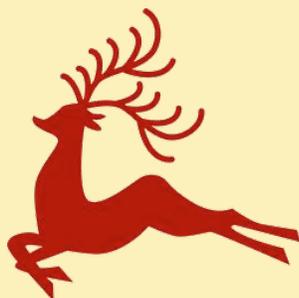


SOUTHEAST KOOTENAY PATHWAYS TO LEARNING



Ms. Murray's Grade 2 class at EIDES



December, 2019





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

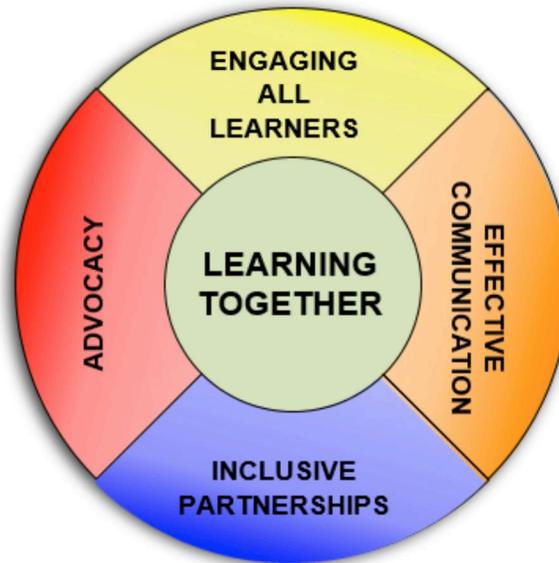
Goal: To inspire all learning partners to create and contribute to an engaging, personalized educational experience for our learners.

- 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

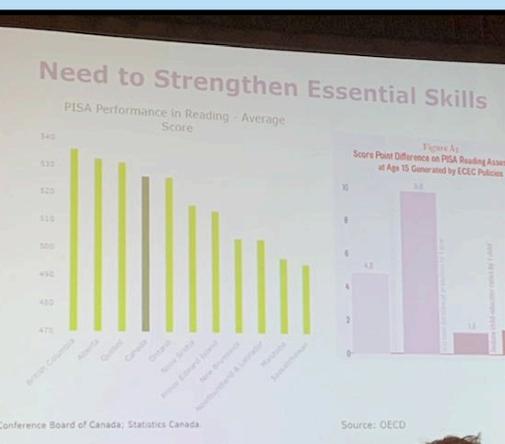
Goal: Cultivate opportunities for shared community awareness, engagement and resources to enhance student learning.

- 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

Out and About

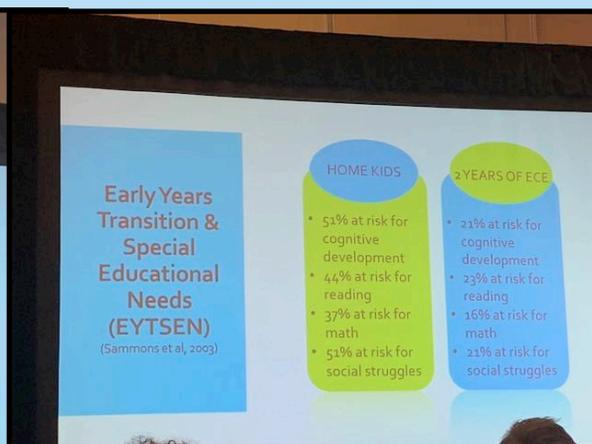


Thank you to all the schools for organizing very memorable Remembrance Day assemblies. District staff were very impressed with each one that they attended. I attended Sparwood Secondary Remembrance assembly where both Sparwood Secondary and Frank J. Mitchell Elementary students came together. You could have heard a pin drop during the assembly, the students were very respectful and engaged in the presentations that were organized. Trustee Bev Bellina was also in attendance.



