

# SOUTHEAST KOOTENAY PATHWAYS TO LEARNING



On this Outdoor Education afternoon, students in Madame Murray's Grade 2 class at Isabella Dicken Elementary School practiced a listening walk on Old Stumpy, looked for animal tracks, observed the subnivean zone, or "secret kingdom under the snow," and explored in the winter forest.

**February, 2020**







## 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.

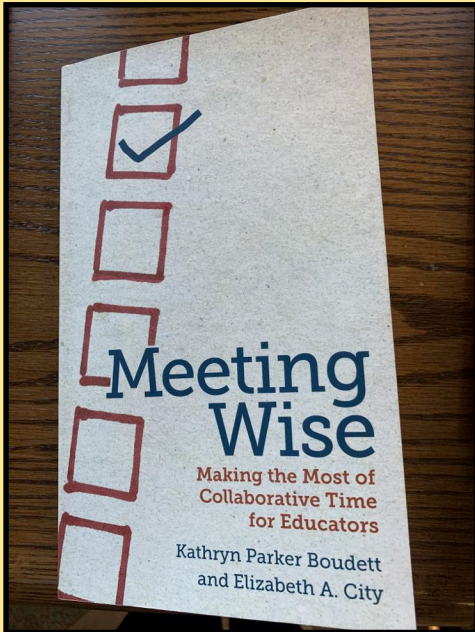
- Ensure information is current
- Provide user-friendly platforms
- Create opportunities for meaningful dialogue

#### 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

# Here's to February by Silke Yardley



Hard to believe it is February already! District management staff have had a busy month, looking at student learning, starting the budget process and meeting on the district audit.

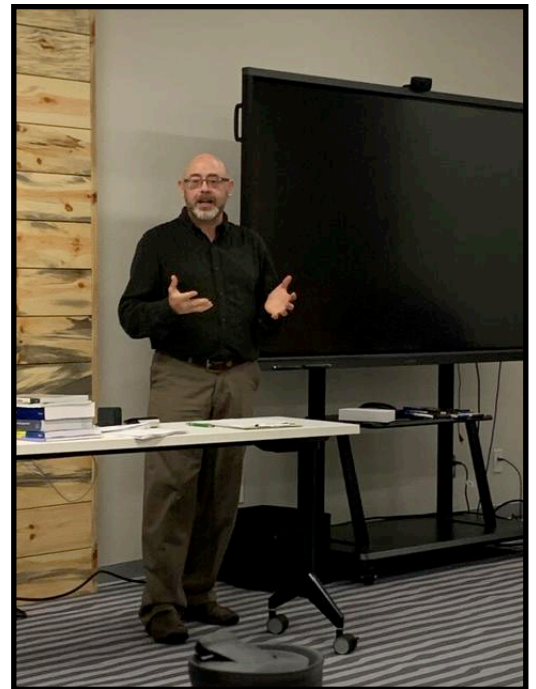
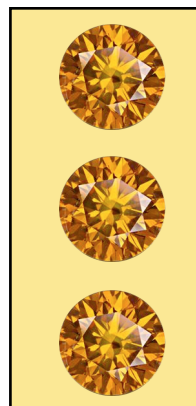
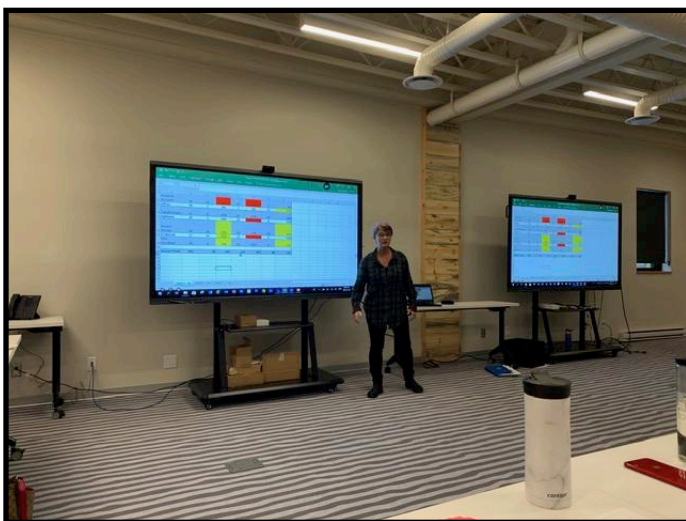
One of the ways that we as a district team are focusing on student learning is by creating time in our Monday morning meetings to ensure they are learning meetings. We are using the book "Meeting Wise" as a spring board for keeping the learning of our students at the forefront of our work. I shared this book and our format with principals and vice-principals at this month's Elementary PVP meeting and we have ordered 20 books for our schools! From our four meetings to date we have been discussing:

