

# LEARNING TOGETHER

NO. 6



MARCH 2024  
ISSUE NO. 6



# CONTENTS

# NO. 6

## PAGE 3

Learning Together

---

## PAGE 7

District Design Labs

---

## PAGE 4

Early Learning and Child Care

---

## PAGE 8

Around the District

---

## PAGE 6

News from District Teachers  
News from the DRC

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## PAGES 10-12

In the Schools  
A picture says a thousand words...

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



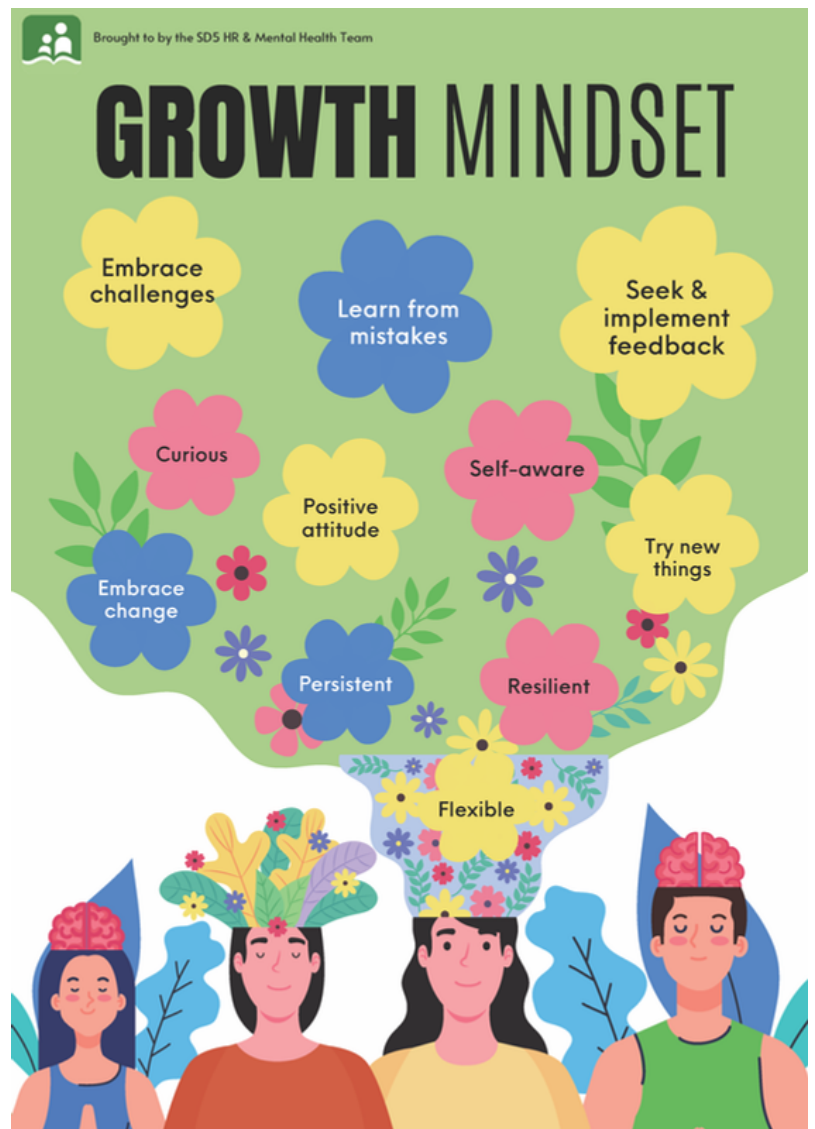
As the days get longer and warmer, and with spring inching closer, I wanted to take a moment to express my appreciation for the dedication and resilience you have shown throughout this year. Your commitment to learning, growth, and community is always present.

With spring break just around the corner, I encourage each of you to take this time to recharge, rejuvenate, and reconnect with your loved ones. Whether you are planning a getaway or enjoying a staycation, make sure to indulge in activities that bring you joy and relaxation. Spend quality time with family and friends, explore the outdoors, or simply take a moment to unwind and appreciate the beauty of our region.

To our dedicated educators and staff, I extend my gratitude for your commitment to our students' success. Your passion, creativity, and efforts continue to inspire and empower our school communities. As you take a well-deserved break, remember to prioritize self-care and self-reflection. Your well-being is essential and I encourage you to embrace this time to rest and recharge.

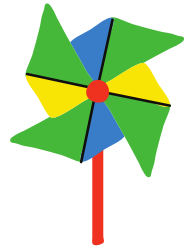
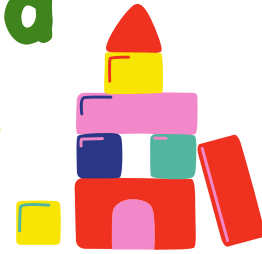
Lastly, to our families, thank you for your ongoing support and partnership in your children's education. Your involvement and encouragement play a vital role in their academic journey, and we are grateful for your collaboration.

