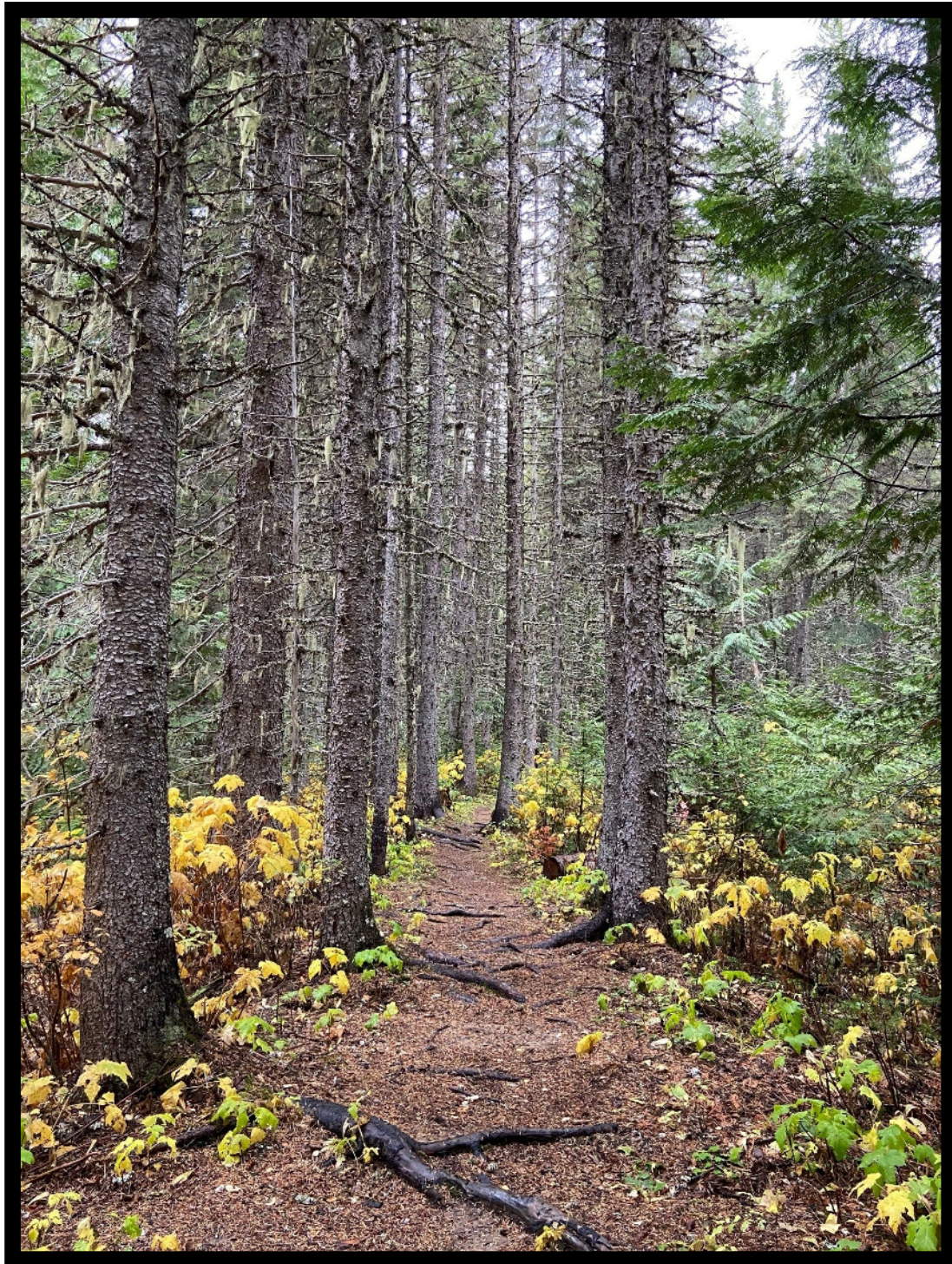


SOUTHEAST KOOTENAY PATHWAYS TO LEARNING



October, 2021

Photo courtesy of the
Compass Program at LMS





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

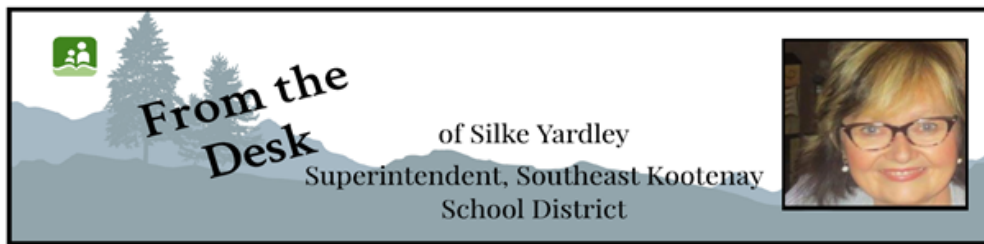


Effective Communication

- 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



October 4, 2021

Dear parents, students and staff:

Here is an important update to the [Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools](#) and the [Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#) by Minister of Education Jennifer Whiteside and Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry.

I would like to inform parents about this update and outline the notification process for school exposures.

Update to face coverings mandate

The provincial government has announced **that as of Monday, October 4, 2021, all students in B.C. schools will be required to wear a mask when inside a school building, at their desks and on busses.**

This builds on the existing guidelines that currently apply to all students in Grades 4-12. Kindergarten to Grade 3 students wearing a mask will be an adjustment for our students. As our younger students adjust to wearing masks, please send your child(ren) to school with a clean mask and a spare mask that they can wear.

As a reminder, provincial guidelines advise that mask requirements do not apply to staff, students, and visitors in the following circumstances:

- If a person cannot tolerate wearing a mask for health or behavioural reasons
- If a person is unable to put on or remove a mask without the assistance of another person
- If the mask is removed temporarily for the purposes of identifying the person wearing it
- If the mask is removed temporarily to engage in an educational activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask
- If a person is eating or drinking
- If a person is behind a barrier
- If providing a service to a person with a disability or diverse ability where visual cues, facial expressions and/or lip reading/movements is important.

Schools continue to be encouraged to support student mask use through positive and inclusive approaches, and not punitive or enforcement activities that exclude students from fully participating in school or that could result in stigma. Schools are also encouraged to ensure there are opportunities throughout the day for students to remove their masks (like providing opportunities to go outside if weather allows).