- What areas should we as a district focus on to improve student learning?
- What assessments should we be using as a district to move student learning forward?
- What data should we be using to support our decision making?
- What is the satisfaction survey telling us about students feeling welcome at school?
- Do we need to support our staff with components of the new reporting order?

Creating meetings where we focus on learning and collaborating together is rewarding and exciting.

Stay tuned to more information on how we can support staff and students in their learning!

Director Casault and District Principal Verbeurgt shared information at our elementary principal/vice principal meeting in Fernie. We had a successful meeting where we looked at data on students, had a discussion on student services, the audit as well as other topics.



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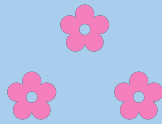
# Out and About



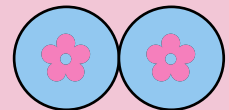
Our January board meeting was held at the Jaffray Elementary/Junior Secondary School where we had a wonderful tour by three students from the school. Here is our Board Chair Frank Lento and I before the board meeting.



We saw the gym area where the older students play with and mentor the younger students in the morning before school starts. We also went into the woodshop where students were having their first lesson in the woodshop, learning about safety with teacher Jason Jones. Students were very engaged in their first day of learning!



Jaffray also has wonderful art work on their walls and some very cool bulletin boards!



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# Out and About

I was very fortunate to see the students in action at the District Student Advisory Committee (DSAC) session where students were discussing climate change, cell phone policy and vaping to name a few of the topics. Director Tichauer is leading a session looking at the McCreary Adolescent Health Survey Report.



I had a chance to connect with Trustee Bellina at the session as well. She is the Trustee representative that attends these meetings and was very pleased with the engagement and commitment from the group.



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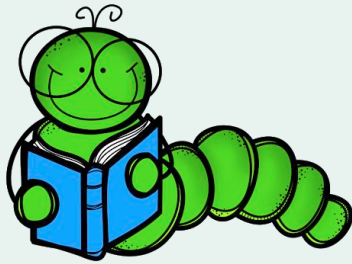
Check out these two bulletin boards from Isabella Dicken Elementary School! Love their winter themes!

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# Out and About

Principal Poole from Pinewood Elementary School shared her experience of attending a professional learning conference at our committee day. Great to see how attending the conference has supported her professional goals!



Check out the great pictures of the pancake breakfast and students and parents reading books at Gordon Terrace. Vice Principal Pam Drysdale gave me a tour of the event! Lots of great food and fun and then parents reading with their children in their classrooms. A really positive event to start the day.



