

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5 (SOUTHEAST KOOTENAY)



FEBRUARY 2023

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

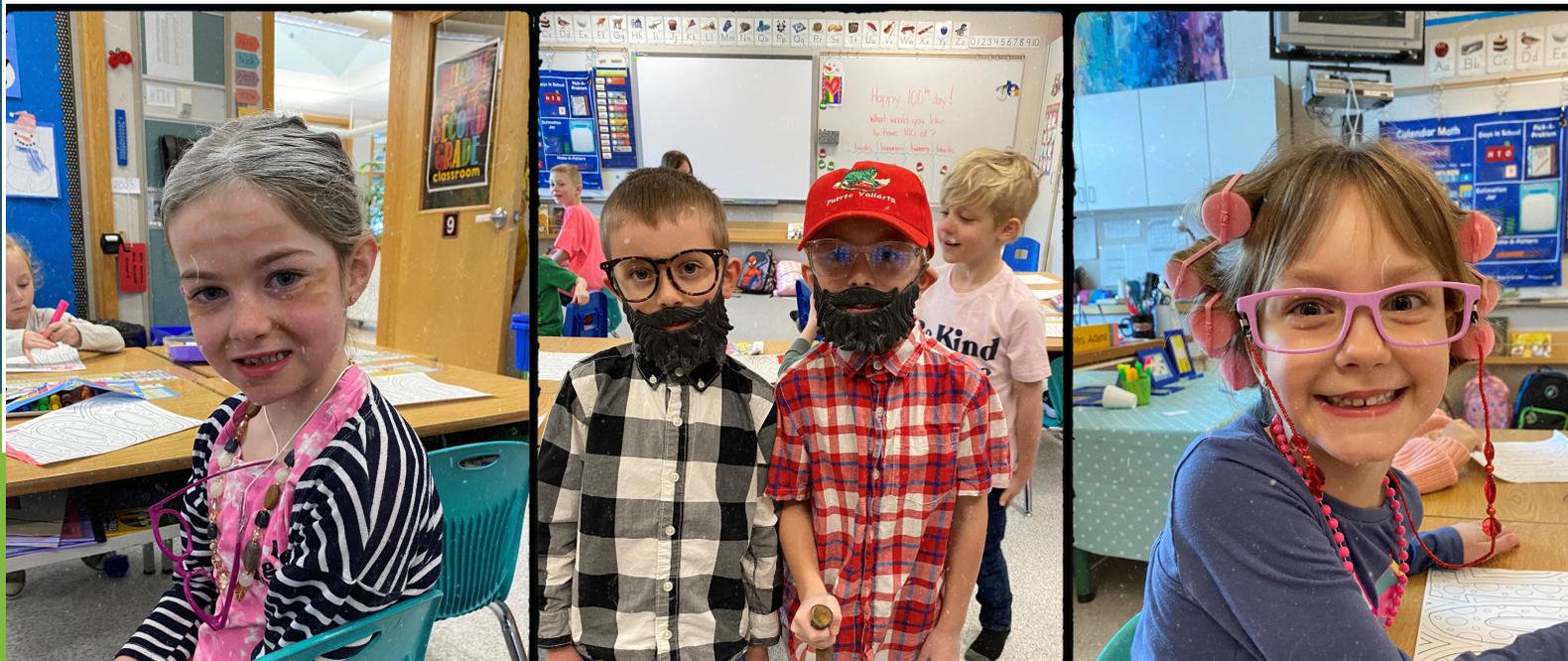
A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

It is hard to believe that spring break is around the corner! The District has sent out a Before and After School Care Survey that is also linked to our website. The survey is part of the District's Environmental scan to determine Child Care needs in all our communities. The survey is open until April 1st. Currently, we have over 550 responses from families all over the District. Director of Student Learning and Innovation Diane Casault has been working with our licenced community Child Care providers to understand our community needs for children 0-5 fully. This Environmental Scan will guide our board around the next steps for future Child Care initiatives. Stay tuned.

As part of the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning and community/stakeholder engagement, we will be inviting you to attend our community engagement nights. We are just in the planning stages, but you can expect a 'save the date' invitation to hear about the District's priorities and your community schools' growth plans. We want you to hear about our success and help plan our next steps around our educational and financial priorities for the upcoming year.

