

SOUTHEAST KOOTENAY PATHWAYS TO LEARNING



Justin Harts Grade 9 PHE class at SSS

OCTOBER, 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

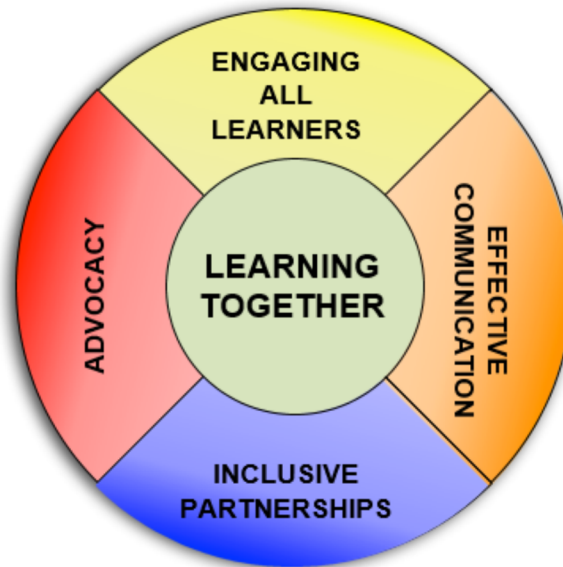
Goal: To inspire all learning partners to create and contribute to an engaging, personalized educational experience for our learners.

- 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

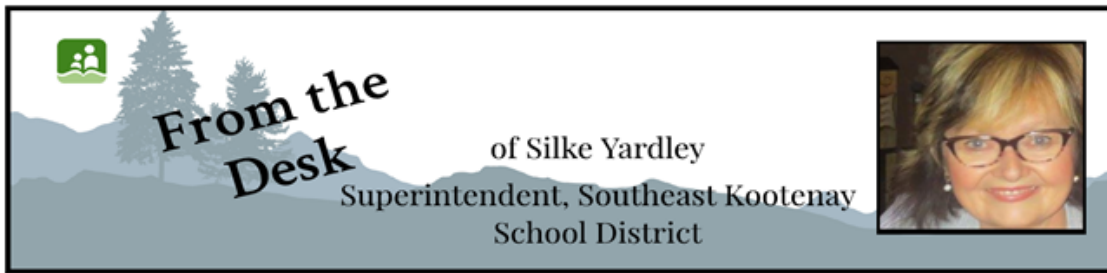
Goal: Continue to foster two-way, ethical communication between the District and all learners, students, staff, parents and community in a timely, concise and inclusive manner.

- 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



It is hard to believe that we are already in October! This year has been a start-up like no other for students, parents, and staff. I wanted to thank you all for your support in ensuring our students came back to school safely. There have been many challenges to make this happen, and we are hearing great things from our schools that students are so happy to be back. While school may not be exactly the way it used to be, having our students back and learning with their teachers and support staff has been very positive. We are missing some of our students who are being home schooled and welcome them back when they are ready to return.

September is the month where we typically organize routines for our students, get to know each other and set the expectations for the year to come. There has been many new routines that staff and students have had to learn for the month of September. We could never have imagined implementing these routines a year ago. I continue to be impressed with how our staff and students are making the best of a unique and unprecedented situation.

Thank you to staff and parents who are sending us updates on the students through our CBO email. Keep sending us the great examples of students learning in a variety of ways. Please follow us on [Facebook](#) for up to date information on the good things that are happening in SD5! We will continue to update our [district website](#) with current information.

I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving with your family and we look forward to what the fall and winter season may bring.

Silke

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Mental Health Literacy Grant

We have recently hired our Mental Health Literacy trainer for the school year! We received word in the spring that the Ministry Grant for mental health initiatives was to continue for another year. This was very welcome news for us as our initiative to train all school staffs hit a roadblock last spring with the Pandemic. We are exploring virtual ways to keep this important work moving forward!



Student Services at Kootenay Learning Campus

With the increasing number of parents and students choosing our distributed learning option and enrolling with Kootenay Discovery School this year, we have hired a part time Student Services Teacher, Treena Stewart. Treena, along with the vice principal of KLC and district principal of student services have been meeting to plan how students with Inclusive Education Plans will be accommodated in the distributed learning environment. This is an exciting development for KDS students as we hire support staff to aid the learning process. More will be shared as the year develops – stay tuned.



