

SOUTHEAST KOOTENAY PATHWAYS TO LEARNING



Mrs. Miller, an educational assistant, at T.M. Roberts Elementary is showing Mme. Anick's grade 1 students how to take deep breaths to calm our bodies and minds.

February, 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

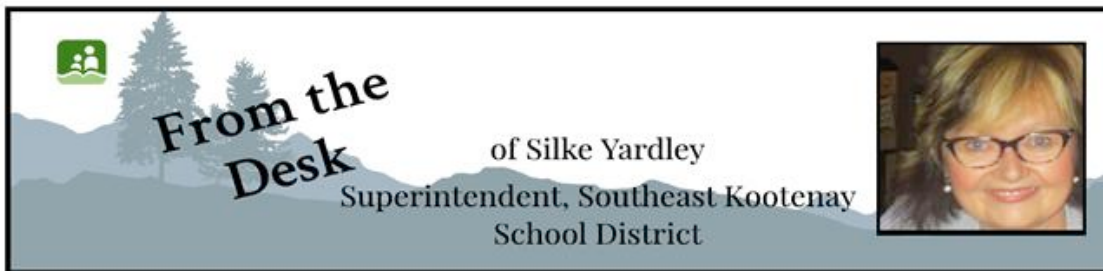
Goal: Continue to foster two-way, ethical communication between the District and all learners, students, staff, parents and community in a timely, concise and inclusive manner.

- 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



It is hard to believe that spring is around the corner with the chilly weather we have been having lately! We are a little more than halfway through the school year and hopefully spring is on the way soon!

I really wanted to thank all of you in School District 5 who support our children in so many ways, and to parents who trust their children in our care each day. I know that many of you are tired; tired of the stress of being in a pandemic and tired of the tight restrictions outside of school where you can't see your extended family and friends. I am hopeful that we will see a change soon. Once vaccines come to our communities in greater numbers, once the weather gets nicer, and hopefully once restrictions in our day to day lives lessen, things will improve.



New restrictions for schools are being implemented and you will find the updated information on your schools' website. The district Health and Safety plan and ministry Health and Safety plan is also on our [website](#).

We thank you so much for your diligence in following the health and safety protocols. I wanted to give a special shout out to our Secretary-Treasurer Alan Rice and the District Health and Safety Committee Working Group who works diligently through the guidelines and supports our schools with the protocols. This group spends hours upon hours looking through the new Ministry protocols and then discussing how to translate this to our schools. If you know a parent, a teacher, a CUPE staff member, a community member or an administrator on the working group, please thank them for their hard work. They are very much appreciated.