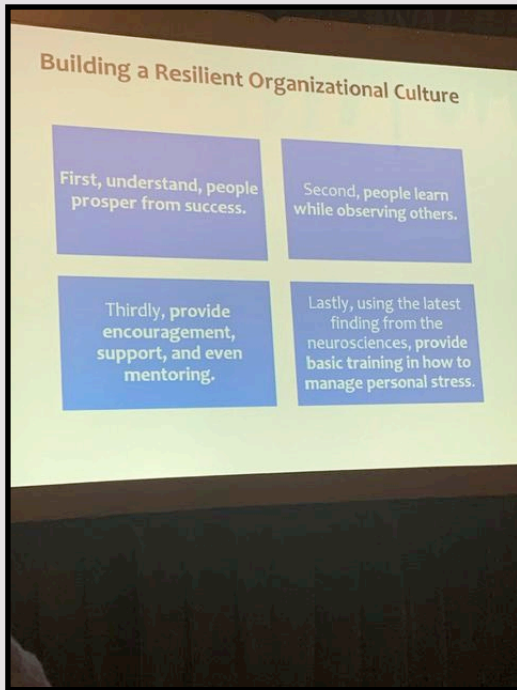
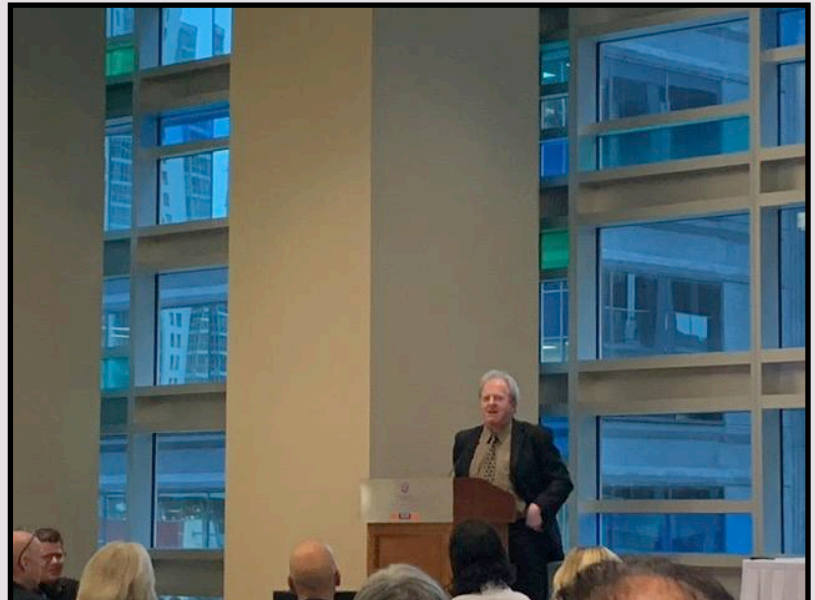
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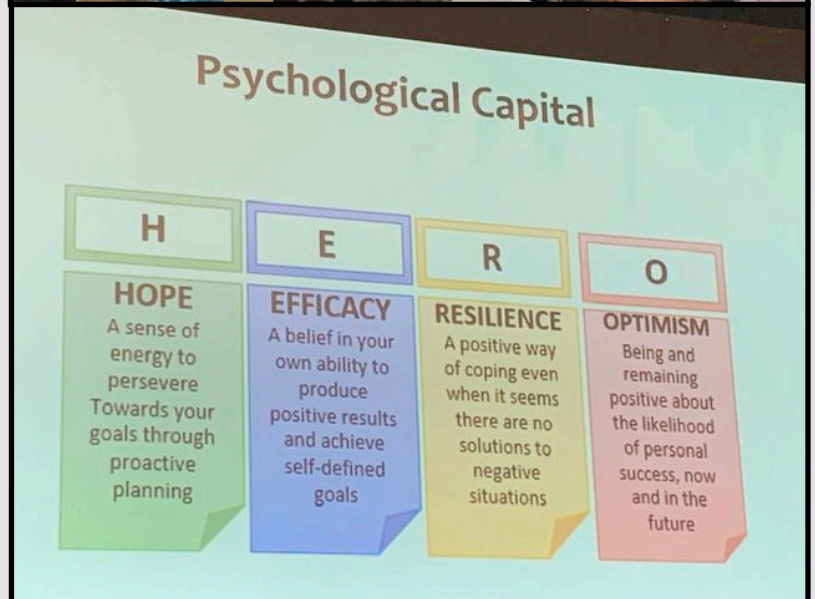
# Out and About



I attended the BCPSEA annual general meeting with Secretary Treasurer Alan Rice, Director of Instruction Brent Reimer and Trustee Krista Damstrom in Vancouver last week. A couple of presentations that stood out was Vaughn Palmer who gave the history of teacher bargaining from the perspective of having been a reporter for quite a few years, as well as a session on Resiliency.



Enjoy the rest of your February!  
Silke Yardley, Superintendent



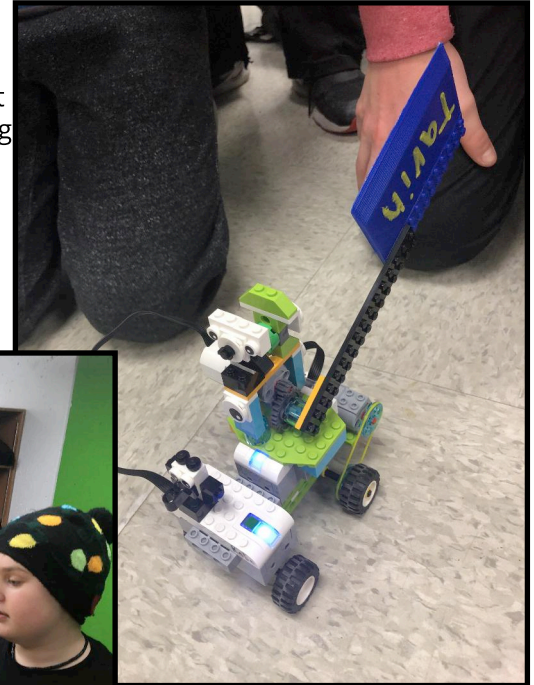
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# ENGAGING ALL LEARNERS

