

# SOUTHEAST KOOTENAY PATHWAYS TO LEARNING



Paintings by Mrs.  
Jackson's grade 3  
class at Isabella  
Dickens Elementary  
School

November,  
2019





## School District 5 (Southeast Kootenay)

### PATHWAYS TO LEARNING

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

#### Engaging All Learners

**Goal:** To inspire all learning partners to create and contribute to an engaging, personalized educational experience for our learners.

- Provide a safe, supportive environment that fosters continued growth in a rapidly changing environment
- Honour all pathways to graduation
- Acknowledge deeper learning opportunities based on individual strengths and abilities

#### Advocacy

**Goal:** Advocate for specific needs in our District and for public education in general.

- Encourage governments to fully fund public education
- Advance the replacement of aging schools through Ministry and community partnerships
- Provide a forum for the development and celebration of innovative practices



#### Effective Communication

**Goal:** Continue to foster two-way, ethical communication between the District and all learners, students, staff, parents and community in a timely, concise and inclusive manner.

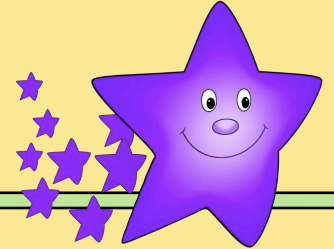
- Ensure information is current
- Provide user-friendly platforms
- Create opportunities for meaningful dialogue

#### Inclusive Partnerships

**Goal:** Cultivate opportunities for shared community awareness, engagement and resources to enhance student learning.

- Engage community participation in providing meaningful student learning opportunities
- Promote educational partnerships that enhance student learning and are beneficial to the community
- Advance active community engagement in real-world learning opportunities for students

# Out and About



It is hard to believe that we are already in November. School is now humming along, students are learning the routines, staff are doing the great work they do for our students, parents are getting in to the regular routines of lunches and schedules, and winter is in the air. It has been a good, busy month in the board office and I have highlighted some of my visits and activities.

I had the opportunity to visit Pinewood Elementary where staff meet most days for a daily assembly. This is a great way to share what is happening at school, building relationships and team. I was also able to see their self-regulation room where they have some pretty neat activities for students who need to take some time.



At Laurie Middle School, I was welcomed with a beautiful rainbow sidewalk right at the entrance. I toured the school where the proud wood shop teacher shared with me some of the work that students do in his class. Very impressive to see the detail of the work.



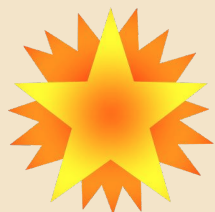
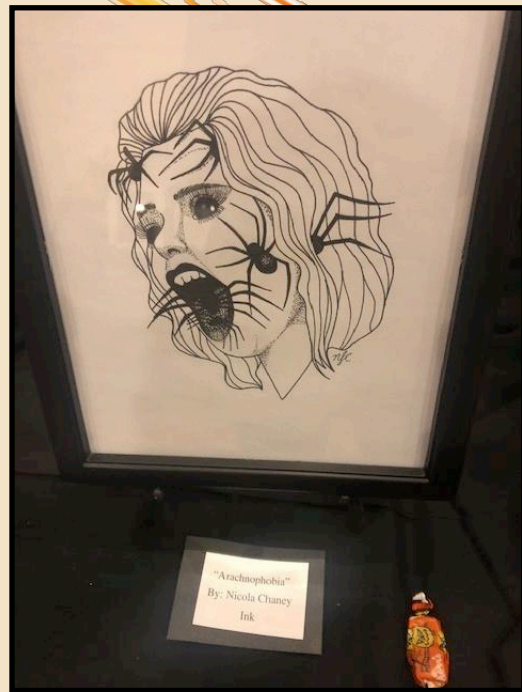
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At Gordon Terrace Elementary, Vice Principal Pam Drydale gave me a tour and shared with me a wonderful story of how the students and staff are raising money to help a school in Nepal. So far, as of June 2019, the school has raised \$65,000.00 to support a primary school. Check out Gordon Terrace School in the village of Kuttal, Nepal!



I had a wonderful tour of Mount Baker Secondary School with Principal Viveka Johnson, where on the day I was visiting, there was a rugby game going outside and many students were joining in and cheering for their team. I had a chance to meet the art teacher who was preparing for the "Scream Art Show". Here are a few of the photos from the event.