We are entering the budget process with all our schools over the next couple of weeks; this is an exciting time planning for the fall, figuring out class configurations, and projecting how many students will be new to our District or entering Kindergarten. Please get in touch with your school if you have questions about registration or out-of-catchment requests. As our communities continue to grow, it really helps the District plan when we know who is coming into our system.

February was full of fun and kindness with Pink Shirt Day and 100s day across the district. It was so lovely to see all the activities and the primary students dressed up, celebrating 100 days of school. On March 8th, we recognized International Women's Day. This day observes women's cultural, political, and socioeconomic achievements in various fields. Women's Day also marks a call for a gender-equal world that is free of bias, stereotypes and discrimination and is diverse, equitable, and inclusive while differences are valued and celebrated.



LITERACY

DR. JULIA B LINDSEY: RESEARCH-INFORMED FOUNDATIONAL LITERACY SKILL INSTRUCTION

School District No. 5 was privileged to host Dr. Julia B Lindsey, reading researcher and author of *Reading Above the Fray: Reliable, Research-Based Routines for Developing Decoding Skills*, for a virtual presentation during our February professional development day. Julia's presentation was engaging and informative. She offered teachers essential information on reading development and practical, reliable, researched and evidence-based instructional routines to strengthen students' decoding skills. Dr. Lindsey's suggestions were quick, easy to implement and will help teachers make the best instructional decisions for our students. The event was attended by over 50 teachers, some of whom have also been in a weekly book club discussing Dr. Lindsey's book.



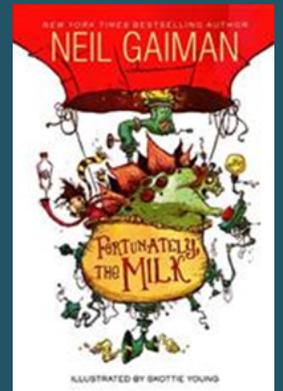
LITERACY LEADERS

Our Literacy Leaders group had a productive meeting in February. We discussed the Acadience universal screener and began working on a suggested scope and sequence for phonics instruction for grades 1-3. We have a committed group of teachers with wonderful ideas for moving literacy forward for our youngest learners. Our next meeting is in April. Teachers are encouraged to talk to their school's representative about questions, concerns or comments concerning reading and writing at the primary level.

NEWS FROM THE DRC

"FORTUNATELY, THE MILK"

While picking up milk for his children's cereal, a father is abducted by aliens and finds himself on a wild adventure through time and space. Grades 3-6 will enjoy this hilarious and imaginative adventure from Author Neil Gaiman. Explore this and many other titles on our Novel Studies Book List found on the DRC Resources Menu.



FOODCYCLER

Learn how to change food waste into a product you can use to grow food! Our foodcycler is available for classes to learn about composting.

LEARN 360

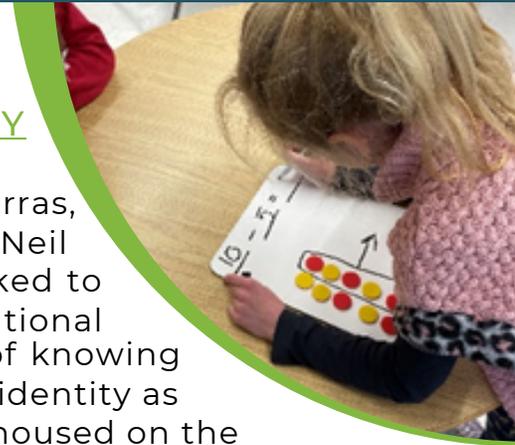
There are many resources to help you keep your classes interesting and current. You can search for digital clips on any topic for any age and develop your own playlist. Diagrams, maps, and practice sheets are available for teachers to download if your access to technology is limited.



NUMERACY

LINKING INDIGENOUS STORIES, PLACE, AND NUMERACY TASKS

A team of teachers (Bryan Faucher, Tara Elliot, Ami Barras, Janine Wittig, Ryan McKenzie, Kathy Conlin) and Faye O'Neil met to collaboratively plan place-based numeracy tasks linked to the Ktunaxa Creation story for grades k-12. Through intentional design, we hope to invite different perspectives and ways of knowing to strengthen students' relationship with the land and their identity as mathematicians. At the end of the project, the tasks will be housed on the School District's portal under numeracy. The team meets again in Cranbrook on Tuesday, March 14. If you are interested in joining the team or have questions, please email kathy.conlin@sd5.bc.ca.



