

MAY 2022

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5
SOUTHEAST KOOTENAY

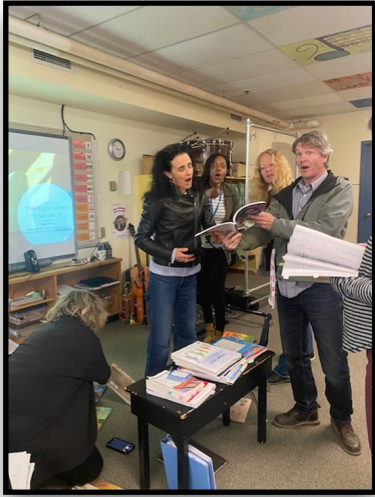


STUDENTS LOVE TO LEARN
HERE, STAFF LOVE TO WORK
HERE, FAMILIES LOVE TO
GATHER HERE



INTERMEDIATE READING WORKSHOP

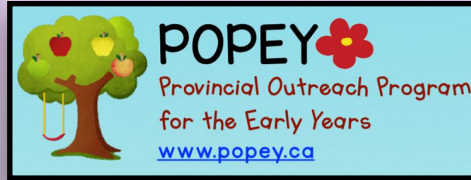
Intermediate staff at TM Roberts Elementary met with Erin Jones, District Literacy Support Teacher, on May 6 to discuss best practices in intermediate reading instruction. Teachers examined resources and instructional routines around phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. The conversations centered around how to best support all learners in literacy and close gaps in foundational skills to increase student proficiency in reading.



CBAL BOOK CLUB

Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy (CBAL) held five one-hour book club sessions during the month of May. Grade 1 students and their parents could participate in reading stories and doing fun activities.

FESL LITERACY PROJECT



On May 9, grade two teachers, student service teachers, and administrators

from six of our elementary schools gathered for the final session of our Framework for Enhancing Student Learning Literacy Project (FESL). This was the third session facilitated by Erin Jones and led by Jen Kelly of POPEY. Staff participated in a learning session on how developmentally appropriate, hands-on language games and activities can support K-3 students' phonological awareness and expand word knowledge. They also had time to collaborate and plan for next year. Thank you to all participants.

MAGNETIC LETTERS IN ACTION

Participating teachers in last month's *Shifting the Balance* book study received class sets of magnetic graphemes (letters and letter



combinations) and whiteboard folders. These manipulatives allow students to explore sound-letter relationships in engaging and meaningful ways.

This authentic phonics practice brings letters, sounds, and meaning together and will help our students on their way to becoming proficient readers. Thanks to Ami Barras at EIDES for the photos of her grade two class.

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.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A ROBOT

Grade 1 students from Ms. Spergel's class Isabella Dicken came to the Design Lab to learn how to code Ozobots with shapes and colors. They coded a "day in the life of a robot "in which their Ozobot drove through different morning routines drawn by each student with different colored markers. Driving through each routine, the Ozobot would either do a turn, drive backward, or change color. Then Ms. Spergel read the class a story about *TEK The Modern Cave Boy by Patrick McDonnell*, teaching the students the importance of disconnecting from devices and enjoying their outdoor surroundings. This book is part of the book collection for SD5's Digital Literacy and Citizenship FESL initiative.



SEE THE CNC!

TM Roberts students built working CNC drawing machines out of LEGO. They started with a set of instructions and then used design and problem-solving skills to improve and calibrate their machine so that it could draw shapes on paper.



DESIGN LAB



Students in Mr. Buck's class from FJ Mitchell spent the day at the Design Lab creating, making, and coding a variety of different robotic devices. One group constructed an automated drawing machine! In the afternoon, students had the opportunity to enjoy some time "swimming" in the ocean with a variety of sea creatures while using the Oculus Quest virtual reality headsets.



Ms.Holmes' class at Jaffray Elementary Jr. Secondary enjoyed an action-packed day at the design lab. Each group built something different from dancing robots, to grabbers, and vehicles. They also learned how to use colour, distance, and force sensors.

Inspired by the Spring Carnival, students from Amy Woodland created rides and games based on popular attractions. designing and coding from scratch made the full-day Design Lab challenge engaging and collaborative. Students were excited to try each other's creations out as they developed. The day resulted in some wildly fast Ferris wheels a whack-a-mole game and even a robotic bumper car game.