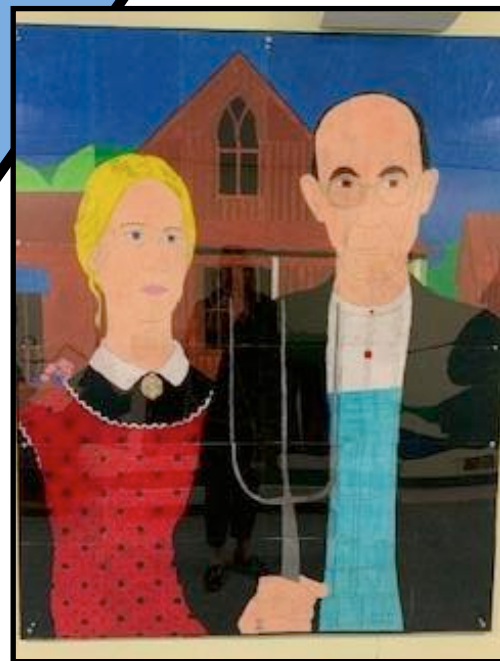
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# Out and About

We had our first Zoom business meeting with principals and vice-principals this month. Our goal is to meet monthly for short morning business meetings where schools in Cranbrook come to the board office, and schools in the valley go to the Kootenay Learning Centre where we all zoom in together. This lessens travel and enables the principals and vice principals to get back to their schools for the start of the day. The feedback is positive so far.



I headed over to Amy Woodland where I had a chance to see the draft of the school growth plan that principal Aaron Thorn and Jill Carley were working on with their staff. I was very impressed with their plan of tracking their students in the younger grades who were not reading and working together with staff to come up with a plan for each of these students. Love the art work and messages on the wall as well.



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District staff headed over to Invermere for the BCSSA Chapter meeting where we were able to learn from other districts and Ministry of Education staff shared plans with us. After our daylong session, SD 6 organized a wonderful hike. The views of the landscape were beautiful to look at and enjoy.

October also tends to be the time when the Ministry of Education meets with a variety of groups to share new initiatives and also information for the school districts. There was a day on supporting First Nations Student Success, a day with superintendents where different departments in the ministry shared information and then the last day was with board chairs, secretary treasurers and superintendents looking at strategic planning. I will be sharing information with different groups in the coming months on what I learned at these meetings.

Director of HR, Brent Reimer and I along with SD 6 had the opportunity to speak with new teachers who were just going into their long practicum. The students asked many engaging questions and it was a very positive experience spending time sharing stories and supporting them with their questions on interviews, hiring, resumes etc.

After that I headed over to Mount Baker where I had the privilege of watching the performances of our students in grades 10, 11 and 12. There was a strong turnout of parents and staff that came to watch their children and students at the Key City Theatre. A special thank you to staff who spend hours preparing for performances and creating magical evenings such as this one.



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# Out and About



We also had an excellent day of learning with the principals and vice principals on October 24th. Thank you to Vice Principal Maggie Lindsay-Tadey, District Principal Darcy Verbeurgt, Vice Principal Janet Kuijt and Executive Assistant Gail Rousseau for organizing the day of learning. There were many engaged conversations during the day and our survey results show positive responses. It is nice to hear that what they learned was able to be applied to their schools the next day. I am now planning with a group of administrators the next session of learning using the pro d survey we sent out earlier and the feedback from October 24th.

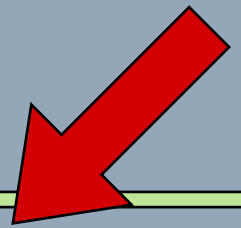


If you have never gone to Kootenay Orchard for their Halloween evening I would highly recommend you attend. I have never seen a school so completely decorated for students. Apparently, this event also draws many students from other schools as well. What a wonderful community event!



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I headed over to Steeples on Halloween day, as I wanted to enjoy some of the Halloween excitement with students. There was lots of very cool costumes and many staff and students were dressed up! Check out Principal Chris Chatherall's burger costume!



Halloween was also celebrated at the board office, where we had a costume and snack contest. We had some very interesting costumes!



*Enjoy your November and I hope to see you Out and About!*

*Silke Yardley,  
Superintendent*



Trustee Chris Johns and I had the opportunity to share with the Rotary Club. That was the first time I had been to Rotary and I was impressed with the caring, compassionate members that attended and all the initiatives they support in the community. Trustee Johns shared information on the advocacy work the board has been doing and I shared information on the new curriculum and student safety.



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# ENGAGING ALL LEARNERS

## Peace-ful Schools Workshop and the Functional Development Assessment for School

The Peace-ful Schools workshop was held at the end of September. This workshop was lead by Dr. Chuck Geddes from Complex Trauma Resources and was especially designed for educators or associated professionals to provide information to better understand and help the students who have experienced multiple adverse childhood experiences and trauma. All counsellors and youth care workers were invited to attend as well at the teacher of the new Social Emotional Learning Center. In total, we had 19 staff attend. The second day of training was offered to all counsellors in the district on a trauma focused assessment called a Functional Development Assessment for schools (FDA-S).