ECE Prepares Children For Life

- Education is the great enabler. Weak educational outcomes especially prevalent for children from disadvantaged families.
- Children attending ECE programs develop stronger essential skills (e.g. literacy/numeracy). Also develop better self regulation and personal interaction skills.
- More likely to complete high school, which greatly lowers unemployment rates and raises income prospects. More likely to attend college or university.
- Empirical analysis reveals that children who attend ECE programs are more productive and have higher incomes later in life compared with children who don't attend.



November was a very busy time for district staff as the Ministry of Education requires superintendents and district staff to attend a variety of learning sessions. November 8th Secretary Treasurer Alan Rice and I, along with teacher Carol Johns, attended the Early Years Summit. The Minister of Education Rob Fleming shared important information that many Canadians have inadequate literacy skills for the high skilled positions that are available. While British Columbia does have the highest PISA performance score in reading, we still have work to do. We also learned that Early Childhood Education (ECE) prepares our children for life. There is a new Early Years Framework that has come out that we will be implementing and supporting our early years teachers in the coming years.

[https://www.sd5.bc.ca/learning/EarlyLearning/Pages/default.aspx?login=-259506733#/=](https://www.sd5.bc.ca/learning/EarlyLearning/Pages/default.aspx?login=-259506733#/)

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Out and About

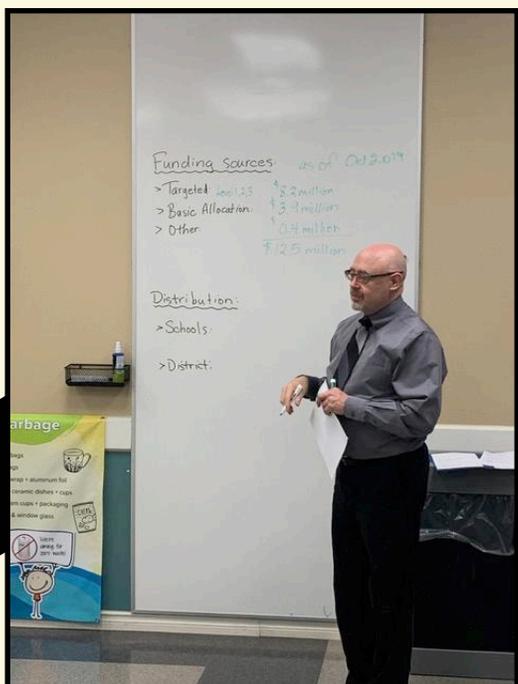


At the same time that Alan and I were at the Early Years Conference, Director of Instruction for Human Resource Brent Reimer and Trustee Krista Damstrom were at the BCPSEA special meeting in Vancouver.

I was invited to the Highland's Elementary School PAC meeting where I participated in a very well run PAC meeting with many enthusiastic, committed parents and staff. Here is a picture of a wonderful gingerbread display created by students in a primary classroom.



We had our first Inclusive Education working group session where we had parents, CUPE, teachers, special education teachers, principals and district staff who came together to look at our model of supporting our vulnerable learners. Each group who attended will be sharing out the minutes and information of their different groups. District Principal Darcy Verbeurgt leading us through the funding sources.



I headed to Vancouver to learn with other new superintendents as well as participate in two days of learning with teachers and leaders from around the province. One of the presentations was on Listening and Leading for Equity. Shane Safir who wrote the book "The Listening Leader" shared a powerful video that is worth a watch called "The Danger of a Single Story." Her message is that every person has their own story, and not a single narrative.

https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_ngozi_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story