See their creations in action:

<https://youtu.be/QyVGcjrW3AY>

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LAND-BASED LEARNING

Technology enhanced land-based learning at its finest! A Grade 1 class from Highlands was out exploring how to use found landforms to learn about mapping. This multi-model teaching and learning experience allowed the student to extend the classroom learning to the outdoors and then bring the outdoor learning back to the classroom.



CONDUCTORS WITH MUSIC

Students in Ms. Sutherland and Ms. Lennox's grade 2 classes at Isabella Dicken learned the basics of electricity.

Through testing, they discovered which objects make good conductors of electricity.

Students brought in various objects to test using scratch coding and Makey Makeys. Any object that conducted electricity would play a note when touched and attached to a Makey Makey. Students learned that humans, Playdoh, water, and graphite are good conductors, while wood and plastic are not good conductors of electricity.



SHELTER BUILDING

Imagine what you can build with tarps, pegs, bungees, and ropes! Jaffray Elementary Jr Secondary

kindergarten class worked with grade 7 and 8 students design and build shelters that their whole group could fit into. Contact the DRC to book your shelter building kit!



COMPASS PROGRAM

The LMS Compass class spent a gorgeous afternoon hiking up to Eager Lookout and back



down the Water Park Trail. Students were able to use scientific thinking to infer why they saw more shooting stars on the way up and more crocuses on the way down.

The Compass class also got to participate in a cultural lesson in pine needle basket making with Faye O'Neil. The lesson started in the classroom and students were fortunate enough to continue their baskets in the open air at Lazy Lake.



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.

Ready, Set, Learn

Ready, Set, Learn events were held at all schools in Cranbrook and the Elk Valley during May and June. It was a wonderful time to



see the 3 to 5-year-olds and show them all of the great things that they have to look forward to when they start school. The events were well attended.

At Rocky Mountain Elementary, the principal, Lois Ehman, reported that it was wonderful to have all the little ones in the building with their parents to learn about the school and the community resources available for them. Children and parents heard from the speech-language pathologist, the dental nurses, the nurse from interior health, the early childhood education worker in Elkford, the librarian, and the early years Aboriginal education worker. The little ones had a great time playing in the gym, the kindergarten rooms and then having a snack. It was a fun afternoon for all!



In Cranbrook and Fernie, the littles had the opportunity to board the school bus and check it out while collecting goodie bags from the school and our local partners.

MATHSEEDS AND MATHLETICS

Two sessions were held this month on "Creating Meaningful Math Stations with Mathseeds" and "Mathletics". If you want to know more about how to use these digital math resources in your classroom, please email to view a copy of the recordings! maxine.malmberg@sd5.bc.ca

WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN



Welcome to Kindergarten events began at the end of May and will continue throughout June. Students get to come and see the school, their classroom and meet their teachers. It is fun to see their excitement for the coming school year. Please refer to the link to find out the dates at your neighbourhood school.

[Kindergarten Orientation Schedule](#)

TERRY FOX RUN

Isabella Dicken Elementary School held their Terry Fox event on September 17 with music, running and heart art on the track to remember the people who are fighting for cancer. This year Isabella Dicken raised \$8,783.30, placing 9th for the highest donations in the British Columbia/ Yukon region. Altogether, School District No. 5 raised \$20,855.22 for cancer research.



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.

DARIEN THIRA WORKSHOP

During the month of May, our counsellors attended a weeklong session with Darien Thira: Through the Pain to Wellness Community-Based Suicide Prevention Workshop. Thira Consulting offers Indigenous communities emotionally safe, culturally rooted, anti-colonial, and strength-based services that enhance capacity and resilience in individuals, families, professionals, and the community.

If you are interested, please have a look at his website <https://thira.ca/>.

We received excellent feedback on the workshop and would like to share the following quote from one of our SD5 participants:

"Attending the Darien Thira workshop was one of the most worthwhile professional development experiences I have had in a very long time. Not only did we learn a comprehensive and applicable suicide risk assessment approach, but personally it also helped me to feel calmer and more confident about addressing suicidality in children and youth—generally an anxiety-provoking subject for all. While I thought that I was going to be attending 5 straight days of suicide risk assessment teachings, I was very happily surprised by Darien's approach to suicide prevention and the idea of overall wellness and self-worth as our protective factors. My colleagues and me are beyond excited to present our learnings to staff in attempt to better our schools and surround our students with opportunities for growth, empowerment, respect, and connection. I hope to have the opportunity to attend more of Darien's workshops and would highly recommend his training offerings to anyone working in any capacity in our school district."

We acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Education.

HERITAGE FAIR

Students from TM Roberts, Amy Woodland, Mount Baker and ʔaᑭamniᑦ recently participated in the East Kootenay Heritage Fair. Students chose a



topic of interest and developed an inquiry question that stemmed from their curiosity. Projects were then created and showcased at their respective

schools. A celebration of the students' work and awards took place on May 12 at the Cranbrook History Center. Congratulations to all students who participated in this venture and a thank-you to all the teachers and administrators who supported this opportunity!

AMY WOODLAND INTERMEDIATE PLAYGROUND

Amy Woodland Elementary School is in the midst of installing a new accessible playground and outdoor classroom. We would like to extend a large thank you to the SD5 staff and many volunteers who have contributed to the project. An outdoor learning space for our primary students will be initiated in the near future!



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.

INDIGENOUS LEARNING RESOURCES



In partnership with two Indigenous non-profit organizations - Strong Nations and the Gabriel Dumont Institute – the Outdoor Learning Store is excited to share that they have just launched 3 new Indigenous Learning Resources:

1. **A Spring Adventure with Animals Book Bundle:** (Early Years/Primary) Lyrical text and colourful illustrations tell stories of young animals and their early morning spring adventures. Expertly woven into these 4 delightful stories are interesting facts about the young animals and other plants and animals in that ecosystem.
2. **Métis 'Connecting to the Land' Kids Book Bundle:** (Primary/Intermediate) This book bundle provides 10 excellent learning resources for kids to explore Métis knowledge, culture and history connected to the land. It includes translations into Michif, and offers incredibly vibrant illustrations giving insight into Métis life.
3. **Medicines to Help Us: Traditional Métis Plant Use:** (Secondary/Post-Secondary) This innovative and vibrant resource for is filled with full-colour photographs, maps, illustrations and the names of plants listed in three Indigenous languages – Michif, Nêhiyawêwin (Cree) and Anishinaabemowin (Ojibway).

These, along with all of the Indigenous Learning Resources they offer, can be found here: <https://outdoorlearningstore.com/themes/indigenous-learning/>

PROJECT HEAVY DUTY



Project Heavy Duty was offered to Mount Baker students in grades 10-12 on May 2-4. This event is held in partnership with the City of Cranbrook, Workers' Compensation Board, College of the Rockies, School District No. 5 and many other local sponsors.

Students received their occupational first aid level 1, classroom worksite training and two days of operating machines at the city yard gravel pit.



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

A JOURNEY IN MAKING CORE COMPETENCIES VISIBLE

Core competencies are the basis of all learning and living with well-being. Since this became a focus in the redesigned curriculum, we have been working towards making them more visible. In 2017, Sheila O'Grady began working with a couple of primary teachers to develop I-Can statements and self-assessment templates with common language that could be used with grades K-1 students in the classroom. The following year, a poster and cards were created to further expand ways in which core competencies could become more visible in the classroom. In 2018, Tera Merkel was introducing *Six Cedars* (by Margot Landahl and Celestine Aleck) as a literary connection and building student awareness of core competencies through story, puppets, and activities at the early primary levels. Stacey Johnson

began working with us to create I-Can statements for grades 2-3 so she could continue using the same methods in her classroom and Tera could work with multiple grades to support making core competencies visible in the library setting. A couple of years later, Danny Bartraw helped us build I-Can statements for Grades 4-6 so resources could be created for intermediate grade teachers trying to achieve the same goals. A core competencies poster and journal for recording student thinking and reflections, as well as student self-assessment forms are now available for intermediate teachers. Looking forward, creating I-Can statements for grades 7-9 and 10-11 will be arranged so core competencies can be continued to be made visible at upper levels in the same format as a continuation for students.

Discussions began around changing out coastal animals for local ones. Together with members of the Ktunaxa community, animals were chosen. The inspiration of the animals came from six Ktunaxa legends. Work is ongoing to create resources to build further awareness of the animals now shown on the posters and a recognition of the importance of the Ktunaxa in our community.