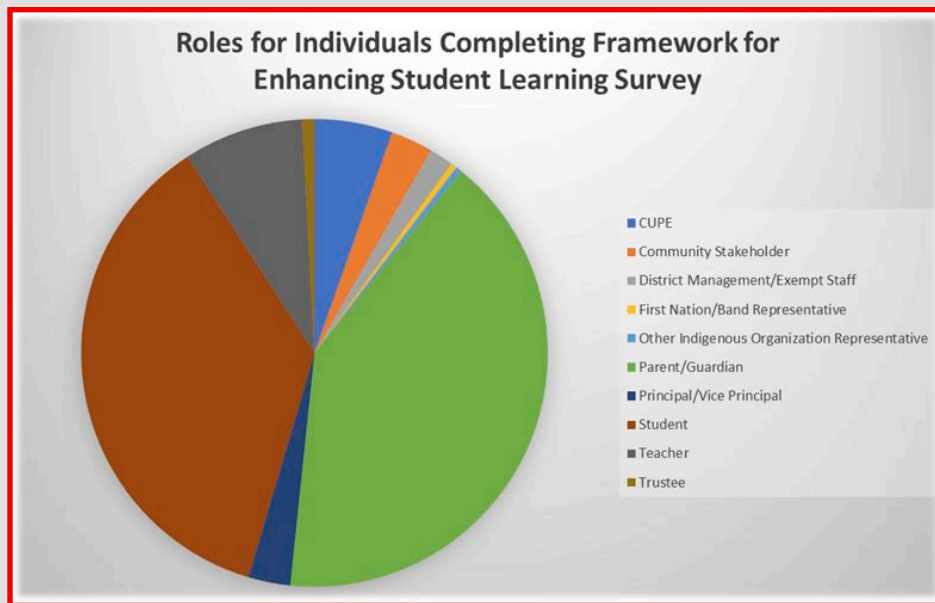


I wanted to update you as well on the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning survey results that went out to a wide variety of people last month. Below you will see slides from a PowerPoint that was shared along with the word clouds that shared higher level results. A special thank you to Director Diane Casault and her team for presenting the information to a Working Group which consisted of representation from students, parents, Indigenous partners, teachers, CUPE, administrators, community members and district staff. This group met to discuss the results and we will share more details with our Board of Education at our next committee day on February 22, 2021.

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The Framework for Enhancing Student Learning (hereafter, the Framework) formalizes the planning and reporting expectations for school districts in order to enhance student learning and success. The Framework reflects a public commitment by Indigenous peoples and Indigenous rights holders, education partners and communities to work together to continuously improve student learning in relation to intellectual, human and social, and career development. The Framework requires alignment of provincial K-12 accountability and evidence-informed practices that enhance student learning, inclusivity and equity of outcomes. The Framework was led by the Ministry of Education and developed through authentic engagement with provincial education partners, and Indigenous rights holders.

A quality education system assists in the development of human potential and improves the well-being of every British Columbian. The B.C. school system develops educated citizens by supporting each student's intellectual, human and social, and career development, and by considering a wide range of information in all of these areas.



How can we make sure that we continuously improve learning and equity for all students in our district?

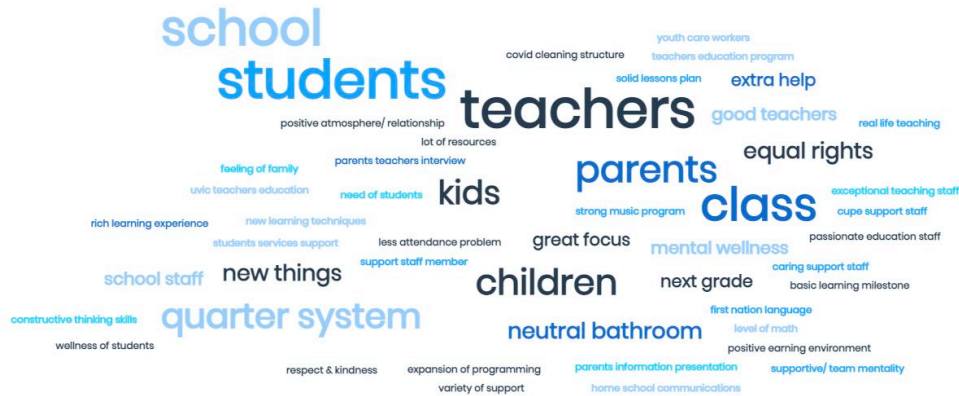


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How can we engage our students to reach their full potential and aspirations?



What is currently working well?