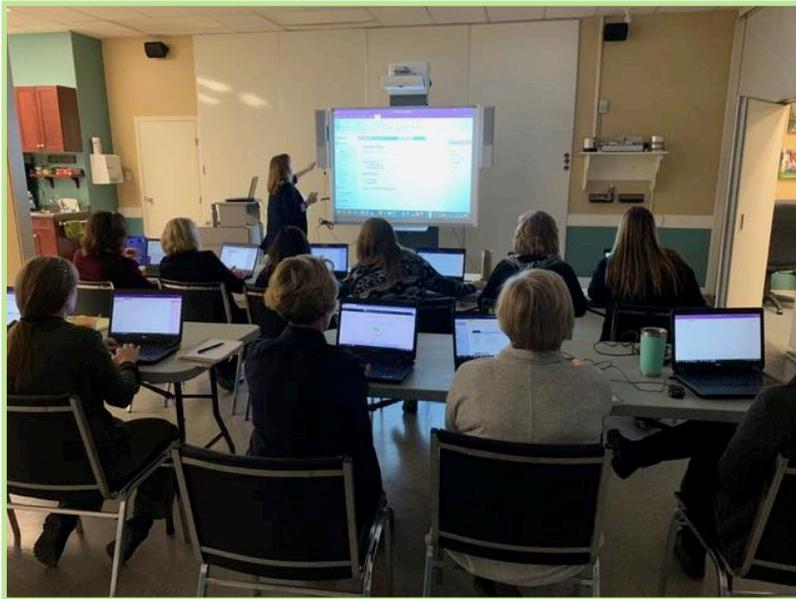
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Out and About



At our board committee meetings we had 4th year nursing students share their research on the “Benefits to Engagement in Place-based Education” which was very well received.

JoAnne Lees held a learning session for board office staff on how to use One Note which was very appreciated by all who attended.



We have also been meeting with a group of principals and vice principals who are planning professional learning session for after Christmas on a variety of topic areas to support their practice. All of the principals and vice principals have shared their personal professional growth plans with district staff in the last week and we will be visiting schools and meeting with the principals and vice principals to support them with their professional learning goals. Check out the matching shirts of some of our principals and vice principals!

The trustees, Alan and I just got back from the annual Trustee Academy. We had a great few days of learning together with Trustee Patricia Whalen, Trustee Krista Damstrom and Trustee Trina Ayling.



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Out and About



Christmas decorating was fun!! Board office staff came together to decorate for Christmas! Many hands made light work and we were finished quickly as people were looking forward to sharing food and visiting together.



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Out and About



I also enjoyed watching the grade 7, 8 and 9 band from Laurie Middle School perform. The students were really enjoying themselves.



Enjoy the busy days before the holidays with your students, staff and each other. These are magical times for our students with Christmas concerts, performances and the bustle of the preholiday busyness. Remember to take time for yourself to recharge and take time to enjoy the simple things in life.

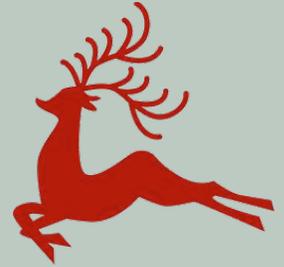
All the best for the New Year!

**Silke Yardley
Superintendent**



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ENGAGING ALL LEARNERS



Professional Development

On Friday, December 6, there was a professional development opportunity for Education Assistants and Youth Care Workers in Fernie and in Cranbrook. There was a keynote speaker at each location and break out sessions in the afternoon.

On Thursday, December 5, Student Services teachers met at Jaffray School for a workshop entitled, "What Does Current Research Say about FASD". Topics of this session will include:

- What is FASD from a brain based perspective
- Diagnosis and Designation
- Supporting and Strategies (the 8 Keys and Get Ready, Do Done)

PE 8 and 9 Wilderness Unit with Mr. Gulyas The wilderness unit began in the classroom, with students researching the nutrition needed for long local adventures. They also researched appropriate clothing, and basic survival practices. Kori Vernier, a local professional forester joined the class outside and shared information about careers in the forest industry and other forestry related topics. Students asked questions and discussed their observations while being out in the environment.



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ENGAGING ALL LEARNERS

In November, students in Madame Wolchuk's grade 8 French class at Elkford Secondary became "French travel agents". Madame Wolchuk created a project where students collaborated and chose a French speaking country and researched a popular tourist spot. Using tools from Google Maps/Earth, students wrote out the directions in French to get from the airport to the desired location. They wrote a simple script and then were filmed in front of green screen with the chosen location as the background image. Students will continue to work on this project with the creation of a tourist brochure. As a culmination to the project, each student will then get to "visit" the location using the Wander app on the Oculus Quest headset. By the end of the project, students will have "travelled" to Paris, Nice, Montreal, Quebec City, Tahiti, and even Madagascar!



