

SOUTHEAST KOOTENAY PATHWAYS TO LEARNING



Wilderness Wednesday - Amy Woodland Elementary Students

NOVEMBER, 2020





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

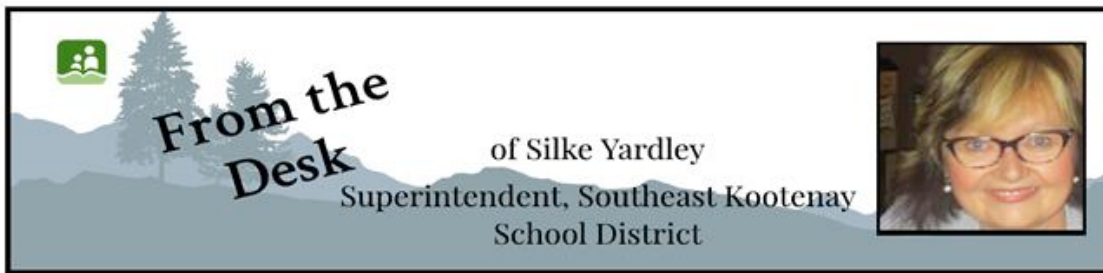
Goal: Continue to foster two-way, ethical communication between the District and all learners, students, staff, parents and community in a timely, concise and inclusive manner.

- 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



Halloween has come and gone and we are now in November! Hard to believe that we are already heading into the December season. Schools are busy places right now, students have learned the routines and staff are busy teaching the students all the great learning the renewed curriculum has to offer. I received a list from the schools on the virtual Remembrance Day assemblies. Contact your school if you would wish to attend! It is nice to see the creativity each school is doing in order to continue to have this very important assembly.



District staff have been busy as well. We met with all of the principals and vice principals on the professional development day and district staff shared their vision for the coming year and how to support staff in professional learning. Pre-COVID, the district team was looking at data and ways in which to support our schools. From that data, directors and district principals shared their learning plans with the Board with the intention of implementing the plans for the 20/21 school year. We will have to make some adjustments as it is challenging to get coverage for day time events. Please stay tuned for different learning sessions that are going to be provided during the day and also after school.

The Ministry of Education has shared with us the new [Framework for Enhancing Student Learning](#). Included in this is the new [Enhancing Student Learning Reporting Order](#). We will be doing some initial planning in the next month and then will be looking for feedback and input from all of our partner groups between January and March. We will be keeping our Board informed along the way with the hope of having this completed by the June 15th board meeting.

You will see that we have clear targets and data points that will need to be met. We will also be working with different groups to look at local data and how we can incorporate that into our plan. While there are sometimes questions around using data, and the validity of it, the key really is to see how our students are doing and then look at ways in which we can support.

Even when the world is continuing to struggle with “the COVID” my hope for you all is to find joy in your day to day lives. Get outside, go for a walk, stand under a beautiful tree and admire the birds, look out your window at our majestic mountains, hug your kids and play a game. It is the little things that bring us joy. I still find it difficult sometimes to understand the situation we find ourselves in and will never forget the fear that we felt in March. I am very proud of all the work that our students, staff and parents are doing to keep everyone safe.

Please be diligent, be careful, be safe, follow the [safety protocols](#) now more than ever and remember we will get through this together.

Take care of yourselves,



Silke Yardley

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Engaging All Learners

Professional Development - MANDT Training

Staff continued to recertify their Mandt skills this month, with 64 staff refreshing their skills through Mandt's online platform. Other groups are getting ready to start their initial Mandt training throughout the month of November. Though it'll look very different from other years, our staff will get the training they need to keep our students and themselves safe.

Professional Development - Sound Connections

Our October 23rd professional development day saw a number of teachers, Speech Language Pathologists and assistants take Sound Connections training at the Kootenay Learning Campus. Sound Connections programs can be used with all students whether they have identified learning needs or not. Instructors use toys and attractive resources that appeal to children but also help them to learn using a multi-sensory approach. Sound Connections provides a unique blend of specialist speech language and literacy expertise. In an effort to allow more teachers access to this training we will be hosting another session the first week of November in Cranbrook.