Indigenous Support Counsellor

In addition to other supports put in place during the Pandemic, we have been able to create the role for and hire our Indigenous Support Counsellor! We are very excited for this student support/family liaison/agency facilitator position. It appears this is a very unique position in our province and we are very enthused to see what it can become!



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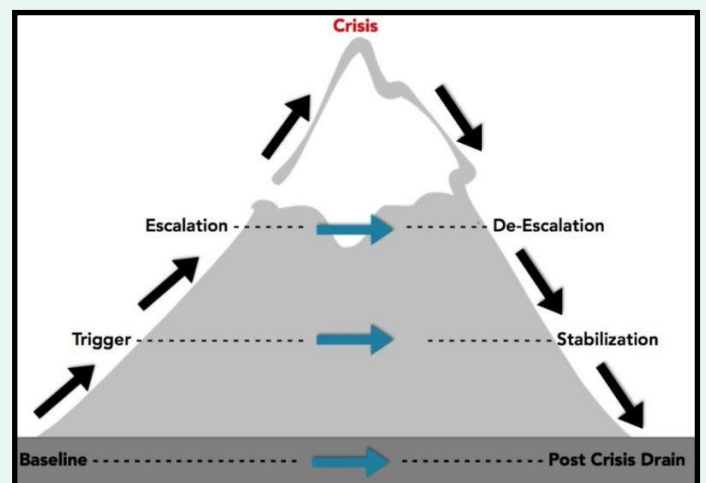
There are new things that the Transformative Team is offering this year in addition to many of the great computational thinking and design activities that students have worked with in the past. The Transformative Team is excited to work with you and will adhere to health and safety guidelines. The new and exciting items include:

- A new drone: A great addition to language arts, science and social studies projects.
- Make-Do Kits: design and build using these kid-friendly screws and tools.
- Lego Spike Kits: if your class has been to the Design Lab to do LEGO they'll love these new, next-level kits that can do even more than before.
- Make Code Arcade: dive deep into coding and create your own arcade games, then play it on a real console.
- GPS Units: let's get outside and find some geocaches!
- Climate Action Kits: Code, build and learn about technologies that can help the planet.

More info on these things and more can be found on the [Design Lab Page](#). Our Transformative Learning Teachers are [Kim.Froehler](#) in the Elk Valley and [Ryan McKenzie](#) in the Cranbrook area.

Professional Development – MANDT Recertification

Mandt training continues to be offered throughout the school year. The focus of the Mandt System is to build healthy relationships between all the stakeholders in human service settings in order to facilitate the development of an organizational culture. This culture then provides the emotional, psychological, and physical safety needed in order to teach new behaviors to replace the behaviours that are labeled “challenging”. Our staff will be completing their Relational Online Recertification tests over the next few months. We appreciate staff taking the time to get this done to maintain their certification.



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On September 23, grade 10-12 students from Elkford Secondary School set off on an epic adventure to Island Lake in Fernie. Students hiked nearly 12 km with a 732-meter climb into the Lizard Range. Students truly accomplished something they did not think was possible and overcame the challenges in front of them. "This adventure, this challenge, this accomplishment, showed the resiliency, and grit that our young people have today."



School District 5 has purchased Sit Seats from the CBEEN [Outdoor Learning Store](#) for all students K-6 in place of carpet in the classroom!



StrongStart

Three of the four centres have now secured facilitators. Welcome back Jodi Parker (IDES); welcome Christine Watson (FJMES) and Kelly Fentie (AWES). SES – TBA. Due to Covid 19, StrongStart Centres are not operating as they once were.

We are planning for the safe return of our families. StrongStarts may look a little different this year as we try to find flexible solutions that best meet community need. Some options may include the following;

- Limiting the number of hours per day and/or days per week that the program is offered.
- Pre-registering families into the program.
- Limiting group sizes in consideration of the StrongStart BC program's maximum space capacity.
- Taking children and families outside for learning activities, including play and snack time.
- Continuation of outreach programs and story time.

Health and safety is our top priority. Parents can expect further information from their local StrongStart centre.