Students in Mrs. King's Environmental Science 11 at Elkford Secondary have been studying various ecosystems. As part of a larger project, they used the Oculus Quest VR to "experience" their chosen place. One group studying Chernobyl were able to "tour" the site safely. The group stated that after "touring" Chernobyl, it made them more curious about what happened there and they would like to visit it in person. Other groups toured a rainforest, a desert and other diverse ecosystems.

Physical Literacy for Math Workshop:

Bring Movement into your Classroom while teaching Math-

Physical Literacy in the classroom introduces students to an interactive and exploratory style of learning. Applying the whole body and mind to explore math concepts is a creative and healthy approach to learning.

1. Intro to Physical Literacy in K-4 - Sandi
2. How can PL be incorporated into a primary classroom, specifically in Math? -Candis
3. Intro to Movement in the Classroom Kit -Sandi & Candis
 - Using and Agility Ladder with "Power of 10" Resources
 - Using Foam Dice
 - Using Uno Cards
 - Using Task Cards



There will be a draw and 9 lucky participants are going to leave with a Movement in Math kit worth over \$130!

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EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

Technology

The Technology Department, as well as the Teachers of Transformative Learning team, have been investigating applications for teachers, schools and the district to better communicate and notify our parents. As we no longer have the ability to use Bloomz, Remind or Sangha, the department is searching for an application that will provide functionality as well as convenience and ease of use. We are currently looking at Kaizala which is an Office 365 platform and School Messenger. Our research has shown that School Messenger has excellent functionality and ease of use as well as the Safe Arrival attendance feature. Stay tuned!!!



District Professional Development Day Survey - September 20, 2019

The theme of our District day on September 20, 2019 was "the Classroom as a Vehicle to Reconciliation". As a follow-up, we designed a survey to get feedback not only on the day, but also to advise our planning for days in the future. This day, which is embedded in the BC Tripartite Agreement between the Province, the Federal gov't and FNECS, was an incredibly valuable opportunity to help us on our journey to Reconciliation.

We had 97 staff members complete the survey. Different parts of the day across our two sites were viewed as positives. In general, a summary is included of staff perceptions of the day:

3. The Theme of the day was "Our Classrooms as Vehicles to Reconciliation". How well did the agenda match the intended theme?

- Completely 20
- Mostly 30
- Somewhat 28
- Not as well as intended 18



4. How well did the event set up and physical space match the intended theme?

- Completely 44
- Mostly 35
- Somewhat 10
- Not as well as intended 7



5. How well did the keynote speakers match the intended theme?

- Completely 28
- Mostly 27
- Somewhat 28
- Not as well as intended 13



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INCLUSIVE PARTNERSHIPS

On December 4, 2019 our HR Coordinator visited the KES office on Baker Street in Cranbrook to meet with prospective employees, 18-24 year olds that participated in an employment workshop hosted by the LEAD Program Facilitator. We will be promoting opportunities in custodial, educational assistants, secretarial, Aboriginal Education and youth care worker vacancies.

The HR Coordinator will be travelling to Elkford on December 5 to meet with residents of Elkford and Sparwood to showcase the many employment opportunities that are available within the School District. All residents and anyone interested in pursuing opportunities with SD5 were encouraged to stop by the Elkford Public Library between 10:00 and 1:00 to meet with our HR department and drop off a resume.

Schools in the Elk Valley have been provided with a colourful advertisement to be included in the latest newsletter with the opportunities that are available for them at SD5.