940 Industrial Road #1, Cranbrook, BC V1C 4C6 • Tel: 250-426-4201 • Fax: 250-489-5460 • www.sd5.bc.ca

School Exposures:

We have been seeing multiple exposures in 5 of our schools, as well as some single COVID cases in other schools. This is Interior Health's process of contact tracing in schools:



I also wanted to inform parents about what we do behind the scenes when we receive information on a COVID case:

I receive an email from Interior Health regarding a COVID case; at this point, we may already have heard from a parent that they have a child with COVID or the principal has already sent us the information. We then wait for Interior Health to start their process. Interior Health indicated to me that once they get the case, they work with the case until completed. Their goal is to complete within 48 hours from the start of the case (this depends on the number of cases in the community and school). I receive emails from them 7 days a week and at all hours of the day.

They will ask for specific details on the case. For example: what was the class doing, who was in the classroom, where did the students go, did they ride the bus, and what type of activities the class was doing during specific days. They may also ask us for the contact information on individual adults and students who may have been in contact with the individual.

I send the notification with instructions from the contact tracer to the principal and vice principal immediately. The team then follows the email instructions and sends it back to the COVID team at Interior Health. We then wait for instructions on next steps.



940 Industrial Road #1, Cranbrook, BC V1C 4C6 • Tel: 250-426-4201 • Fax: 250-489-5460 • www.sd5.bc.ca

A next step may be that there is no further action required. This will mean that the individual was not infectious at school. We will let the teacher know if it is a student in the class, that they had an individual with COVID, but no further action is required; or we send a few different letters home - one is if there is a need to self monitor or another if a class will need to isolate. Those who are not vaccinated will also need to isolate. This will be indicated in the letter.

The principal and vice principal will then start to contact anyone who will need this information. They will inform the school staff and parents. The district will inform itinerants, unions, etc.

