

**SOUTHEAST KOOTENAY
PATHWAYS TO LEARNING**



January, 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

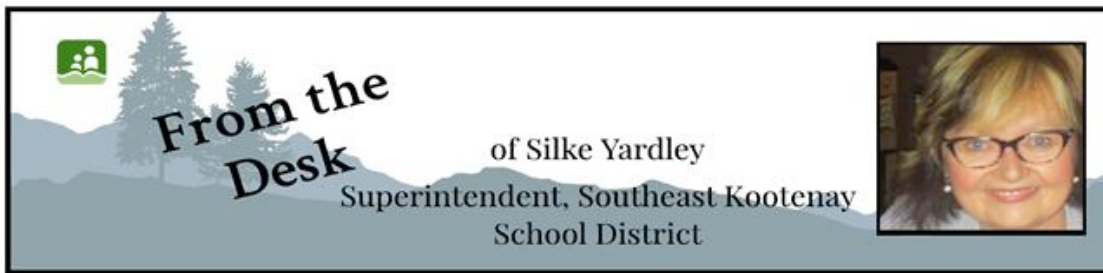
Goal: Continue to foster two-way, ethical communication between the District and all learners, students, staff, parents and community in a timely, concise and inclusive manner.

- 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



Welcome back to 2021!

Whenever January 1st arrives, I always think of it as turning a corner and looking at what exciting and interesting things will come for the next year. This year for me, as we turn the corner, brings me hope and the wish to look forward to 2021.

What always gets me excited is looking at student learning and how we can support and improve our system for our students. We have a strong district where we do many good things for our students, but there can always be improvement.

District staff is focused on the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning report which is a requirement from the Ministry of Education with a deadline of September 30th.

Our first step will be to look at our district data and see how our students are doing. The ministry has created a new order (Enhancing Student Learning Reporting Order) where we are required to use certain assessments to look at our students' educational outcomes. We will initially be using the Foundation Skills Assessment, the Student Learning Survey, and report cards for our data.

While this data is a snapshot of our district, it will show us trends and areas that we will be focusing on for the coming years to improve student learning outcomes.

We also want to get feedback from our partner groups. Due to COVID and our inability to meet together in large groups, we will send out a survey to gather information from you. The survey is intended to reach out to all of our partner groups and see how they feel we are doing to support student learning.

Once we have the feedback, we will meet with our partner groups and review the survey and then start working on our framework.

Schools will be a very important part of the framework as school learning plans will tie into our district framework in order for all of us to work together on student success.

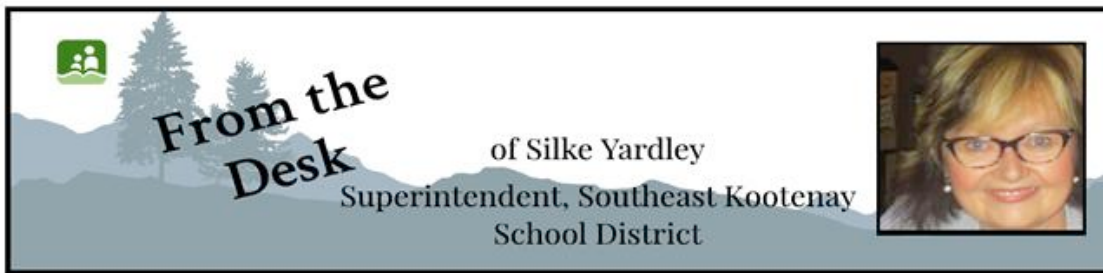
As specified in the Statement of Education Policy Order, the purpose of the British Columbia school system is to enable learners to develop their individual potential and to acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to contribute to a healthy society and a prosperous and sustainable economy.



Ministry of Education



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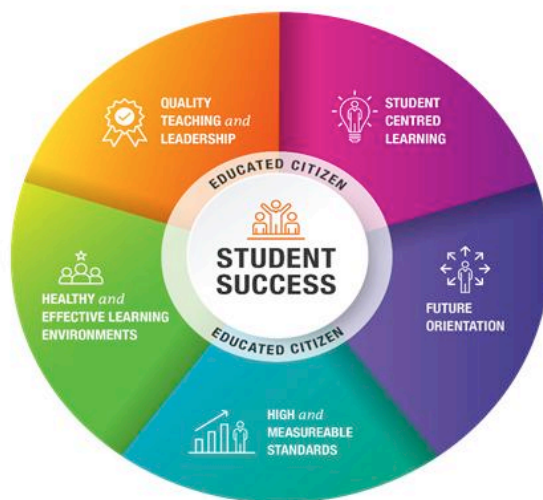


To achieve this purpose, we have a collective mandate to develop the “educated citizen” which is defined as having:

Intellectual Development – to develop the ability of students to analyze critically, reason and think independently, and acquire basic learning skills and bodies of knowledge; to develop in students a lifelong appreciation of learning, a curiosity about the world around them, and a capacity for creative thought and expression.