ERAC ITK12 Conference November 14-15, 2019

Jennifer Roberts, the SD5 Technology Department and the teachers of Transformative Learning attended the ERAC IT4K12 Conference. This is a unique conference as it has an educational technology strand as well as an IT strand for K-12 education. The goal of this event was to provide a platform to network, collaborate and share ideas with colleagues from around the province. Kim Froehler and Ryan McKenzie presented a session on Micro:bits, while Jennifer Roberts gave a presentation on Developing Your Toolkit for Consent. Ken Miller was part of a panel discussion for end point and security scanning.

Local Education Agreement Meeting

This week saw the start of the Local Education Agreement process between our school district and ʔaqʔam. Provincially, local education agreements are educational agreements between a school district and a local Band. In addition, the need to update LEAs is engrained within the BC Tripartite Agreement. While we do have an existing Local Education Agreement, it is a dated document and doesn't accurately reflect the current positive working relationship between band and district.

We have had a series of LEA meetings and discussions over the past few years and we look forward to reconvening our teams to keep these important conversations moving forward!

Mandt training continues to be offered throughout the school year. The focus of the Mandt System is on building healthy relationships between all the stakeholders in human service settings in order to facilitate the development of an organizational culture that provides the emotional, psychological, and physical safety needed in order to teach new behaviors to replace the behaviors that are labeled "challenging".

School District 5 continues to welcome new ELL students. English Language Learning teachers, Patricia Michael and Richard Algajer continue to monitor and assess new students entering the district.



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INCLUSIVE PARTNERSHIPS

District Resource Center

School District 5 District Librarian, Maxine Malmberg, invites staff to an upcoming webinar that will give teachers extra tools in the toolbox:

Ebsco - Searching for that perfect magazine article - Thursday December 5, 2019 (4:15-5:15)

Learn to use the Ebsco database to research topics from bugs to robots to manatees. Great for teachers teaching grades 6+. Let me know if you are interested or register here: <https://bcerac.ca/webinars/>

Webinars are hosted by ERAC (Educational Resource Acquisition Consortium). SD5 along with almost all school districts in BC subscribe to BC ERAC. Through our membership we are able to access many digital resources including Canoe Kids and Ebsco at a much lower rate because of the buying power of all of these districts together. There are many resources available to our staff at the District Resource Centre.

Environmental Education

In advance of the winter weather, CBEEN and KBEE have updated their websites with Winter Outdoor Learning Resources. Check it out! We look forward to updating and reporting on activities in School District 5.

CBEEN Wildvoices

TOP 10 COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR TAKING YOUR LEARNING OUTSIDE IN WINTER

- 1 Check out WBEED's 20 ideas to get Outdoors in Winter! Location: <http://bcera.ca>, 20 ideas to get outdoors in winter.
- 2 Check WBEED's Winter Zero! Photo training for your staff through CBEEN has been to support their workshops. <http://bcera.ca> or contact info@bcera.ca
- 3 Check a Winter A&E (Youth) Program with Columbia Outdoor to host A&E programs offered to local Forest Ecology, Wildlife and Biodiversity, Parkland, Play, Recreation, Population Dynamics, Horticulture, Skiing, Snowboarding, Survival and Outdoorsing. <http://columbiaoutdoor.com>
- 4 Check a Wildlight Winter Wander program. It's winter, so discover the area of winter, how plants and animals adapt to it, and why it is so important for our local ecosystems. wildlight.ca or programs@wildlight.ca
- 5 Take part in WBEED's monthly activities, its hiking and outdoor skills training and other skills target wildvoices.com
- 6 Contact with other community organizations in your area that can support your outdoor learning through CBEEN's Community Organization Directory. Select your school (SD5), select "W" and click on "Winter", and post bcera.ca

Logos: HCTF Education, Outdoor BC, Wildlight, KBEE, cbeen.org, Kbees.ca/mrta

KBEE Winter

Wild Voices for Kids
Connecting classrooms to communities!
Winter Programs!

For every paid program you book, receive \$25 off an additional paid program for this school year!

