Sparwood Secondary School
Newsletter
www.sd5.bc.ca/school/sss
NOVEMBER 2022

A Message from the Principal

Sometimes elective courses do not get the credit they deserve. In today's world, workers need technical skills, but more and more they need soft skills.

Soft skills are the things people do that make them great employees outside of the technical skills that are needed for the job. Examples of soft skills in demand in 2022: creative problem solving, communication, time management, growth mindset (think how quickly things are changing), emotional intelligence (the ability to perceive, evaluate, and respond to your emotions and the emotions of others), collaboration, adaptability, active listening, and leadership.

Electives really allow kids to practice and master these soft skills. Creativity in Art, problem-solving and time management in Foods, emotional intelligence and collaboration in Physical Education, collaboration and active listening in Drama, problem-solving and time management in Woods, growth mindset and creativity in Photography and Computers. Really you can take all these soft skills and see how they are practiced in all electives.

Here are a few lines from a newspaper article, Art School Taught Me Everything I Need, Laura Quinn – Globe and Mail, Nov. 3, that support the importance of electives:

"I am not an artist. But everything I need to know in life, I learned at art school. Job interviews? That's nothing compared with learning choreography and then performing it for an audition panel 10 minutes later. Boardroom presentations? Give me more! I channel my most complex Sondheim or Kander and Ebb ballad. Business pivot? Please, ask any novice improv student and they can draft a new plan for you in minutes".

"Time management, collaboration, picking yourself up and trying again and again after rejection – all essential skills learned over rehearsals, productions and the moments that just didn't quite work out. Me trying and failing to get into our school's premiere show choir year after year until I finally made it, was some rock-solid resiliency-building work".

Electives really need more credit; soft skills prepare students to be successful. Electives allow students to collaborate and learn how to work with others. Electives allow students to connect with different perspectives and learn that school and life are bigger than themselves.

Upcoming Events:

December 19 – January 2	Christmas Break
January 3	First Day Back after Christmas Break
January 27	No School – Yellow Day
January 30	Second Semester Starts
February 3	Pro D Day – Green Day
February 17	No School – Yellow Day
February 20	No School - Family Day Blue Day

On Saturday December 10, the Outdoor Education class will be running the concession stand at the Ghostriders Game in Fernie to fundraise for their future trips.

Please come out and show your support!

A Message from the Vice-Principal

It's been great to see the engagement of students at our school through extracurricular opportunities. I have been pleased to see students involved with reading and breakfast clubs at Frank J, as well as involvement in DSAC and volleyball. It was amazing to see our Senior Girls' volleyball team reach provincials, and I am looking forward to seeing how they stack up against the rest of the province.

I am happy to announce that our E-Sports team has taken its first steps, as we have a League of Legends team that has started practicing and will begin competing in February. We will also be starting Super Smash Bros. Melee and NBA2K23 soon. We are the first school in the district to have an E-Sports team, and I am excited to trailblaze this path for other schools, but I am also prepared to experience some bumps in the road along the way.

Over the past month, trends regarding attendance have remained consistent. We continue to see many unexcused lates and absences from our students, especially after the lunch hour. We would like to remind parents and guardians of students to phone in advance of a student being late or absent when the student is excused. Parents and guardians can also use the school messenger app to clear lates and absences. As a reminder, parents and guardians of students who receive a second letter informing them of chronic lates and absences will be asked to come to the school to have a meeting to work towards improving that student's attendance. Students receiving a third letter indicating chronic lates and absences will receive consequences at school.

Safe Arrival

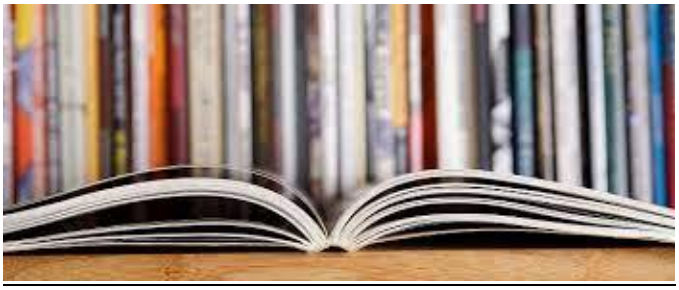
Just a reminder if you haven't done so already sign up for school messenger.