The provincial government recently made a change to the notification process for school exposures, directing local health authorities to begin posting general school exposure notifications to their websites. Exposure notifications for our school district and the Interior Health region can be found on the [Interior Health school exposures page](#) and the front page of our [website](#). For a helpful overview of the contact tracing process visit the [BCCDC website](#).

As you can see from the website, we have had schools with exposures. There have now been a few cases in our district where classes are isolating at home and the teacher is teaching remotely.

Through all our work with Interior Health and all my conversations with nurses, Medical Health Officers and contact tracers, everyone is working hard to support our schools. I wanted to give a big thank you to them for all their work. While sometimes there may be concern with delays, please be assured that there is a lot of work that is happening behind the scenes to support our district and the other districts in the province. We start to see delays when we get more cases in our schools or community.

I am encouraging us all to continue to be diligent with our health and safety protocols and guidelines. This is not where we thought we would be, but if we are diligent, we can do this together. Please continue to do the daily health checks as no student or staff can come to school sick. The concerns we are hearing are at sleepovers, large birthday parties, and gatherings where there may be unvaccinated individuals who have COVID. We all need to decide what level of risk we wish to take within the guidelines.

Please continue all the good work you have been doing to keep your children and our schools safe. Everyone comes from a different place, and we need to respect where they are coming from. We will get through this together.

All the best and take care,

Silke



940 Industrial Road #1, Cranbrook, BC V1C 4C6 • Tel:250-426-4201 • Fax:250-489-5460 • www.sd5.bc.ca

Engaging All Learners



School District 5 is partnering with Backpack Buddies, a charitable organization from North Vancouver, to ensure that “together we can ensure that no child in our community goes hungry”. More information will come as we rollout this project. Check out their website at backpackbuddies.ca



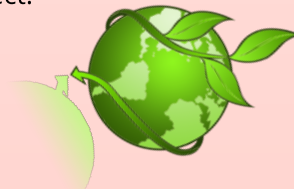
Regional Science Fair Update

The East Kootenay Regional Science Fair will take place the first week of March 2022. The theme this year will be "**The Science of Change and Adaptation.**"



A virtual fair is being planned with a virtual closing celebration on Friday, March 4th. If our pandemic situation changes for the positive, they are hoping to have an in-person portion to the fair. Vaccination passports will be required for student participants, fair volunteers, and visitors.

Please visit ekrsf.ca for information on the fair, create a free account at mySTEMspace, and start your project. You may even want to improve or take a new approach on your last project.



It's like hunting... for treasure

Hunting is a common connection when we bring out the GPS units to practice playing with coordinates and geocaching. Students at T.M. Roberts Elementary School took to their school grounds and created geocaches for each other. Once they were comfortable with the GPS units, they took off into the forest for a day of outdoor activities and geocaching at the South Star trails.



Sitting stone dedication at Isabella Dicken Elementary School.



Please remember to send photos of your students learning outdoors to [Jane Nixon](mailto:jane.nixon@sd5.bc.ca).

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

Up, Up and Away!! – coming soon to schools and to School District 5's Design Lab. Learn how to fly a drone! Book a session with Kim.Froehler@sd5.bc.ca in the Valley or Ryan.Mckenzie@sd5.bc.ca or Tera.Merkel@sd5.bc.ca in the Cranbrook area to have your students experience piloting a drone using Tello drones. This is a great experience for middle and high school students.



Analog Airplanes

The new wave of grade 7 students at Laurie Middle School started the year with designing in mind. Students were given some limited materials and challenged to create a giant paper airplane. The goals were to look above and beyond just going the furthest. They were encouraged to attempt innovative designs, aesthetically pleasing designs and to practice failing and trying again. Some of the designs did fly while others went backwards. It was a great introduction to the design process and helped break the ice at their new school.



The Childhood Experiences Questionnaire



CHEQ

The Childhood Experiences Questionnaire led by UBC is well underway in our district among our kindergarten classes. Information reported by parents and caregivers on the CHEQ help communities understand how to support children and families prior to kindergarten. It also helps schools with individual, classroom and school level planning.