### English language learners

School District 5, Southeast Kootenay welcomes approximately 88 English language learners for the 2019/2020 academic year. Students are attending our schools from countries in the Middle East, the Philippines, Brazil, Peru and India, to name a few. Patricia Michael continues as our ELL Teacher for the District along with Richard Algajer in the Elk Valley.

### Shelley Moore

The Shelley Moore Working Series began on October 10. This series is focused on Inclusive Education for elementary schools. Each elementary school in School District 5 had a team of four attend:

- 1 Principal/Vice Principal
- 1 Student Services Teacher
- 1 Teacher
- 1 Educational Assistant



Shelley Moore



The Provincial Outreach Program – Deaf/Hard of Hearing hosted students and teachers from school Districts 5, 6, 8, and 20 at Blue Lake camp from September 25th to 27th. The students had a great time connecting with one another, developing their ASL skills, and taking part in many games and activities!

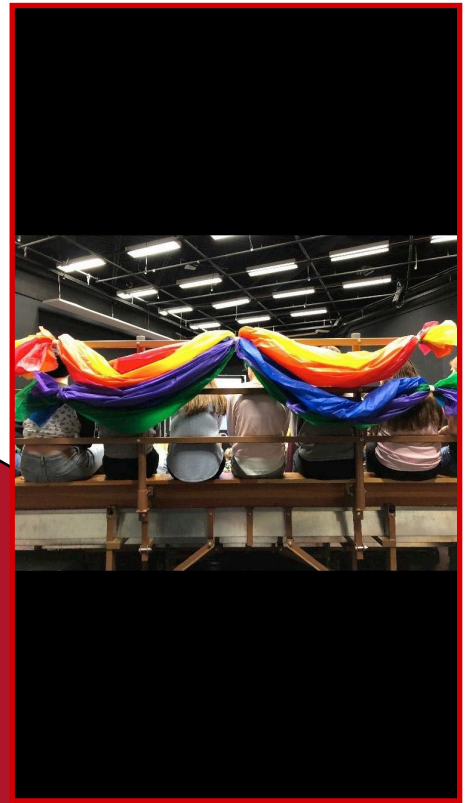
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# ENGAGING ALL LEARNERS



Fernie Secondary School students hosted Elkford Secondary, Sparwood Secondary and Mount Baker Secondary students to the 2SLGBTBQ+ Commemorate Canada conference on October 22, 2019.

The value from the conference was incredible and it brought out some awesome conversations. Many of the students are feeling a bit safer and a bit more understood.



## Early Human History with Social Studies 7

Mr. Guylas' Social Studies 7 class at Fernie Secondary learned about survival during the Paleolithic and Neolithic period of early humans. Students worked at building shelters and assembling small cook fires to keep warm. Students were thinking about tools they could have made to support life in the wilderness and ways they could have found food.



## Fernie Secondary School wheels out inclusive athletics program

Congratulations MBSS! Between class and community donations they raised \$2000 for Street Angels. Well done everyone!



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# ENGAGING ALL LEARNERS

**A Double Dose of Intermediate Math:** Extended Learning Rounds with Carole Fullerton

**Day One:**

On October 29th, Carole previewed a rich intermediate math lesson exploring the big math ideas to be presented in the classroom. Teacher participants accompanied Carole in the classroom, observed students while they worked and made notes about their responses to questions and the tasks at hand. A debrief of the lesson followed and plans made for follow-up.

In the afternoon of the same day, teacher participants will have the chance to repeat this lesson cycle in a second classroom at Isabell Dicken Elementary - previewing the lesson, observing students and then debriefing the lesson together.

**Day Two:**

On October 30th, teachers returned for day 2 of this lesson cycle. Carole built on the previous day's learning in both the morning and afternoon classes and modelled strategies to take the math further for all students. Two more demonstration lessons took place and instructional strategies were shared.



**TECHNOLOGY UPDATE**

Our Technology Department continues to work on completing Windows 10 upgrades. These upgrades will be completed by the end of 2019. Currently there are 40 left to upgrade.

September saw a total of 568 Help Desk Tickets opened. There are currently 311 open tickets in the system. The Department continues to work on enhancing the Kootenay Learning Centre technology. They are also planning the next school roll outs and are working on the new school district servers.

Thirty seven new laptops for the Aboriginal Education department arrived and will be deployed in the next few weeks.