GEOCACHING

Let's go geocaching! Students in Fernie, Sparwood, and Elkford have been connecting to the outdoors and learning about numbers, mapping and coordinates through geocaching. This activity was done with students of all ages (from kindergarten to grade 8) in approximately 11 different classes.

In the month of November, more classes will be participating including Grades 11 and 12. Thank you to all the teachers and EAs that have been supporting this activity to get kids outdoors and exploring their local communities.



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The Frogs Are Still Hopping

One of the most popular activities at the design lab is a day exploring frogs and robots. Students get to explore the frog habitat in virtual reality (VR) and then build their own robot frog using the Lego WeDo kits at the Design Lab. By lunchtime, there are hopping droids all over the floor. New this year, we're able to show different animals and other artifacts in augmented reality (AR) and merge the real world and the virtual world together with great excitement.



Virtual Experiences - Real Writing

We've had to modify how we are using some equipment this year but that doesn't mean it gets to sit on the shelf. Small groups of students have been using virtual reality to practice and inspire their writing. Students at Kootenay Orchards learned how to use the Office Dictate tools which allow them to speak their writing and then listen to it with the built-in immersive reader tools. So far, students have visited the International Space Station, gone deep into the ocean, and been to Antarctica using the Oculus Quest VR systems. Once they complete their mission then they write about their experiences.



Both Design Labs are OPEN! Book your session by emailing Kim.Froehler@sd5.bc.ca in the valley and Ryan.Mckenzie@sd5.bc.ca in the Cranbrook area.

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The Technology Support Plan is to **SUPPORT ALL** of our staff by enhancing student learning either directly or indirectly.

New audio-visual equipment is being installed at the Kootenay Learning Centre and at the Cranbrook Board Office.

TEAMS

There has been a lot of uptake with online platforms this fall. Teams and the Portal are two of the ways many teachers are choosing to organize their classes. These tools can be used for both remote learning and as a day-to-day hub for in-class organization of learning resources and communications. The Transformative Learning Team is committed to supporting district approved tools like these and is here to help with things like how to take classroom polls, hand out assignments, and have parent-teacher meetings online.



- [SD5 All Staff Team – MS Teams Support Channel](#)
- [Parent Information for Teams](#)
- [Teacher Information for Teams](#)
- [Microsoft Support Teams](#)
- [Instructor led training \(free\)](#)
- [On-demand video series](#)

Please welcome our new IT Systems Specialist, Pete Leibel. Pete will be working the Help Desk and doing equipment repairs.

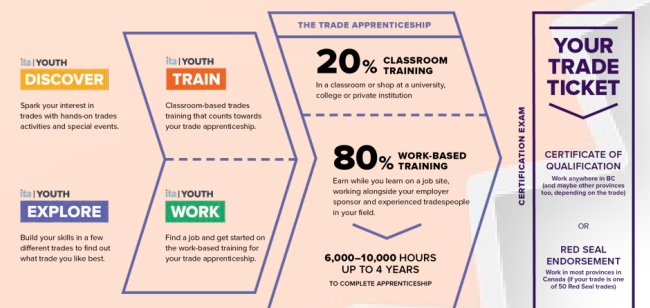


Youth Train in Trade Results

We have recently received and reviewed all of our 2019/20 Youth Train in Trade (formerly ACE-IT) student results. We had 33 students start a foundational trade program in September and then another 7 who started programs in February. These 40 students were enrolled in one of electrical, welding, carpentry, cook training, millwrighting, auto service technician, hairstyling or heavy duty mechanics programs.

Last year was obviously a very difficult year for students to work in a practical, hands on, post-secondary dual credit program. Most programs were moved online in the spring, but we are pleased that all students were able to complete enough of the program to achieve their secondary school graduation.

Unfortunately, 8 of the 40 students did not complete their foundational year with the required 70% that is necessary to move on to the next year in the program. They were still able to use these courses to finish their K-12 schooling with us, though!



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ADVOCACY

The CBEEN [Outdoor Learning Store](http://www.outdoorlearning.store) has new resources.