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

Inclusive Partnerships

Register for the 2021-2022 [Take Me Outside for Learning School Year Challenge!](#)

[Draft K-12 Student Reporting Policy](#)

From Sept. 27th to Nov. 5th, 2021, the Ministry is collecting public feedback to rate components of the draft K – 12 student reporting policy as well as to provide written comments and suggestions. In November, a "**What We Heard Report**" summarizing this feedback will be released. The Ministry of Education will then release an updated and final policy in January 2022. Once approved, this final policy is projected to come into effect for the 2022/2023 school year.

<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/govtogetherbc/consultation/studentreporting/>



Register at kbee.ca/outside by November 5, 2021.

The Transformative Learning Team is excited to welcome Tera Merkel. Tera will be working on Fridays in Cranbrook.

Please remember to complete the application form for excess operating funds for your outdoor learning initiatives and resources! Return the completed form to jennifer.roberts@sd5.bc.ca by October 29, 2021.

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

The Resource Centre is up and running! Come check out the resources.

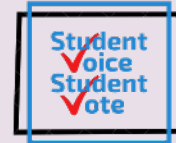
Digital Programs in Full Swing

The District Resource Centre is excited to welcome teachers and students back to school with access to our digital programs. Participating classrooms can use Reading Eggs, Mathseeds and Mathletics. These programs are a fun support to lessons offering students a way to practice their literacy and numeracy skills online. Whether in school or at home, students can access math and reading practice anytime.

For information, please contact District Librarian, [Maxine Malmberg](#).



Grades 5 and 6 students at Amy Woodland Elementary cast ballots for the election candidates in Kootenay Columbia electoral district on September 17. Student Vote is an authentic learning program that provides students with the opportunity to experience the voting process firsthand.

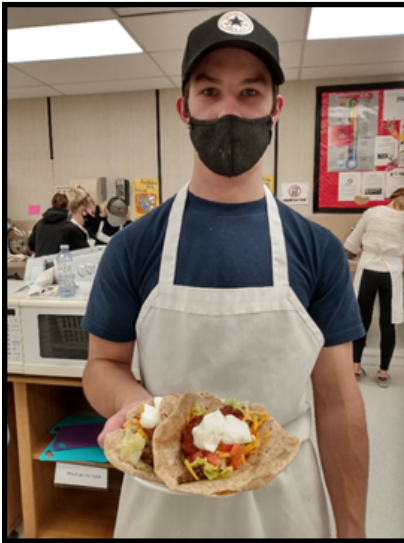


Laurie Middle School Compass students practiced their map making skills, asked some science inquiry questions and learned how to get out of quick sand at Moyie Lake in September.



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



Foods 10-12

Mrs. Wenda's classes at Elkford Secondary School have been busy creating....

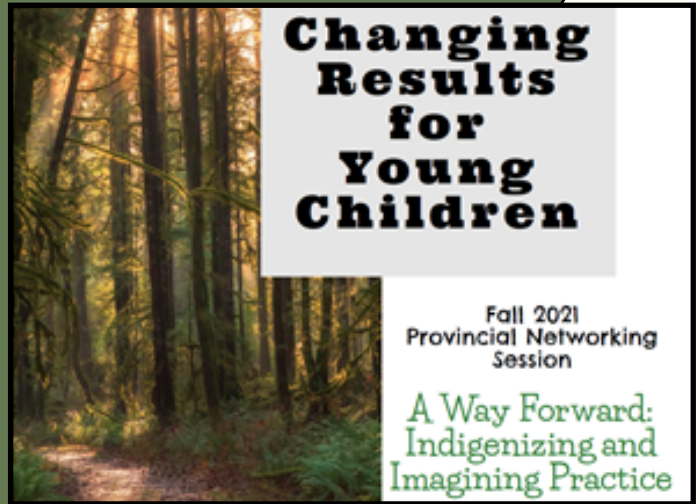


Students spent an afternoon in the back field at Laurie Middle School to learn archery theory. Compass students LOVE the outdoors and LOVE to learn here in School District 5.



Art 8-9

STEM class at Isabella Dicken Elementary School



Our Changing Results for Young Children (CR4YC) team were invited to participate in the Fall Provincial Networking Session held virtually on October 6. The focus was: 'A Way Forward: Indigenizing and Imagining Practice.' Our CR4YC team is comprised of kindergarten teachers, StrongStart facilitators and community early years partners. We are looking forward to the six sessions with our facilitator Joanne Holme.