You can find all kinds of info and resources on School Messenger on our District website https://www.sd5.bc.ca/studentparent/SchoolMessenger/Pages/default.aspx#/=

REMEMBER: If you are not receiving e-mail's, please check your junk mail to redirect.
E-mails should come from broadcasts@schoolmessengermail.com

Provincial Assessments

January 23	Literacy 10 @ 8:30 a.m.
January 24	Numeracy 10 @ 8:30 a.m.
January 24	Literacy 12@ 12:30 p.m.
June 19	Literacy 10 @ 8:30 a.m.
June 20	Numeracy 10 @ 8:30 a.m.
June 20	Literacy 12 @ 12:30 p.m.



The guitar and music class would like to thank Julie Vanghel for donating a guitar.

SSS Metis week November 14 to 18, 2022
Led by Grade 12 student Ava Anderson

Each year, on November 16, Métis people across Canada pay tribute to the Right Honorable Louis Riel by holding a commemorative ceremony on the date of his execution. This ceremony symbolizes the commitment Métis people share in striving for and promoting the visions of Louis Riel and is one of the most important dates on the Métis calendar.

In addition to recognizing Louis Riel Day on November 16, with the leadership of Ava Anderson SSS commemorated the week with activities for students to learn and acknowledge Metis People and Louis Riel.

Monday saw SSS holding a flag-raising ceremony with our honored guests – Metis Elk Valley President Jean, Elders Clayton, and Ed, who shared their time and knowledge with us.

Tuesday had Ava visiting Grade 8/9 foods class where she shared her knowledge surrounding Wild Rice and the history. The students all were able to cook and try wild rice this was a new experience for the students.

Wednesday, we shared our time and knowledge with the Elementary School breakfast club. Ava went over to cook wild rice pancakes for breakfast program.

Thursday with the guidance and support of SSS Indigenous Education Worker Natasha Gamache, the entire school was able to have midmorning snack of Bannock a traditional Metis dish.

SSS ending the week by having a school Kahoot! This game tested everyone Metis knowledge and had 3 winners – Grade 12, Grade 10, & Grade 8

PAC

PAC meeting was held on November 16 where PAC approved Grad 2022/2023 committee request to use PAC Gaming License for various Grad Fundraising Raffles.

Principal Mr. Kelly attended with an updated principal's report.

If you have any questions or concerns for PAC please email ssspac@hotmail.com

There is still an opening for a treasurer position on PAC, if anyone is interested. Our meetings are the third Wednesday of each month @ 6:00pm in the SSS Library, all parents welcome. ***NO December Meeting***
Next meeting is Wednesday January 18th

Information is also on the PAC FB page, Sparwood Secondary School Parent Advisory Council, or if you wish to attend PAC meetings online, a link for TEAMS will be sent out in advance by principal Mr. Kelly through school messenger.

PAC will be serving Hot Chocolate and a Treat December 1, 2022 from 8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Athletics

Basketball is starting! Please see our Facebook page for practice times and tournament schedules.

But first, let's have a look at our volleyball season:

Bantam Girls

It was so amazing watching this team improve over the season. From serves, to hits, to positioning and teamwork, this team melded at the right time to find success in a lot of games. Being the first-year fans have been allowed to watch the games since before Covid, it was exciting to have the opportunity to host two tournaments at Sparwood Secondary. The girls thrived in front of a home crowd and had some hard-fought battles that the fans really enjoyed. The girls placed second in the Parkland tournament and third in the East Kootenay Championships. It was a real pleasure to coach this group of girls and we can't wait to see what the future holds for them for the next season.

