

LEARNING TOGETHER

NO.11



DECEMBER 2024
ISSUE NO.11



CONTENTS

NO. 11

PAGE 3

Learning Together

PAGES 7-8

'Tis the Season Around the District

PAGE 4

Early Learning and Child Care

PAGE 9

A picture says a thousand words...

PAGES 5-6


News from District Teachers
Outdoor & Environmental
Education


PAGE 10

Amy Woodland Elementary
Catchment Boundary Revisions
Survey

LEARNING TOGETHER IN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5 (SOUTHEAST KOOTENAY)



As the year winds down, the holiday season offers a perfect time to celebrate the warmth of community and the joy of giving. Across the District, schools are coming together to make this time of year truly magical for all. 

One of the season's highlights is the annual Children's Christmas Choir, where students in grades 4-6, from all Cranbrook elementary schools and Laurie Middle School, join voices to spread cheer through song. Their melodies capture the spirit of the season and remind us of the beauty of collaboration and unity. These young performers have worked tirelessly, and their dedication is sure to shine through in their performances. 

A huge shout-out goes to all the music teachers who made this event happen, balancing their regular Christmas concerts and report cards! 

In addition to the choir, schools are buzzing with festive activities. Music concerts are filling gyms and the Key City Theatre with the sounds of holiday classics and fresh renditions, showcasing the incredible talents of our students and music educators. At Mount Baker Secondary School, audiences can also enjoy a production of Shakespeare in Love, a theatrical treat that promises to delight with its humour, heart, and celebration of art and love.

Meanwhile, the aroma of pancakes will waft through many of our schools as pancake breakfasts bring students and staff together for some holiday cheer. These events not only fill stomachs but also foster a sense of community. Adding to the festive spirit, many schools are hosting turkey dinners, ensuring that every student feels the warmth of the season.

In the spirit of giving, several schools are preparing hampers for families in need and running food drives to support local food banks. These hampers, filled with essentials and holiday treats, aim to spread kindness and support families during this special time. If your family could benefit from assistance this holiday season, please do not hesitate to reach out to your school. Our community stands ready to lend a hand and ensure that no one is left out of the festivities.

As we celebrate this wonderful season, we also want to recognize the incredible efforts of our staff throughout the year. Your hard work and dedication have made a difference in the lives of our students and their families. We hope you enjoy a well-deserved break, filled with relaxation and time spent with loved ones.

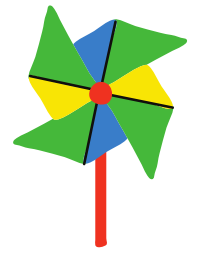
From everyone in the District, we wish you a joyful, safe, and peaceful holiday season. May it be filled with laughter, love, and lasting memories.

Happy Holidays!

Viveka Johnson,
Superintendent



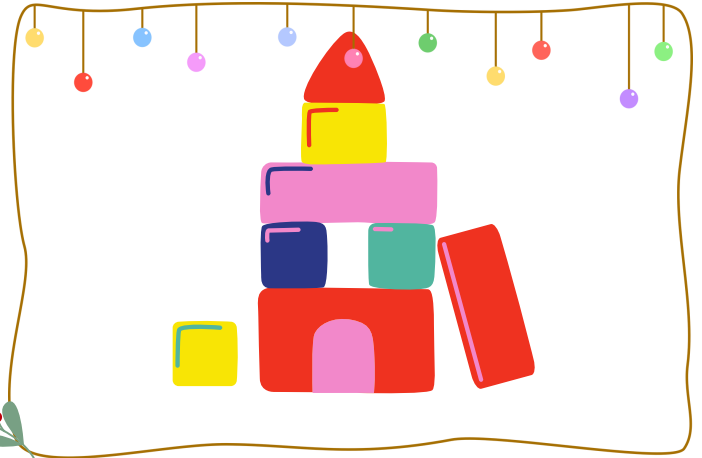
Early Learning and Child Care



District Principal Laura-Lee Phillips

Frank J. Mitchell Elementary participated in the Christmas Tree Lighting event on November 21, 2024.

It was a heartwarming evening, and to top it all off, Santa himself made an appearance, bringing joy to everyone present.



News from District Teachers

District Literacy Teacher, Erin Jones

This fall we trained an additional 36 teachers on the administration of our district's universal screener Acadience Reading K-6. In total, we now have over 130 users and 30 more teachers interested in training for the new year. The use of this screener will better help us identify students that need support in foundational essential literacy skills and inform instructional decisions to meet their needs.

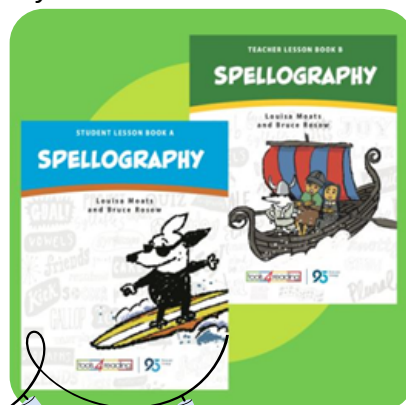
In October we screened:

- 28% of our kindergarten students
- 57% of our grade one students
- 92% of our grade two students
- 94% of our grade three students
- 39% of our grade four students
- 42% of our grade five students
- 24% of our grade six students



In response to our reading data the District Literacy Support teacher offered, or will be offering, the following learning opportunities and resources:

- Partner Reading & Paragraph Shrinking: A whole class-fluency intervention. This will be offered in the new year for any interested teacher of students in grades one through six.
- UFLI training and resources: An explicit and systematic phonics program. Teachers received training, the teacher manual, and supporting resources, such as a set of magnetic letter tiles for each student. We currently have over 150 kindergarten to grade three teachers with training.
- Data meetings for teachers at elementary schools: one-one meetings to help interpret and use reading data to make support plans for students. We have seven elementary schools that have taken advantage of this opportunity to learn.
- So What, Now What: A PD on how to interpret reading data and group students for small group differentiated reading instruction. Close to thirty teachers and four administrators joined together to learn and collaborate.
- Spellography: A resource for grades four through six and training to help strengthen decoding and spelling skills in our older learners. We are currently trialing this resource with twenty intermediate teachers in seven elementary schools.
- Heggerty Phonemic Awareness: In the new year, teachers in kindergarten and grade one have the opportunity to receive the Heggerty manual and a one year online membership with access to training and support videos. We currently have 65 teachers that have accessed this resource.





OUTDOOR AND



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

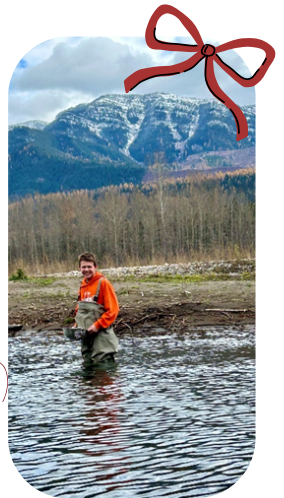
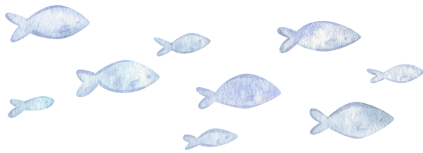
Michael Kelly, Principal

Fernie Secondary School

The Outdoor Education class from Fernie Secondary studied and investigated Benthic Macro Invertebrates in the Elk River & Fairy Creek.



The Fly Fishing Club enjoyed some great days on the river. Thank you to teacher sponsor, Kyle Cullins.



Frank J. Mitchell Elementary School

Students at Frank J. Mitchell made their own bannock by identifying fractions and choosing the right measure cup. Students worked on their reading comprehension by reading a recipe and following the steps.

Students worked on their spatial awareness and self control around the fire. They also noticed energy in action as the fire cooked their bannock.



Steeple Elementary School

Students in Mrs. Porter's grade 4/5 class were quinzhee building this month. A quinzhee is a Canadian snow shelter made from a large pile of loose snow that is shaped, then hollowed.

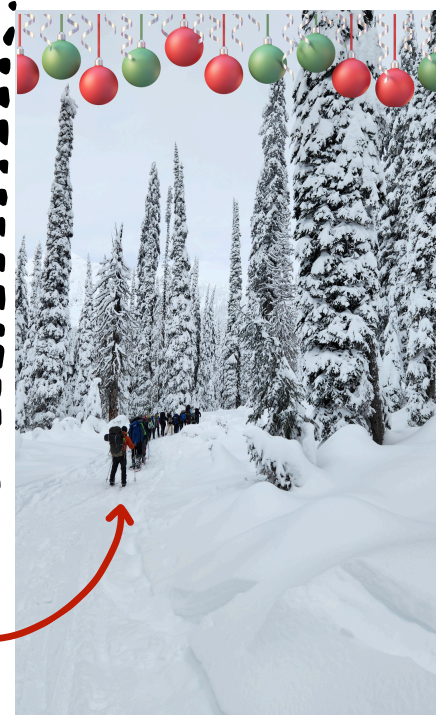
Sparwood Secondary School Outdoor Class

The class went snowshoeing, worked on orienteering skills, built emergency shelters and spent time by the fire. The class worked together to ensure a successful and fun day!



Mount Baker Environmental Awareness Program

Students in Ms. Cormier's EAP class were on a three-day trip at Kootenay Pass. They built and slept in quinzhees, hiked, studied the snowpack and were very persistent in the cold snowy conditions.



'TIS THE SEASON AROUND THE DISTRICT



Gordon Terrace Elementary performed their Christmas concert on December 9, 2024.



Kootenay Orchards Music Teacher, Mr. Lutz, expanded the annual Christmas caroling to include the Amy Woodland neighborhood this year. There were students and families from several different schools come and participate.



The Leadership class at Mount Baker Secondary made holiday crafts for staff. The students enjoyed holiday music and pizza.



'TIS THE SEASON AROUND THE DISTRICT



Isabella Dicken Elementary hosted its Annual Elf Week from December 9-13. There were many activities including designing wrapping paper in the Gift Wrapping Workshop, measuring in the Bakery Workshop, and testing in the Toy Workshop. Students created holiday cards for the seniors and practiced singing holiday songs. Thursday, December 13, was the official Elf Day. Local firefighters collected all of the donated toys and students walked to Trinity Lodge where they sang holiday tunes and gave cards to the seniors. Elf Week is all about being inclusive and giving back to the community - a truly "Elf"tastic tradition!



Students from Fernie Secondary had an amazing day in Calgary on December 11. They embarked on an unforgettable trip organized by Mr. Gulyas and Mrs. Germaine, to Stage West to see the musical "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun: Rise of the Greatest Girl Groups," followed by an action-packed adventure at Laser City!



The annual Board Office Potluck was on December 13. This annual event is filled with laughter, joy and great food!



A picture says a thousand words...



Amy Woodland Catchment Boundary Revisions

