mrs. Roberts' Grade 5 class at Amy Woodland Elementary participated in a "bumper car battle bot" challenge. The robots were all equipped with a button that, when pressed, counted a point for their team. They all started with the same robot designs and coding but then had to modify their robot to optimize their design and stay in the arena.

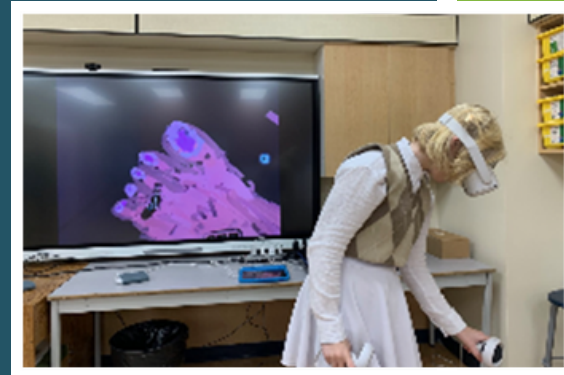
Students from Parkland Middle School came to the Design Lab on Activity Day and created sumo robots intending to try to be the last robot left in the ring.

Both groups got the chance to participate in a full tournament bracket-style event.



### VR AND ART

Students from Ms. Azzara's art classes at Fernie Secondary experimented using a new medium to create art. Students used the Google Tilt Brush app on the Oculus Quest headsets to create unique and individual works of art. Some students created flowers, trees, glowing fireballs, and more!



### MERGING TECHNOLOGIES

Mrs. Eadie's Grade 4/5 class at TM Roberts took on the challenge of merging technologies. Their goal was simple: select up to four Lego designs they could connect through a story. They brought each design to the green screen to film a part of their story. Using the green screen technology, they could shrink themselves to fit into the Lego world.



### TRICK PHOTOGRAPHY

Mr. Larsen's photography class at Sparwood Secondary were taught how to take trick shots. They produced a photo with multiple images of themselves in it.





## STUDENT SERVICES

### SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING (SEL) TEACHER UPDATE

Kim Richards, our District Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Teacher completed the Sunshine Circle training through Theraplay Canada in November and is in the planning stages of preparing to facilitate these attachment-based playgroups with parents and children through StrongStart at FJ Mitchell and Steeples Elementary. This will expand to parent workshops and classroom Sunshine Circles as time and scheduling permit. SEL is also supporting the implementation of interoception work (noticing body signals, connecting these signals to a meaning (emotion), and regulating with an action that promotes internal regulation, comfort and health.) with youth care workers and classrooms in SEL schools. SEL will provide an experiential trauma-informed workshop for Steeples Elementary at the February 3 PRO-D Day.

December saw three book studies with *Connections Over Compliance* wrap-up. Two virtual options were offered district-wide, and an in-person for FJ Mitchell Elementary (FJMES). In attendance were teachers, principals, vice principals, and a counselor. These allowed sharing of resources beyond the 3 Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) focus schools and great conversations about what is happening on the ground and how we can begin this paradigm shift toward supporting the bodies and brains of our students and staff. December also saw training in Pathological Demand Avoidance and support with declarative language use for these ASD students with a team from Steeples Elementary.

January began with *The Re-Set Process* book study for principals, vice-principals, and Student Services Teachers from the 3 SEL focus schools (TM Roberts, Steeples and Frank J Mitchell Elementary). The discussions focusing on the impact of trauma on behaviour have created impactful dialogues. By increasing the understanding and use of proactive strategies as a baseline, our schools can support our students in a meaningful way. TM Roberts staff have also begun an in-person *Connections Over Compliance* book study.

### AMERICAN SPEECH AND HEARING ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

In November 2022, 4 members of our SLP group (Adele Minto, Carolyn Norton, Collette Tovee, and Lesley Runzer) attended the ASHA (American Speech and Hearing Association) Conference in New Orleans. This three-day event brought together over 10,000 Speech/Language Pathologists and Audiologists from around the world. This annual conference is the most comprehensive education event in the world for speech, language, and hearing professionals. The convention allowed attendees to learn about the latest research, expand clinical skills and techniques, find new products and resources, and network with colleagues.







## BACKPACK BUDDIES

In November 2022, we celebrated our first anniversary with Backpack Buddies! When the organization approached us and offered this wonderful program to our schools free of charge, we only had 59 students who required the service and were referred to us. A year later, we have 141 students supported each weekend with food through Backpack Buddies.

Each bag of food gifted to students has a value of approximately \$12. We have had times when we have assisted in our district with the Backpack Buddies food support. It's been very rewarding to be a part of this fantastic program.

The last shipment for 2022 included a chocolate treat for each student from Charlie's Chocolate Factory.

The shipment comes in two pallets bi-weekly, delivered free of charge, by Ace Courier, who donates the shipping for this program. When the pallets arrive at the Cranbrook Board Office, the delivery is repackaged for each school by board office staff. When it's all ready to go, our school district delivers it to our schools. Our bus drivers, courier and maintenance staff have all been kind enough to deliver the orders. Once they arrive at the schools, they are taken care of and distributed to students by our Youth Care Workers and our Indigenous Education Support Workers. We are so thankful for the team effort!

<https://www.backpackbuddies.ca/our-story>



Because hunger doesn't take the  
weekend off