Junior Girls

I want to congratulate all the Jr. Girls on their successful Volleyball season! Each of you played an important role in our wins and I want to thank each of you for always doing your best! I want to thank our team captains Hailey Podrasky and Cayman Bay for leading our team with a positive attitude and a helping hand. Best of luck in the year ahead to all of you and thanks for being such a great team to coach!

Until next time, Coach Becca

Junior Boys

What a season! Came out strong and ended strong.

Thanks for the opportunity to watch you grow as athletes and stay strong volleyball players. Your dedication to this sport and to your team members was remarkable and inspiring. With your continued hard work, we have no doubt that this team will be a force to contend with.

Coach Thurman and Coach Fischer

To stay up to date on games and schedules and other important information with Sparwood Secondary School sports, please follow us on Facebook and like our page.

Senior Boys

Let me start by saying it has been my honour to coach Sr. Boys Volleyball on and off for the past 10years. I've seen lots of kids come and go and some talented players develop. I also want to thank all the volunteers that have helped over the years. With my work schedule without these parents, I wouldn't have been able to continue.

We started off the season not knowing what we had in store. Only 2 Sr boys were returning so I knew we were going to have a very young team. We travelled to Creston to our first tournament and took a very respectable 4th. Fired up from this result we went to Kimberley/Sparwood/ and Fernie where they played amazing. We ended up 2nd in all 3 tournaments playing in the championship games.

We travelled to Cranbrook for a AA/AAA tournament. We went 3-0 in round robin but ended up coming up a bit short in our 4th game to Revelstoke. It was a very spirited game and we ended up placing 5th.

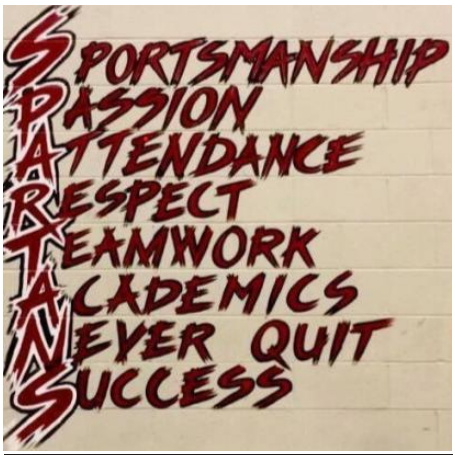
We have a one week break then of to zone finals in Castlegar. Wish us luck everyone.

Coach Walgren

Senior Girls

The senior girls have had an exciting end to their season with an extension into the provincial championships being held in Prince George. Coaches Wagner and Dennehy are extremely proud of their hard work and their dedication to slay on the court. This is the first time the senior girls have won the zone championship in 19 years – a super exciting accomplishment. With only one grade 12, the girls took the tournament with a 5-0 record, beating out Mt. Sentinel for the gold. If you would like to check out some of the games, head to bcagirlsvolleyball2022.ca to stream or follow the SSS Athletics Facebook page for more information.

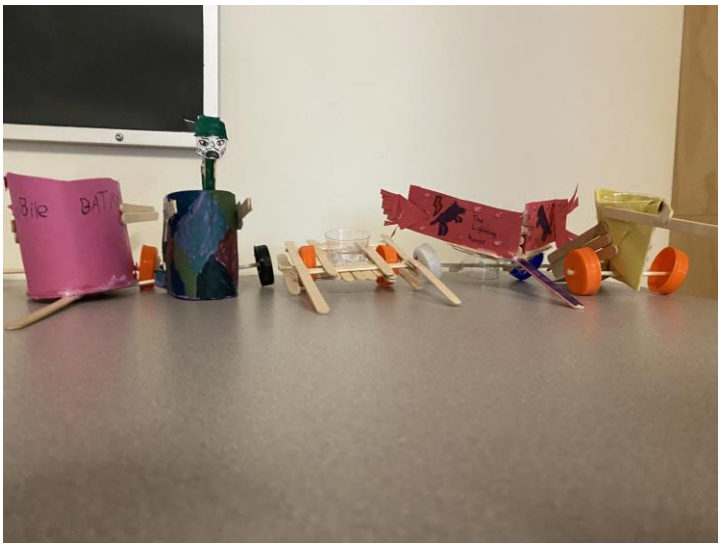
Remember the Core Covenants of our Athletic Program

