

NO. 8 LEARNING TOGETHER

MAY 2024
ISSUE NO. 8





CONTENTS

NO. 8

PAGE 3

Learning Together

PAGE 7

District Design Labs

PAGE 4

Early Learning and Child Care

PAGE 8

Around the District

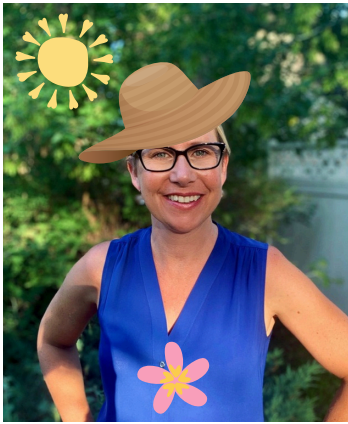
PAGE 6

News from District Teachers
News from the DRC

PAGES 9-12

In the Schools
A picture says a thousand words...
Congratulations Grads
Survey Link & QR Code

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



Spring is a busy time of year in schools, filled with activities such as track and field, musicals, and field trips. The District has been fortunate to collaborate with the College of the Rockies (COTR) on several recent events, including the East Kootenay Regional Science Fair and Project Heavy Duty.

The East Kootenay Regional Science Fair, held on April 12, featured projects from around the region with the theme "How Will Your Experiment, Study, or Innovation Help Reduce Waste?" Last year's winner, Keanu Chan, made a guest appearance. Keanu won the Biomedical Engineering Award (\$1,000) at last year's Canada Wide Science Fair for his project entitled, "Precision Exospinal Constructive Innovative Stereotactic Evolution (PRECISE)."

Project Heavy Duty alternates between the Elk Valley and Cranbrook and is a partnership involving COTR, WorkSafe BC, the City of Cranbrook, School District No. 5, and many local industry partners. This two-day event provides training and hands-on experience with heavy-duty equipment for students in grades 10-12.

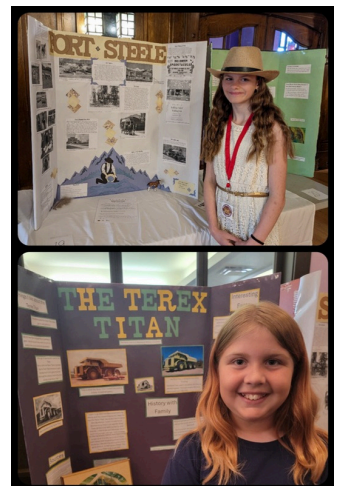
Cranbrook also hosted the annual Heritage Fair on May 10. Students in grades 4-10 created project displays about Canadian history. Students choose a topic (often a family or local story), develop an inquiry question that stems from the topic of their choice, and present their findings to the public.

Throughout May and June, the District has been hosting engagement nights in each of our communities. These sessions provide an opportunity to discuss the District's overarching priorities and goals and the application of these priorities and goals to school growth plans. The sessions also provide an opportunity to help the public understand how education funding works. A survey has been sent out to gather your feedback on the District's current priorities and goals, and to hear your thoughts on future direction of the District. All information will be summarized in a "What We Heard" report, which will be shared with the public. The link to this survey is on the back page of this newsletter.

As graduation approaches, remember to prioritize safety. Enjoy the celebrations responsibly, whether you're at a party, on the road, or spending time with friends. Look out for one another, make smart choices, and ensure your graduation season is filled with joyful memories. Congratulations, and stay safe!

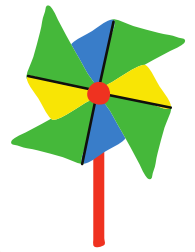
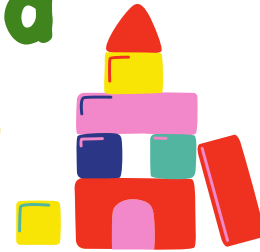
Finally, please review our updated **Administrative Procedure 145 (Use of Cell Phones and Digital Devices)**, which now reflects the Ministry of Education and Child Care's cell phone restriction mandate. School codes of conduct will be revisited to insure alignment with these restrictions. If you have any questions, please reach out to your school's administration.

**Viveka Johnson,
Superintendent**



Early Learning and Child Care

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



This spring school communities geared up to host the much-anticipated Ready, Set, Learn. This initiative aims to foster a love for learning among children and equip parents with valuable tools to support their child's educational journey. All elementary schools in the District offered an opportunity for children, from birth through school entry, and their parents or guardians, to participate in Ready, Set, Learn. This event is a partnership between the Province, the District, and schools in Cranbrook, Fernie, Sparwood, Jaffray, and Elkford. Events are held in the months of April and May.



Ready, Set, Learn is all about fostering positive connections between families, the school, and local community partners. Ready, Set, Learn is an opportunity for families to engage in activities and connect with educators and community partners, fostering a supportive network for children's development. Families can gain access to resources, materials, and information on early childhood education and development from educators and community agencies.

What makes Ready, Set, Learn so special? Through hands-on activities, children participate in games, stories, and activities that make learning enjoyable and engaging. Ready, Set, Learn is a celebration of education, exploration, and growth. We believe that the foundation of a child's education starts at home, and Ready, Set, Learn is designed to bridge the gap between school and home learning. By involving parents in their child's educational journey from an early age, we create a strong support system that fosters academic success and overall well-being.

For more information on Ready Set Learn, check out this link [RSL Booklet - Helping your preschooler get ready for school \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education/early-learning/ready-set-learn/rsl-booklet).

[Let's Play! Activities for Families](#) has been developed by the BC Ministry of Education and Child Care for families and caregivers to support children's early learning experience through playing and having fun.

[Play Today: A Guide for Families](#) describes ideas and examples of quality play experience that can be offered to preschool and school-age children by their families and caregivers. Play and have fun with your child! Play is one of the best ways to support all learning and development.

There's a lot happening in the early years! Check out our [website!](#)



[Let's Play! Activities for Families](#)

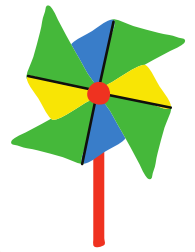
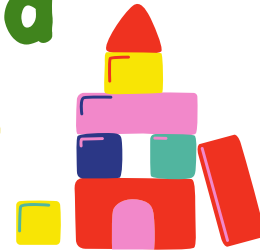


[Play Today: A Guide for Families](#)



Early Learning and Child Care

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



HAPPY CHILD CARE MONTH!

This month we're honoured to thank you, the many dedicated child care professionals, providers and partners, for the valuable services you provide and the significant contributions you make to support families and children in our communities.



When life throws you a rainy day...

Play in the puddles!!



News from District Teachers



District Numeracy Teacher, Kathy Conlin



Growing Innovations

A team of passionate educators (Faye O'Neil, Mardelle Sauerborn, Sarah Lawson, Cassandra Buch, Victoria Larsen, Anneli Schadeli, Jennifer Doll, Bryan Faucher) worked together to further understand how to respectfully and authentically design place conscious numeracy tasks that amplify local Indigenous knowledge and invite different perspectives and ways of knowing from students. We selected the Nupqu Native Plant Nursery as a provocation to create a series of 3-Act Math Tasks for kindergarten to grade nine that is anchored with Dr. Greenwood's place conscious questions. These 'bite size' numeracy tasks will be available in the portal by the end of June. Teachers, if you are interested in learning more about the 3-Act Task structure or would like to see a demonstration of the tasks done in your classroom, please reach out to kathy.conlin@sd5.bc.ca (District Numeracy Support Teacher).



Basecamp Math Night at Highlands Elementary

On May 1, families were invited to participate in numeracy stations at Highlands. There were games, puzzles, crafts, Which One Doesn't Belong (WODB), and pizza. The intention of the evening was to teach, practice, and provide families with everything they would need to joyfully practice numerate thinking and fluency skills while camping this summer. Thirty-five families attended and the positive energy for math was electric. In advance of the evening, Ryan Mackenzie, Kathy Conlin, and Shannon Tkachuck worked with each class at Highlands to teach the students the games and model numeracy thinking routines (WODB, Same but Different and Estimation 180). If your school is interested in hosting a Basecamp Math Night, please reach out.

Grades 8 and 9 Standards-Based Assessment Working Group

Chris Hunter, president of the BCAMT (British Columbia Association of Math Teachers) worked with grades 8 and 9 math teachers to explore how to shift assessment practices from gathering points to gathering data to change the culture of learning. During the session we wrote learning standards, constructed proficiency scales, and practiced determining grades.



Becoming **standards based** is about changing to a **culture of learning**. 'Complete this assignment to get these points' changes to 'Complete this assignment to improve your learning.' [...] Educators have trained learners to focus on the academic grade; they can coach them out of this assumption."

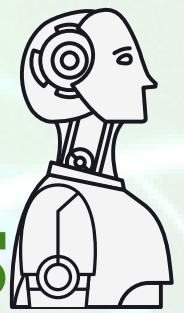
News from the DRC

District Resource Centre Librarian, Maxine Malmberg

Digital Microscopes

The grade 3/4 class at Kootenay Orchards had an amazing time getting a close up look at the natural world! Students practiced using the microscopes on natural objects found outdoors in the school yard. Learning moved inside as they used the microscopes to examine soil structure up close!





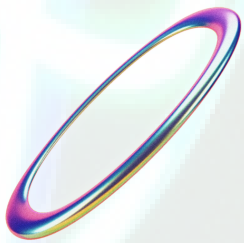
DISTRICT DESIGN LABS

Teachers of Transformative Learning Ryan McKenzie and Kim Froehler

Virtual Reality (VR) in Social Studies 10

Grade 10 students in Ms. Aubin's social studies class at Fernie Secondary used VR headsets to take a virtual tour of Anne Frank's house. Students explored the secret annex where Anne Frank and her family hid during World War II, providing an interactive and reflective learning experience. Students viewed the rooms, furniture, and interacted with the personal belongings of the Frank family, bringing history to life.

Students and teachers can also view the [Secret Annex](https://www.annefrank.org/en/anne-frank/secret-annex/landing/) without VR by accessing this interactive online tour which is very similar to the VR experience: <https://www.annefrank.org/en/anne-frank/secret-annex/landing/>.

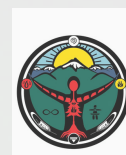
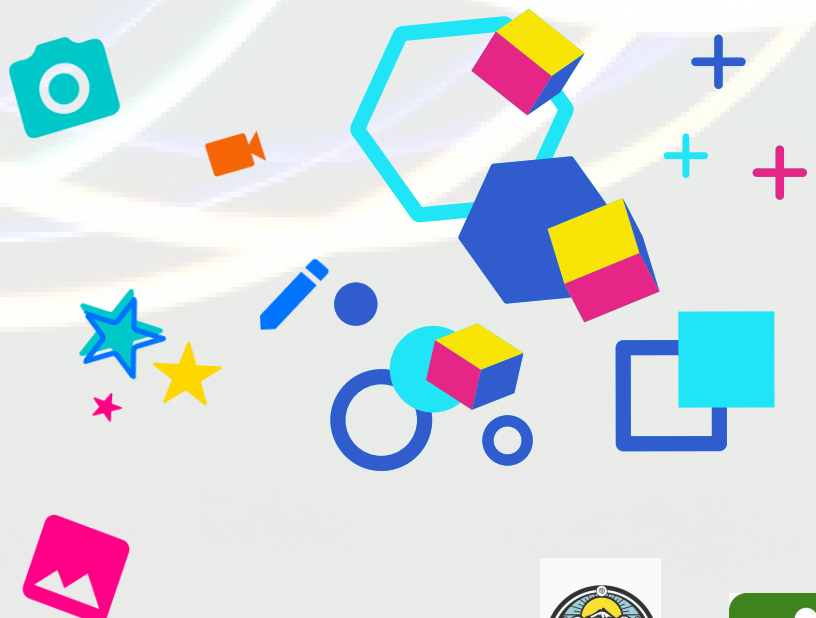


The diary: Anne's dearest possession

Map Making and Robotics at Rocky Mountain Elementary

Students in Ms. Vander Schee's class at Rocky Mountain Elementary explored map making, robotics, and coding using Sphero robotics.

Students used their logic and problem-solving skills to create efficient code. When programming the movements and actions of the Sphero robot, students used mathematical concepts such as distance, speed, time, angles, and coordinates. They also used their understanding of geometry to calculate the distances and angles required for the robot to turn and move in the correct directions.





AROUND THE DISTRICT

Dawn Wyatt - Assistant Manager Operations

Dawn was raised in Fernie and attended college in Saskatoon where she studied Animal Health Technology. She worked in the trade for three years. She competed extensively in horseback including horse shows, barrel racing, gymkhanas, jumping and cattle penning. Dawn started with the District in 1989 as a bus driver. She also worked as a bus cleaner, an office administrator in the transportation department, and became the Transportation Coordinator in 2017. She joined the Operations team in 2021 as Assistant Manager of Operations. Dawn enjoys camping, boating and spending time with her family and nine grandchildren.



Eric Reid - Assistant Manager Operations

Eric is the Assistant Manager of Operations in Cranbrook. He helps to keep the wheels turning for all aspects of operations within the District. He likes to spend his spare time outside with his kids and friends doing everything including dog walking, skiing, hiking, camping, golfing, paddling, fishing and hunting. Eric loves the Kootenay lifestyle.



Gerry Whitlock - Mechanical Foreman

Gerry has worked as a mechanic for the District since 2000. He worked for Toyota for 22 years previously in Cranbrook and North Vancouver. Gerry is a piper with the Kimberley Pipe Band and also enjoys mountain biking, skiing, hiking, gaming and spending time with his family and grandchildren.



Paul Butler - Mechanic

Paul has helped keep our buses running safely as a mechanic for five years. He enjoys camping and fixing up classic cars in his spare time.



Dillen Primeau- Mechanical Foreman

Dillen moved to Fernie two years ago with his partner Kristen and two dogs to be in the mountains. He is passionate about mountain biking, skiing, fixing old busses and old Toyota trucks. In his year with the District, he has met a ton of great people and thoroughly enjoys the work environment.



Arnaud Lavergne - Mechanic Apprentice

Originally from France, Arnaud move to Canada in 2013. He started out with the maintenance crew in 2022, but since move to the transportation department as a heavy duty mechanic apprentice. He loves enjoying the outdoors (biking, skiing and running) with his family.



Rick Sum - Courier

Rick started working for the District in 2002 as a bus driver. He spent many years in the transportation industry before joining the District. Rick has a variety of interests including playing music, collecting old cars and trucks and astronomy.





IN THE SCHOOLS



News from Schools Across the District



District Scholarship Presentations

Students across the District presented to a panel of trustees and staff during the month of May. The District Authority Scholarship awards will be presented in June.



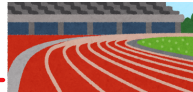
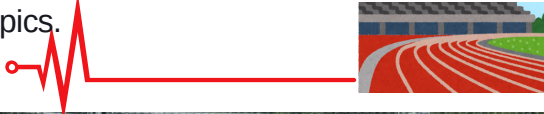
Red Dress Day at Sparwood Secondary

On Monday May 6, the Contemporary Indigenous Studies class from Sparwood Secondary School honoured Red Dress Day.



Mount Baker Invitational Track Meet

Twelve teams competed at the first annual MBSS Invitational (grades 8-12) and Special Olympics.

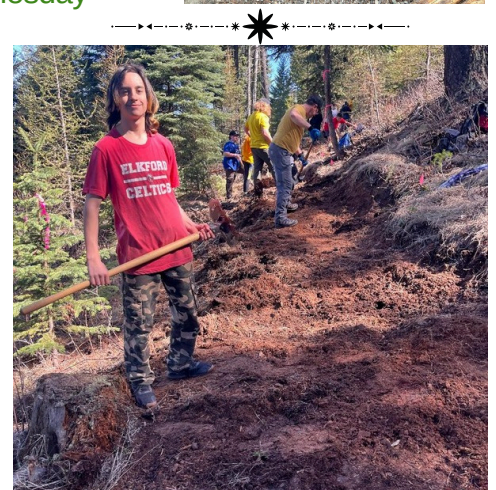


Pinewood Elementary Indigenous Focussed Wilderness Wednesday

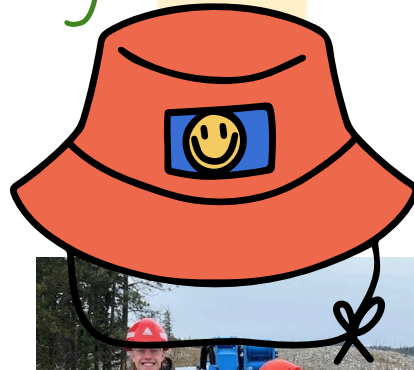
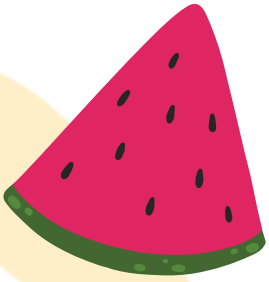


Elkford Trail Alliance (ETA) and Elkford Secondary

Students from Elkford Secondary worked with the ETA to build and maintain existing trails at the new Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle trail network.



A picture says a thousand words...



CONGRATULATIONS

2024

GRADS!





**Please take a moment to
share your thoughts with
us!**

**School District No. 5 (Southeast
Kootenay) Survey**