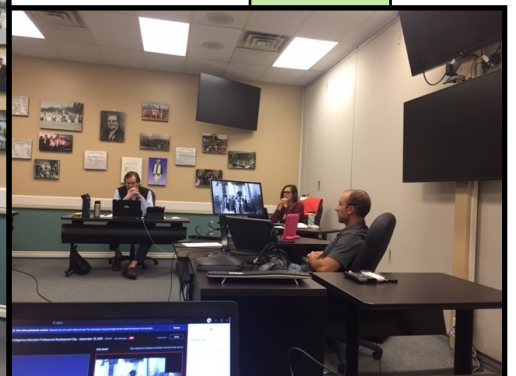
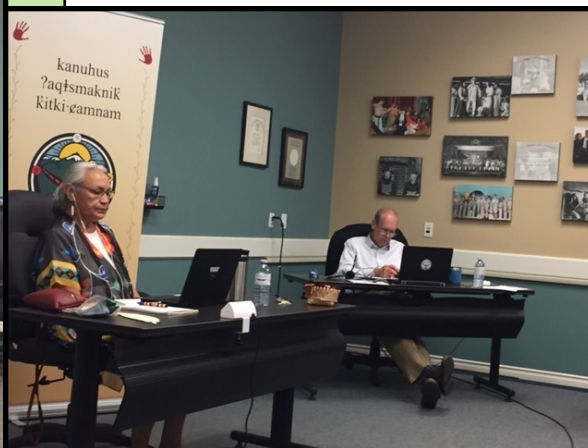
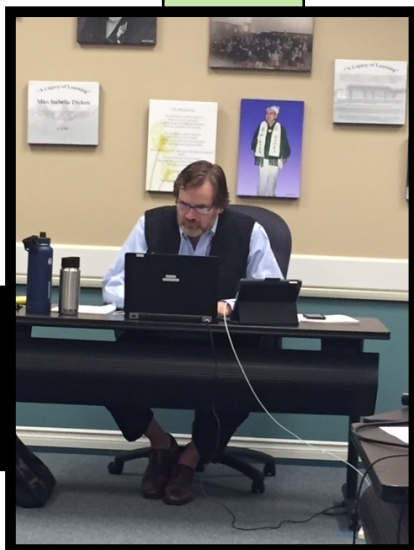
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[School District 5 Professional Development Day Keynotes - September 18, 2020](#)

We were honoured and excited to have two recipients of The Order of Canada presenting at this year's district day. Sophie Pierre and The Honourable Senator Murray Sinclair. See the full keynote presentations here www.youtube.com.



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We are pleased to share that the EASE at Home online material, is now available for parents & caregivers. Please continue reading to learn more about EASE and how you can access EASE at Home online.



What is EASE?

EASE - Everyday Anxiety Strategies for Educators is a collection of school-based, evidence-informed, anxiety management and resilience-building resources for use by educators with B.C. students in grades K-7. EASE helps educators teach students strategies to address the thoughts, feelings and behaviours associated with anxiety, while also supporting social and emotional learning and mental health literacy of educators through a professional development course.

EASE was developed in 2019 by the B.C. Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) in collaboration with Anxiety Canada and includes extensive feedback and insight from B.C. educators and experts in the field of childhood anxiety.



EASE at Home

Select EASE classroom lessons have been adapted for use by parents and caregivers to support children's mental health across home, school and community settings. EASE at Home activities are available as downloadable PDFs in both English and French.

It can be hard for adults to know what to say or do to ease a child's worries, especially during times of change and uncertainty. As the most important big people in their world, parents and caregivers can help children feel safer and soften the sharp edges of whatever is making their worries grow.

To help support learning across environments, several fun and practical EASE lessons have been adapted for use by parents and caregivers to help children manage worries and anxiety at home.

Access EASE at Home:

<https://healthymindsbc.gov.bc.ca/ease-at-home/>

English Language Learners

School District 5, Southeast Kootenay welcomes 69 English language learners for the 2020/2021 academic year. These are students whose primary language is not English. Patricia Michael continues as our ELL Teacher for the District along with Sarah Langford in the Elk Valley.



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CHEQ

Our schools are once again participating in the Childhood Experiences questionnaire and we thank all K parents who are or have taken the time to complete the survey. The CHEQ is an innovative way to capture and report on children's experiences in their early environments. The CHEQ focuses on experiences in specific areas of development that are strongly linked to children's health and well-being, education and social outcomes. Information reported by parents and caregivers on the CHEQ helps communities understand how to support children and families prior to kindergarten; it also helps schools with individual, classroom and school level planning.