Highlands Elementary School welcomed students from the College of the Rockies. The COTR students lead Physical Literacy Games.



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# EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION



## District Resource Center

Our District librarian, Maxine Malmberg, has reported that the Reading Eggs program is being well used with 50 teachers utilizing this digital resource for over 930 students in the district. In addition, journal circulation for teachers is underway with 13 magazines, classroom resources and journals circulated physically or digitally to staff at district schools.



Training with the Destiny school library management software is ongoing. To date teachers and library clerks in Fernie, Sparwood and Cranbrook have been trained. This training includes check in, check out, adding copies, deleting copies and adding and deleting patrons.

## Safe School Coordinator Meeting

Director Jason Tichauer attended the yearly meeting of Safe School Coordinators in Vancouver last week. There was an excellent agenda which included communicating critical Incidents, care for staff responsible for critical incidents, case studies involving racism and safety, updates on gang activity in BC Schools, vaping and an update on the newer Erase reporting tool.

The discussion around communicating critical incidents was very timely given our recent incident, and was able to ask some important questions based on experience.

The vaping presentation was very timely as well. Vaping is a concern across school districts and the Ministry is now collecting promising practices from districts around the province. More information to come!



## Enhancement Agreement Review Committee Meeting

This month saw the first meeting of our Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement review committee. These meetings are mandated in the terms of reference of the Agreement and have become very positive and productive meetings bringing district staff, school staff, students, educational partners, trustees and representatives from different Indigenous organizations. The focus is on building relationships and building student success and we continue to celebrate great academic successes overall.



## Health Promoting Schools - October, 2019

[https://www.sd5.bc.ca/learning/healthpromotingschools/Pages/default.aspx#/=](https://www.sd5.bc.ca/learning/healthpromotingschools/Pages/default.aspx#/)

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# INCLUSIVE PARTNERSHIPS



## C2C – Classrooms to Communities Conference in Vancouver October 25-26

Place-Based Learning is a core foundation of our curriculum in B.C. The focus of this conference was to help educators connect classroom and community through a focus on people, place and planet. Encouraging participants to discover the value of place and community, wherever they live, teach and learn and to inspire more promising practices and transformative learning in our schools and communities. Joe Pierre and Michelle Sam represented SD5 and Ktunaxa very well. Joe Pierre was very well received as a storyteller presenter at the conference. Michele Sam facilitated a dialogue focused on environmental education and Indigenous people knowledge with the new career education curriculum.

## IBM K-12 EDUCATION

Jennifer Roberts attended the IBM K-12 Education Briefing in Cambridge Massachusetts. The theme of this professional development session will revolve around innovation and emerging technologies “Preparing for the Future Workforce”.

Students in Mrs. King's Environmental Science 11 at ESS have been studying various ecosystems. As part of a larger project, they used the Oculus Quest VR to "experience" their chosen place. One group studying Chernobyl were able to "tour" the site safely. The group stated that after "touring" Chernobyl, it made them more curious about what happened there and they would like to visit it in person. Other groups toured a rainforest, a desert and other diverse ecosystems.



## Scratch Coding Custom Maps

Students in Mrs. London's class have been exploring maps. They are moving from paper to digital as they create interactive maps using Scratch Jr to add images audio and coding to their projects.

## Voice to Text

Multiple students at Highlands, among other schools, are using new reading and writing tools to access learning. Speech to text allows students to have their words typed out for them. Text to speech has the computer read specific texts back to them whether it's their own writing, something on the internet or even a picture of a printout. These tools continue to be refined and improved and are at the point that students are able to access them in almost any situation and on multiple devices.

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# ADVOCACY

*HR has been busy recruiting CUPE employees including Education Assistants, Noon Hour Supervisors, Bus Drivers, Custodians and Clerical support over the past several months.*

*We have partnered with Kootenay Employment Services and their Program Facilitator in Cranbrook to introduce the many job opportunities that School District 5 can offer. To date HR has attended two discussion sessions (workshops) with prospective job searchers at Kootenay Employment Services in Cranbrook. On September 27, 2019, we met with a group of participants 55+, this was a small group of people with a wide variety of skills. The time was well received by all applicants and the program facilitator with many expressing a desire to apply for casual work with the district.*

*On September 30, 2019 HR met with a second group of participants ages 18-24. This was a very diverse group that included a teleconference with participants from around the area. Again, the presentation was well received by all applicants.*