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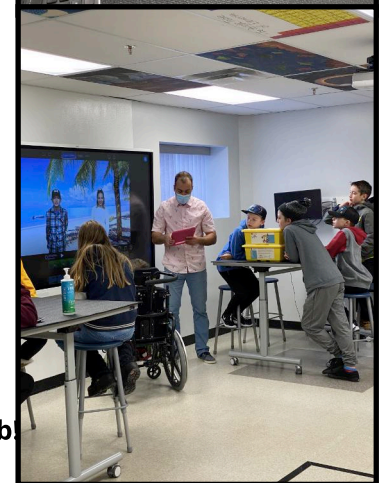
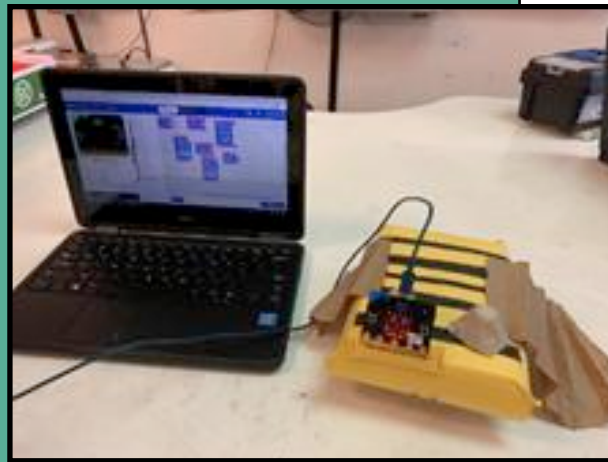
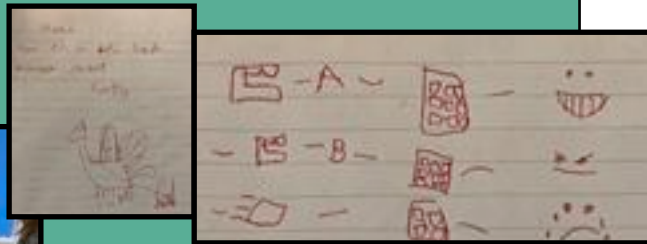
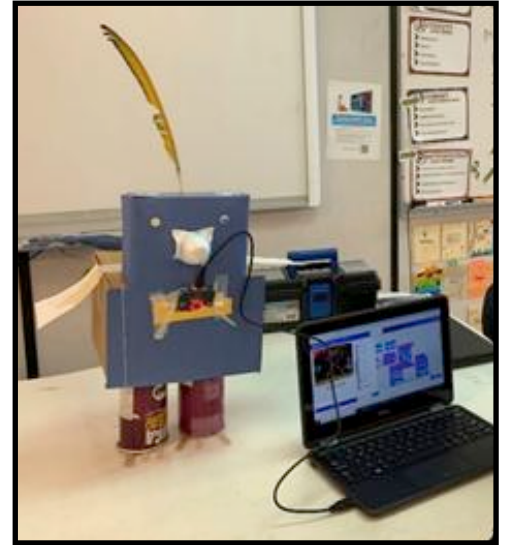
Engaging All Learners

Micro: Pet Design Project

Ms. Bisson's and Ms. McMullan's grade 4 and 5 classes at Rocky Mountain Elementary spent 3 half days coding and making micro:pets using micro:bits. Micro:bits are programmable devices that have buttons and sensors that are used to control the LED lights on the face of the micro:bit.

The goal of this project was to introduce block-based coding and to guide students through the design thinking process to build an animal out of cardboard and create a program for an interactive face for their pet. Students learned important digital literacy skills such as coding the lights to show different emotions for their pet, as well as saving and transferring the code to the micro:bit.

Students were also challenged to think of the purpose of their pet when working through the design and coding process. We talked about creating pets to help regulate social emotional health or a pet that could help you if you got lost in the wilderness or if a student was bored or lonely. Students were very proud of their work and each class presented their pet to their peers.