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

Inclusive Partnerships

Rocking Reader Project 2021

Last spring, Superintendent Silke Yardley offered schools the opportunity to develop literacy initiatives to help support developing readers. As one option to support schools, Carol Johns and Cindy Gleb were given the opportunity to set up the Rocking Reader Project once again. Using the virtual platform Zoom and the electronic library Epic, they offered one-to-one reading support sessions to teachers in Cranbrook who had students they had identified would benefit from additional teaching support.

The program ran for 6 weeks from the end of April to mid-June. Each teacher supported between 16-19 students with 20-30 minute reading sessions twice a week. Flexible schedules were set up to accommodate the classroom teachers. Using a designated iPad, with in-school or home support, the children were able to connect with the teachers for the one-to-one reading support time. Using reading levels to help students read stories they were interested in, while focusing on building confidence along with increasing their reading skills, was a key component to the project. We also connected with the students' interests through activities like dropping off trilobites for the students, to spark an interest in non-fiction stories.

Working during the pandemic raises issues that impacts everyone, but when some students had to isolate at home it was fairly easy to carry on with the virtual reading sessions, with parent support. The students averaged between 10 to 12 sessions and the teachers and students all felt the program had a positive impact on the students' reading as determined through teacher surveys and assessment as well as student self-evaluations.

With support from Diane Casault, Director of Student Learning and Innovation, and Laurel Giesbrecht, as an additional incentive, each of the children received two books at the end of the program in June to help encourage and support their efforts to read over the summer break. The books the students received were *The Giving Tree - A retelling of a Traditional Metis Story* by Leah Marie Dorian from the FNEC book list and *DK Pocket Genius-Animals Facts at their fingertips*.

Connecting virtually with developing readers, when supported by teachers, district and school administration, school staff and parents, can make a positive impact on the students' self confidence and reading skill development. The most heartening result of this initiative was the overall positive student engagement and that the students all felt they had become better readers.



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

Inclusive Partnerships

Local Education Agreement Update

We are now underway with our Local Education Agreement (LEA) negotiating processes. We are meeting next week with our partners at ?aq'am and have met face to face with the folks at Tobacco Plains as well. This is a new process for us with Tobacco Plains, but now that there are nine students in our system from the band, we are excited to carve out a positive relationship with the leaders there as well.

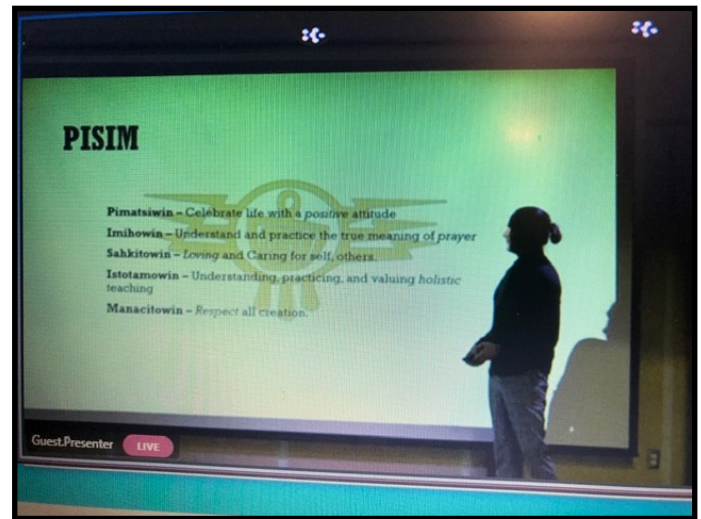


Thanks to all for Oct 1st - Indigenous Professional Development Day

We are very appreciative of those who helped to organize, to all the presenters and hosts of the breakout sessions and to all those who participated in our Indigenous Professional Development Day on Friday. There were a few technical glitches early, but we were able to have a meaningful day afterwards. We look forward to the feedback in the survey!



Panel at Fernie Secondary School



Dr. Dustin Louie - Keynote

Human Resources has been busy with ongoing hiring. To date, we have hired an additional 60 plus CUPE staff for this year and 60 teachers and TTOC's. We continue to attend virtual job fairs and are hoping to start to see applicants in person soon. We were happy to increase the number of Youth Care Workers to support our students this year and many are designated to just one school rather than the previous years. This increased hiring provides an enhanced level of support to both our students and our Education Assistants in our schools. We had a very successful TTOC/Teacher Orientation in late August and continue to hire as required in these areas. This will be a busy bargaining year as both the teacher and CUPE Collective Agreements expire. We hope to start this process soon.



