

June 15, 2020

Dear parents/guardians and all staff:

It is hard to believe that we only have two more weeks until summer vacation! There are many different things going on in the next two weeks, and I thought I would highlight a few:

- Survey for the Rocking Readers Grade 2 literacy project will be going home in the next few days. If you were a part of this project, please take the time to fill out the survey as we value your feedback as we plan for next year.
- District retirement party on Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup> - Thank you to Heather, Jill, Bridget and Brent from the Human Resources department for all their work on getting this “unique” party organized. We even have School District 5 masks that will be given out to each attendee. While we aren’t celebrating as usual, we hope this will be a memorable celebration for all of our retirees.
- Modified Graduation Ceremonies are next week for our Grade 12 Students - A special thank you to all of the principals and the graduation committees for ensuring that our students are celebrated in these unique times. We wish our Grade 12 students all the best. Please see the [letter of congratulations](#) to all grads from the Board of Education and District staff.
- Check out the wonderful video created by Grade 12 Students at Mount Baker Secondary: <https://youtu.be/5mstaEkBnSs>.
- There will be 45 Ministry of Education, District Authority Scholarships awarded this week to graduating students from Elkford Secondary, Sparwood Secondary, Fernie Secondary and Mount Baker Secondary. We have students registered at universities/colleges for the Fall and they will be using the \$1250.00 scholarship award to help fund such faculties as medicine, education, fine arts, and social work - just to name a few! Good Luck to all students who applied!



- New Aboriginal Education Department Logo: Thanks to artist Marisa Phillips a former School District 5 student, School District 5 Elders, the Aboriginal Education Enhancement Committee and the Aboriginal Education Support Workers who all helped to design our new department logo. We are excited to start planning how the new logo will be used by the Aboriginal Education team as well as the rest of the District.
- Playgrounds are now open. New K-12 resources have been released by the [BC Centre for Disease Control](#) on safety tips for use of playgrounds. Also check out this [Play Safe Infographic](#).
- BC Summer Reading Club (BC SRC): The BC SRC is a free literacy library-based program that motivates kids ages 5-14 to keep reading during the summer. Starting June 15, parents/guardians can [register](#) their kids online, help them participate in fun reading activities and connect with the local public library. This year's theme is "Explore Your Universe". More information for educators is available on the [BC Summer Reading Club](#) staff website.