Gr 4-6

Making CORE COMPETENCIES Visible

Communicating and Collaborating	Creative Thinking	Critical And Reflective Thinking	Personal Awareness and Responsibility	Positive Personal and Cultural Identity	Social Awareness and Responsibility
I can participate in conversations for a variety of purposes	I can think of new ideas to create new things or solve straightforward problems	I can ask open-ended questions and gather information	I can use strategies to increase my feeling of well-being and manage my emotions	I can explain why I make specific choices	I can demonstrate respectful and inclusive behaviour
I can communicate clearly about topics I know and understand	I can have ideas that are fun, entertaining or useful to my peers and have sense of accomplishment	I can describe my thinking and how it is changing	I can advocate for my own wants and needs and work towards a goal or solve a problem	I can describe and demonstrate pride in my positive qualities, characteristics and/or skills	I can build and sustain positive relationships and share my feelings
I can listen and respond to others		I can establish goals individually and with others			
I can take on different roles and tasks in the group and work respectfully and safely in our shared space	I can pursue my interests over time and build on my ideas or the ideas of others	I can give and receive constructive feedback	I can connect my actions with both positive and negative consequences and try to make adjustments	I can represent aspects of my cultural context (such as family, communities school, peer groups) through words and/or images	I can contribute to group activities that make our classroom, school, community, and natural world a better place
I can collaborate to share ideas but also help others feel comfortable sharing their own ideas so all are included	I can use a variety of skills and strategies to usually make my ideas work within the constraints of a given form, problem, or materials if I keep playing with them	I can contribute to creating and using criteria	I can make decisions about my activities and take some responsibility for my physical and emotional well-being	I can describe some ways that I participate in, or am connected to, a community	I can identify different perspectives on an issue and consider alternatives

Designed by Sheila O'Grady and Tera Merkel, SD#5 Cranbrook, Oct 2018/modified May 2022

It has been a part of our professional development for several years now. We feel privileged to be able to include a local Ktunaxa connection on the work we have been doing making core competencies visible to teachers, students and parents.

HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE

Teacher transfers are currently being considered for the upcoming school year. Teacher transfers may be either initiated by the Board, or initiated by the teacher. The District aims to complete all transfers by May 31st.

Postings are underway for vice principal vacancies at Kootenay Ochards Elementary, Highlands Elementary, Jaffray Elementary Junior Secondary, Sparwood Secondary and Rocky Mountain Elementary.

In addition, this August 1 will see the following principal/vice principal appointments across the district:

- Principal Michael Kelly will be moving from Elkford Secondary to be Principal at Sparwood Secondary.
- Principal Erin Boehm will be moving from Jaffray Elementary Junior Secondary to be Principal at Steeples Elementary.
- Principal Bill Johnson will be moving from Highlands Elementary School to be Principal at Jaffray Elementary Junior Secondary.
- Principal Chris Catherall will be moving from Steeples Elementary to be Principal at Highlands Elementary.
- Vice Principal Carlene Lochrie will be moving from Jaffray Elementary Junior Secondary to be Vice Principal at TM Roberts.
- Vice Principal Carissa Hart will be moving from TM Roberts Elementary to be Vice Principal at Steeples Elementary.
- Vice Principal Thomas Skelton will be moving from Rocky Mountain Elementary to be Principal at Elkford Secondary.
- Vice Principal Christie Johnson will be moving from Highlands Elementary to be Vice Principal at Laurie Middle School.

MINISTRY UPDATES

New WorkBC.ca Career Trek Videos: WorkBC.ca has added 18 new Career Trek videos to its collection. The videos feature working British Columbians describing their job duties, education, key skills and more.

New Everyday Anxiety Strategies for Educators (EASE) Resources: EASE is a collection of classroom resources and online professional development created by the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD). New EASE resources include a promotional video highlighting the full EASE collection, EASE At Home, and French EASE 8-12 (AISE 8 à 12). Visit the Healthy Minds BC website to register or for more information contact Kelly.Angelius@gov.bc.ca.

Students with Refugee Experience Guide: The updated Students with Refugee Experience Guide for Teachers and Schools is now available. The guide provides context, strategies, and links to resources in support of students with refugee experience. For more information, please contact inclusive.education@gov.bc.ca.

Ministry Name Change: You will have noticed that all our forms have been updated with our new ministry name – Ministry of Education and Child Care. This will include our transcripts and Dogwood certificates for our June graduates. In addition, the EDUC identifier on Ministry emails will be changed to ECC effective June 2, 2022.