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

Inclusive Partnerships

EVERY CHILD MATTERS
Year-long Learning Challenge

Provide time, resources and/or opportunities each week for your staff to deepen their knowledge of local Indigenous culture and engage in meaningful action.

Pick a day each week over the coming year (Oct. 1, 2021 - Sept. 30, 2022) where you encourage your staff to wear orange.

The purpose of this challenge is to help extend the actions required to move towards truth and reconciliation beyond just one day, and help to enable real change over time.

REGISTER ONLINE
Open until 15 October 2021
cbeen.ca/every-child-matters

TO SUPPORT YOU IN THIS, WE WILL:

- Provide you with recommendations for where you can access Orange Shirts for your staff (also are provided by Indigenous organizations with Indigenous artwork).
- Provide you with a weekly email with a curated Indigenous learning link that you can share with your staff.
- Provide a handbook opportunity each session to come together virtually with other participants and Indigenous leaders for an opportunity to learn, share and network.

There is no charge to participate. We hope you can join us in this learning journey!

CBEEN Truth and reconciliation is an active process

Rocky Mountain School District

As the learning around September 30 passes, CBEEN is hosting an [Every Child Matters Year-long Learning Challenge](https://cbeen.ca/every-child-matters/) which is open to schools and organizations from across our region. The purpose of this challenge is to encourage learning going beyond just one day on September 30, and to provide a framework - including support, resources and encouragement - to make learning about Indigenous knowledge, perspectives, history and culture a deeper part of our lives in order to help to enable real change over time. Registration is open until Oct. 15, 2021 at <https://cbeen.ca/every-child-matters/>

- Jenna Jasek, District VP for Indigenous Learning and Equity, Rocky Mountain School District 6

- Duncan Whittick, Executive Director, Columbia Basin Environmental Education Network (CBEEN)

Language Course for Educators

7Aktukagwum
KTUNAXA
Language Course for Educators

12 x 90 minute virtual learning sessions
November through February MONDAY NIGHTS 7 PM MT ON ZOOM

Join Ktunaxa language instructors Alfred Joseph & Mara Nelson to deepen your ability to understand and use the Ktunaxa language in your teaching practice.

REGISTER ONLINE
cbeen.ca/workshops

Session topics include:

- Ktunaxa Creation Story and the connection to place
- Place names in the South Kootenays
- Why each place is named what it is
- Common classroom phrases
- Things around the town/community
- Place names • Animal names
- Colors • Numbers • Family relationships
- Common expressions
- Calendar - seasons, months, days of the week

CBEEN Connecting to the local land through language

\$160 for all 12 sessions (\$13/session)
\$155 CBEEN members (\$12.50/session)

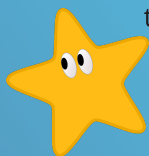


New sign at Steeples Elementary School

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

Ministry of Education Update

[Nominations](#) are being accepted until end of day October 13 for the [2021 Premier's Awards for Indigenous Youth Excellence in Sport](#). These awards offer an opportunity to honour and uplift Indigenous youth athletes (First Nations, Métis, and/or Inuit) who reside in B.C., are under the age of 25 (born in 1997 or earlier), have achieved excellence in performance sport, and have demonstrated their leadership qualities both on and off the field of play.



Information Sheet on Changes to Online Learning: An [information sheet](#) summarizing the upcoming changes to the Online Learning delivery model in B.C., including what to expect for the 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 school years, is now available on the new [Online Learning website](#).

The British Columbia Youth Parliament's 93rd Parliament will hold its parliamentary session in Victoria at the Provincial Legislative Chambers from December 27 to 31, 2021. Hopeful for a safe return to in-person gatherings, BCYP will follow all Provincial Public Health Guidelines including a requirement that all participants be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.