## Transformative Learning

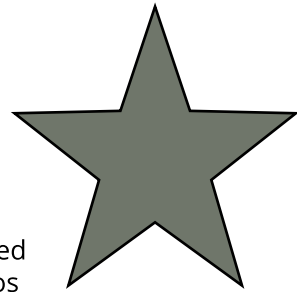
### Solving the Mysteries of Other Planets

Mrs. Kirkpatrick's class at Highlands Elementary School traveled to a distant planet just before the Christmas holidays. Students were challenged to build a rover using the Lego Wedo robotics kits and then utilize other tools such as 360 cameras and Microbits to gather data about the foreign planet. Their designs had to be able to drive down a short tunnel, through a curtain and into the "fake planet chamber" where there were secret messages and clues to the environment on that planet. Students also explored space travel through the magic of VR using SD5's Oculus Quest headset.



### Simple Machine Engineering and Design

Mr. McAnerney's class at T.M. Roberts Elementary School was challenged to demonstrate the different simple machines using Lego, robotics, coding, and design. The open challenge allowed all students in the class to succeed and demonstrate their understanding of the different concepts by creating their own unique designs.



### Coding and Design - The Gift that Keeps on Giving

Mme. Larson's grade 7 French Immersion class at Parkland created Christmas themed interactive Makey Makey projects. Projects ranged from festive instruments to videos games. The Transformative Learning Team has been able to work with this group of students multiple times over the last four years and their knowledge and abilities with coding has grown to a comfort level that they were able to create more complex projects.

### Environmental Education

Amy Woodland Kindergarten students from Mrs. Nielsen and Mrs. Roberts' classes have enjoyed Wilderness Wednesdays.



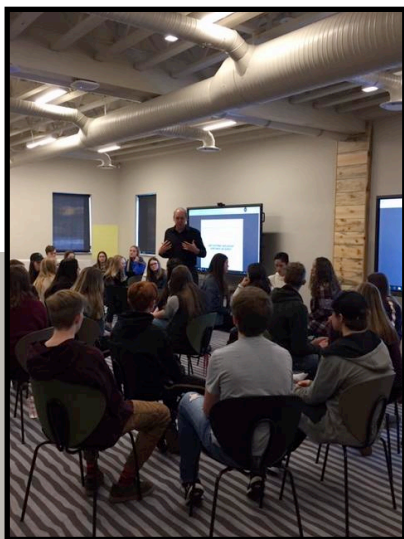
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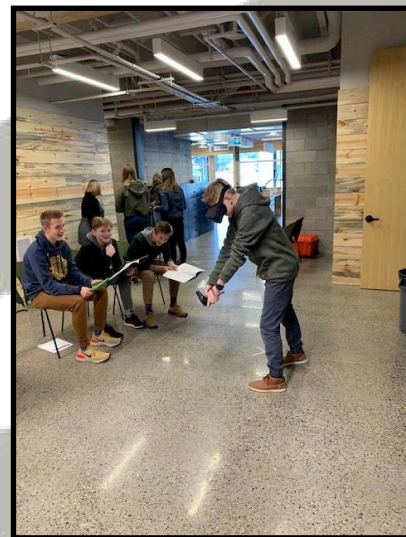
# ENGAGING ALL LEARNERS

## New VR Headsets

The SD5 Transformative Learning Team has acquired four more Oculus Quest VR headsets. Since last spring, they have been working with one headset in the Elk Valley and one in Cranbrook. Hundreds of students have had the opportunity to experience the magic of VR. Experiences have added awe, wonder and engagement to different projects. On average, students rate their VR experience 4.7/5 stars. The additional headsets will allow students to have more immersive experiences and begin to delve into creative productions. Our brand new Ocular Quest headsets were used at the DSAC meeting on January 9.