Thank you, School District 5 for the Sit Seats purchased from the CBEEN [Outdoor Learning Store](http://www.outdoorlearning.store) for all students in K-6! These Sit Seats are being utilized in a variety of ways - indoors and outdoors.



We are pleased to report that over 3,000 School District 5 students are registered for the 2020-2021 Take Me Outside for Learning Challenge. We are up by over 540 students compared to last year!

Please remember to send photos of your students learning outdoors to Jane Nixon



Take me outside at IDES

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ADVOCACY

Since the start of the 2020/2021 school year, we have posted 173 teacher postings. This is 27 more than the previous year. In addition, we posted 161 CUPE postings and, with some new postings on the way to handle the COVID demands, it is likely we will exceed last years' postings which topped out at 196 in July 2020. We have also been recruiting to increase our casual pools and new hires. We have added 28 new teachers, 29 new TTOC's as well as approximately 50 CUPE employees. We will continue to increase our TTOC and casual pools and advertise for new employees in order to meet the growing demands of our district.

In July, we started recruiting for our first ever bus driving training program. This initiative, developed by Human Resources, was designed to address the growing demands for casual and new bus drivers. Recruiting for bus drivers has always been a challenge due to the low hours of work each day and the difficulty in interested applicants receiving the correct training for a Class 2 drivers licence. The nearest training facility is in Castlegar, BC. We accepted two applicants into the initial program and both applicants were extremely impressed with the program and the learning environment we provided to them. We are happy to report that we will have one of the drivers take over his own run and the other driver is working on a date for his road test. Both will be a great addition to our casual pool! This is a program that we would like to see continued in order to attract more casual bus drivers to our district.



September and October have been busy transition months at the District Resource Center. Here are some ways we have been supporting our district:

- Mathletics/Mathseeds - We are so excited to be able to launch and support this program district wide. We have created accounts for almost 1900 students and have had 20 teachers attend the Mathletics launch webinar. The inclusive K-12 curriculum of Mathletics aligned with the BC curriculum means that we are able to serve all of our grade levels and are pleased to be providing this program to 12 of our district schools.
- The DRC continues to offer Reading Eggs to our district's elementary schools. Reading Eggs is an online program that supports students in their reading journey through interesting and engaging online activities and games. It has been a helpful resource for teachers providing remote instruction and we are excited to have 900 students and 70 teachers utilizing this program.
- Our resource librarian has provided programming for digital investigation to Grade 4 and 5 classes at Kootenay Orchards Elementary school. Offering instruction in use of digital resources for research during the process of inquiry was well received by 40 students and their teachers.



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Inclusive Partnerships

Mrs. Henderson's class enjoyed the Wildsight Apple Capture program. The Steeples students had a fabulous time learning about apples and making apple juice.

Mrs. Henderson's and Mrs. Wilson's classes have gone out several times together to do inquiries in the nearby forest and in the community garden. The students have looked at life cycles, trees/comparing leaves/importance of trees/types of trees living around us, patterning, adopting a tree, scavenger hunts, living and non-living things, just to name a few.



Students at Steeples also learned about wildfires and wrote letters to firefighters. They hiked to the fire hall to deliver the letters and on the way home enjoyed some time playing in the leaves. The students also learned about June Heskett, the artist from Fort McMurray, who collected charcoal from the fires and created artwork. Students worked on their charcoal pictures outside.



Safe Schools Coordinator Meeting

This past week all Safe Schools Coordinators in the province met for an annual information meeting. This remote meeting saw presentations and discussions on many informative topics. Chiefly, amongst those topics, was a lengthy presentation on current online trends. There is an acknowledgment that the Pandemic has led to even a more extensive online presence for many of our youth. With this, there has been an increased monitoring provincially of online behaviours, both positive and negative. This ability to stay informed of online usage, language and platform usage is invaluable to district teams across the province.

