

LEARNING TOGETHER

NO. 10



NOVEMBER 2024
ISSUE NO.10



CONTENTS

NO. 10

PAGE 3

Learning Together

PAGES 6-7

District Design Labs

Outdoor and Environmental Education

PAGE 4

Early Learning and Child Care

PAGES 8-9

Around the District

PAGE 5

News from School Food
Coordinator

PAGES 10-12

In the Schools

A picture says a thousand words...

Draft Strategic Plan Feedback

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



This past month, all schools across the District honoured the sacrifices of those who served and continue to serve through Remembrance Day assemblies and events. I had the privilege of attending two assemblies in Elkford, where the student participation was truly commendable. Their thoughtful contributions and respectful demeanor are a testament to the strength of our school communities. A heartfelt thank you goes out to all students and staff who worked hard to make these events meaningful and memorable.

On November 7, the District hosted an engagement night to review the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning and the draft [Strategic Plan](#). This session provided valuable insights and feedback from participants, helping to shape the future direction of our schools.

The draft Strategic Plan is now available for public input, and we encourage all stakeholders to share their thoughts before it is presented to the Board of Education for approval. Your voice is vital in ensuring the plan reflects our collective goals and aspirations.

In alignment with Ministry requirements, the District is committed to developing a comprehensive Anti-Racism strategy, guided by our Safe School Coordinator, Jason Tichauer. While schools are places of learning and safety, they are not immune to acts of racism, which is why awareness and proactive measures are crucial. Ensuring that every student, staff member, and family feels safe and included in our schools is a shared responsibility. To support these efforts, Erin Stevenson, our Exploitation Prevention Coordinator, has been engaging with high school classes on this and other critical topics. Students and families are also reminded of the [ERASE \(Expect Respect and a Safe Education\) website](#), a confidential platform to report concerns and ensure they are addressed promptly.

On November 22, all staff participated in professional development focused on Jo Chrona's enlightening book, "Wayi Wah!". This district-wide initiative, led by the Indigenous Education Department at Parkland Middle School, was broadcast across all schools, fostering rich dialogue on equity, inclusion, and Indigenous ways of knowing and being. It was an incredible opportunity to deepen our collective understanding and commitment to creating inclusive and equitable learning environments.

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to Scholastic Canada Ltd. for their generous donation of books to help replenish the library lost in the Amy Woodland Elementary fire. This act of kindness ensures that students continue to have access to enriching reading materials and highlights the importance of community partnerships in times of need.

As we prepare for the 2025-2026 school year, attention is turning to kindergarten catchment in Cranbrook, with the process beginning on November 28. These decisions are part of ongoing efforts to address enrolment and space needs, particularly as we await updates regarding Amy Woodland Elementary. Families are encouraged to stay tuned for more information as plans progress.

Thank you to everyone for your continued dedication to fostering safe, inclusive, and dynamic learning environments across the District. Together, we are building a strong, supportive community for all. It is hard to believe that we are at the end of November.

Viveka Johnson,
Superintendent



Early Learning and Child Care

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



November 20 was National Child Day in Canada. This day is about celebrating children as active participants in their own lives and in their communities and active citizens who can and should meaningfully contribute to decisions that affect their lives.

National Child Day is celebrated every year in Canada on November 20. This special day is a time to recognize and honour the right of children, as established by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), which Canada signed in 1991.

The UNCRC emphasizes that every child has the right to a happy, healthy, and safe childhood, with access to education, health care, play, and protection. National Child Day reminds us of our collective responsibility to support and nurture our children, giving them a strong foundation to reach their full potential.

To learn more about child rights check out [National Child Day](#)

CELEBRATE **NATIONAL CHILD DAY** NOVEMBER 20

NOVEMBER 20 is NATIONAL CHILD DAY, a day to celebrate child rights!

All children in Canada up to the age of 18 have rights, below are only a few examples. All your rights are written in a document called the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child**.

Visit Canada.ca/national-child-day to learn more about your rights!



<p>24</p> <p>You have the right to the best HEALTH care possible, safe water to drink, nutritious food, a clean and safe environment, and information to help you be healthy.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>You have the right to CHOOSE YOUR OWN FRIENDS and JOIN OR SET UP GROUPS, as long as it isn't harmful to others.</p>	<p>30</p> <p>You have the right to practice your own CULTURE, LANGUAGE and RELIGION—or any you choose. Minority and indigenous groups need special protection of this right.</p>
<p>31</p> <p>You have the right to PLAY and REST.</p>	<p>1</p> <p>EVERY CHILD from birth to 18 HAS these RIGHTS.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>You have the right to a good quality EDUCATION. You should be encouraged to go to school to the highest level you can.</p>
<p>40</p> <p>If you are in conflict with the law, you have the right to legal help and fair treatment in the criminal JUSTICE system that respects your rights.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>You have the right to SPECIAL EDUCATION and CARE if you have a DISABILITY, as well as all the rights in this Convention, so that you can live a full life.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>You have the right to give your OPINION, and for adults to listen and take it seriously.</p>



News from the School Food Coordinator



School Food Coordinator, Vince Girimonte



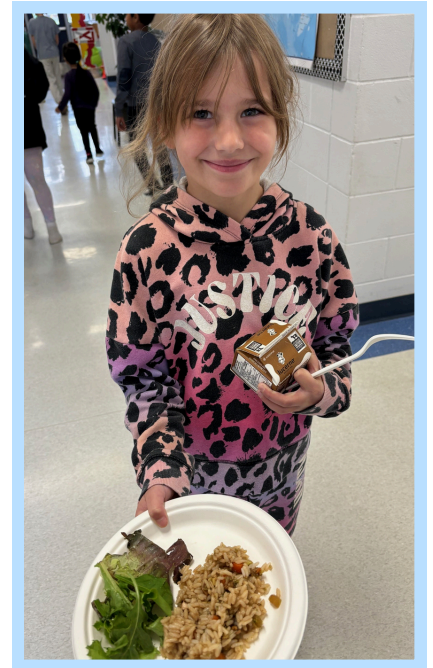
Meals and Nutrition in Schools

The Wednesday hot lunch pilot programs at Steeples, Pinewood and Parkland are up and running! Recent menus have included chicken teriyaki with rice, beef tacos and chicken soup with a cheddar biscuit. And don't forget salad with each meal!

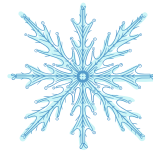
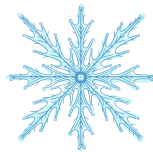
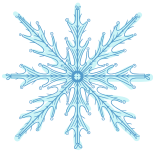
Parents and students are offered lunch on a pay-what-you-can basis, and participation is growing each week. We will continue to work on ways to expand the Wednesday hot lunch program to more schools in 2025.

Nursing practicum students from College of the Rockies have been presenting in schools about food literacy, healthy snacks, local food assistance programs and building healthy relationships with food.

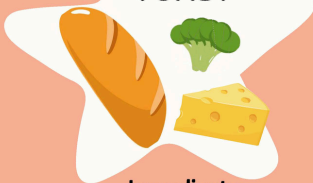
The practicum students have also created educational pamphlets and a video for students and their families to take home. Leah, Shelbie, Vicky and Izzy are outstanding representatives of the nursing program. We greatly value the hard work and creativity they have brought to the District.



Steeples Wednesday Hot Lunch



CHEESY BROCCOLI TOAST



Ingredients:

- 1 cup of fresh or frozen broccoli
- 2 slices of whole grain bread or rice cake
- 1/4 tsp red pepper flakes
- 1/2 tsp garlic powder
- 1/4 cup shredded cheese

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 400°F (200°C)
2. Place fresh or frozen broccoli in microwave-safe bowl, cover with a plate and microwave until soft
3. Allow broccoli to cool and roughly mash with a fork
4. Season broccoli with garlic powder and pepper flakes. Salt to liking
5. Lightly toast bread in oven
6. Layer broccoli mixture on each slice and sprinkle grated cheese evenly
7. Bake in the oven until cheese is melted and golden



<https://food-guide.canada.ca/en/recipes/cheesy-broccoli-toast/>

Nuts vs Seeds

☆ **Nuts** are the seeds of plants. Most are from trees or legumes (ex. peanuts). Nuts are high in protein and healthy fats like omega-3 and omega-6.

Some examples of nuts: chestnuts, hazelnuts, almonds, cashews, hazelnuts, peanuts & pistachios

☆ **Seeds** come from vegetables (such as pumpkins, sunflowers, and crops like flax or hemp). Seeds are rich in omega-3s, antioxidants, fiber, and minerals. Seeds are often a good option for kids with nut allergies.

Some examples of seeds: pumpkin seeds, chia seeds, flaxseeds sesame seeds & sunflower seeds

Food Artwork by
Carolina Loo Xu,
UX/UI Designer



SNACKS FOR SCHOOL HEALTH

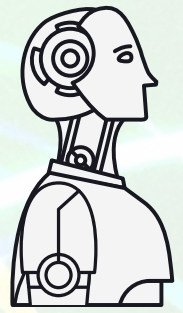
Snack Heroes



November 2024



DISTRICT DESIGN LABS



Teachers of Transformative Learning Ryan McKenzie and Kim Froehler

What is Par for the Course?

The French Immersion grade four class at TM Roberts made mini golf courses on a recent visit to the Design Lab. Armed with nothing but cardboard, MakeDo Screws, and a burst of imagination, these young innovators transformed their classroom into a magnificent mini-golf paradise. Themes ranged from Haunted Houses and frosty Arctic landscapes, complete with icebergs and even the bustling streets of New York City.

Not only did the students craft spectacular courses, but they also designed their very own putters using 3D pens, tailoring each to fit their unique visions while practicing their welding skills. The highlight of this adventurous project was, of course, the chance to play and marvel at each other's ingenious designs near the end of the day.

Mount Baker Students Dive into Virtual Science Adventures:

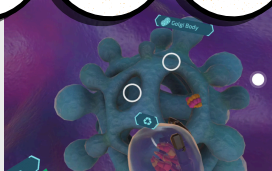
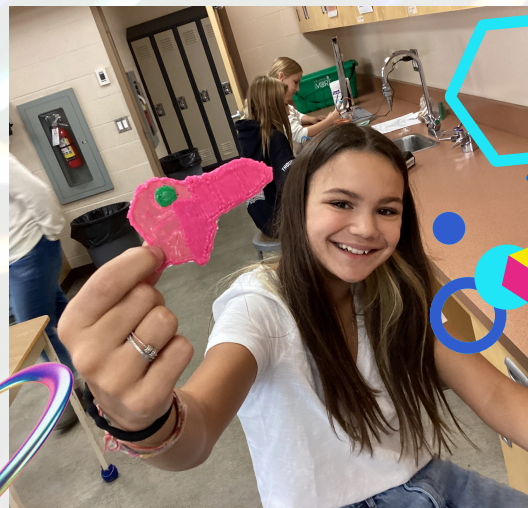
This month, Mount Baker's AP Biology and Science 10 students stepped into the future of learning with cutting-edge virtual reality experiences! Using the Nano VR app, AP Bio students embarked on a thrilling cellular adventure, piloting nanodrones inside the human body to battle a mysterious virus. They mastered cell systems, from generating energy to protein synthesis, turning complex biology into an engaging, game-like challenge.

Meanwhile, grade ten Science students explored the cosmos with virtual tours of the International Space Station and scenic journeys through the solar system, gaining new perspectives on space science. Some students also participated in a virtual pig dissection, complete with a digital assistant and interactive knowledge checks, as they prepared for their upcoming anatomy test. These immersive experiences are redefining science education at Mount Baker.

Parkland Middle School Students Bring Fossils to Life:

Parkland Middle School students stepped into the shoes of geologists this month by designing their own fossils! After researching ancient animals and sketching their chosen creatures, students brought their ideas to life using 3D pens.

The result? Vibrant, three-dimensional fossil representations that combined creativity with science. Just like geologists piece together Earth's history through fossils, these young scientists explored the fascinating link between ancient life and modern technology—creating a colorful glimpse into the past!





OUTDOOR AND



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Michael Kelly, Principal

Take Me Outside

The District will support four teachers attending the Take Me Outside Conference in Banff. The overarching theme for the 2025 Outdoor Learning Conference is “Place and Pedagogy: Where Learning Happens”.

The focus of the 2025 conference is Indigenous Ways of Knowing, Health & Wellbeing, and Environmental & Climate Change Education.



Kootenay Discovery School

Kootenay Discovery School grade 7 to 9 blended program in Fernie met at the Provincial Park for Orienteering including compass work, a star orienteering rebus riddle and a mapping exchange challenge.



Laurie Middle School

Students in Indigenous Studies 9 spent a beautiful October afternoon exploring Eager Hill and learning from the land. Some of the learning included traditional Ktunaxa uses of trees and plants as well as traditional and current autumnal activities of the Ktunaxa people. A culminating activity was to create information cards about our learning of the native flora.



Mount Baker Environmental Awareness Program

Students in Ms. Cormier’s EAP class have been working on trail maintenance for Padawan and Podracer. They learned about the maintenance of adaptive trails for biking. The class has also been preparing for winter camp at Kootenay Pass by learning how to assess terrain, track set and pace for a group hike. They also learned companion rescue skills.



AROUND THE DISTRICT

Joe Pierre - Indigenous Education Coordinator

Joe Pierre was raised in the Community of ʔaqʔam formerly known as the St. Mary's Indian Reserve and is a citizen of the Ktunaxa Nation.

He attended the University of Calgary in the Fine Arts. At the U of C Joe met several other First Nations people interested in theatre and they collaborated to form the Crazy Horse Theatre Company. The company mounted several productions in Calgary all of which were written by Aboriginal writers. Joe also worked for a season with the CBC production "North of Sixty". Joe was a storyteller at the very first Proctor Storytelling Festival and he has presented at several other festivals throughout the Kootenays.



Currently he is employed by the District and is a member of the Board of Directors for the First Nations Education Steering Committee. Joe served as a councillor for the St. Mary's Indian band for eight years and was a member of the Board of Governors for the College of the Rookies for six years. In the Fall of 2016, Joe was elected back to the ʔaqʔam council, this time in the capacity of Chief Councillor. In February of 2021, Joe was re-elected to a second term as Chief. He is a husband to wife Jennifer and a father to eighteen-year-old Jude. Together they are known as "Triple J".



Faye O'Neil - Indigenous Education Coordinator

Faye O'Neil was born on her homelands of Ktunaxa ʔamaʔkis at the beginning of the headwaters of the miʔqaqas akinmituk (Chickadee River/Columbia River) where she played in the water and on the land. She shares Ktunaxa and European ancestry, is a community member of the ʔaqʔam and resides in Cranbrook, BC. She is a mother of three adult children and a fur-mom to Daisy.

She has been working in the public education sector for 25 years promoting and braiding Indigenous worldviews and perspectives into the classrooms. When not volunteering on committees and boards, you can find her out on the land exploring and following the footprints of her ancestors, kayaking the many lakes in the area, and gathering plants and berries. Faye was awarded an EE Excellence from CBEEN in 2019.

Cyndi Andrew - Indigenous Education Support Worker

Kiʔsuʔk Kyukyit Hu qakʔik Mrs. Andrew

Good Day, My name is Mrs. Andrew. I am the Indigenous Education Support Worker at Steeples Elementary School. My husband, Max, and I live here in ʔamakis Ktunaxa. We are very proud grandparents, with the 13th arriving in the new year. My free time is spent slowly learning Ktunaxa with Alfred Joseph, Violet Birdstone and Mara Nelson. I also enjoy visiting with family, camping, travelling, hiking, and new adventures. Working with the students and families at Steeples over the years has been a highlight of my career. The staff at Steeples is a connecting community that brings out the best in supporting each other every day!



Willow Burke - Indigenous Education Support Worker

For the past two years, I have had the privilege of working at Fernie Secondary School, as the Indigenous Support Worker. A place where my passion for Indigenous education and my love for the kids I work with truly shine. Living in the beautiful town of Elkford, I share my life with my supportive husband, Tom, and our loyal dog, Fergus. Family is at the heart of everything I do. I am a proud mother of four children and three stepchildren, and I am blessed with three delightful grandchildren who bring endless joy to my life. Whether it's camping under the stars, embarking on new adventures, or simply spending quality time with my grandkids and friends, I cherish every moment.



AROUND THE DISTRICT

Marie Dawson - Indigenous Education Support Worker

Hello, my name is Marie Dawson, and I am proud to work as an Indigenous Education Support Worker for the District. I am grateful to live, work, and learn in the homelands of the Ktunaxa people. In my role at Mount Baker Secondary School, I encourage students to strengthen their connection to their cultural heritage, support their academic success, and foster holistic health and wellness. Beyond my professional duties, I value spending time with my family and exploring the natural beauty of our region through hiking, camping, and visiting local lakes. I also have a strong passion for travel and cultural exploration, which allows me to continually expand my understanding of the world.



Natasha Gamache - Indigenous Education Support Worker

Hello, my name is Natasha Gamache. I have lived in Elkford since 1976 and worked at Sparwood Schools since 2004. I am currently the Indigenous Education Support Worker at Sparwood Secondary and love it!

I have been married to Dan for 33 years and we have 3 children and 3 grandchildren. I have two dogs that are my babies now. I love being outdoors, tenting, being at the lake, cooking and spending time with my family.



Alexis Hekker - Indigenous Education Support Worker

I am the IESW at TM Roberts. I am a Metis visitor on the homelands of the Ktunaxa Nation. I live with my partner and our three cats and dog. I am an artist in my free time and I specialize in beading. I also enjoy knitting, crochet and sewing.



Megan Holmes - Indigenous Education Support Worker

I am the IESW at Highlands. I am a mom of four and love to spend my days hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, and anything outdoors. Working with people and advocating has always been my passion, and I have worked with the Indigenous community for the last decade.

To my role I bring my lived experiences, which has not only allowed me to see the potential of individuals, but has also made me adaptable to challenges. This provides me the opportunity to continue to learn and grow within my role and as a person and I am grateful for this everyday.



Other News from Around the District

Fostering a Supportive and Inclusive Environment

As we navigate through another exciting school year, the Human Resources department is committed to fostering a supportive and inclusive environment for both our staff and students. Our goal is to ensure that every member of our school community feels valued and empowered to contribute to our collective success.

To date, the HR department has posted 216 teaching and 122 support roles for the 2024-2025 school year.

We are proud to be an inclusive employer with hiring practices aimed at attracting and retaining a diverse workforce. By broadening our recruitment strategies and employing bias aware hiring processes, we ensure that all candidates, regardless of their background, have an equal opportunity to join our team. This includes training our hiring managers on unconscious bias and promoting a culture of equity and inclusion throughout the District.





IN THE SCHOOLS



News from Schools Across the District

Online Learning - Kootenay Discovery School



My Pacing

Schedule last updated: Oct 23, 2024 2:39 PM

Course Start Date: Sep 13, 2024

Course End Date: Dec 31, 2024

Kootenay Discovery School teachers are hard at work developing and inserting the “Pacing & Progress Tool” into Brightspace courses. Many courses already have this tool, and we hope to have it in all courses by the end of the school year.

What does this tool do? Well, the “Pacing & Progress Tool” helps students take ownership of their own success and set learning goals in all their courses. Based on student selected start and end dates, there are suggested submission dates for each of the required activities in a course. Students can edit the dates as needed. As students progress, the table will populate with the date students complete the activities, how many days they were overdue by (if submitted after the suggested date), and the grade earned (once graded). There is no penalty for overdue assignments based on this schedule, but it may impact student’s ability to finish by their selected course end date.

Sparwood Secondary Kindness

Sparwood Secondary School Athletics Department sent their old uniforms to the Philippines.



Elkford Secondary Volleyball

The Senior Boys will represent the District at provincials from November 27-30. The Junior Boys are Kootenay Champions!



Fernie Secondary

Students were at the Fernie Cenotaph finding the names of their relatives.



Sparwood Secondary

The Mechanics class has been working on a mini bike while the Foods class has been learning to make homemade pasta.



A picture says a thousand words...



School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay) Strategic Plan Partner Group Feedback