For more information on CHEQ please refer to the following: <http://earlylearning.ubc.ca/cheq/>

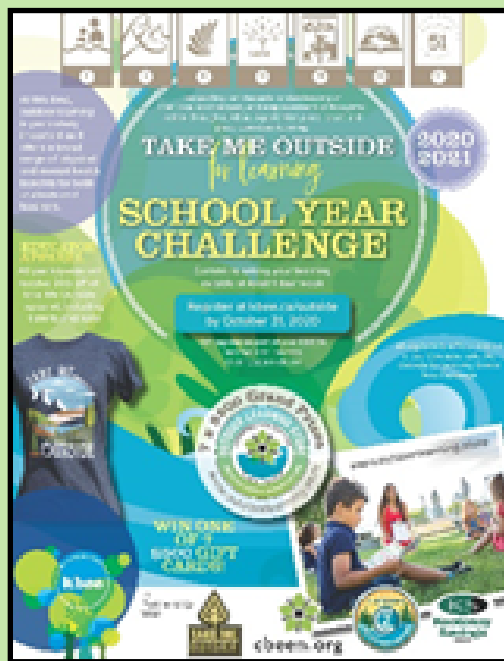
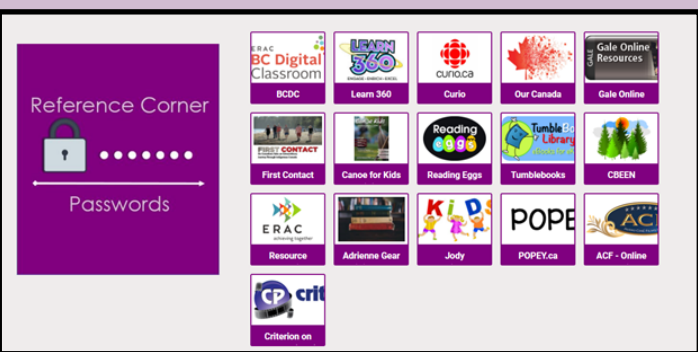
We are pleased to report that over 70 teachers have become CBEEN members in September! [Join CBEEN](#) here! There are many benefits of becoming a CBEEN member including tons of resources for teaching outdoors during a pandemic. If you need funding assistance to become a new member, email [Jennifer Roberts](#). We want to make it possible for everyone to take advantage of the benefits!

Our goal is to have 100% participation in the Take Me Outside School Year Challenge! This is very important to School District 5 as it is a great way to collect data on place conscious learning participation. [Sign up](#) here!

We are encouraging all K-12 Teachers to join BC's hub of environmental educators [EKEEPSA](#) (East Kootenay Environmental Education Provincial Specialist Association of the BCTF). Funding assistance may be available.

Please remember to send photos of your students learning outdoors to [Jane Nixon](#).

The Resource Centre is up and running!! Check out the resources! For information, please contact District Librarian, [Maxine Malmberg](#).



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ADVOCACY

Social Emotional Learning Centre Update

The Social Emotional Learning Centre (SEL) is looking a little different this school year. Due to COVID protocols, the transportation of elementary students from the schools in Cranbrook to the SELC is not possible. The SELC teacher Tanya Meijer, has therefore been assigned to one learning group at Highlands Elementary where she is working with a group on social emotional learning. This is expected to be a nine week program and upon completion, the teacher will move to another elementary school in Cranbrook to work with a new learning group.

Human Resources has been busy recruiting for a number of teacher and support opportunities in our district. Local advertising continues with INDEED, local job boards and online websites. We have increased our postings to include full time TTOC's in the Elk Valley communities and full time roving custodians in both Cranbrook and the Elk Valley. We continue to use national job sites, Make a Future and Employment Canada Network as well as their resources at Universities, Colleges and organizations to recruit across Canada. We participated locally in the first on-line job fair with KES in Fernie and continue to reach out to partners in the area such as the COTR to increase our casual lists. We are near completion of our first bus driver training school and are excited to see both applicants in the coming weeks get their Class 2 license and to start their new career as a bus driver with SD5.

NOW HIRING!
for our Casual Clerical Pool

Create a profile and apply today!
SD5.bc.ca (career opportunities)

 School District #5 (Southeast Kootenay)



BUS DRIVERS WANTED

Do you have a Class 1 or 2 Driver's Licence?
 We're looking for you!

