

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5

SOUTHEAST KOOTENAY

***STUDENTS LOVE TO LEARN HERE, STAFF
LOVE TO WORK HERE, FAMILIES LOVE TO
GATHER HERE***



MARCH 2022





From The Desk of the Superintendent, Silke Yardley



I hope you all had a restful spring break. Hard to believe we are in April already, but exciting times with spring around the corner. Schools are busy places, particularly now, many things start to happen at this time of year.

Our district team is busy working on budgets, staffing, and looking at the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning for this year and next. It is always exciting to see where we have come and where we go to support our students and staff. We are looking forward to reviewing the data from our Framework once it is available, and then following it up with consultation and collaboration, determining the direction for next year.

The Ministry of Education has sent us some important updates below.

There is a link for the public to be part of the public engagement process for the new Indigenous-focused graduation requirements. Please take a moment to give your feedback.

Provincial graduation assessments are also underway in schools this month and in June. Secondary schools are busy scheduling these assessments into the school day for our students.

For students that are graduating this year, there are many scholarship opportunities. Please encourage your child to apply for scholarships. If they have any questions on how to apply, they can ask their principal, school counselor, or any other adult they are connected to, and they will point them in the right direction.

Take care and enjoy the beautiful spring weather.

Silke

Indigenous-Focused Grad Requirement – Public Engagement Launch: Further to last Friday’s Deputy Minister’s Bulletin announcement, a public engagement process for the new Indigenous-focused graduation requirement has now launched on the [gov Together BC website](#), and will be available until April 22, 2022. Please encourage students, families, staff, and community partners to visit the site and share their thoughts on the proposed approach for the new requirement. The Education Programs Division will also be in touch with sector partners to schedule consultation sessions in March and April to hear feedback.

Provincial Graduation Assessment Administration Sessions: All graduation assessments will be available for students in Grades 10–12 to write or rewrite in the April and June administration sessions, with the exception of l’Évaluation de littératie de la 12e année – Français langue seconde-immersion (LTF 12). Sessions will be administered as previously scheduled on April 25–29 and June 13–17, 2022. A [Q&A document](#) and [parent communication for French immersion students](#) is available for further guidance on key questions. Any additional questions can be directed to exams@gov.bc.ca.

District/Authority Scholarships: The 2021/22 District/Authority scholarship allocations, guidelines, and instructions for reporting conditional recipients to the Ministry (due June 30) are [now available for administrators](#). Please plan to use your full allocation and ensure your selected students are on track to meet the [District/Authority scholarship eligibility requirements](#). Contact scholarships@gov.bc.ca with questions.

Vision	Mission	Values
Students love to learn here, staff love to work here, families love to gather here.	Our students will graduate with dignity, purpose and options.	Respect, Vision, Fairness, Collaboration, Integrity, Inclusion

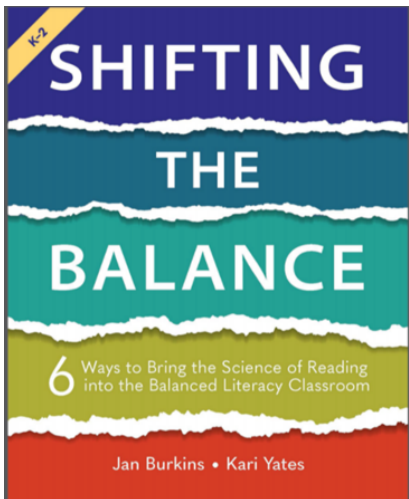
Literacy Professional Development

To support our FESL Literacy goal Erin Jones, district literacy support teacher, offered three after school virtual professional learning sessions from January to March.

Shifting the Balance book study ran Mondays for 6 weeks after school. Participants discussed this fantastic new book that addresses the ongoing disagreements about how to teach reading. We looked closely at the research, current practices, and new possibilities for an even stronger reading program.

Purposeful Writing in the Primary Grades ran after school, Wednesdays on TEAMS for 3 weeks. Participants learned that when students write for a purpose, motivation, engagement and growth increase. They also explored writing with purpose through play; scaffolding emergent student writing and elements of early composition.

Adrienne Gear's Literature Circles ran after school, Thursdays on TEAMS for 3 weeks. Participants discussed how to invite their students to think deeply about meaningful novels; how to facilitate authentic conversations about meaningful texts; how to shift from direct teacher instruction and guided practice to independent work and came away with strategies for differentiated instruction and inclusion for all learners.