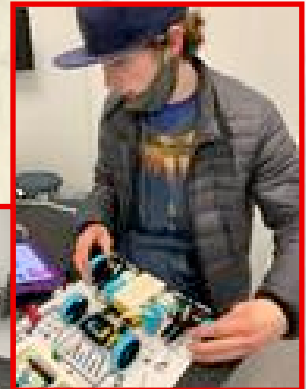
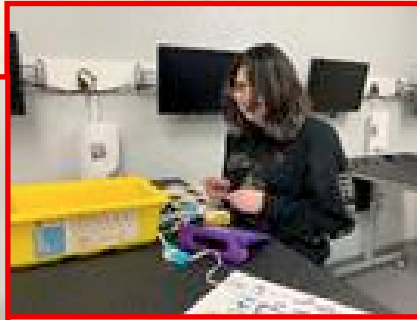
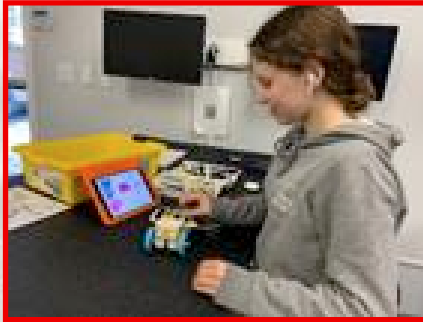
Grade 6 class of Kootenay Orchards Elementary School visit the Design Lab

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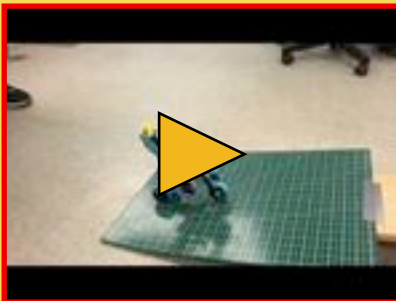
Career Exploration in STEM

Mr. Cullins' careers class at Fernie Secondary has been coming to the Design Lab to explore different technologies and how these technologies relate to careers in STEM. They have spent some time using the Oculus VR headset, the Lego Spike Robotics kit, and will also spend some time learning about 3D design and 3D printing. Research states that if students identify themselves as being an engineer, scientist, mathematician or a programmer, they are more likely to enroll in that field in post-secondary school.



Friendly Battle Bots

Mrs. Graham's class from Amy Woodland Elementary learned all about self-driving cars. Their challenge started with a simple car design using the Lego Spike building sets. Once the students were able to get their car from one end of the course to the other, they began adding sensors and additional coding to have their car automatically turn around and drive back. The culmination was to create a unique "battle-bot" that would stay in the designated arena and push others out. Each group created something unique and saw success throughout the day as they journeyed through the design process. There was plenty of critical thinking, creativity and cheering throughout the day.



Smart Bikes

Mrs. Haughian's and Ms. Roberts' class from Amy Woodland built some smart bikes at the Design Lab. They started by learning how to connect and code the Lego Spike hubs. In class they practiced using if/then coding statements to make the hubs come alive with sound effect and lights. Once at the Design Lab they followed a guide to build a Lego motor bike. Once successful, they were given creative freedom to customize their bike. Some made it turn, make sound effects, and interacted with different things while others created extravagant design modifications.

Both Design Labs are OPEN! Book your session by emailing Kim.Froehler@sd5.bc.ca in the Elk Valley and Ryan.Mckenzie@sd5.bc.ca in the Cranbrook area.

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Science Fair Update

The East Kootenay Regional Science Fair will be held virtually this year. Our theme is Science of Pandemics. This allows students to investigate, discover and innovate the hard and soft sciences of how pandemics come about and how they affect the lives of people around the world and locally.

Registration will close on March 18. Students will be able to continue to upload their projects until March 25th.

Opening ceremonies will be held on Monday March 29th, with a keynote speaker presenting on a facet of viruses and the pandemic. Judging will commence remotely after the opening ceremony and will continue until April 1. Closing ceremonies and awards will be broadcasted on Tuesday April 6th from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. It will be recorded and posted for anyone to watch later at a later date.



MyEd BC Update

District Principal, Darcy Verbeurgt and Director, Diane Casault are currently on the provincial committee that is working on creating an Annual Instruction Plan in MyEducation BC for supporting English Language Learners (ELL). This project will aid in the planning for and communication of supports and strategies to education staff. This will also place the information on the screens of teachers as they access their class lists in MyEducation BC.