Create a profile and apply today!
SD5.bc.ca (career opportunities)

 School District #5 (Southeast Kootenay)



NOW HIRING!

Youth Care Workers, Aboriginal Education & Education Assistants

Create a profile and apply today!
SD5.bc.ca (career opportunities)

 School District #5 (Southeast Kootenay)



Now hiring casual custodians!

Create a profile and apply today!
SD5.bc.ca (career opportunities)

 School District #5 (Southeast Kootenay)



Supervisors wanted

For the 2020/21 School Year
 Part time, casual work available for 1-2 hours/day.

Create a profile and apply today for work starting in September!
SD5.bc.ca (career opportunities)

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Inclusive Partnerships

District Elders in Residence Program

We are meeting this next week with our Elders in Residence to further cement plans to expand our existing program beyond Mount Baker. This will take the form of formalizing the role of knowledge holders and mentors as well. The expansion of the Elders program has been a goal in our Enhancement Agreement for at least two iterations of the agreement. As such, we have allocated funds from our targeted funds to support the expansion of this incredibly important project.

The Elders have given us great direction on how to start this process and we look forward to working with our partners on the Enhancement Agreement Review Committee to try and bring this into fruition.

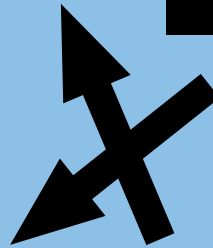


The Aboriginal Education Department has a new logo

Artist Biography:

Marisa Phillips is a First Nations artist of the Ktunaxa Nation and the ʔaq'am Band located outside of Cranbrook, BC. She is an artist, Ktunaxa language activist and presenter. She believes that art should invoke emotion, imagination, thought and excitement to the eye. As a child growing up in a native community, she was taught that everything had a spirit and to respect all things that Mother Earth created, equally. Due to those teachings, many of her paintings have a spiritual and/or natural theme associated with them. Some of her artistic mediums include: large scale murals, canvas paintings, children's book illustrations, graphic design, poster and logo designs.

Her artwork can be viewed on her Facebook Page at: www.facebook.com/marisaphillipsart/



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Ministry of Education Update

FOR INFO, SUPERINTENDENTS, PRINCIPALS/VICE-PRINCIPALS & SCHOOL COUNSELLORS – New Mental Health in Schools (MHIS) Strategy Released: The Ministry of Education has [announced](#) the release of its new [Mental Health in Schools Strategy](#), which outlines a vision and pathway for mental health promotion in the K-12 education system. The strategy represents the Ministry's commitment to implementing the priority actions identified in [A Pathway to Hope](#) for the improved wellness of children, youth and young adults. The strategy and other mental health resources can be reviewed on the *erase* [Mental Health & Well-Being web page](#).



FOR INFO, SUPERINTENDENTS, SECRETARY-TREASURERS & PRINCIPALS/VICE-PRINCIPALS – Impact of School Closures Report: The BC Centre for Disease Control has released their report on [Impact of School Closures on Learning, Child and Family Well-Being During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#). Please review this document to learn more.

Featured Topics

- [Vision for Student Success](#)
Learn about our vision for educated citizens that thrive in a rapidly changing world.
- [B.C.'s New Curriculum](#)
British Columbia's curriculum is being redesigned to respond to the demanding world our students are entering.
- [Reporting on Student Success](#)
Use features like infographics and data visualizations to navigate data from the B.C. school system.



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Schools

Orange Shirt Day



IDES



LMS



RMES



JEJSS



FSS



ESS

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Schools

Orange Shirt Day



IDES



PES



GTES



SES



MBSS



KOES



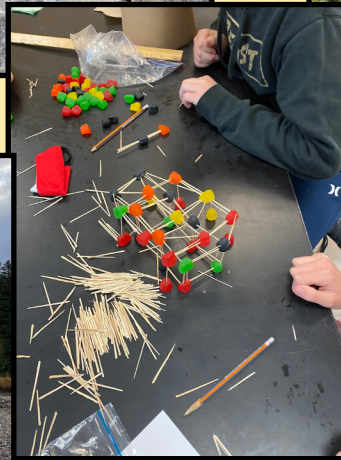
FJMES



SSS

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Schools



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