Here's what participants had to say about the professional development sessions:

- "I learned that literacy circles start at the beginning of the year!! I like the outline of introducing the concepts, doing a novel together and then independent novel study."
- "Thank you so much for putting this on! I was apprehensive to sign up because I didn't think I would have time after school but it was actually perfect...I am excited to use what I learned in my classroom and I found the presentation very informative."
- "I started using the phoneme boxes for spelling now...it seems to really help"

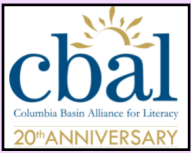
DIAL 4 Training

Developmental Indicators for the Assessment of Learning – Fourth Edition is a global screener for assessing large groups of children quickly and efficiently. The DIAL-4 tests a child's motor, conceptual, and language skills to help identify students that may need further testing or who may need help with academic skills. All our schools will be taking part in training sessions during the month of April. We plan to use this assessment for all kindergarten students beginning in September.



Objective: to improve students' ability to be literate at each grade level with an initial focus on the primary years.

Possessing proficient literacy skills gives students the ability to communicate clearly and effectively. Lacking these skills places students at a tremendous disadvantage. Literacy creates opportunities for people to develop skills that will help them provide for themselves and their family as well as becoming positive contributors to society. Literacy is essential to developing a strong sense of well-being and citizenship. Children who have developed strong reading skills perform better in school and have a healthier self-image. They become lifelong learners and sought-after employees.



Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy (CBAL) hosted a Come Read with Me event for the Cranbrook schools in March. There were 24 adult participants that attended with their children. Thirty-five kits were given out or delivered to the participating schools. The kits contained a book for the child, a booklet with helpful tips and information for the parents, and a snack for the child. Many parents expressed an interest in participating

in the *Come Do Math and Money with Me* workshop and in the *Kids' Book Club* which will be



starting soon. Both these workshops are for grade one children.

CBAL also did a PALS (Parents as Literacy Supporters) for kindergarten classes at Frank J Mitchell last month. They had over 45 parents attend and distributed 62 kits!

Green Screen, Animation, and Storytelling



At the end of February and beginning of March, students in Janine Wittig's grade 2/3 class at FJ Mitchell Elementary participated in creating stop motion and green screen movies. They

took the time to create a story line, added props, and characters to their movie. Each group presented their film at a mini class "film festival" where each film was critiqued by their peers.

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English Language Arts

Students in English language arts at Elkford Secondary have been studying a range of powerful texts which contained unique and resilient characters. Students have responded to these texts critically, creatively, and reflectively. Some classes have been listening along with the audiobook and this has enabled all students to finish reading the entire novel.



Digital Literacy/Citizenship Survey Results

On March 3rd, teachers, teacher librarians and members of the transformative learning team met virtually to discuss the results from the anonymous digital literacy citizenship surveys that were given to grade 4 students across the district. Some of the interesting takeaways from the survey included students preferring to communicate with others in person, students wanting to learn typing skills at a younger age, more students making online purchases, and frustration students experience when they are asked to stop playing an online game. The results of the surveys will assist the FESL team in creating a digital literacy scope and sequence across the district.

Finite State Automata

You might not know it, but a finite state automaton is a type of process that you probably use multiple times per day. Simply put, it is the process of creating patterns, usually with computers, and is used for decision making. It is an essential element of coding but can also be used to teach problem-solving without any devices.

Students at Parkland Middle School took on the challenge to find the path to Treasure Island by piecing together a route through a series of steps and a little bit of hide and seek around the school.

Finite State Automata, otherwise known as Treasure Island, is one of many unplugged coding activities that can be explored with your class.



Welcome to Bananatown

Kindergarten students from Kootenay Orchards School have been learning about robots and problem solving through different types of coding. They learned that robots are not living things, even if they look and sound like them sometimes. They explored some basic coding using blocks and colours that allowed them to control an Ozobot.

Once they were comfortable with their Ozobot, they were challenged to create a small town. Bananatown, run by Mayor Stinky Feet, was toured by the Ozobots.

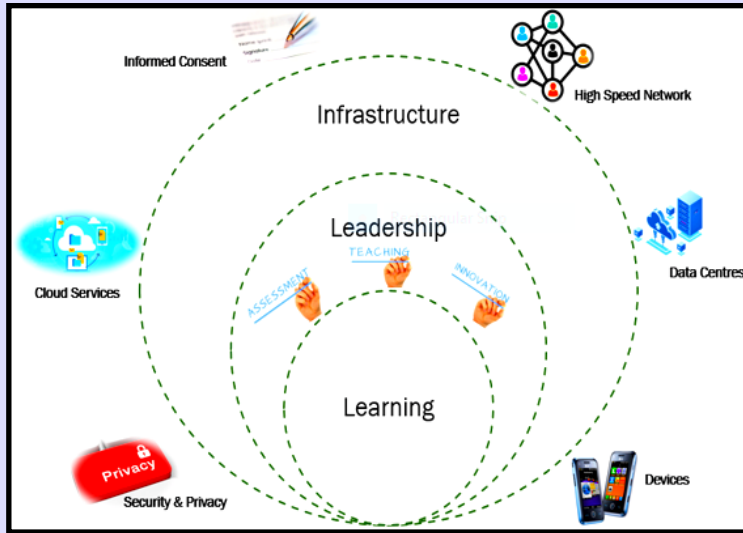


Objective: to improve students' skill and confidence in numeracy.