- Animal Speak/Les Pistes D'Animaux**
 - full day field study (\$350)
 - intermediate-middle/SD8, 10, 20
- Animal Survival Instincts**
 - half or full day field study (\$250/\$350)
 - intermediate-high school/SD5, 6
- Avalanche Skills**
 - in class (~1 hr) (\$150), half or full day field study (\$250/\$350)
 - primary-middle/SD5, 6, 8, 10, 19, 20
- Essential Survival Skills/La Survie Sauvage**
 - half or full day field study (\$250/\$350)
 - middle/SD8, 10, 20
- True Survival Experts: Animals in Winter**
 - half or full day field study (\$250/\$350)
 - primary-middle/SD8, 10, 20
- Tracking and the Art of Seeing**
 - outdoors (~1.5 hrs) (\$150)
 - primary/SD5
- Winter Safety and Survival Skills**
 - half or full day field study (\$250/\$350)
 - primary-high school/SD8, 10, 20

cbeen.ca/wildvoices-programs/

Wildvoices is a program of the Columbia Basin Environmental Education Network (CBEEN)

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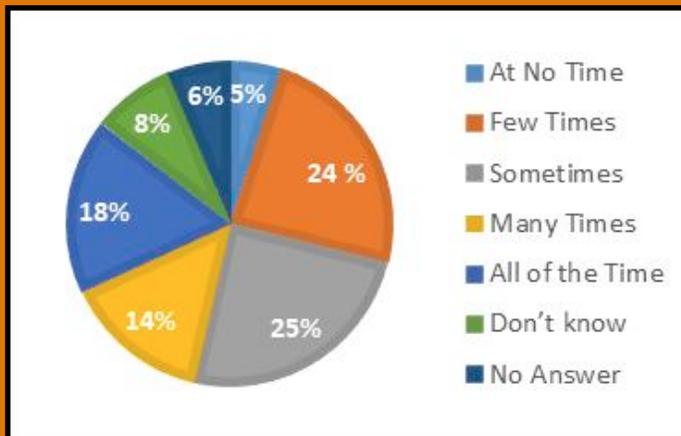
INCLUSIVE PARTNERSHIPS

Place-Based Learning - Two nursing students from the COTR / U of Vic program have just completed their Nursing 431, Engaging in Leadership, field guide practicum with Jennifer Roberts. Tina and Kyla looked at the benefits and barriers of place-based learning specific to SD5. During their practicum placement they observed place-based learning in a number of classes at a variety of schools throughout our district. They also looked at data provided to them from our student satisfaction survey and take me outside for learning participation. As part of their final project they presented their research, completed a literature review and created a pamphlet on place based learning for our district.

Research from SD5 Student Satisfaction Survey

I go outside regularly for learning as part of my school day

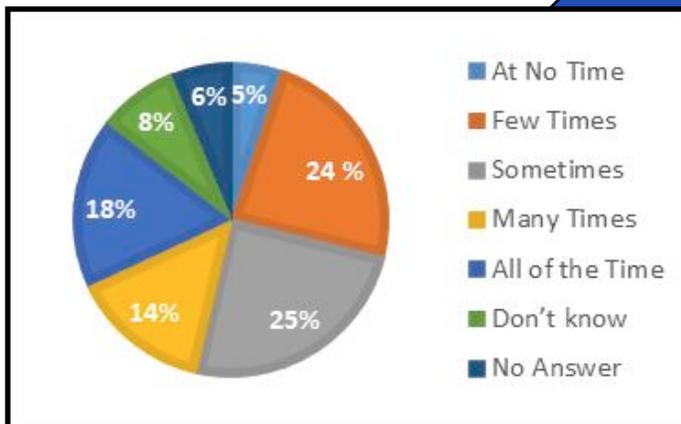
Grade 4



Barriers:

- Funding
- Time
- Location
- Transportation

Grade 10



Themes:

- Critical Analysis
- Citizenship
- Connected/interconnectedness
- Engagement and Academia

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INCLUSIVE PARTNERSHIPS

The following Professional Development opportunities were made available for staff on Dec 6th.