**Viveka Johnson,**  
Superintendent



# Early Learning and Child Care

District Principal of Early Learning and Child Care,  
 Laura-Lee Phillips



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. All public elementary schools in School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay) will be offering an opportunity for three-to-five year old children to connect with their neighbourhood schools. Ready, Set, Learn is a partnership between the province, the District and the early childhood teachers in our communities.



## READY SET LEARN


### ELK VALLEY



Ready, Set, learn is open to all 3 to 5 year olds and their parents or guardians to receive an information/activity package.


<p><b>Fernie - May 9</b></p> <p>Email or call Isabella Dicken Elementary School to register!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ides.mailing@sd5.bc.ca</li> <li>250-423-4651</li> </ul>	<p><b>Sparwood - Apr. 30</b></p> <p>Email or call Frank J. Mitchell Elementary School to register!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>fjmes.mailing@sd5.bc.ca</li> <li>250-425-7818</li> </ul>
<p><b>Elkford - May 13</b></p> <p>Email or call Rocky Mountain Elementary School to register!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>rmes.mailing@sd5.bc.ca</li> <li>250-865-4625</li> </ul>	<p><b>Jaffray - April 17</b></p> <p>Email or call Jaffray Elementary School to register!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>jess.mailing@sd5.bc.ca</li> <li>250-429-3211</li> </ul>






## READY SET LEARN

### CRANBROOK



<p><b>Amy Woodland Elementary</b></p> <p>Email or call to register!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>awes.mailing@sd5.bc.ca</li> <li>250-426-7258</li> </ul>	<p><b>Kootenay Orchards Elementary</b></p> <p>Email or call to register!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>koes.mailing@sd5.bc.ca</li> <li>250-426-8551</li> </ul>
<p><b>Highlands Elementary</b></p> <p>Email or call to register!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>hes.mailing@sd5.bc.ca</li> <li>250-489-4391</li> </ul>	<p><b>TM Roberts Elementary</b></p> <p>Email or call to register!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>tmres.mailing@sd5.bc.ca</li> <li>250-489-4575</li> </ul>
<p><b>Pinewood Elementary</b></p> <p>Email or call to register!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>pes.mailing@sd5.bc.ca</li> <li>250-426-6201</li> </ul>	<p><b>Gordon Terrace Elementary</b></p> <p>Email or call to register!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>gtes.mailing@sd5.bc.ca</li> <li>250-426-8248</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Steeple Elementary</b></p> <p>Email or call to register!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ses.mailing@sd5.bc.ca</li> <li>250-426-3352</li> </ul>

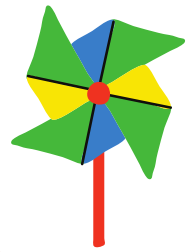
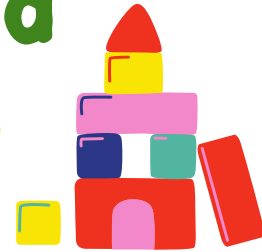






# Early Learning and Child Care

District Principal of Early Learning and Child Care,  
Laura-Lee Phillips



## What is SEY2KT?

The SEY2KT (Strengthening Early Years to Kindergarten Transitions) Team brings together educators from school districts and communities. The SEY2KT Team reflects a local context for partnership, builds strong relationships and collaborates in planning.

The communities of Sparwood and Elkford have many Early Years initiatives, including Come Read with Me (CBAL), StrongStart in the Community, and Play in the K. These early learning initiatives design experiences and transition processes for children and families that focus on seamless transitions from early childhood to kindergarten. Play in the K welcomes preschool learners and families into the school community. The goal is to collaborate and create partnerships and connections with our families so we can all work together to make our schools and communities even better!





# News from District Teachers

## District Literacy Teacher, Erin Jones

Erin Jones, district literacy support teacher, has been supporting a grade three class at Ecole Isabella Dicken Elementary. The students were introduced to a class-wide fluency and comprehension intervention known as “Partner Reading & Paragraph Shrinking”. For one hour each day, over two weeks, both the teacher and the students were supported in engaging in the evidence-based activity to increase reading proficiency.



In response to the Acadience screening data, the district literacy support teacher saw a class-wide need to increase fluency; she used the screening data to intentionally pair students, create text sets and introduced a 20 minute fluency routine.

The students have just been re-assessed and of those that were present (3 students were away), 80% have increase their fluency, and 67% have increased their accuracy! Way to go grade threes!