GROWING CONFIDENT MATHEMATICIANS PARENT NIGHT AT SSS

Sparwood Secondary hosted a virtual presentation about ways to support grade 7-9 students with math at home. Kathy Conlin presented research and strategies for promoting a growth mindset in students at home and shared a collection of resources parents could lean on for support. Michael Kelly walked parents through how to sign up for Mathletics, and various numeracy supports available on Sparwood Secondary's home page.

NUMBER SENSE ROUTINES IN PRIMARY: CHORAL COUNTING AND COUNTING COLLECTIONS

District Numeracy Support Teacher, Kathy Conlin, worked in primary classes to support teachers with implementing research-based routines called choral counting and counting collections that promote number sense. Also, primary students practiced telling and separating stories with story mats. This oral language routine lays the foundation for conceptual understanding of subtracting.

MATHEMATICAL MINDSETS BOOK CLUB

Teachers met virtually on February 9th and discussed the use of strategies to promote both a growth and mathematical mindset in students. Jo Boaler outlines in her Mathematical Mindset book that using, "conceptual, investigative mathematics teaching and mindset encouragement, students learn to shed harmful ideas that math is about speed and memory and that they either get it or they don't" (pg. 57). We further discussed the advantages of grouping students based on mindset and not ability. The final book club meeting will be on April 27th.

STUDENT SERVICES

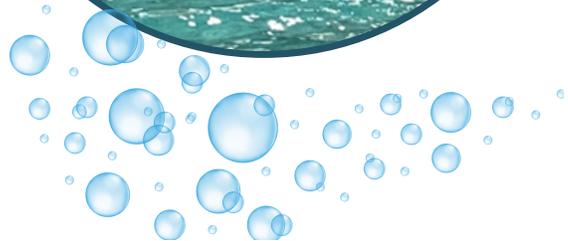
Cranbrook students with physical and social diversities participate in 8 weeks of gymnastics and swimming. Our wonderful bus drivers go from school to school, picking up the students, transporting them to their activities, and returning them to their schools when the sessions are over.



On Tuesdays, 35 primary-grade students attend gymnastics, and 35 middle school students attend Thursdays.



Wednesdays, students in all grades are split into two groups for swimming, with 50 students in each group. Our physiotherapist, Nicole Demars, attends lessons at the pool with the kids. This is an excellent opportunity for her to get a good idea of their physiology and work with them in the water.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Education Assistants (EAs) across the district gathered on February 3rd for professional development. Presenters from POPARD, The Provincial Outreach Program for Autism and Related Disorders, spoke on various essential topics. Tana Richards, an Education and Behaviour Consultant, spoke on Increasing 'Student Motivation & Engagement' as the keynote. EAs then attended two of the four offered breakout sessions by instructors Myra-Jade Lui and Rebecca Pawlowski.

- Supporting Girls with Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Rethinking Attention-seeking Behaviours and How to Treat Them
- Supporting Students with Inclusion on Replacement Curriculum
- Self-Monitoring in the Classroom



HUMAN RESOURCES

The HR department attended the COTR Career Fair on March 1, 2023. If you or someone you know is looking for a career change, we have many opportunities for work including casual, part-time, and full-time. We would love to discuss them with you.

The CUPE Collective Agreement has now been ratified. Our payroll departments will be very busy in the coming weeks to ensure pay grids are updated and retro pay is calculated.

The student transfer process is well underway and we will now be starting the teacher transfer process. It's a busy time of year as we prepare for the upcoming budget meetings in early March to start our planning for the 2023/2024 school year.

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

INTERNATIONAL PEACE POW WOW

The Mount Baker Secondary School Warriors Leadership group arrived early at the Lethbridge ENMAX Centre, which gave students ample time to visit the many vendors selling Indigenous Art, clothing, Jewelry, beadwork, and gifts. The master of ceremonies took to the stage and began introducing drum groups and dancers from a variety of Nations. The Grand Entry began as dancers made their way single file onto the floor, dancing in the hundreds around the oval. It was a sight to behold; the variations of regalia and vibrant colours were spectacular. After the flag song, the Intertribal Drum Contests began, followed by dance competitions. The Warriors Leadership Group had an amazing time and would love to return next year.



AROUND THE DISTRICT

QUEER OUT HERE CONFERENCE

The Fernie Pride Society (FPS) was pleased to host the Queer Out Here conference from February 9-12th. In collaboration with the FPS, the Fernie Secondary School Rainbow Club hosted a youth-only event on Friday. This event was attended by 100+ youth, support staff, and panellists and was held in the Drama room and Library at FSS. Students from grades 7-9 and 10-12 got to network with other youth and celebrate their identities while participating in the conference events.