Human and Social Development – to develop in students a sense of self-worth and personal initiative; to develop an appreciation of the fine arts and an understanding of cultural heritage; to develop an understanding of the importance of physical health and well-being; to develop a sense of social responsibility, acceptance and respect for the ideas and beliefs of others.

Career Development – 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. Continuous improvement on student success will be guided by the following principles:



Please take the time to answer the survey. Your feedback is very important to us and we look forward to working together to support our students.

Take care,

Silke

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Engaging All Learners

StrongStart Centres

StrongStart BC Programs provide a rich learning environment for early learning development – language, physical, cognitive, social and emotional. Through our qualified early childhood educators, children are led through a variety of learning activities where they find opportunities to make friends and interact with others of similar ages. Our StrongStart Centres experienced a delay in start-up this year, but with three new facilitators, were back up and running in all four centres as of Oct. 26th. Children can attend one of two centres in Cranbrook - located at Steeples Elementary and Amy Woodland Elementary - or the two StrongStart Centres in the Elk Valley - one at Isabella Dicken Elementary in Fernie and Frank J. Mitchell Elementary in Sparwood. Registration is required and weekly sign up is also necessary to reserve your child's spot as space is limited to due COVID. Our facilitators have made these programs a great and welcoming space for these children, ages 3 – 5. Some of the exciting programs this fall have included mud kitchens, exploding volcanoes, outdoor obstacle courses, Zoom story times, and of course, arts and crafts. Lots of wonderful and educational play for these children.



Clerical Professional Development

On December 11, 2020, the entire clerical staff came together by TEAMS to partake in a professional development day geared just for them. With the support of the District Executive Assistants, our clerical spent the day gaining tips for their every day tasks along with learning a variety of valuable skills such as: 7 Habits of Highly Effective People, Conflict Resolution, Coping Skills, Self Care, Stress Management and Inclusive Language tips. It was a full day that was time well spent with some excellent trainers from FSEAP, KEV and our own Jill MacDonald, Jaslene Atwal and Darcy Verbeurgt!

Dual Credit Opportunities

We have been monitoring our Youth Train in Trades numbers as we near the February intake at The College of the Rockies (COTR). While we have seen the predictable drop in registrations this year, we have still seen a significant number of SD5 students enrolled in 'Red Seal' dual credit courses through the College. There were 18 students enrolled in Red Seal programs in September. In comparison, we filled 33 seats in the same programs last year. We have 3 students who started welding at COTR in January, as opposed to 6 last year. Electrical starts in February, and we are unsure if we will have anyone for that program.

One additional interesting note: 2 of the 3 welding students are from the Elk Valley and are staying in the new residences at the COTR!

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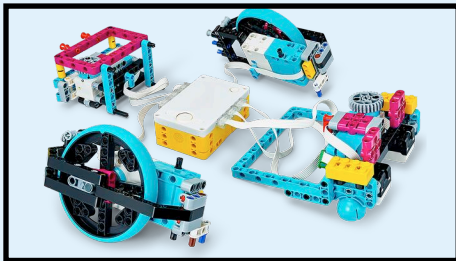
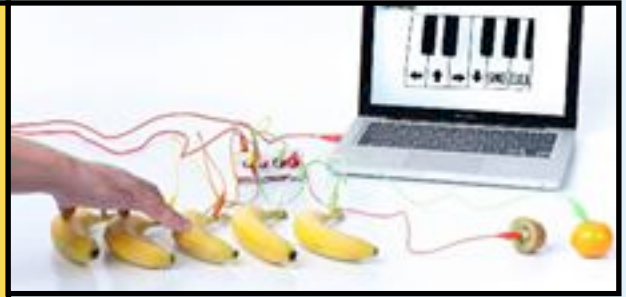
Basic coding and electronics at Sparwood Secondary

Grade 11/12 students in Ms. Gonsalvez's Media class at Sparwood Secondary worked on creating interactive posters using Makey Makeys.