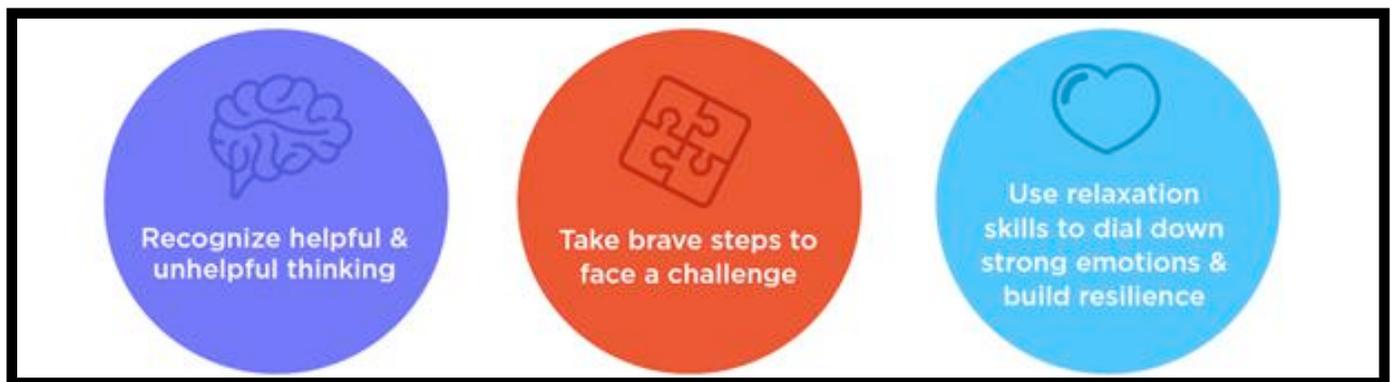


EASE is not a program, rather a collection of evidence-informed anxiety management and resilience-building classroom strategies for use with students in grades K-7. These stand-alone activities align with B.C. curriculum and are designed to benefit all children by fitting into existing classroom routines and practices. EASE anxiety literacy workshops and classroom strategies were co-created by the Ministry of Children and Family Development and Anxiety Canada - and with a lot of help from educators!

You are invited to attend an EASE Workshop!

Join us for a day of hands on learning and discussion to:

- Learn about anxiety and how it presents at school
- Discover ways to integrate anxiety prevention tools into regular classroom routines
- Get hands-on strategies to help students:



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INCLUSIVE PARTNERSHIPS



British Columbia Primary Teachers' Association
of the British Columbia Teachers' Federation

Create

Play

Imagine

Wonder

Explore



The Cranbrook Primary Teachers' Association offered a morning of Professional Development with Maureen Dockendorf. Through her work as an Early Learning Consultant for the Ministry of Education, she is leading the [Changing Results for Young Children](#) initiative and supporting the implementation of BC's Early Learning Framework. Maureen has always been a strong advocate for developmentally appropriate practice and brings with her a wealth of experience and expertise. We are fortunate to have her working on our behalf provincially!

The workshop focussed on [BC's Early Learning Framework](#), supporting rich early learning experiences for children, and [Play Today](#), a handbook of high quality play based learning experiences. All attendees will receive complimentary copies of both documents.

Social Emotional Learning Centre update

Eight students started at the Social Emotional Learning Centre on December 2, 2019. The students are mostly in Grade 3 and from TM Roberts, Highlands and Steeples Elementary Schools.

An in-service was provided for the classroom teachers that have students attending the afternoon program. This was lead by Behaviour Specialist teacher, Megan Stasiuk.

The first cohort of students will attend the Social Emotional Learning Centre until spring break. Following this, there is a possibility of a mini program in the spring.