Grade 5/6 students at FJMES wrote an application letter to participate in a sustained VR project. Teachers chose two students from each class based on the letters with the end goal of reporting back to the class what they learned. One of the activities was called, "Put Me in a Book - Adventure Story". At the beginning, students completed an online survey to see if they thought experiencing the setting in VR would assist in getting ideas for a story and book cover.



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# ADVOCACY

## Student Services Compliance Audit 2020

Teams of Student Services Teachers and Coordinators, Itinerants and School Administrators from across School District 5 have joined forces to support and review files as our district prepares for the 2020 Audit Compliance. District Principal, Darcy Verbeurgt wishes to thank everyone for the collaborative effort in organizing and compiling Student Services documentation. A HUGE thank you for School District 6 (Rocky Mountain) for also joining the effort.



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# INCLUSIVE PARTNERSHIPS

## District Elders in Residence Program

This past week our Aboriginal Education leadership team met with our Mount Baker Elders in Residence to discuss a plan to expand the Elders' program to other schools in the district. The expansion of the Elders' program has been a goal in our Enhancement Agreement for at least two iterations of the agreement. As such, we have allocated funds from our targeted funds to support the expansion of this incredibly important project.

The Elders have given us great direction on how to start this process and we look forward to working with our partners on the Enhancement Agreement Review Committee to try and bring this to fruition.



Pictured above from left to right: Joan O'Neil, Marguerite Cooper, Herman Alpine, Dorothy Ratch and Winnie Vitaliano

## Enhancement Agreement Review Committee Meeting

The Aboriginal Gathering Place at the College of the Rockies will be hosting our partners this week at our regular Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement review committee meeting. In addition to the Elders Program, agenda items include the How are We Doing Report on Indigenous student data, an update on our department, logo and artwork and a feedback session on our district day which will include plans for next year. It is always a great day!

## District Resource Center - Promoting meaningful student learning

District Librarian, Maxine Malmberg organized a Professional Development session on January 31. The session reviewed Destiny Discover and cataloguing. Archie Jaswal from Follett Destiny also presented at the session. Mr. Jaswal discussed the implementation of digital shelves and other topics that will help to increase our productivity in our school libraries.



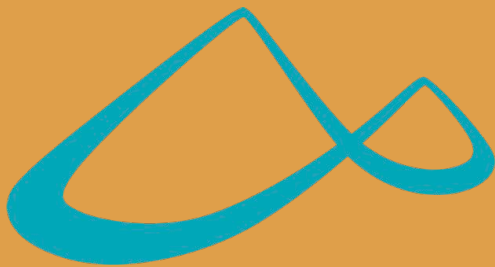
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# INCLUSIVE PARTNERSHIPS

HR has been busy around the community promoting employment opportunities at School District No.5. We are also excited to be participating in the upcoming College of the Rockies Career & Job Fair on March 4, 2020. This Career Fair attracts many residents looking for work and it helps students in the area explore all the career opportunities our communities have to offer.

School District 5 hires many of the College of the Rockies graduates from the Child and Youth Studies program as well as the Office Administration Program and we look forward to meeting the many people that stop by our table. The Career and Job Fair runs from 11:30- 3:00 in the main campus gymnasium at the College of the Rockies.



## Early learning update:

EDI training mixed with Early Learning Framework discussion took place on January 21st. Thank you to Carol Johns for, once again, taking on the role of EDI trainer for our new K teachers. The time that all our Kindergarten teachers put into completing the EDI is very much appreciated and yields district data that is used by our early learning partners. Thanks also to Deanna Boss, Delene Adams, Leah Spergel and Renee Maccormack for their support in examining the newly released Early Learning Framework with our new Kindergarten teachers. These discussions will help guide the next steps as it relates to supporting the early years in all our elementary schools.

More information can be found [here](#) on the Early Learning Framework.



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# MINISTRY OF EDUCATION UPDATE

**Third Annual Premier's Awards for Excellence in Education:** Nominations are being accepted until April 30, 2020 for the third annual [Premier's Awards for Excellence in Education](#). This is an opportunity to nominate and recognize B.C. teachers, administrators and support workers who are making a positive impact on students and their school communities. Please share this information widely to encourage as many nominations as possible.