IT Updates

- Completing the staff roll-outs in PES, SES, GTES, AWES, and FJMES.
- GT and FJ MES happening next week.
- Imaging older laptops that have old version of Windows LTSB as it will be out of service soon.
- Adobe licensing sorting out and getting configured for student/staff use since we went to user based licensing
- Lots of equipment installation/setup

Expansion of the Elders in Residence Program

In the past few weeks we have been meeting with our present Elders in Residence to further explore strategies for moving our Elders in Residence program beyond Mount Baker. This is a process that was well underway last spring with a number of schools 'ready to go' with instituting an Elders/Knowledge Holders/Mentor program within their buildings.

As with so many other projects or initiatives, the state of emergency had put a 'hold' on us moving forward. However, our Elders have been inquiring about the status of the initiative and we want to keep the conversations going! We have made a commitment to fund these programs at the district level so that these necessary programs can be more easily sustained in multiple schools.



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Inclusive Partnerships

Online Workshops for Educators



Education Outside the Classroom was featured in BC Teacher Magazine.



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Stay tuned for the virtual Pro-D sessions offered this spring featuring authors from the [Outdoor Learning Store](#).

Let it snow! Winter has found us wishing for more snow at the District Resource Centre. We have provided cross country skis and snowshoes to the Elk Valley for outdoor and physical education opportunities.



Ms. Fleischacker's class spent a beautiful afternoon at the Fernie Golf Course on the cross-country skis from the School District 5 (Southeast Kootenay) District Resource Centre.



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Online Streaming

The District Resource Centre continues to offer teachers online streaming of movies and documentaries through Criterion and ACF licensing.

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January was a busy month for Mandt Training & recertifications. Eight staff were recertified and 32 staff were trained in the Mandt system for the first time! February will be another busy month for our Mandt training as we have approximately 38 staff recertifying. A big thank you to our Mandt Instructors – Darcy Verbeurgt, Julie Russchen, Megan Stasuik & Kim McKeown as this is a huge endeavour.

The Childhood Experiences Questionnaire



The CHEQ is a questionnaire completed by parents and caregivers at the start of the Kindergarten school year. It helps teachers, school administrators and community partners to provide and improve targeted supports for children and families. The CHEQ is used to:

- Develop district and community-wide programs and policies;
- Better understand the early experiences of children and families; and
- Improve classroom planning and school programming.

The CHEQ 2020 reports are in. Kate Bulum of the UBC HELP team is working with our Early Years Tables to go over the results of the CHEQ. We will then develop plans on sharing this data with a presentation to our DPAC and Board as well.



Preschool during the Pandemic: Early Childhood Education in Extraordinary Times

Presented by the Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center, this series shares the experiences of practitioners and families from across the country, illustrating how the fields of early education and early childhood special education are successfully supporting preschoolers and their families during the [COVID-19](#) pandemic.

The link to these courses is on our School District No. 5 website under Learning, Early Learning and Community Resources or by clicking on the link below.

<https://ectacenter.org/topics/disaster/preschoolpandemic.asp>

Kindergarten Registrations have begun!

School District No. 5 is getting ready to welcome families and students to our district. The Board encourages students to attend their local catchment area schools while also recognizing the desirability of students and parents choosing the school and educational programs which best meet the students' educational needs. The placement of a student in a school will be dependent upon the availability of space, programs and resources. An electronic version of the Student Registration Form is available on our website. Complete the registration form and contact the catchment school directly to make an appointment. You will need to bring your child's birth certificate with you for registration.



New protocol with City of Cranbrook - This past month, and continuing forward in the spring, we have been fortunate to be involved in the creation of a new Hate and Race based Incident Reporting Protocol with the City of Cranbrook.

The work to date has already led to fulsome discussions on the necessity for this new Protocol and we look forward to being able to report out on the finished document when it is completed!

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Basin PLAYS Community Grants

The Basin PLAYS Community Grants are for multi-sector community supported programming for underrepresented groups that promote inclusivity in sport and physical activity for children and youth aged 4-18. The key objectives of the supported projects should be to promote the physical literacy of girls, and/or children and youth with disabilities, and/or children and youth facing other barriers to physical activity and sport by providing free or low-cost programs in environments that are inclusive and respectful.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our grant funding for the CBT Basin Plays Grants for the 2019/20 school year was extended until December 31, 2020. We are pleased to confirm that these 2019/20 projects have been completed.