Numeracy is necessary for everyday living. From daily activities like telling the time, baking and playing cards, to more difficult tasks such as understanding budgeting, planning a trip, reading a map and understanding timetables. Numeracy is important for individuals to develop logical thinking and reasoning strategies in their everyday activities as well as different career opportunities. We need numeracy to solve problems and make sense of numbers, time, patterns, and shapes for activities like cooking, reading receipts, reading instructions, and even playing sports.

Educational Technology Plan Update

We have met with the core team, the program team, District Student Advisory Council, secondary and elementary teachers, and administrators to gain insight and ideas to inform the next five-year educational technology road map.



New Elder-in-Residence

We are very excited to introduce Pete Sanchez as our new School District Elder! Pete will be supporting our students at Amy Woodland Elementary school one day per week. It has been a goal of School District No. 5 for quite some time to expand our Elders program. We are honoured to be collaborating with Pete and to have him working with our kids.

MBSS Interact Club

MBSS Interact Leadership kids presented to City Hall to propose the installation of a Peace Pole they are designing for Idlewild Park. They were amazing!



Scholarship Season

Be sure to check with both School District No. 5's website and your school counselor to learn about any scholarship or bursary opportunities you may be eligible for. Here are a couple links to get your started.

[School District No. 5](#)

[Mount Baker Senior Secondary](#)

Free Job Readiness Program

The BC Construction Safety Alliance (BCCSA) is offering its [SiteReadyBC](#) online course free of charge to current secondary school students. Contact BCCSA's Trina Dumbeck at 604-636-3681 or by email at tdumbeck@bccsa.ca for more information.

100 days of school has been hard on these TM Roberts students!



Objective: to improve the quality of student's feeling welcome, safe and connected to their school community.

Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, states basic needs must be met before humans can feel safe and secure. Those humans need to feel safe and secure before they can trust relationships and love that strengthens the sense of belonging. Belonging is essential before a person develops enough self-esteem and worth to create a feeling of accomplishment. All these need to be in place to achieve one's full potential.



Fernie senior boys were a team who boasted true chemistry and were a force all over BC and Alberta.

They battled hard and lost the bronze medal game by 1 point to Cedars Christian.

Boys roster: Max Hatt, Michael Spoonhunter, Diego Grijalva, Isaac Anderson, Trey Hobbs, Bronson Impey, Jayden Chorostecki, Mattias Larsen, Parker Anselmo, Bryson Barr, Jacob Barr, Cohen Musschoot, Arden Stucky, Coach Aj Kennedy, Assistant Coach Ian Johnson, Assistant Coach Jared Musschoot, Manager Tara Elliot



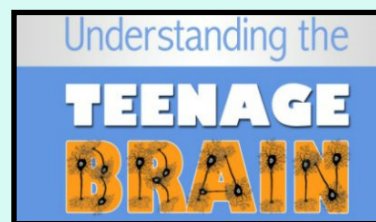
Fernie Secondary's senior girl team was a young team that was extremely gritty on both ends of the floor. Proud to bring home the bronze medal out of the top 16 teams in the province.

Girls roster: Alisia Dvorak, Becca Blackwell, Morgan Trand, Georgia Lessard, Cassie Fahselt, Hannah Ferrarelli, Paige Matejka, Kadie Anderson, Emilee French, Summer Musschoot, Emmy Anderson, Coach Jen Kennedy, Assistant Coach Rylee Anderson, Manager Billie Kennedy

Back by Popular Demand, DPAC Presents Gary Anaka



April 19 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.



May 24 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

R.S.V.P. to sd5dpac@gmail.com

Objective: to improve the percentage of students who feel there are two or more adults in their school who care about them.

Young people need to be surrounded by people who love, care for, appreciate and accept them. Other adult relationships are one of the positive supports that young people need to succeed. A resiliency is fostered when the young person receives support from three or more non-parent adults.

A Former MBSS Student and COTR Alumni's Experience with Youth Train in Trades Program

Darius Brons-Cooney's summer job helping heavy-duty mechanics at Fabrite turned out to be life-changing, solidifying his decision to become a heavy-duty equipment technician. With that settled, he couldn't wait to get started.

"I knew what career I was pursuing, and I wanted a way to have an early start on it," Darius said. "I, like a lot of people, didn't enjoy high school and was eager to do something to help me get ahead in life."