**Skills Canada BC to Host the 2020 Nationals:** Skills Canada BC will host the [Skills Canada 2020 National Competition](#) in Vancouver, May 27 – 30, 2020, at the Vancouver Convention Centre. Winners of [Skills Canada BC's Provincial Competition](#) will compete for gold, silver and bronze in the leading trade and technology competitions during this Olympic-style 2-day national event.



**2019/2020 District/Authority Scholarships:** Allocation numbers, reporting tools and guidelines for [District/Authority Scholarship selections](#) are now available and must be returned to the [Provincial Scholarships Program](#) by June 30, 2020.

**BCSSA Scholarships:** Each year, BCSSA issues a total of 6 scholarships of \$1000 each to a graduating student in each Chapter. Deadline for application is Feb. 14, 2020. Please ensure that students group all attachments into 1 document. Please forward to your networks. [BCSSA Scholarship Application 2020](#)



**FOR INFORMATION, SUPERINTENDENTS – Update on Coronavirus:** The latest on federal, provincial and local efforts to address the novel coronavirus, including information to access official updates and travel advice for students and families, is included in this [January 30 coronavirus update](#).

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# SCHOOLS



MBSS leadership students in partnership with RDEK and the United Way East Kootenay assembled life kits for seniors in our community.



Grade 5 students from Kootenay Orchards did their part in December to reduce the amount of single use plastics they use. After a Beyond Recycling lesson called "It's A Plastic World", students were shocked at the amount of single use plastics used in our everyday lives, and even more shocked that so much of this plastic ends up in our oceans. For their first Beyond Recycling Eco Challenge, Mrs. Halldorson's grade 5 students took the plastic problem into their own hands and created a more sustainable storage method - reusable snack bags. Some students were excited to use the snack bags as a gift bag, others for food storage, others for trinkets and treasures. These washable bags had a lot of love put in and really got students thinking about alternatives to single use plastics.



The Maple Man came all the way from Quebec to teach our students about how he operates his Sugar Shack. Students learned about harvesting maple syrup using traditional methods. This presentation was made possible by the socio-cultural grant and the Fernie / Cranbrook chapter of Canadian Parents for French.



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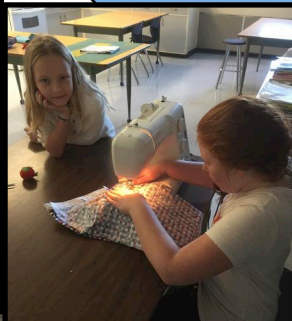
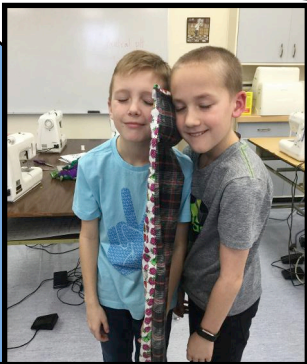
# SCHOOLS

## Here's What's Happening in SD5!

Shelly Moore Learning Series - Feb. 12

2020 Student Services Audit - Feb. 18 - 21

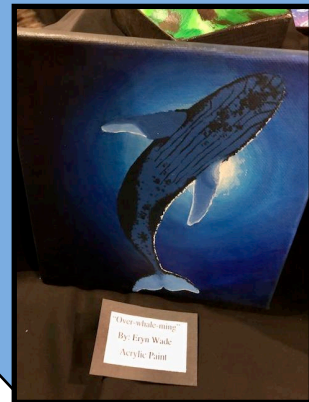
CR4YC - Jan. 16, Feb. 6, Apr. 22, May 7



Leadership students had hot drinks for everyone to kick off the second semester as part of their Mental Wellness project at Mount Baker Secondary School.



JEJSS grade 5 Eco Team spent time sewing bat wraps to send to the Far North Queensland Wildlife Rescue Centre. They will use these bat wraps to rehabilitate bats injured in the Australian bush fires.



MBSS Art Show

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Mrs. Mayer has a challenge for the students of TM Roberts: "Can you read 20 books in 2020?"



On Friday, January 24th, students at SES participated in multi-grade groups who travelled from classroom to classroom to participate in Chinese New Year Stations. A great time was had by all!



Leigh Cormier's ODE class at MBSS buddied with Anneli's crew from KOES to teach them some climbing skills at ARC. Love the collaboration with our elementary schools.



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