A Makey Makey is an invention kit that includes a Makey Makey board, alligator clips and a USB cord. The Makey Makey uses every day conductive objects such as tin foil, graphite, playdough, Jell-O, plants, water, etc. to make interactive "buttons".

Students program the buttons using Scratch software to either play music, sound effects, or voice recordings. It is even possible to create buttons for interactive computer games and animations. For this project, students created a poster on a subject of their choice. They worked in pairs to write a script and then record the script using Scratch software. Then, students connected a Makey Makey device from their computer to the poster using alligator clips attached to at least 3 conductive buttons. When a person touches a button on the poster, it plays the voice recording.

Makey Makeys are "low floor, high ceiling" devices that introduce students to the basics of electronics and coding, while fostering creativity and problem-solving skills.



Space Cadets Over the Moon with Their Creations

Mrs. Kirkpatrick's class got to try out the new Lego Spike kits to build rovers and learn about coding while exploring space. They explored different strategies for solving problems with coding and design including how to break things down into smaller problems and how to use conditional statements to create code for a robot that can react to different situations. One of the highlights was an in-class session where the students coded a rover to make it through a maze using colours and the robot colour sensors to steer and make it to the goal.



Can't Go To The Arcade? Make the Arcade!

Mrs. Thompson's class at Kootenay Orchards cracked open the MakeCode Arcade consoles and began making simple games. They had to learn some advanced programming to create a Charlie and the Chocolate Factory themed game. There was a lot of great collaboration in the class as everyone wanted each other to succeed so that they could all try each other's games.



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Engaging All Learners

Autonomous Robotic Zoo

Mrs. Emsland's class from Steeples created a wild zoo using the Lego WeDo kits at the Design Lab. Students had the choice of 8 different animals they could build, code and customize. Some branched off and even designed their own animal creation from scratch. By the end of the day, frogs, dolphins, gorillas and even a puppy were roaming around the lab.

Just a reminder that both Design Labs are OPEN! Book your session by sending an email to either Kim.Froehler@sd5.bc.ca in the Elk Valley or Ryan.Mckenzie@sd5.bc.ca in the Cranbrook area.



An inclusive adventure accessible to all students in Physical Education 8 and 9 at Elkford Secondary

For the first time in many years, Elkford Secondary students in grades 8 and 9 had the opportunity to go swimming at the Elkford Aquatic Centre. Students were introduced to the career of life guarding, aqua fit and life guarding drills and skills. There were also winter safety discussions about being on ice and the thickness required do such things as skating. Students also simulated falling through the ice by rolling around in the snow, experiencing the shock of being instantly cold and wet.

Thank you to PAC for funding the admission to this event, Elkford Secondary School for providing the bussing and the Elkford Aquatic Centre's staff for providing such dynamic and educational activities.

Outdoor Play in the Early Years Virtual Workshop
6pm Pacific, Wed, Feb 3
www.cbeen.ca/workshops
Get Outside & Play

District Resource Webpage

The [District Resource webpage](#) provides digital resources and information for remote learning.



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Inclusive Partnerships

Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy

'Come Read with Me' Program

Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy delivered a workshop on November 24, 2020 for parents and caregivers of Grade 1 students. The workshop was intended to help parents and caregivers to learn ways to support their young readers at home. They received a book and an activity sheet to accompany the book. We received 36 registrations for the 24th!



StoryWalk®

CBAL held StoryWalks at our Elementary Schools in November and December. They started at Amy Woodland Elementary and Steeples Elementary Schools. The StoryWalk® consists of laminated pages of a story attached in order along the outside of the fence allowing families to read as they walk along the fence together. Families could also visit the StoryWalk® outside of school time and on weekends. Another fun idea from CBAL to promote literacy!

MENTAL HEALTH and WELL-BEING

[Virtual Calming Room](#) - Thanks to Ben Grebinski in Saskatchewan for sharing these 2 resources. The Virtual Calming Room provides a variety of ideas for adults and children and has something for everyone to de-stress. Enjoy!



A huge shout out to The Choice for supporting SD5 schools. Their fundraising efforts are greatly appreciated and a wonderful example of the importance of supporting local. Parkland Middle School is so grateful for their donations of winter gear and clothing.

Thank You!

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Advocacy

Welcome Sarah Lee Villeneuve our new Odyssey French Language Animatrice!

We are all very excited to have our first ever French “animatrice” (activity planner) from the federal government Odyssey Program. Sarah Lee, originally from Saguenay - Lac St Jean, Quebec, will be providing a variety of French language and cultural programming for all our students and is staying with us until May 1st! Quelle chance! What luck!

Bienvenue Sarah Lee et merci pour les connexions et les activités que tu as déjà commencées!

Thank you for the great connections and activities you have already begun at ÉIDES!!

HR will be kicking off 2021 with a School District No.5 (Southeast Kootenay) virtual Job Fair January 12, 2021 with the help of KES in Fernie. We are hoping to connect with employment seekers in the Elk Valley as well as Cranbrook and Creston. At this job fair we will highlight all the positive reasons for people to start a career with SD5 whether as a Noon Hour Supervisor, Custodian, Education Assistant or Teacher. We will also direct applicants to our website where they can review all the job postings and apply for the jobs that interest them, we will also be available for a Q&A from all participants.

Casual hiring continues for teachers in the Elk Valley, Education Assistants, Noon Hour Supervisors and Custodians in both Cranbrook and the Elk Valley.

HR continues to calculate Remedy monthly for teachers in order to comply with the guidelines as set out on class size and composition.



We are HIRING!

CASUAL, TEMP AND FULL TIME

Custodians, Bus Cleaners, Noon Hour Supervisors, Education Assistants, Aboriginal Education Support Workers



APPLY NOW!

sd5.bc.ca
(click on career opportunities)

We are HIRING!

JOURNEYMAN PLUMBER

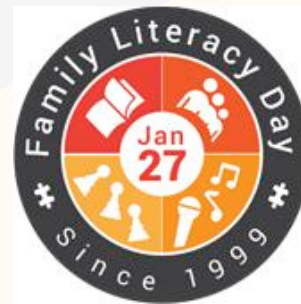
In the Elk Valley. Permanent position. C2021-175



APPLY NOW!

sd5.bc.ca
(click on career opportunities)

[Family Literacy Day](#) is January 27, 2021. This day raises awareness about the importance of reading and engaging in other literacy related activities as a family.



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Advocacy

Professional Development Update

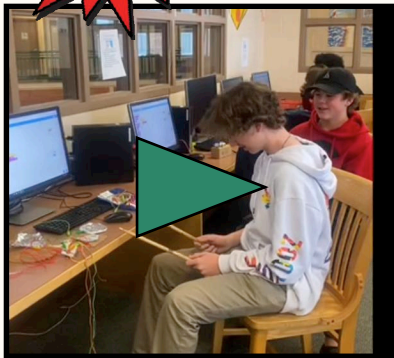
On Friday, December 11, 2020 over 160 Education Assistants, Aboriginal Education Support Workers, Youth Care Workers and School Counsellors attended a professional development session. A feedback survey of those who attended is in the development stage. Until then, a couple comments from emails received shortly after the day concluded are below:

- "I just wanted to take a moment to thank you both for putting our Pro -D day together. The presentations were amazing and invaluable!"
- "Thank you for this grand Pro-d day opportunity. Both presentations were relevant and so pertinent to our magic skill survival back packs."



Food to students over the winter break

The provision of food to our students in need has risen since the declaration of the pandemic measures in Canada nearly 10 months ago. Our Aboriginal Education Support Workers and Youth Care Workers ensured our students in need had food in their homes to help them through the winter break. A few support staff provided fresh produce to them in the second week to ensure they were getting balanced nutrition. We currently employ 16 AESWs and 18 YCWs. We are so pleased with the efforts these support workers have invested in ensuring our vulnerable students are well nourished.



Parkland Gr 9 Makey Projects making music!



Grade 1/2 December newsletter from T.M. Roberts Elementary School

Go to this Sway

Internet Safety Series
with the White Hatter

6:00 pm PST, 7:00 pm MST
Live online presentations

Learning TOGETHER

Internet/Social Media Safety and Digital Literacy for Parents
January 12

Online Sexual Predation and Exploitation
January 26

Online Gaming Concerns, Balance, Addiction & Opportunities
February 9

Distribution of Intimate Images, Nudes, Sexting, and the Canadian Law
February 16

The Dark and Dangerous of Social Media and the Internet
February 23

TO LEARN MORE, CONTACT:
Chris Hill, Community Literacy Coordinator
chill@cbal.org 250-946-7257 www.cbal.org

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY
Columbia Basin *frust*

cbaal
Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy

THE WHITE HATTER



Parenting Anxiety: 5 Tips for Supporting Kids with Anxiety

Teams Live Event scheduled for Wednesday, January 20, 2021 @ 7:00pm (MST)

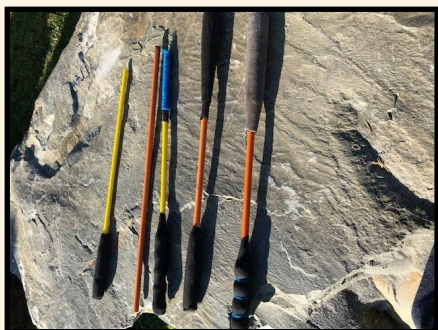
Presentation by Sean Larsen
contact sd5dpac@gmail.com for more information

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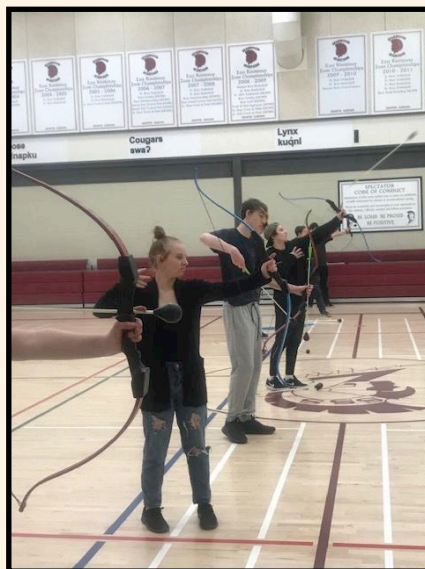
Schools



Grade 5/6 Highlands Elementary School students working with Mr. McKenzie.



Drumsticks made by Grade 8 LMS students.



Archery



Some pictures from the PE 11-12 class at SSS!

Geo-caching



Grade 1 Gordon Terrace Elementary School



The students in Mrs. McCormack's and Mrs. Ruoss' class at Gordon Terrace School collected items to donate to Street Angels. Students brought in homemade crafts, stories, hats, mitts, blankets, socks and other items they felt individuals would like and need. All together they collected 6 big boxes of donations.

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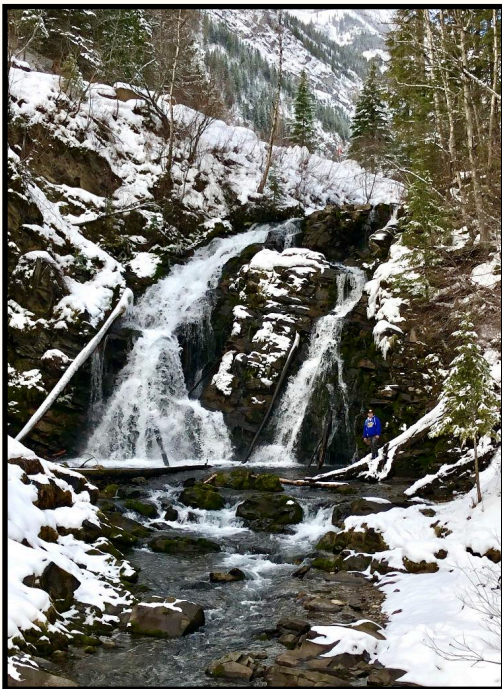
Schools



SSS grade 7 team building and critical thinking.



"Elfie" on the shelf at Frank J. Mitchell Elementary School.



Mr. Cullins Grade 9 Outdoor Education Class at FSS hiked to Fairy Creek Falls in December while learning about various forms of lichens.



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Schools



Highlands kindergarten class dressed up in their reindeer shirts.

Miss Bannister's grade 9 photography students from Laurie Middle School had the privilege of having a student teacher (Nicole Bridgeo) in the classroom for five weeks. Nicole has a passion for photography and wanted to share her experiences with the students at Laurie. Students learned how to use DSLR cameras by focusing on aperture, ISO, and shutter speed.



Parkland Grade 9 ADST Global Food Truck Festival

Students researched food from different regions of the world and then designed menus, food trucks, and food samples to highlight key ingredients from their region.



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Schools



TM Roberts Grade 6 students enjoyed adventuring and playing outdoor games on a warm December day before the Winter Break.



Mrs. Henderson's grade 1/2 class at Steeples Elementary School was in the news! Check out the fantastic article posted on e-know.ca on December 26.



Grades 7s at SSS geocaching with Kim Froehler.



Kindergarten cooperative learning at GTES.



Frank J. Mitchell students at Rock Creek.

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