

LEARNING TOGETHER

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A picture says a thousand words...

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



Can you believe it is already the end of October? School start-up has been positive, especially with the addition of more teachers to support our schools and classrooms. We appreciate everyone's support making this happen this year as it required coordination from schools, the CFTA and Human Resources. We are thankful for the increase in funding that is being used to support smaller class sizes across the District. This work resulted in 26 new teachers being hired. Overall, our enrolment numbers are slightly up and there are pockets of growth in many of our schools.



As we are now part of the Ministry of Education and Child Care (MECC), we have received funding to support a District Principal's position to focus on the **Early Learning Framework** and Child Care needs of our communities. Laura-Lee Phillips has taken on this important work. Formally the principal of École Isabella Dicken Elementary, Laura-Lee previously owned and operated a licensed child care facility. Last year, the District completed an environmental scan of community child care needs which will be the central focus of Laura-Lee's work.

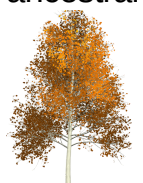
Last year, the Ministry provided districts with the Family Affordability Funds. This year, it was replaced by the Feeding Futures funding. The funding will allow more children and youth to have access to healthy meals and snacks at school. Feeding Futures invests in building and expanding local school food programs. We are currently partnering with four community Food Banks, the Salvation Army, Cranbrook Food Recovery, Community Connections Society, and other not-for-profit organizations to maximize the fundings potential for our students.

Our newest version of the **Framework for Enhancing Student Learning** (FESL) is available on our website. Our priorities are around the intellectual, social, human, and career development of our students. The Board of Education will be developing a new strategic plan that will align with the FESL work. Stay tuned.

As an inclusive, public system we have an obligation to uphold the BC Human Rights Code. Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) are protected grounds. There is misinformation around SOGI as it is not curriculum that is taught. SOGI inclusive schools respect all students and families without discrimination. We recognize the importance of respecting and celebrating the diverse identities and backgrounds of our students and employees. This means we are committed to creating a school environment that is free from discrimination and harassment based on sexual orientation or gender identity. For more information please refer to **Policy 19** in the Board Policy Handbook.

As part of the District's journey towards Truth and Reconciliation, we had a flag raising ceremony on September 25. Acknowledging the territory where our District resides is an integral part of reconciliation and an expression of gratitude to the Ktunaxa people for sharing their ancestral homelands.

Viveka Johnson, Superintendent



Early Learning and Child Care



Changing Possibilities (Results) for Young Children (CR4YC)

The first provincial session for CR4YC was held in Fernie on October 4, 2023. The group brought together Early Childhood Educators, Strong Start Facilitators, a Speech and Language Pathologist, and Teachers from the District to work collaboratively on projects. CR4YC focuses on social and emotional well-being to improve outcomes for young children.

One of the CR4YC goals is to identify and apply a strengthened understanding of quality practices associated with improving the social and emotional well-being of young children. Another goal is to increase the coherence in pedagogy between Early Childhood Educators and Primary Educators.

The theme this year is Storytelling. Changing Possibilities through the Power of Storytelling.



“We need new stories that offer hope that another world is possible, a world that is more equal, democratic, and sustainable, a world where surprise and wonder, diversity and complexity find their rightful place in early childhood education, indeed all education.”

Peter Moss, Transformative Change and Real Utopias in Early Childhood Education





News from District Teachers



District French Immersion Curriculum Support Teacher, Marzia Bottoni

Coucou! In collaboration with District Literacy Teacher, Erin Jones, the District is part of a national trial for the French Immersion universal reading screener. Data on French Immersion students will be collected starting in November using the screener. This information will be used to inform and improve teaching practices.

Professional Development

On October 11, intermediate immersion teachers from TM Roberts and Isabella Dicken met for a full day workshop with Shauna Nero from Simon Fraser University to learn ways to increase oral proficiency among our French Immersion students.



District Numeracy Teacher, Kathy Conlin

Grade 6 Common Assessment

French and English Grade 6 teachers from across the district came together to review and learn how to implement the common math assessment.

The assessment is intended to efficiently identify the number sense strengths and stretches of students, so teachers can build a class number sense profile.

Mini Workshops for Education Assistants (EA's)

A series of workshops about creating resilient, independent, and confident students who understand math were conducted at Steeples and Isabella Dicken for Education Assistants during early dismissal.

Models



Set Model



Array Model



Area Model



Open Area Model



DISTRICT DESIGN LAB



How to Train your Robot

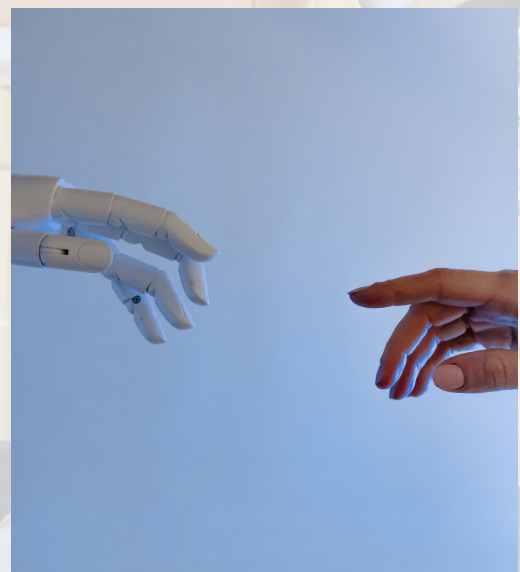
Grade 2 students from Isabella Dicken in Fernie were introduced to the idea of machine learning, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and robotics at the District Design Lab in Fernie.

Students watched a demonstration of Mrs. Froehler training Moxie the robot. Each class developed 5 or more questions they wanted to ask the robot. Students participated in a coding project using colours and patterns. They demonstrated their understanding by creating a variety of coding patterns on a paper track for a robot called Ozobot to perform. The students then danced with Moxie!

The District Design Labs have the following new equipment:



- 15 sets of Lego Robotics expansion kits,
- Moxie, a robot that demonstrates the concepts of machine learning, AI and social emotional learning, and
- Meta Quest Pro headset for students and teachers to experience what it feels like to work and play in a mixed reality environment.





AROUND THE DISTRICT

Compassionate Systems Leadership

The District had a team of 23 people participate in a four-day (October 3-5, 2023) Introduction to Compassionate Systems Leadership Workshop facilitated by Dr. Peter Senge and Dr. Mette Boell with the Center for Systems Awareness.

This workshop supports Compassionate Systems Leadership as a key element of the Mental Health in Schools Strategy. Compassionate Systems Leadership in education is an approach that inspires transformation and instructional best practices that lead to student success. It is anchored in self-awareness, social awareness, responsible decision-making, self management, and relationship skills. Building on the strong foundation of leadership development that already exists, we need to engage new system awareness tools and embed compassion into the work.

Human Resources - Recruitment

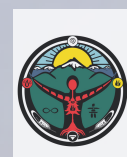
On September 14, the Human Resources Department attended a Career Fair in Cranbrook. This career fair provided the Department with many benefits. Firstly, it allowed the department to connect with potential job candidates directly and help them with their applications. This is important because it provides an opportunity for the District to get to know the applicants on a personal level, beyond what a resume or application can reveal.

Career fairs give the District a chance to showcase the qualities and culture, which helps to attract the right candidates that align with the District's values and goals. Additionally, attending career fairs allows the District to spread awareness about job openings and opportunities in all of the District communities. This recent career fair was a great success!

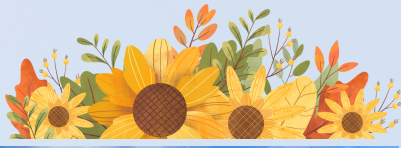


What is Thanksgiving?

The District welcomes wonderful Teacher Assistants from France who will be joining us for just this year to add more cultural activities to our classes at Parkland Middle School and Fernie Secondary. Inès and Maéva were appreciative to learn about our Thanksgiving traditions.



A picture says a thousand words...



IDLEWILD CROSS COUNTRY MEET



MR. BULLOCK'S FRENCH CLASS



MBSS WILD DAYS



KTUNAXA LEGENDS READER'S THEATRE



ORANGE SHIRT DAY AT STEEPLES



TAKE ME OUTSIDE AT ISABELLA DICKEN



MBSS LEADERSHIP CLASS



WILDERNESS WEDNESDAYS AT AWES



STRONGSTART COORDINATORS



COOKING BANNOCK WITH METIS ELDERS AT SPARWOOD SECONDARY