*On October 23, 2019 HR had an information table at the Elk Valley Job Fair held at the Fernie Community Center from 12 pm – 3pm. This is the second time we have attended a job fair in the Elk Valley, the first was an SD5 only job fair that was hosted at the Work BC Center in June 2019. We advertised our attendance in the Elk Valley Job Fair in all the school newsletters throughout the Elk Valley as well as the local newspaper. This advertising was done independently of the advertising that Work BC has put into the Job Fair. We had a good turnout with many interested applicants, interviews were conducted and new employees were hired.*

*Our next hiring fair is December 5, 2019 at the Elkford Public Library. Any interested applicants are encouraged to attend.*

*Human Resources will continue to promote School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay) as a great place to live and work as opportunities arise around our district.*



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# MINISTRY OF EDUCATION UPDATE

## Provincial Assessments - changes in the context of BC's new Curriculum

<http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/bulletin/20191018/assessment-handout.pdf>



**Finalized Career Program Guides:** The program guides for delivering [Youth Work in Trades](#) and [Work Experience](#) have been updated and finalized. The updates ensure alignment with new curriculum and the Industry Training Authority's new branding. The guides will assist district staff in delivering programming that meets ministry requirements. Please contact [educ.skills@gov.bc.ca](mailto:educ.skills@gov.bc.ca) with any questions.

**Immunization/B.C.'s Vaccination Status Reporting Regulation:** Starting November 4, schools will be asked to assist regional Health Authorities in distributing a letter to parents/guardians regarding requirements under the Vaccination Status Reporting Regulation. See this [update from the Ministry of Health](#) for details.



**Premier's Awards for Excellence in Education:** The second annual Premier's Awards for Excellence in Education awards ceremony was held October 4, at Government House. The ceremony coincided with World Teachers' Day and was attended by Premier John Horgan, Minister Rob Fleming, Lt. Governor Janet Austin and many others from the education sector. Read the [news release](#) and visit the [Premier's Awards for Excellence in Education website](#) to find out who won and to view videos of all 30 finalists.

**Cannabis Legalization:** As of October 17, 2019, legal non-medical cannabis will be expanded to include the purchase, possession and use of edible, extract, and topical products by those over the age of 19 in British Columbia. [Learn more about cannabis legalization and implications for the B.C. K-12 system.](#)

**NEW STEAM RESOURCES AND MENTORSHIPS AVAILABLE** – [K-12 students learn how STEAM connects to careers](#)

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# COMMUNITY



Jaslene Atwal, Vice-Principal of Sparwood Secondary School has won the Sparwood Citizen of the Year Award for her leadership in the school. How wonderful and well deserved. We are very proud of you and your accomplishments, Jaslene.

Congratulations!



## Public Health News-Information for Schools



École TM Robert Elementary school was thrilled to welcome five of the candidates running for the election!

The candidates each presented to the students for 5 minutes and then answered questions from the audience.



RMES cohosted the all candidates forum for Elkford... The students introduced the candidates and the forum followed.

Our grade 3, 4/5, 5/6 and grade 6 classes all participated in Student Vote.

Two of the students wanted to make a video to remind people to vote, so they did...

They tweeted it out (with parent approval of course) and reporters from Global as well as CBC picked up the tweets and retweeted and asked to use... Cool stuff!

Link: [www.twitter.com/tskel](http://www.twitter.com/tskel) is where original tweets with the video

<https://twitter.com/KaleighRogers/status/1186349203196465155> is the CBC reporter

<https://twitter.com/tweetsomemoore/status/1186323976697462785> Shelley Moore

<https://twitter.com/ArmstrongGN/status/1186319806963900416> Global Reporter

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# SCHOOLS



Miss Finch's Kindergartens class making apple juice.



Pasta 4: SSS Foods students learning culinary skills in Mrs. Podrasky's class. Here is an example of students making fresh pasta.



Potato Harvest: Our first crop ever out of the learning garden! Class enjoyed farm to fork awesomeness!



Pro D luncheon put on by the MBSS math department and foods teacher.



Grade 5 and 6 students from TM Roberts participated in student vote.



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# SCHOOLS



Highlands Elementary School set a lofty goal of raising \$750 for the Terry Fox Foundation. If they reached the goal, Principal Bill Johnson had to wear a student designed duct tape outfit for a day. They surpassed their goal, raising \$1079.



Jaffray Elementary Junior Secondary Terry Fox Run. Their goal was to raise \$700, if they raised \$700 staff got a pie in the face. They ended up raising a total of \$1,146.00!!

The Mount Baker Concert Choir performed with PIGS Pink Floyd Tribute Band on stage at the Key City Theatre. Thirty-five members of the concert choir sang back-up vocals for Another Brick in the Wall and Happiest Days of Our Lives.



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