

SEPTEMBER 2022



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5
(SOUTHEAST KOOTENAY)

Students love to learn here, Staff love to work here, Families love to gather here

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Dear students, staff, parents and caregivers:

I cannot believe we are into October! September has been a busy month for our schools with open houses, professional development for our staff and an unexpected memorial day for Queen Elizabeth II.

We are fortunate to not be reporting or tracking COVID-19 cases anymore; however, I think we have all learned the importance of staying home if you are sick. The BCCDC still has guidelines around testing positive that you can check [here](#). The District still has rapid tests available for families, if you would like some please speak with your school. We are happy to provide you with tests.

The Framework for Enhancing Student Learning has been approved by the board and submitted to the Ministry of Education and Child Care (MOECC). We are in year two of the [Framework](#) and are always looking for feedback. Please check it out and feel free to ask questions. We are very excited to have continued support from our District Literacy Teacher, Erin Jones, and have expanded our team to include a District Numeracy Teacher, Kathy Conlin and a district Social-Emotional Learning Teacher, Kim Richards.

Each school also has a Growth Plan that mirrors the District's Framework. School goals are unique to each building's context and data story. These can be found on each school's website, as well as the [District's](#). This spring we will host community-based engagement nights but in the meantime feel free to reach out and ask questions. I encourage you to join your school's Parent Advisory Council (PAC) or the District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) as it is a great, low-pressure, way to stay informed and be involved.

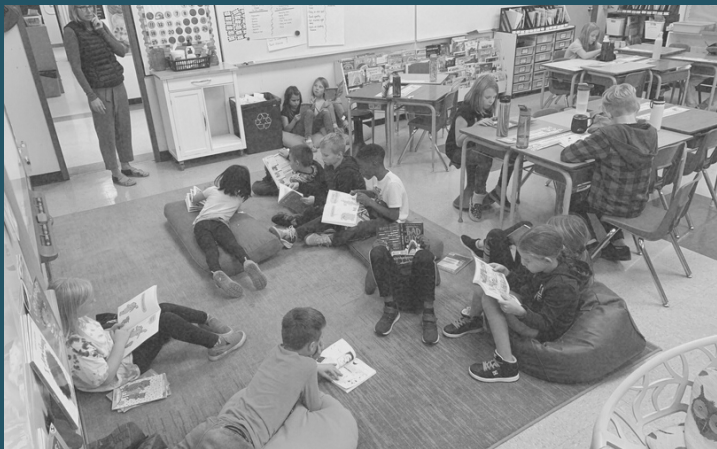
Please continue to share your wonderful stories, videos and photos of your students, staff and schools as we love showcasing all the great work that is happening on our [Facebook](#) page. We look forward to seeing pictures from our annual [Take Me Outside](#) event coming up on October 19th.

The MOECC has given each district a [Student and Family Affordability Fund](#) that is targeted to reduce expenses for families in need. Please reach out to your schools if you need support with things like school supplies, food security and extracurricular costs.

We have had some questions and confusion about our [School District Calendar](#). Please refer to the approved calendar that is on our website. We will be posting an adjustment for the second semester as the Regional Specialist Association (RSA) meeting is on April 24th, not the 17th, this will be up for consultation with you, our stakeholders, for 30 days before the board can approve the change.

Lastly, please mark your calendars for the upcoming municipal election on October 15th. We are very fortunate to have nine dedicated trustees working for our district. This is your opportunity to be part of this process and have a say in the District's direction.

Viveka



LITERACY

September has been a busy month for Literacy in School District No. 5. Any K-3 teachers who were interested in learning more about the Heggerty Phonemic Awareness program were invited to attend a one-hour training session in which they not only learned about the program but left with a copy of the resource and a one-year membership to the Heggerty online platform. Teachers were excited to learn about and start using this resource which will support critical instruction in phonemic awareness for our youngest learners. So far about 50 teachers across the district have attended the training and received their resources.

Teachers from TM Roberts Elementary School joined Erin Jones, District Literacy Support Teacher to explore some essential components of early reading instruction. Teachers were introduced to some of the elements in the Science of Reading as well as research-based routines for developing essential word reading skills. They explored resources and participated in rich discussions and activities. Feedback from the session was very positive.

NEWS FROM THE DRC

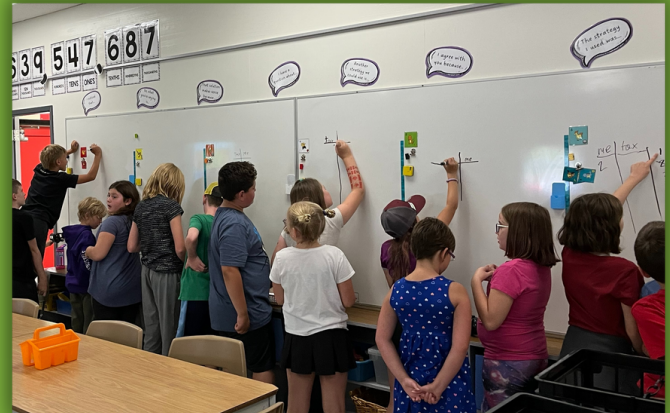
Thank you to Isabella Dicken Elementary School in Fernie for inviting the DRC Librarian, Maxine Malmberg, to their September staff meeting. She was able to showcase the DRC “browsing binder”, new French Immersion resources, and the BC Digital Classroom.

Teachers have requested the DRC stock this classic... so we have! The DRC library has a class set of 30 novels ready for the Middle Years or High School class to discover S.E. Hinton’s timeless story of peer pressure, rebellion, and identity in this 1967 quintessential coming-of-age story. Book it now!