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MINISTRY OF EDUCATION UPDATE

Provincial Graduation Assessments

<http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/bulletin/20191018/assessment-handout.pdf>



New Vaping Regulations to protect youth

Student Mental Health

A \$2-million province-wide investment in school-based student mental health will help ensure kids can access support when they need it and that they feel safe and connected at school. [Read more.](#)



2019/20 Provincial Scholarships Program: Applications are being accepted until February 28, 2020 for the [BC Excellence](#) and the [Pathway to Teacher Education](#) Scholarships. For additional scholarships information see [Updates to the Provincial Scholarships Program.](#)

Child Care in B.C. Survey

Complete the survey: <https://feedback.engage.gov.bc.ca/678234?lang=en>

2019 Premier's Awards: Ministry staff and several key partners attended the 15th Annual Premier's Awards on Nov. 26, where B.C.'s K-12 Curriculum Transformation was honoured as a provincial finalist for the Innovation award. This award recognizes groups, teams or organizations within the BC Public Service that have developed and transformed new ideas into tangible initiatives, programs or projects. [Watch the Premier's Awards video for the K-12 Curriculum Transformation.](#)

SCHOOL-POLICE PARTNERSHIPS - [Student safety increased through school-police partnerships](#)



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COMMUNITY

After learning all about water, I read to our class a book called "The Water Walker," by Joanne Robertson. This book tells the determined story of an Ojibwe grandmother (nokomis), Josephine Mandamin, and her great love for nibi (water). Nokomis walks to raise awareness of our need to protect nibi for future generations and for all life on the planet.

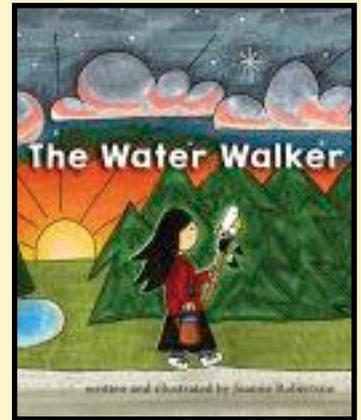
https://books.google.ca/books/about/The_Water_Walker.html?id=GN-wAQAAACAAJ&source=kp_cover&redir_esc=y

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g7f3w41PqZc>

After we found out that Josephine Mandamin is a real person, we were inspired by a group of Ontario students who decided to keep up Josephine's mission to protect our water. Our class formed a club called "The Junior Water Walkers" and our mission is to protect our local waterways by picking up garbage. See video for further info:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g7f3w41PqZc>

On Friday of last week, Madame Murray's class filled 2 extra large garbage bags with trash and we filled a blue recycle bag with recyclable plastics. It was super fun afternoon and we all felt empowered and proud of our actions.



Community Connections Early Year's Drop in program

Play and Learn Program
Free family drop-in for families with children 0-6

Tuesday 11am-2pm
Pacioli Hoopack
629 6th St NW Cranbrook, BC
(access through top level)

Wednesday 10am-12pm
Pinewood Elementary School Gym
40 Pinewood Ave

Thursday 1pm-3pm
Kootenay Child Development Centre
(lower level)
16 - 12th Ave N
(Access from Saffway)

Snack Provided. Transportation subsidies available.

Contact:
Gina 250-426-2542
Ekins1@ccconnections.com

Funded by the Province of British Columbia

KTUNAXA NATION
We acknowledge that we are on Ktunaxa Territory, the territory of the Ktunaxa people.

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SCHOOLS

A little taste of Christmas from the MBSS recording studio.



Principal Bill Johnson of Highlands Elementary School got to wear a duct tape outfit for a day after the students raised \$1079 for the Terry Fox Foundation.



TM Roberts Teacher Librarian Mrs. Mayer is counting down the days until Christmas by revealing a book a day. Students (and staff) can't wait to see what books will be unwrapped!

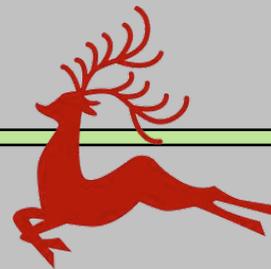


Last year MBSS partnered with Columbia Outdoor School's Joseph Creek restoration project where students went out to Idlewild Park and planted trees.



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SCHOOLS



Elkford Secondary School Gym Grand Opening



Poppy Art from Ms Spergel's Kindergarten class at Isabella Dicken Elementary School



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