Students could watch the movie "Small Town Pride" and listen to a panel of queer-identifying adults answer questions about identity, mental health strategies, safety, and community. The younger group was also pleased to have a presentation from Stace Chomiak, an author and illustrator.

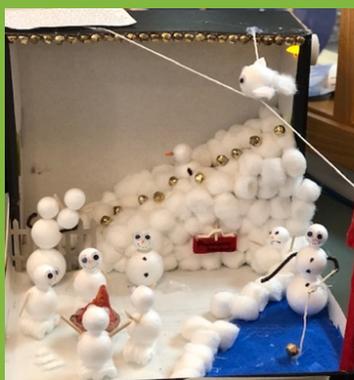
The numbers represented in this event show the resilience of our youth and the need for networking amongst them. We are so pleased by the turnout, the conversations, the allyship, and the community developed over this one-day event.



WINTER CARNIVAL

The Kootenay Orchards Elementary Winter Carnival was held on Friday, February 10th. The grade 5/6 students participated in six different stations around the schoolyard. A few grade 9 students from Parkland Middle School helped to run the following stations;

- Photo booth with Bon Homme
- Sledding
- Snowshoeing/Smooch boards
- Face painting
- Maple snow cones
- Carnival displays by students in the library



SKILLS BC REGIONAL COMPETITION

The College of the Rockies partnered with Mount Baker Secondary School and Fabrite to host a SkillsBC East Kootenay Competition on February 24, 2023.

Six College students in the Welding Program and six Mount Baker Secondary students competed in separate categories using Fabrite's facility. There was a large welding project and a written test. Fabrite, in its generosity, provided the challenge, the steel, the judges and a pizza lunch for the competitors.

The medal winners, from gold to bronze, were the following:

- Secondary students: Cole Haslam, Connor Ferrier, Kellan Statham
- Post-secondary students: Sean Henwood, Joshua Graham, Dylan Campen

The Carpentry and Cabinetmaking competitions were all-day construction projects held in the COTR Carpentry shop. The medal winners were as follows:

- Carpentry: Aidan McCormack, Courtney Hanson
- Cabinetmaking: Owen Graham, Raife Dunwell, Alyssa Davis.

At Mount Baker Secondary, the medal winners in Film Production were:

- Libby Reimer/Grace Waldron (gold)
- Joyce Calder/Darby Adams (silver)



*Thank
you!*

**COLE KOZINUK AND HIS
FABRITE CREW, MARK
KNUDGAARD AND KRISTER
LEIMAN OF COTR, PAUL
DUCZEK, MARY HAMILTON,
AND BRIAN CONRAD OF
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5.**



BARBIE BUNGEE

Students in Mr. Flegel's Grade 2/3 class from Kootenay Orchards Elementary gave some Barbie and Ken dolls an extreme sports extravaganza. They were challenged to create a bungee system that would allow their doll to feel the rush of getting close to the ground but safe enough that they wouldn't get hurt. Once they completed the first challenge, they created a zipline system for their doll. The extreme endeavours were captured on film using the Design Lab green screen.

THE WATER CYCLE AND MOVIE MAKING

Students from Ms. Lennox's and Ms. Sutherland's Grade 2 classes at École Isabella Dicken created stop-motion movies describing the water cycle. Over a couple of class sessions, students created props and sets for their movies. They filmed their final product on the last day using stop-motion animation. Students and teachers were very proud of their work!

WILD ANIMALS AT THE LAB

Students from Mme Stasiuk's Grade 2/3 class from TM Roberts Elementary created a zoo using different Lego sets. Students created custom animals that could react differently when they showed them different coloured objects using a colour sensor. Then they had to design a zoo environment for the animals and a viewing gondola for the little Lego people. Mrs. Meier's Grade 2/3 class did a similar project where they created animals from scratch after brainstorming different characteristics of animals and how they adapt to different environments.



COMMUNITIES AND CODING

Students from Mrs. Fraser's Kindergarten class at EIDES visited the Design Lab and learned about communities and coding using the Lego Coding Express kits. Students laid out train track pieces, built different buildings, and even included an airport for their community. They learned how to control the train by laying different coloured plates at various places on the train track. They also watched a short video about a boy riding the shinkansen (bullet train) in Japan.