Our circulation list has gone out to teachers throughout the district, and we are excited to start sending print and electronic magazines and journals to teachers who have signed up. Happy Reading!

NUMERACY

This fall, many grade 1-6 teachers enthusiastically implemented The First 13 Days of Math in their classrooms with great success. The resource was created to help teachers create a positive classroom culture towards collaboration and mathematical thinking. Collaboration between students, emphasis on justifying thinking, multiple answers and strategies, play and inquiry with math concepts, and reflection of learning are all strengths of the resource. The resource can be found on our district portal under the numeracy icon.



GRADE 5/6 LEGO ROBOTICS ARCTIC RIDE AND TOWER CHALLENGE

Students in Ms. Bisson's grade 5/6 class from Rocky Mountain Elementary School explored the new Lego Essentials Robotics kits at the Fernie Design Lab. They designed and modified a coding program for a vehicle that could travel along a path using 90-degree turns. Students broke the problem down into smaller parts (computational thinking - decomposition) and learned how to sequence events in a block-based coding platform. They also took part in a tower design challenge to build the tallest and most aesthetic-looking tower using Lego. This challenged student's communication and problem-solving skills under pressure as they only had 5 minutes to complete the tower.



NURSING PRACTICUM STUDENTS

School District No. 5 has partnered with the College of the Rockies to provide practicum experience to nursing students in their program.

First-year nursing students will deliver the BCCDC Handwashing Program (previously, "Do Bugs Need Drugs?") to kindergarten and/or K-1 split classes in all Cranbrook elementary schools.

Second-year nursing students will also be delivering the BCCDC Handwashing Program to grade 2 and/or 1/2 or 2/3 split classes at Amy Woodland, Kootenay Orchards, Pinewood, Steeples and T.M. Roberts elementary schools.

Third-year nursing students will be in a few of our schools, on Wednesdays and Thursdays each week from September 6th through to December 2nd. These nursing students will be at Jaffray Elementary Junior Secondary School, Kootenay Orchards Elementary, Laurie Middle School and Parkland Middle School.

FRENCH IMMERSION GRANT

Our French teacher recruitment and retention project application for TTOC and Curriculum and Literacy Support time have been partially approved by the federal government.

We will be receiving funding to hire a 1.0 FTE itinerant French Immersion teacher in SD5. This funding will be available in both the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years.

HUMAN RESOURCES

We are excited to welcome back many of the TTOCs and CUPE casuals from previous years. As well, we have been able to see many new faces that are joining us for their first year in a temporary, permanent, or casual role.

Our call-out department continues to be very busy assisting employees in getting activated for the upcoming school year.

We had a very successful teacher/TTOC orientation at Laurie Middle School that saw our largest crowd ever of just over 50 attendees. This day is always well received by our many new hires and includes presentations by several departments and a BCTF Boundaries Workshop in the afternoon presented by Shelly Balfour, CFTA co-chair. HR was also able to meet in person with our many school secretaries while we went over the importance of employee schedules, CUPE Casual and TTOC sign-in sheets at Parkland Middle School. We were also joined by many principals and vice principals across the district.

HR also spent considerable time this summer implementing a new electronic file system for all our new hires. We are excited to start moving towards an electronic filing system which will replace the paper employment files.



STRONGSTART CENTRES

Three of our four StrongStart Centres opened for the 2022-2023 school year on September 20th. We are thrilled to have Christine Watson who has returned with her Early Childhood Education certificate (ECE) to facilitate the centre at Frank J Mitchell Elementary School. Nicole Green has taken over the role of facilitator at the Amy Woodland and Steeples centres. Nicole worked with Lisa Lancaster at the centres last year. We are still looking for a facilitator at our Fernie StrongStart Centre. If you know of anyone who would be a good fit, please contact Lauren Fox at the Fernie Women's Resource Centre.

lauren@ferniewomenscentre.com.



CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES QUESTIONNAIRE

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

SEY2KT

This year, we are happy to be part of the Strengthening Early Years to Kindergarten Transitions (SEY2KT) Project! This project works with districts and community sites focusing on developing guidelines, models, and district and community partnerships to ensure children and their families experience coherent transitions from community-based early learning experiences to kindergarten.



WALKING TOGETHER ON THE PATH OF TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION



On Friday, September 23, we had a successful Professional Development Day led by the Indigenous Education department and local partners. We were honoured to have had so much local knowledge and wisdom shared with all staff across the school district. Eighteen of our twenty workshops were led by local people! As well, we feel particularly grateful to have four current or former Nasu?kins share their time with us. After several years of the pandemic dictating that we had to gather primarily online, we were happy to have sessions based at ?aqam, Mount Baker Secondary, Laurie and Parkland Middle Schools, Jaffray School, Fernie Secondary and Sparwood Secondary. We are now in the process of gathering and analyzing the feedback data to help shape our days moving forward. A special thanks to Faye O'Neil and the team of folks who planned, coordinated and led this important work.

Hopefully, the pictures will do a decent job of capturing the richness of the sessions!

A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR PRESENTERS

KATHRYN TENEESE
SUK?NI SINGERS AND DRUM GROUP
MARA NELSON
PETER HUTCHINSON
?AQAMNIK SCHOOL
CHRYSTAL WILLIAMS
ALFRED JOSEPH
SOPHIE PIERRE
SMOKII SUMAC
JOE PIERRE & JOHANNA KINSMAN
KA·KIN NUMA DRUMMERS
DOROTHY RATCH
FAYE O'NEIL, KERRY PETERS & MORGAN DILTS
CARMEN COLLINGS
AMY REID & JOSH LOCKHART
CHAD LUKE
NUPQU NATIVE PLANTS
CAYTLYN LUKE
LEANNA GRAVELLE
TANIA BREWER & SARAH GRAVELLE