Some of the projects include:

- creating welcoming, outdoor learning spaces for students of all ages
- disc golf courses which are accessible to students inside and outside of school hours
- outdoor adventure backpacks to get classrooms outside exploring with field guidebooks, magnifying glasses, butterfly nets, etc.
- indoor wellness walks that encourage fundamental movement skills such as hopping, skipping, balancing and running
- balance beams and a free standing climbing wall which expands outdoor play choices while promoting physical literacy in the areas of balance, strength and teamwork
- class sets of snowshoes, outdoor equipment and sleeping bags for overnight class excursions
- portable nets to be used for tennis, pickle ball or badminton along with a variety of paddles and racquets

We are pleased to announce that 9 of our schools were successful applicants to this program again this year! This is exciting news for our schools as they will be adding equipment for enhancing the physical literacy skills of our students.



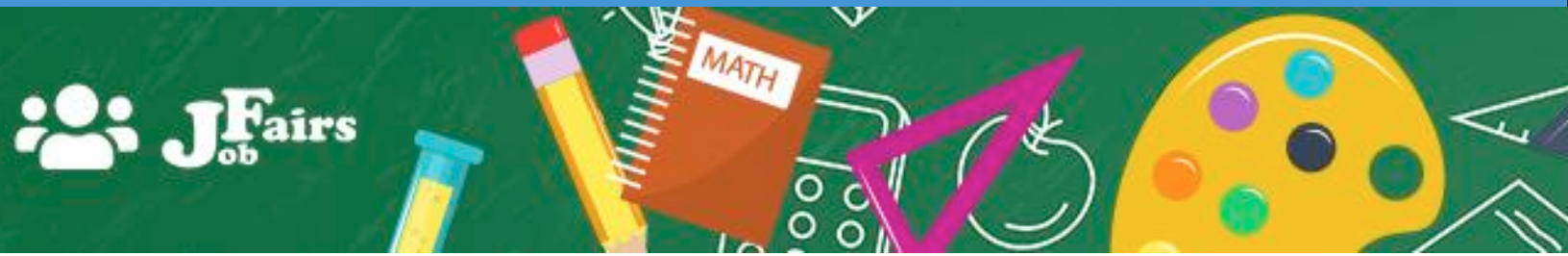
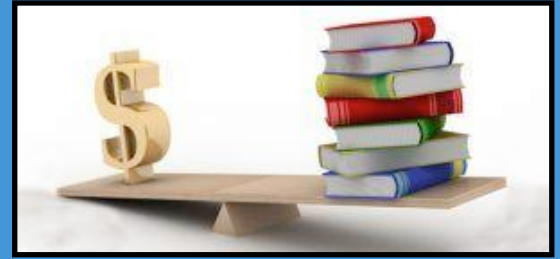
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Advocacy

February 1, in the HR world, marked the start of the student transfer process and requests have been coming in. Once we have processed these requests we will be able to better prepare for the upcoming budget meetings and ultimately the staffing for the 2021/22 school year.

HR is becoming more involved with online career fairs. In the past couple of weeks School District 5 hosted their own virtual online job fair with the support of Kootenay Employment Services and attended a virtual UVIC job fair where we addressed some new teacher graduates eager to start their teaching career. We were able to showcase School District 5 and our area with our new online PowerPoint created by HR with the help from some of our Principals and Vice Principals, the new PowerPoint can be found on our website [here](#).

As well, we are posting for two new 1.0 continuing Teachers Teaching on Call contracts in our efforts to support the Elk Valley communities of Elkford and Sparwood.