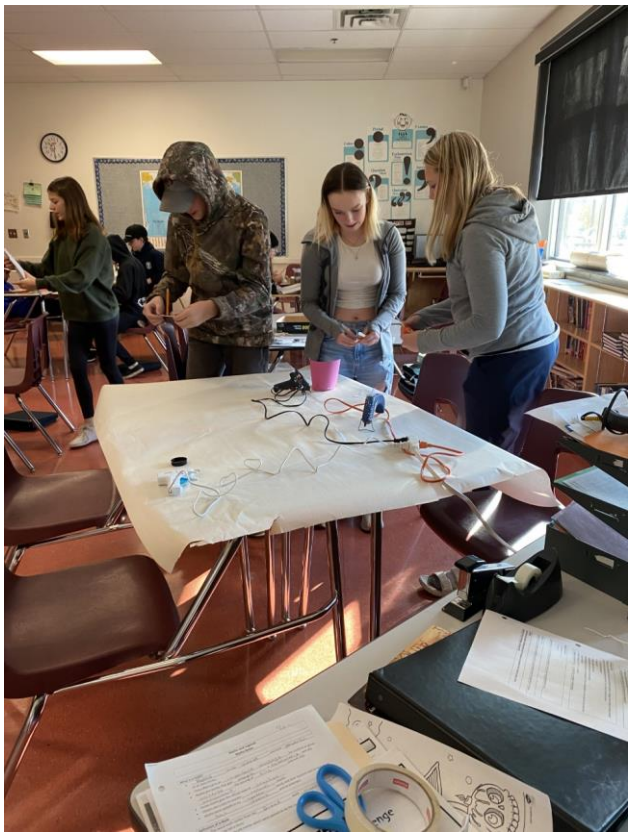


Math & Science Department

Ms. Duffy's grade 9 science classes participated in the Know Your Watershed program with Janelle Park. During this program students learned about where Sparwood's drinking, and household water comes from and how we treat our wastewater. The students also visited Michel Creek and put their junior scientist skills to use! During their time at Michel Creek, they tested the water to see how healthy the creek is and had a close look at all the living things in our water such as macro invertebrates.

Ms. Sopko's Social Studies 8 class studied Ancient Rome recently. The students collaborated to build models of Roman chariots.





Careers Department

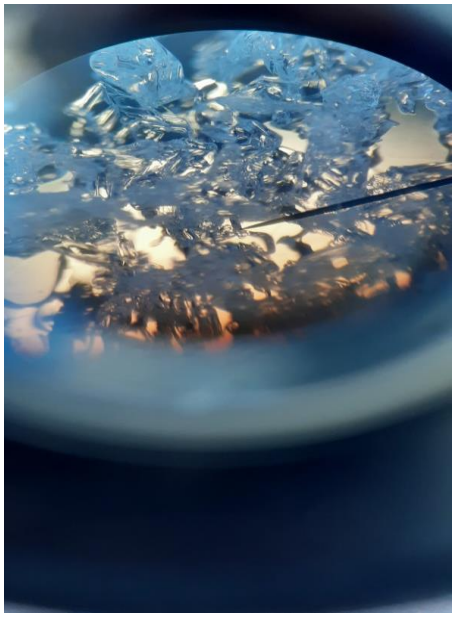
Grade 12 careers should now have submitted their "Capstone Pitch" sheets and be working on their Capstone booklets in preparation of the Dec 9th due date.

All grade 8 and 9 students participated in a financial literacy seminar with speakers from JABC – World of Choice.

Recently grade 7 careers student completed some creative and critical thinking projects where they tackled aqueduct building over the topography of Rome.

On November 8 the Contemporary Indigenous Studies course learned about Indigenous Veterans Day with a visit from Faye and Joan O'Neil.