Darius had the opportunity to enrol in the Youth Train in Trades (YTT) program, completing his foundation-level Heavy Duty Equipment Technician training during his Grade 12 year. YTT is an avenue for high school students to get a head start on a skilled trades apprenticeship program while simultaneously earning graduation credits.



Just a year after completing that program, Darius was chosen to take part in the College's Mining Apprenticeship Program (MAP). This innovative program, delivered in collaboration with Teck Elk Valley Operations, provides training opportunities to apprentices in Heavy Duty Equipment Technician, as well as Industrial Electrician, trades. Through MAP, apprentices complete work-based training hours on site at one of Teck's Elk Valley mines and the College acts as the employer sponsor.

"This program was a great way to learn all the different ways of repairs," Darius said. "I got to learn from a lot of different people, and they all taught me something that will stick with me."

Darius must have made an impression as a MAP participant. He has been hired by one of Teck's Elk Valley mines.

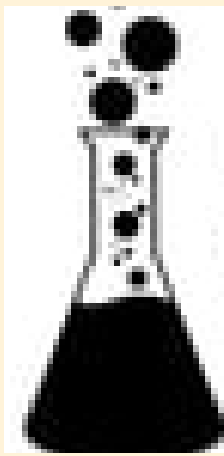
"It feels super rewarding to get exactly where I saw myself going all those years ago," he said, "If you see yourself getting into a trade or aren't sure of what you want to do after high school, Youth Train in Trades is definitely for you. It can either be an early start to what you want to do or something that can help you along the way."

Now happily employed doing the job he always knew he wanted, Darius has some words of advice for those who may follow behind him.

"Just remember that you have to earn what you receive. Don't get caught up on little things, it's later than you think!"

Objective: students will successfully graduate with BC Graduation certificates (Dogwood) that will better lead to attaining career and occupational objectives.

Student completion of the Graduation program with a Dogwood certificate is a necessary and vital prerequisite to a successful transition to post-secondary programs or to viable employment. A successful graduation is important to prepare students to attain their career and occupational objectives; to assist in the development of effective work habits and the flexibility to deal with change in the workplace



East Kootenay Regional Science Fair

Science fairs offer students the opportunity to create original scientific research, innovative projects and develop 21st century learning skills, critical and create thinking, collaboration, and communication.

The East Kootenay Regional Science Fair and 7 other active regions have struggled through the uncertainty of pandemic restrictions by offering virtual fairs. Our region has one of the earliest 10 science fair dates of the over 100 science fairs across Canada. The other 7 active BC regions are presenting virtual, in-person and a hybrid model through April have realized a slight return of participating students.

School District No. 5 had one participant this year. Keanu Chan, from Mount Baker Secondary School, will be representing the East Kootenays for the 4th time at the Canada Wide Science Fair Virtual (Ottawa), occurring from May 16 to 20, 2022.

Check out Keanu's presentation on the Youth Science Canada Website.



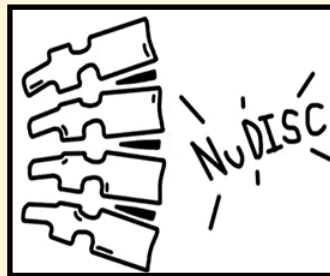
Design, Implementation and Assessment of Novel universal Design Internal Spine Concept (NuDISC)

Last year I developed a novel device under that I call NuDISC or Novel universal Design Internal Spine Concept.

In Canada, 5 in 10 people suffer from lower back pain. 85% of working Canadians will experience lower back pain during their lifetime. This condition costs the medical system 6 to 12 billion dollars each year and up to 6 million Canadians suffer from chronic lower back pain.

NuDISC is an expandable polyurethane balloon that can be inserted into a compromised spinal disc using a safe and easy surgical technique.

This year, I examined and tested various iterations of NuDISC to better optimize its use in patients suffering from lower back pain.



School District No. 5 is proud of Keanu's work and persistence.

Human Resources Update

We are pleased to let everyone know that the local bargain with the CFTA has concluded. A big thank you to all the management team members for their help and support throughout this process. In addition, we thank the CFTA bargaining team for a thoughtful, and respectful process. Now we will begin focusing on the CUPE bargaining. The bargaining team began preparations and meetings with key stakeholders on February 28. We anticipate starting bargaining in May, with a protocol meeting in early April.

Preliminary staffing meetings concluded in early March. We have met with principals from all schools and received feedback for the upcoming school year. We will continue to advertise for teachers teaching on-call and casual support work for the remainder of this school year and next.

To assist in the recruitment of bus drivers the Association of School Transportation Services in BC has been working with Global to develop a series of bus driver recruitment advertisements. We thank Global and ASTSBC for their help in the recruitment of bus drivers across the province.