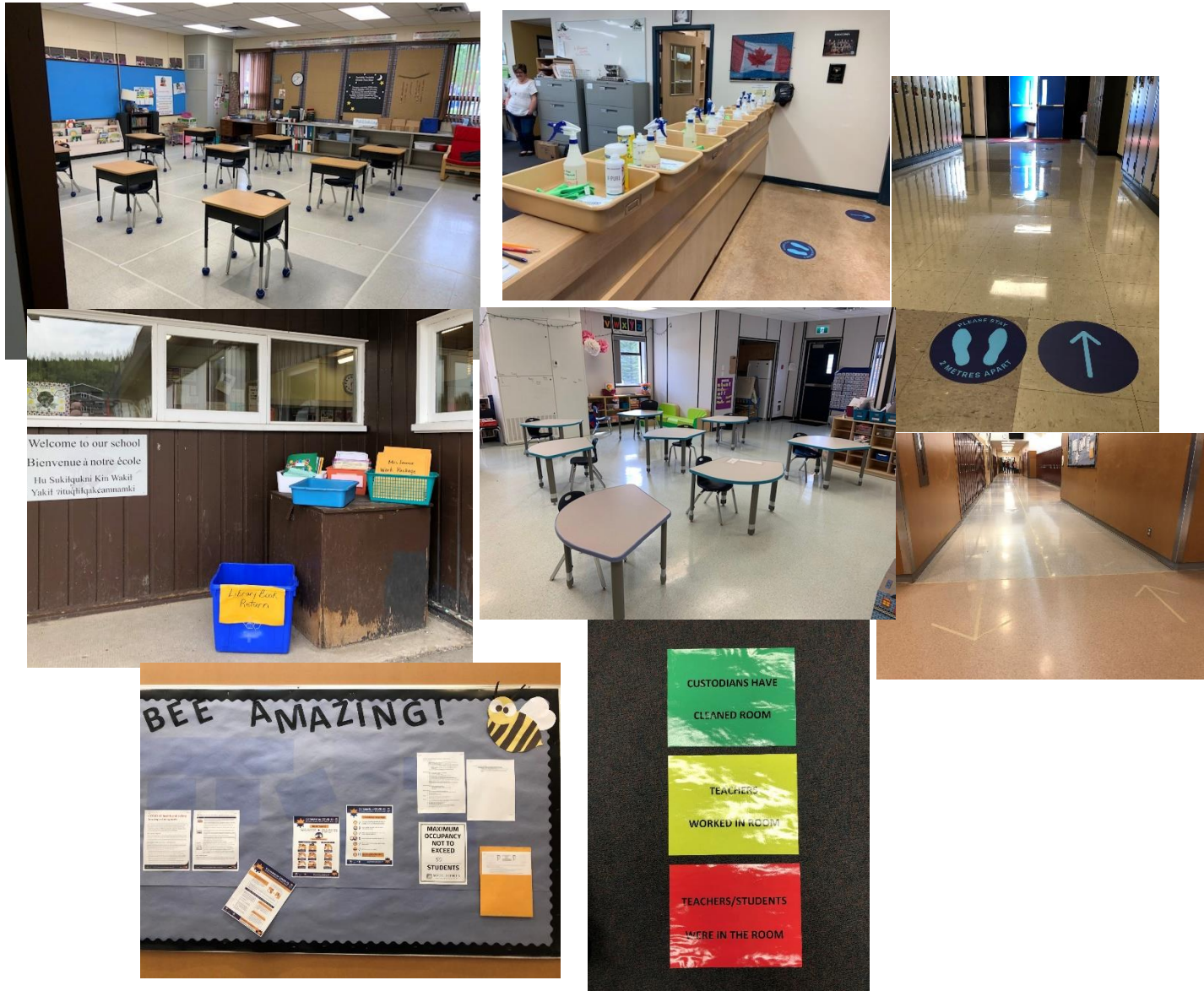
Here is some interesting data from the province on student attendance. The attendance data for the province for the week of June 1-5 showed that more than 157,000 students were present for in-class instruction, which represents about one third of all B.C. K-12 students:

- Approximately 35 per cent of expected students in K-5 attended at least one day
- Approximately 28 per cent of expected students in Grades 6-8 attended at least one day
- Approximately 16 per cent of expected students in Grades 9-12 attended at least one day
- Approximately 27 per cent of Indigenous learners attended at least one day of in-class instruction
- Approximately 31 per cent of students with diverse needs attended at least one day of in-class instruction

Thank you for continuing to send in a variety of pictures from both home learning and in-school learning.



A special thank you to all schools for all their hard work on making sure students and staff are safe! Thank you as well to Darcy Verbeurgt, District Principal of Student Services and Joe Tank, Manager of Operations for traveling around to schools and meeting with Principals around their health and safety protocols. Our schools are doing a great job!!!!



Please see the following links from the Ministry of Education for more information:

[K – 12 Education Restart Plan](#)

[Continuity of Learning – Planning Guide for teachers](#)

[WorkSafeBC K – 12 Education Protocols](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions on Continuity of Learning \(Updated with Playground Information\)](#)

[Keep Learning](#)

[BC's Response to Covid-19 Website](#)

Please check out our website for more information at: [www.sd5.bc.ca](http://www.sd5.bc.ca).



Please continue to send any photos or videos you would like to share to our CBO email at [cbo.mailing@sd5.bc.ca](mailto:cbo.mailing@sd5.bc.ca) and we will post these on our Facebook page [here](#).

I wish you all a good week! Next week will be my last update until we start again in the fall.

Take care,

Silke Yardley