The Youth Parliament is a province-wide non-partisan organization for young people ages 16 to 21. It teaches citizenship skills through participation in the December parliamentary session and in community service activities throughout the year. **Youth Parliament is a one-year commitment.**

All application forms must be received by October 26, 2021. Selected applicants will be notified by mid-November. If you require more information, please contact me by telephone at 604-646-6623 or visit our website at www.bcyp.org

NEWS RELEASES

[Expanded health, safety measures for K-12 students](#)

[Provincial support helps boost community literacy](#)

[Double the funding for fun for 60 school playgrounds](#)

[Extra supports for student, staff mental wellness](#)



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

Schools



Mr. Mac, Mme. Sophie, Mr. Paterson and Mme. Catherine's classes from T.M. Roberts Elementary School worked in small groups to create fun outdoor, activity stations for the Grades 1 - 5 students. "Just for the Fun of It" is a tradition that usually takes place at the beginning and the end of the school year.



Gordon Terrace Terry Fox Run

Fernie Secondary School's Blessing Ceremony for sitting stones. Joe Pierre spoke and we all put a pinch of tobacco on the stones to create a personal connection.



Highlands Elementary Terry Fox Run



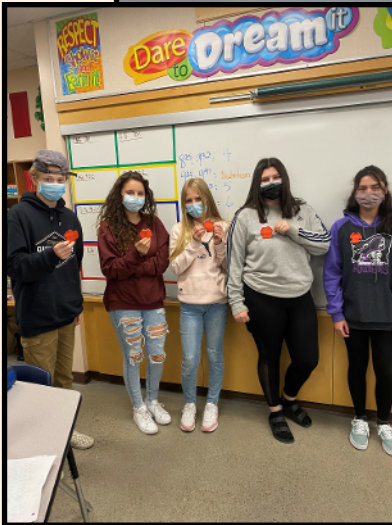
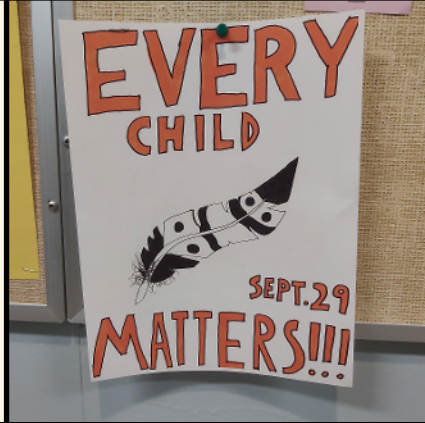
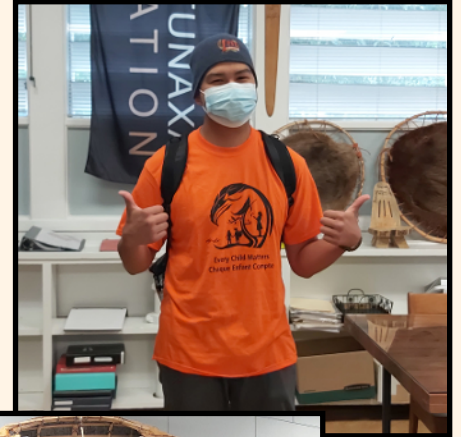
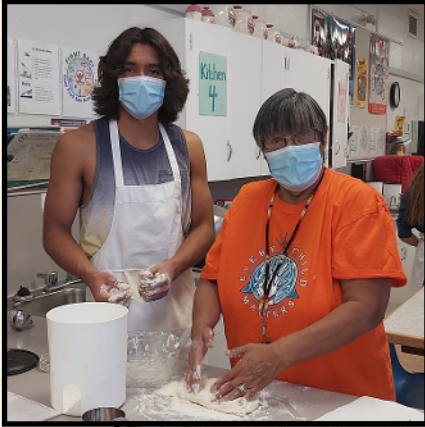
Isabella Dicken Elementary Terry Fox Run



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

Schools

Orange Shirt Day Activities



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

Schools

Student Vote at T.M. Roberts Elementary and Parkland Middle School



Leigh Cormier and her Outdoors class planting 14 Douglas Firs around Mt. Baker Secondary School's playing field.



The Compass Program at Laurie Middle School ventured to Fernie to continue with tree identification, specifically to see the old growth cedars.



Highlands Huskies Days



Crazy hair day at Gordon Terrace Elementary School

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