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“Growing Innovation in Rural Sites of Learning was conceptualized in 2011 by the Rural Education Advisory (REA) group and is founded on the assumption that rural schools and communities are both the sites of, and benefit greatly from, innovation. In designing the initiative, the REA defined innovation as **“a unique local response to a local need, problem or interest”**. The REA, which includes participants from school districts, BC universities, and the Ministry of Education, is delighted to support and promote your innovations. To date, the initiative has supported numerous projects which reflect the diversity across our communities and schools in rural BC.

Please go to www.ruralteachers.com website and have a look at past projects.

Proposals put forth by SD5 for the 2020/21 school year include;

- A Movable & Organic Classroom at Kootenay Orchards Elementary School
- Join the Circle at Sparwood Secondary School
- Sparwood Secondary School Sawmill

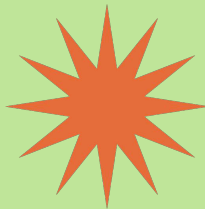
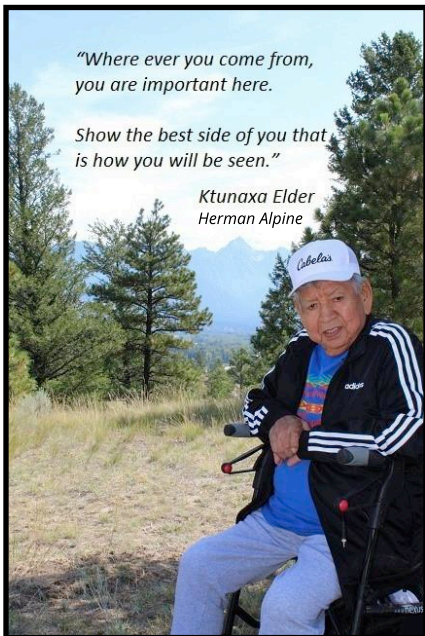


Practicum placements and College of the Rockies (COTR)

As always, we are pleased to be in partnership with the COTR and the East Kootenay Teacher Education Program (EKTEP). Not only do we support beginning teachers, but are fortunate to also work with the COTR and their Education Assistant program. We have teacher and EA candidates from U Vic, U of L, Lethbridge College and the West Kootenay Teacher Education Program (WKTEP). This would not be possible without the great mentor teachers in our District.

Thank you for your time and expertise!

Year 3 Fall Practicum runs Nov. 23 –Dec. 11 with 23 students.



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Ministry of Education Update

School-Based Immunization Clinics: See this [letter from the Provincial Health Officer](#) for information on the delivery of school-age immunization clinics during the 2020/21 school year, in alignment with COVID-19 health and safety protocols for K-12 schools. Health authorities are also seeking after hours use of larger school spaces (e.g. gymnasiums) for community vaccination clinics, and would cover additional cleaning costs. Local public health officials will be contacting superintendents and principals directly to discuss planning for these school-based clinics.



Remembrance Day Assemblies: The [School Regulation](#) requires principals to ensure school assemblies are held at least 3 times each school year, including the school day immediately preceding Remembrance Day. Principals should determine assembly options that align with the requirements outlined in the School Gathering and Events section (p.13) of the [Provincial COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#). Considerations may include holding virtual assemblies or separate assemblies for each learning group in the school.



Public Health Guidance for Child Care Settings: The BC Centre For Disease Control has updated their document on [Public Health Guidance for Child Care Settings during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) as of Sept. 25, 2020. This document provides updated guidance for childcare providers to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 and maintain safe and healthy environments for children and staff during the pandemic.

Active School Travel Pilot Opportunity: A new Active School Travel Pilot Program is being launched by BC Healthy Communities Society. The program will run from Nov. 2020 - Dec. 2021. Selected schools will receive funding, resources and capacity-building supports towards projects that promote walking and cycling.

Changes to Federal Travel Restrictions for K-12 International Students: Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada has confirmed that British Columbia has met the necessary requirements for including all B.C. K-12 school districts and independent schools, which have signed Confirmation of Readiness to Receive International Student forms, on the Designated Learning Institutions (DLI) list. As such, as of Oct. 20, 2020, international students who meet all federal requirements for travel will be able to enter the country. More details on these [changes to federal travel restrictions for K-12 International students](#) are provided for your reference.