# News from the DRC

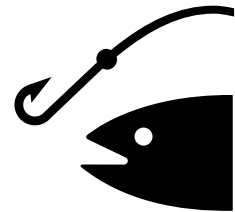
## District Resource Centre Librarian, Maxine Malmberg

### Fly Tying Kits and Rods

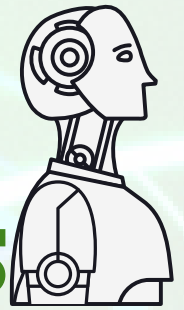
Classes at Fernie Senior Secondary School have been designing and making their own flies using the Fly-Tying Kits from the District Resource Centre (DRC).

This is a great way to learn involve students in design, biology, ecology and place-based learning.

Check out this and other items on our Equipment List at this [link](#).







# DISTRICT DESIGN LABS

**Teachers of Transformative Learning Ryan McKenzie and Kim Froehler**

## **Exploring World War I Through Interactive History Posters**

Grade 10 students in Dr. Gonsalvez's class at Sparwood Secondary engaged in a meaningful project that combined history and technology to learn more about World War I. Students created interactive posters using Makey Makeys and Scratch programming, allowing them to delve deeper into historical events while also honing their technological and creative skills.

To navigate through the recordings, brass fasteners were strategically placed at the bottom of the posters, serving as tactile buttons. By connecting the Makey Makeys to these fasteners, students enabled users to seamlessly play each recording with a simple touch.

The interactivity of the posters invited viewers to explore history in a dynamic and accessible manner. Overall, this project helped students gain a deeper appreciation for the complexities of World War I while also developing essential technical skills.

## **Empowering Young Authors: Grade 4 Students Dive into Book Creator**

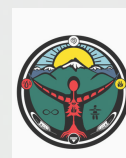
Grade 4 students at Frank J Mitchell Elementary immersed themselves in the various features of Book Creator.

Book Creator is a user-friendly digital platform that allows individuals to create and publish their own digital books. It provides a range of tools and features for users to design interactive and multimedia-rich eBooks, including options for adding text, images, audio, and video. Book Creator is used to enhance literacy skills, foster creativity, and encourage digital storytelling among students of all ages.

Students in Ms. Chiasson's class quickly grasped the fundamentals, discovering the ease with which they could customize their digital creations. With each lesson, their confidence grew as they experimented with different layouts, fonts, and multimedia elements.

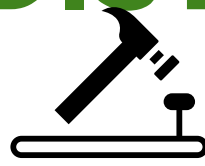


# BOOK CREATOR





# AROUND THE DISTRICT



## Meet the Fernie Maintenance Department

### Brandon Teichgrab - Carpenter

Brandon has lived in the Elk Valley for 20 years and has been a Journeyman Carpenter for the District for the last four years. In his free time, Brandon enjoys the outdoors. He likes skiing, biking, camping, golfing, snowmobiling, among other things. When forced inside you can find him reading a book by the fireplace or on the squash court; except on Sundays. Sundays are for football.



### Bill Wilson - Carpenter

Bill has been a Carpenter and part of the Maintenance Team for the District since 2015. Bill was born and raised in Fernie. He has been in the trades for most of his adult life. Bill loves the outdoors and is an avid fly fisherman. He loves to explore this beautiful place he calls home.



### Mick Roberts - Painter

Mick has been with the District for three years in the Maintenance Department as a Painter. He has always called Fernie home! Mick has lived and traveled to some amazing places. When not at work he enjoys staying active by skiing, hiking, mountain biking and Tae Kwon Do.



### Mark Podrasky - Trades 1 Grounds/Maintenance

Mark Podrasky has been with the District since 1985. He started out as a bus driver and then became a bus driver/dayshift custodian working in every school in the District from Jaffray to Elkford. He is currently in the Grounds/Maintenance Department. Mark and his wife, Gail, enjoyed following their two boys in all school sports and now are doing the same with their three granddaughters. He loves to spend time outdoors with family and friends with a little bit of curling and golf mixed in.



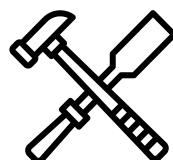
### Neil Gernon - Electrician

Originally from Ireland, Neil grew up in the Elk Valley. After living in Alberta and the interior of BC for years, he moved back to Fernie permanently in 2014 to work as an Electrician. Neil started with the District in 2022 and spends his free time biking and camping with his family.



### Perry Harrad - Custodial Supplies and Irrigation Systems

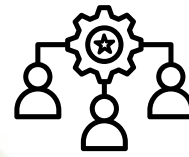
Perry started working for the District in 1981 and retired in 2019. His many jobs with the District included labourer, bus driver, custodian, irrigation technician, snow removal and custodial supply coordinator. After a three year break, Perry came back to help out the Maintenance Department with Custodial Supplies and the Irrigation Systems. Perry enjoys mountain biking, hunting and fishing.





# AROUND THE DISTRICT

## Human Resources Update



The Human Resources (HR) Department has been thorough in recent months, encompassing a variety of CUPE and teaching roles with the District.

In January, the HR Department expanded its recruitment outreach by attending the University of BC Education Career Fair and the University of Alberta Education Career Fair, both geared toward teacher recruitment. These platforms provided valuable opportunities to engage with potential candidates and showcase the myriad opportunities within the District.

The HR Department also dedicated time to the fourth-year teacher candidates from the East Kootenay Teacher Education Program (EKTEP) in Cranbrook, and the West Kootenay Teacher Education Program (WKTEP) in Nelson. The HR Department delivered sessions on the benefits of working with the District, resume building, interview skills, and addressing unconscious biases. Furthermore, the HR Department has been personally meeting 1-on-1 with many teacher candidates during practicum placements.

Moreover, the HR Department secured a grant through Make a Future to enhance the District's recruitment initiatives, particularly in incentivizing French teacher recruitment.

The participation and interactions at these events have been positive and have resulted in maintaining ongoing communication with teacher candidates. The HR Department is excited to share that potential applicants from teacher career fairs have expressed interest in visiting the East Kootenay region to gain firsthand experience of the communities in this area.

To broaden the outreach, The HR Department has also distributed mass mailings to Cranbrook and the Elk Valley. These mailings highlight available job opportunities and emphasize the diverse employment options within the District.

The recruitment endeavours underscore the dedication to attracting top talent to School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay) and ensuring the continued success of the educational community.

So far this year the HR Department has posted and filled 179 CUPE jobs, 257 teacher jobs, and 11 exempt jobs. The HR Department has even started posting the hard to fill jobs for next year!





# IN THE SCHOOLS

# Spring

## News from Schools Across the District



### Cross Country Ski Trip

The Sparwood Secondary Outdoor Education class enjoyed a great 10km cross-country ski trip before spring break. The terrain was challenging and the students rose to the occasion. It was a fantastic day!



### Avalanche Education

Senior Physical Education students at Elkford Secondary practiced avalanche safety and skills at Fernie Alpine Resort.



### Pinewood House Team Olympic Games

Pinewood held their first annual House Team Olympic Games. Each team participated in 8 crazy relay events! Staff and students had a great time.



The Grade Six production of Little Mermaid at Ecole Isabella Dicken Elementary

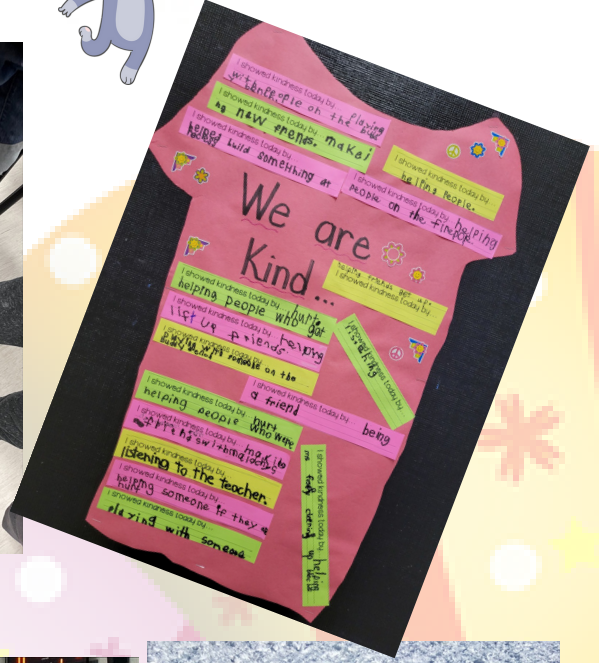
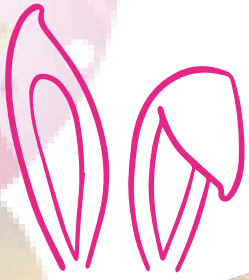
### Mount Baker Secondary Outdoor Program

Grade 11 students in Mount Baker's outdoor program spent the day learning about route finding, terrain assessment and avalanche companion rescue skills near the boundary of Kimberley Alpine Resort.





# A picture says a thousand words...





Ecole TM Roberts School participated in the “Stick to Reading Program” with the Cranbrook Bucks. The Bucks players came into various classrooms in Cranbrook to promote literacy by reading stories to students.

Mrs. Henderson’s class was the lucky winner of the grand prize of spending a day with the Cranbrook Bucks!