Parkland Grade 9 students were graced with the knowledge of SD5 Aboriginal Education Coordinator Faye O'Neil, as they learned about traditional Ktunaxa hunting practices and prepared a deer stew and fry bread in their Foods class. Much gratitude to Faye O'Neil and Johanna Kinsman for their time and teachings.



New signs at Laurie Middle School

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Schools



Mr. Gulyas' Physical Education classes have been working on fitness and survival skills. The classes have recently completed a cross country ski unit (utilizing some of the cross-country ski gear from the DRC!) The grade 9 class trekked from Elkford Secondary to the Wild Cat Cabin (16.5 km). Avalanche Canada also supplied the Physical Education classes beacons and probes for the students to develop their skills identifying the weak layers in the snowpack.

In Cranbrook, Angela Linardic's kindergarten class has had fun tromping through the snow on the snowshoes from the District Resource Centre.

Disc Golf

A mild December and January allowed Grades 1-3 at Kootenay Orchards to play disc golf! Remember the DRC has options for all types of outdoor fun in winter weather from sports to science. Jenna Beckley's Grade 5 class at Kootenay Orchards was able to get some footage of frost and snowflakes melting with our handheld digital microscopes called Zoomies.



The Grade 1/2 students from Steeples headed to the Community garden park near Save On Foods in January. The students were given the challenge to build a game board using only materials they found on the ground. There were lots of branches, leaves and pinecones from the windstorm that were used to create the exciting games.



Amy Woodland Elementary continues the tradition of "Wilderness Wednesdays".



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Parkland celebrates Team Canada with a Red & White day. Congratulations Captain Bowen Byram, a Parkland alumni, from Mrs. Dawson & Nastasi's learning group and special Bowen – Bryder connection with a signed stick after a successful guided trip!

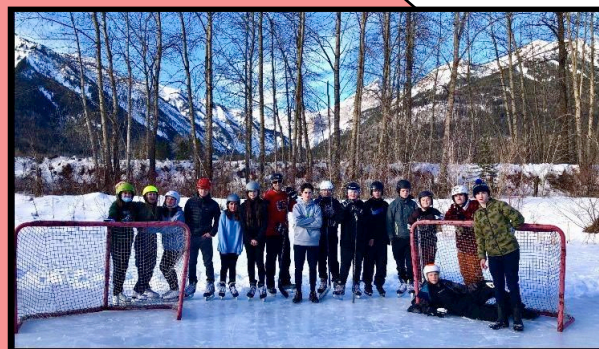


The kindergarten class at Gordon Terrace digging up "fossils" as they study dinosaurs!



Outdoor Education at Highlands Elementary School!

Mrs. Reinarz and Mrs. Gauthier's grade 4/5 class at T.M. Roberts Elementary School building snow shelters.



Fernie Secondary School Grade 9 Outdoor Education class

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Schools



The Kootenay Discovery School primary students doing a painting session and cross-country skiing prior to the winter break in Fernie.



Pinewood Elementary School students learning in the outdoor classroom at Idlewild Park and students studying the "Northern Lights" in the playground at the school



Ice Suncatchers created by Ms. Barras' Grade 3 class at Isabella Dicken Elementary School



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Schools



Canadian suntime at T.M. Roberts!



Working on Global issues and how we can do our part...
 "Together, we can heal the world!" "Ensemble, nous pouvons guerir le monde!"

Sophie Lapierre Gr.6 French Immersion Teacher, T.M. Roberts Elementary



Frank J. Mitchell Elementary School took part in the East Kootenay Great Big Buddy Read with Tim and Sage from Shred Kelly. We even had a student watching with us from home (shared screen on Teams). Students loved this book and thought it was great to see someone else read it.



Mrs. Stevenson's grade 2/3 class at Gordon Terrace Elementary recently finished the Mind Up program with the Youth Care Worker, Mrs. Reid. During their last session, they brainstormed mindful acts of kindness, then voted for their favourite: to make thank you cards for people who work at the hospital. The huge stack of cards will be delivered to East Kootenay Regional Hospital.



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