Science 7



Science 7 explored snowflakes this month. Students carefully observed snow crystals under the microscope and took time to classify them using the 'Magono-Lee' classification system. We could also tell the crystals were formed under dry conditions by the plate and needle-like shapes observed. We look forward to checking in on the snow again when a more humid weather system comes through the valley, when we predict to see more delicate dendrite-like snowflakes.

Woodwork

Austin Roberts and Kayden Hutchinson with Jevin Wolchuk from the District of Sparwood. The DOS has been donating logs from trees that they have to remove for various projects. With donations from the public and from the DOS we have not had to purchase lumber for our program in 2 years.

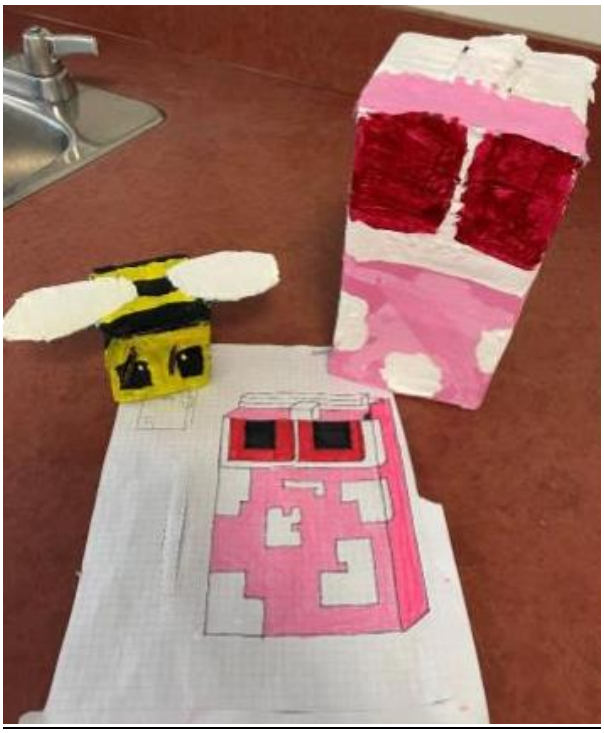
Electives Department

So many cool things are happening in our electives department! Here are a few of them:

Art Class

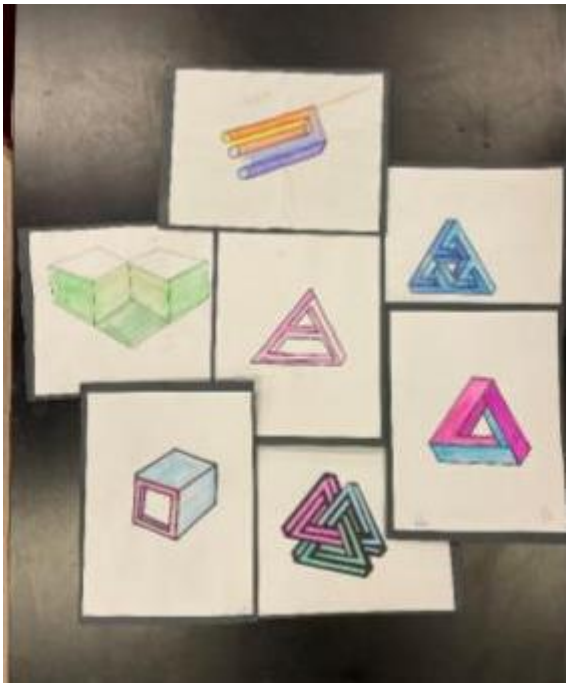
Grade 7 created art inspired by Wassily Kandinsky

Grade 7s are learning how to draw in 3-D and then build their Minecraft characters:



Mrs. Lowe will be showcasing students' hunting/fishing pictures. If you have a good one from this season, please send it to penny.lowe@sd5.bc.ca (pics without guns please).

Grade 9 looked at creating illusion shapes with watercolor:



The Grade 9s developed their mixed media techniques and learned how to stencil.

Senior artwork inspired by the Bump festival in Calgary: