

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5

SOUTHEAST KOOTENAY

***STUDENTS LOVE TO LEARN HERE, STAFF
LOVE TO WORK HERE, FAMILIES LOVE TO
GATHER HERE***



Snow sculpture from Mrs. Fleischacker's Outdoor Ed class at EIDES

FEBRUARY 2022



From the Desk

of Silke Yardley
Superintendent, Southeast Kootenay
School District



Dear staff, parents, caregivers, and students:

We had a few lovely spring days, some cold days, and now are looking forward to spring break in a few weeks. I am wishing for everyone to have a restful spring break and take the time to relax, recharge and connect to family and friends. After spring break, Easter and the May-long weekend are just around the corner and before you know it, summer will be here. Schools are busy with lots of planning for spring and year-end. Our Board and district staff are working on budgets, as well as staffing and planning for our Framework for Enhancing students learning next year.



We are very proud of all the work that the district and school staff have been doing on our Framework for Enhancing Student Learning plan. Each month, district staff share a framework goal at our monthly committee days. At this month's committee day, we had two wonderful presentations from our district team supporting our numeracy goal and integrating technology into learning.

Diane Casault, our Director of Instruction for Student Learning, and her team of teachers and district staff have made great strides with the numeracy goal of improving students' skills and confidence in numeracy. The following link to her presentation shows the variety of learning and initiatives that have resulted in the hard work of her and her team.

Link: Numeracy Project

Jennifer Roberts, our District Principal of Technology and Transformative learning along with her team have connected and weaved technology into each of the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning goals. The team's focus was providing a learning series starting with grade four teachers and teacher-librarians to improve student learning with digital literacy skills.

Please see the following PowerPoint which was presented at committee day regarding the learning series and the plan moving forward. This is an excellent example of some of the amazing projects and activities. A special thank you as well to the transformative learning team who is supporting the projects.

Link: Transformative Learning

I hope you enjoy reading about all the good things that are happening in School District No. 5. A special shout out to Amanda Skene, our new executive assistant, who is creating this wonderful document for us each month!

Have a wonderful spring break!

Take care of yourselves,

Silke

Link: Full Framework

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



Jaffray Elementary Secondary School literary character dress up day.

STORY SPHEROS

Sphero Robots have always looked like something out of the Wonka Factory. So when it came time to bring the Charlie and the Chocolate Factory book alive, they were a natural tool of choice. Mrs. Thompson's class from Kootenay Orchards Elementary coded the Sphero robots to navigate through a story map and use symbolic actions and sounds to recreate their favourite parts of the famous novel. They completed the project by filming an interview and demonstration of their project and uploaded it to their portfolio.



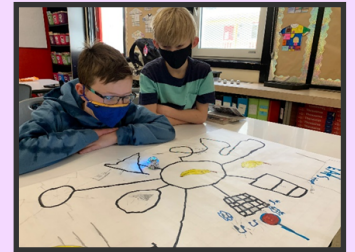
COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION

Students exploring communication and collaboration by having the opportunity to understand coding basics. The activity engaged all learners to be successful. They started by using directional vocal cues to move their bodies and finished with programming a directional robot to follow their action cards.



DESIGN AND CODING AN AMUSEMENT PARK

Students in Ms. Nohel's class at Frank J Mitchell Elementary worked with a partner to create an amusement park map. This project was created to tie into the book called "How to Code a Rollercoaster" that was purchased for the Grade 4 FESL Digital Literacy project. The design provocation was to create an amusement park for a robot. They drew a map with special color codes for the Ozobot robot to experience different rides in the park. The Ozobot is a line following robot that uses different color-coded patterns to perform different commands such as turn left, u-turns, go fast, nitro boost and more. Students then visited each other's parks with their Ozobots. One group even devised a game for multiple Ozobots to compete in the park.



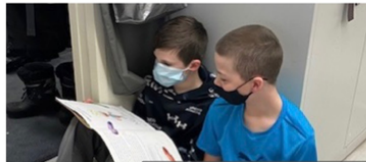
Objective: To improve students' ability to be literate at each grade level with an initial focus on the primary years

Possessing proficient literacy skills gives students the ability to communicate clearly and effectively. Lacking these skills places students at a tremendous disadvantage. Literacy creates opportunities for people to develop skills that will help them provide for themselves and their family as well as becoming positive contributors to society. Literacy is essential to developing a strong sense of well-being and citizenship. Children who have developed strong reading skills perform better in school and have a healthier self-image. They become lifelong learners and sought-after employees.



CHANGING RESULTS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

This great session resumed again on March 3rd. The session was hosted by Joanne Holme out of Burnaby and focused on providing collaboration between community and school-based early learning. It was attended by some of our kindergarten teachers, StrongStart facilitators and early childhood educators in our communities.



STORY WORKSHOP

The CR4YC group also attended the Story Workshop sessions which focused on new possibilities for young writers. Even our youngest students have lots of stories to tell, whether real or imagined. These sessions focused on how we can establish a classroom community of beginning writers where equity, empathy, and compassion become part of the process and vital by-products of story writing.

THE GREAT BIG BUDDY READ

The Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy (CBAL) brought back the Great Big Buddy Read during January's Family Literacy Week.

This year they expanded the program to include communities in both the East & West Kootenays. They wanted to show that growing reading and literacy skills don't happen on their own. The Great Big Buddy Read encouraged K to grade 3 students to pair up with older students to read together, following protocols. This happened on Thursday, January 27, 2022, during Family Literacy Week.

We had students from Amy Woodlands Elementary, Steeples Elementary School and TM Roberts Elementary School participate in Cranbrook and Rocky Mountain Elementary, Frank J. Mitchell Elementary, and Isabella Dicken Elementary schools participate in the Elk Valley.



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MATH SURROUNDS US

Students from Ms. Buchan and Ms. Kirby's grade 7 classes at Elkford Secondary were introduced to the idea that math is all around us in the objects and spaces we use every day. Students practiced their visual spatial skills to create three dimensional houses and household objects in Tinkercad. They learned that CAD (Computer Assisted Design) is used in the fields of engineering, architecture, and industrial design. Some students also discovered a hidden talent in drafting and design. All were encouraged to ponder how math is used to create everyday objects. This will lead into a unit on calculating area and volume later in the semester.



GEARING UP

Students from TM Roberts Elementary, as well as Highlands Elementary, experimented with gears to see how fast they could make their LEGO cars go. They got a firsthand lesson in the trade-offs of speed and power when playing with gears to complete different challenges such as races, battles and jumping over trains. Some cars had F-1 speed but not enough power to propel the car while others were all torque. Mme Catherine's class from TM Roberts Elementary also designed custom 3D printed hood ornaments for their speed cars while they were at the Design Lab.

DESIGN AND BUILDING WITH CARDBOARD AND MAKEDOS

Students in the TREX program at Frank J Mitchell Elementary put their creative skills to work to make various functional objects using cardboard and a building kit called Makedo. Students learned how to safely handle cardboard knives to cut and assemble things such as a house, vehicle, and even a functioning door using the Makedo building kit.



Objective: To improve students' skill and confidence in numeracy

Numeracy is necessary for everyday living. From daily activities like telling the time, baking and playing cards, to more difficult tasks such as understanding budgeting, planning a trip, reading a map and understanding timetables. Numeracy is important for individuals to develop logical thinking and reasoning strategies in their everyday activities as well as different career opportunities. We need numeracy to solve problems and make sense of numbers, time, patterns, and shapes for activities like cooking, reading receipts, reading instructions, and even playing sports.

ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH PHYSICAL DIFFABILITIES

Over the last few years, we have investigated equipment that facilitates access to our great winter activities. Actively participating in classroom activities further fosters inclusion and a sense of belonging.

One common adaptation includes upgrading front wheel sizes for wheelchairs so the students who spend significant time in the chair may be part of classroom winter strolls with their peers.

We have also acquired two quality-crafted adapted snow sleds for elementary schools in the Elk Valley featuring a tubular metal-grip yoke system that provides lateral protection for riders with disabilities. Two independently operating brakes, a tail brake (for the support staff member), and swivel-coupled platform are built to withstand extreme use.



LUGE TRACK DESIGN

Mr. Flegel's class at Kootenay Orchards Elementary were given a design challenge to create a Luge track in the Kootenay Orchards Elementary field. They were given specific criteria; it needed to be fun and safe. After researching some examples and learning more about the sport through the Olympics, they designed their own. First they generated ideas on paper, then modelled using plasticine and tested their ideas with marbles. Unfortunately, the weather has not cooperated and it didn't snow in almost two months, leaving their half-built track in a state of ice and grass. It was a great lesson in dealing with the elements and they have already started to think of other creative ideas to build upon their first unsuccessful attempt.



MOVEMENT PATH EXPANSION

TM Robert's movement path has expanded down a new hallway thanks to another great installation by Chantal's Paths. Since the first path was installed in 2020 students hop, jump and balance their way down the main hallway. Now they can measure, multiply and be mindful down another. We love these paths as it gives students a chance to move their bodies as they travel down the halls.



Objective: To improve the quality of student's feeling welcome, safe and connected to their school community

Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, states basic needs must be met before humans can feel safe and secure. Those humans need to feel safe and secure before they can trust relationships and love that strengthens the sense of belonging. Belonging is essential before a person develops enough self-esteem and worth to create a feeling of accomplishment. All these need to be in place to achieve one's full potential.



STRESS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR KINDERGARTEN EDUCATORS

Psychology Canada offered a free preschool and kindergarten educator stress management program for child-serving professionals in British Columbia who work with Indigenous children and youth.

Kids Have Stress Too! Preschool, Kindergarten and Parent Training will prepare educators to incorporate these programs into their classrooms and lessons. The program provides a comprehensive introduction to key aspects of early childhood and brain development and the crucial role that early childhood educators play in teaching children effective stress- management.

We had ten educators attend the training that was held on Friday, March 4th.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Teachers took part in a variety of professional development on February 18. Training plans included,

but were not limited to; Wild Schools workshops, social media awareness, sessions on brain development, impacts of trauma to the brain, regulation for staff and students,

emotion-focused school supports, the impact of trauma and stress on the brain, how to braid Ktunaxa content into lesson plans, exploring reconciliation, decolonizing and indigenizing in the larger context as well as Sound Connections and anxiety in the classroom. The sessions were well attended, and we appreciate all the effort that the schools go to in providing such an assortment of professional development to their staff.



Ready, Set, Learn is an initiative that recognizes that families need positive connections with the school system and community agencies that provide relevant resources and information. This program is designed to help parents and preschoolers get ready for school success and become lifelong learners. All our elementary schools in School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay) will be offering an opportunity for all three- to five-year old children and their parents or guardians to receive an information/activity package. This event is a partnership between the province, the district, and the early childhood teachers in Cranbrook, Fernie, Sparwood, Jaffray, and Elkford. Events will be held in April, May, and June. Watch for more information and dates in April!

PLEASE VISIT THE LINK TO SD5 'S READY, SET, LEARN INFORMATIONAL PAGE

Objective: To improve the percentage of students who feel there are two or more adults in their school who care about them

Young people need to be surrounded by people who love, care for, appreciate and accept them. Other adult relationships are one of the positive supports that young people need to succeed. A resiliency is fostered when the young person receives support from three or more non-parent adults.

LOCAL EDUCATION AGREEMENT PROCESS WITH YAQIT PA·KNUQI'IT

The past weeks have seen us meaningfully working through a Local Education Agreement with Tobacco Plains. We agreed with Yaqit Pa·knuqi'it to work with the FNESC provincial template as a starting point and have had several productive hours. It has been a very positive process and one that has seen meaningful collaboration and dialogue. We are very much looking forward to getting together in person!

DISTRICT STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

March 1st sees us finally getting to hold a face-to-face DSAC meeting this year! We're gathering in Fernie with middle and secondary students from all our communities. On the agenda, amongst other things, are a review of a few more administrative protocols and some focused leadership case studies.

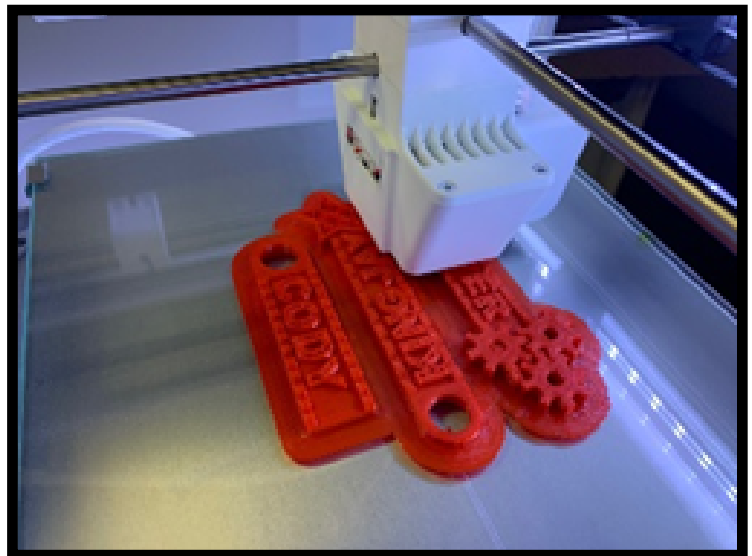
MANUFACTURING AND THE 3D PRINTING PROCESS

Students in block X at Frank J Mitchell Elementary, as well as the tech club at Isabella Dicken Elementary, and students in Mr. Barlow's class at Isabella Dicken Elementary practiced their drafting and design skills using a program called Tinkercad. Students learned about the additive manufacturing process and how it can be used to create such things as key chains to actual buildings being 3D printed in the developing world to provide permanent housing for people. Each student designed their own key chain that was then printed from the 3D printer at the Design Lab in Fernie.



ENHANCEMENT AGREEMENT WORK CONTINUES

March 9th will see the first in person Enhancement Agreement review committee meeting of the year. The full review committee has been able to meet online and has started the crucial work of having the writing teams drafting a new agreement. The current agreement expires at the end of this school year. The writing teams have been active in two key areas- academic success and sense of belonging. We're looking forward to presenting to the whole review committee on this excellent work!



Objective: Students will successfully graduate with BC Graduation certificates (Dogwood) that will better lead to attaining career and occupational objectives

Student completion of the Graduation program with a Dogwood certificate is a necessary and vital prerequisite to a successful transition to post-secondary programs or to viable employment. A successful graduation is important to prepare students to attain their career and occupational objectives; to assist in the development of effective work habits and the flexibility to deal with change in the workplace

Columbia Basin Trust – Basin PLAYS Grants

Through the Basin PLAYS grants, several of our schools received funding to add to their outdoor equipment. Isabella Dickson Elementary used their funds to purchase cross country ski equipment for their school. Sparwood Secondary School used their funds to purchase and install a disc golf course! We are so thankful for the Columbia Basin Trust and their commitments to our local schools and communities.



SNOW!!!

Starting in January, our snowshoes and cross country skis have barely had a rest with all of the outdoor learning throughout the District! With 60 pairs of snowshoes ranging in sizes from junior to senior, our students like these ones from Kootenay Orchards Elementary have been having fun taking their learning outside. Students from elementary and middle schools have been enjoying our cross country skis for place based learning.