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Schools



live morning announcements at JEJSS

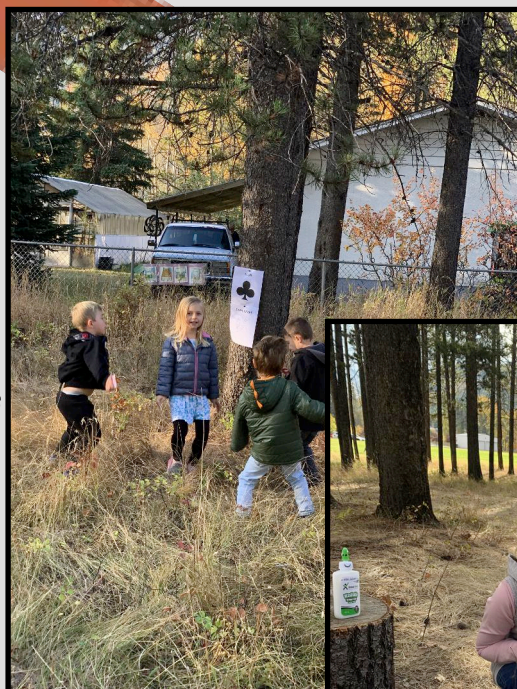


French 11-12 students learning CPR in French at SSS



wilderness Wednesday at AWES

Mrs. Mac and Miss Jones' classes at FJMES combined Math and PE outside



nature names at FJMES



Ktunaxa flag raising at MBSS

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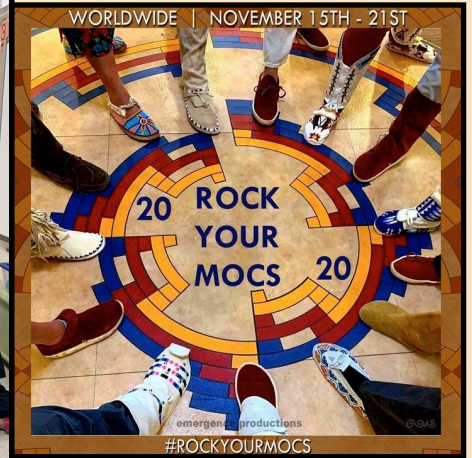
Schools



Mrs. Mac's class at FJMES



New Wolf Pack members at FJMES!



Bonnie Harvey presenting the Aquimmi Legend of Baker Mountain to the Compass Class at LMS



Design lab video - Oct. 2020



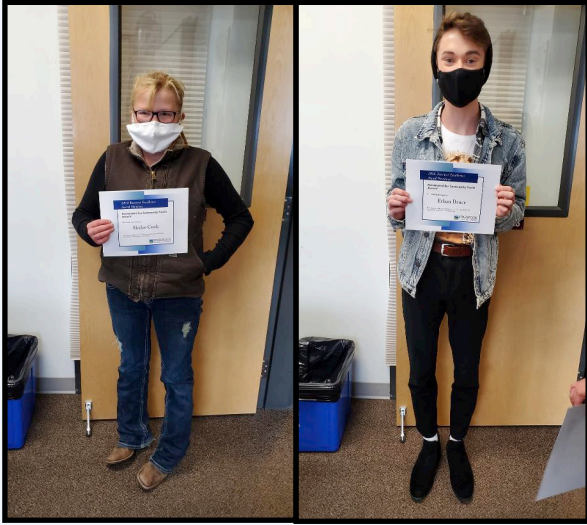
Here is a picture of a rocket stove that Kayden built. It is difficult to see but it really works. The air is drawn in from the hole at the bottom and feeds the fire. Fuel is fed by gravity through the angled piece on the side. These are very efficient and hot burning stoves.



Thank You Paul Duczek! What a beautiful gift for the Aboriginal Education Department!

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Schools



Congratulations to Sparwood Secondary School for being nominated as the Not for Profit nominee! Sparwood Secondary was in the top three! Mrs. Atwal was nominated for citizen of the year and nominated for outstanding customer service.

Thank you to all community members that have recognized all the great work our youth and staff are doing!



Halloween 2020



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