

SOUTHEAST KOOTENAY

School District 5 Superintendent's News

September, 2017

*Welcome Back to the 2017/2018
School Year!*



Superintendent's Activities

Welcome to the 2017 – 2018 school year!!! As I get older the years seem to be flying by at a faster and faster rate – I would bet I am not alone in that sentiment.

This year will be a particularly exciting time for us as we open our schools with more teachers and some extra classes as a result of the Supreme Court decision about class size and composition. Consequently, we were able to add in an additional 23 FTE (full time equivalent) teachers in a variety of areas. We were fortunate to be able to start our posting and filling process early last spring so were able to fill most of the positions. But, as it happens every year, we had a few summer retirements, resignations and leave requests that have resulted in some last minute openings that impacted positions into September. This continues to keep our HR department very busy as they work to ensure final placements for both teaching and support staff personnel.

Our maintenance department, under the able eye of Joe Tank, managed to create

classroom spaces where needed and office space for displaced itinerant or school-based staff across the district. That meant for a particularly busy summer on top of all the other regularly scheduled projects. A huge thank you to all of them.

However, not even the most careful planning can ensure smooth sailing. Our three extra portables (two for Isabella Dicken Elementary School in Fernie and one for Highlands Elementary School in Cranbrook) were ordered in the early spring to be delivered and installed in July. That date was postponed by the company until late August and then the week before delivery, they informed us again that they were unable to meet the deadlines until later in September. They cited the huge demand of portables from across the districts (particularly the larger districts) and then the lack of transportation and crews for the set-up. We immediately worked with the affected schools to create some temporary alternate plans for the classes. Thank you to the flexibility of our

teachers and administrators to find ways to make this issue that was beyond our control, work for our students.

Meanwhile, we will continue the exciting work on implementing the renewed curriculum from K – 9 and the Graduation Years Curriculum from Grades 10 – 12. Stay tuned for more updates and showcases of the excellent work that is happening.

But throughout the changes, one thing remains constant in all of our schools – we continue to make sure our schools are safe, welcoming and caring spaces where every student's (no matter their age) gifts and passions are nurtured and encouraged. Every student needs an opportunity to shine and our schools will make this their priority.

New Teacher and Teachers-Teaching-On-Call Orientation Day

Once again we offered, along with our CFTA Co-Presidents, a full day of activities, training, and information with our new employees. It was a very full day with information about the goals of the recently signed Third Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement; the BC Curriculum and Competencies and our local supports; Health and Safety Requirements; Human Resources information and training; Professional Development opportunities; policy information; Expectations for the Teacher and the TTOC; the Role of the CFTA; Learning Services info; Literacy Supports and Resources and finally, the day concluded with a tour of the District Re-source Centre. A busy day indeed!



P/VP Meetings

On August 23 and 24th, we met with the Principals and Vice-Principals and the District Management Team. This year we have a large number of new administrators. Joe Pierre started off our day with a traditional Ktunaxa blessing and reinforced for us the importance of the work we are doing to ensure Aboriginal Ways of Learning and Understanding are at the heart of the work we are doing with our renewed curriculum. As always, information necessary for a successful school start was a large part of the agenda including the latest information from the new Minister of Education Rob Fleming and Deputy Minister Scott Macdonald. Thursday was devoted to walking through the process and then building criteria for the Performance Evaluation cycle. We also welcomed our new administrators: Lois Ehman, Thomas Skelton, Janet Kuijt, Kate Russell, Maggie Lindsay-Tadey, Pam Drydale, Chris Catherall and Judi Poole.

Pro-D for New Administrators

Once again the district was able to support sending a number of new administrators to the BCPVPA sponsored, week-long Short Course held every summer at UBC. This year Maggie Lindsay-Tadey and Kate Russell attended Short Course. Thank you to our Board for continuing to support this very valuable in-service for our administrators.



District Professional Development Day - September 22

We are very pleased to announce that our first Curriculum Non-Instructional Day on September 22nd will feature renowned speaker Stan Kozak. His keynote session entitled "Opportunities and Challenges of Transformative Learning" will look at providing tools that will help our educators differentiate between conventional teaching and transformative learning and when to apply each. He will also weave in a strong focus on integrating Aboriginal Perspective as well as Place-Conscious Learning. We will be using the same format as last year presenting first in the Elk Valley at Fernie Secondary School and in the afternoon for Cranbrook at Parkland Middle School. The rest of the day will be for staffs to connect on their ongoing curriculum work.



Telus Backpacks - Kits for Kids

Telus Ambassadors, once again, have provided School District 5 with well over 300 backpacks filled with supplies for students at all of our schools! Thank you for your generosity!



Terry Fox Foundation

We recently received a letter from the Terry Fox Foundation thanking our district for the incredible effort and dedication that we have shown in raising funds through the annual Terry Fox Run every September. They recognize that the decision to host a Terry Fox Run is at the discretion of each school but they hope we continue to encourage all schools to participate. A summary report was also included showing that last year our schools donated a whopping **\$16,450.44** and a total fundraising to date of **\$262,375.27!** Wow. It is our hope that our schools will continue supporting this very worthwhile cause begun by a Canadian Hero. This year, Terry Fox Day is being celebrated on Sunday, September 17, 2017.



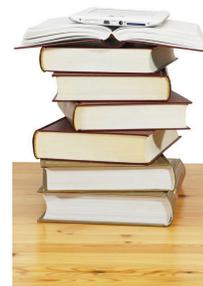
Education Update

Ministry of Education



BC Curriculum Comparison Guide The Ministry is pleased to provide the final [BC Curriculum Comparison Guide](#), available in four booklets, which compares the old curriculum to the new drafts.

- Math and Science (revised)
- Arts Education and Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies (new)
- Career Education, Physical Health Education, and Second Languages (new)
- Core French, English Language Arts, Français langue première, Français langue seconde - immersion, and Social Studies



The [BC Curriculum Comparison Guide](#) provides the directions and decisions on the set of courses within each subject area in Grades 10-12. The guide is intended to support school counsellors, school administrators, educators and district staff as the Ministry prepares to implement the new curriculum. The guide is also intended to help post-secondary institutions understand the changes to curriculum.

Changes to Adult Basic Education Programs

As announced on August 8, 2017 by Premier Horgan, government is eliminating tuition fees on Adult Basic Education (ABE) and English Language Learning (ELL).

This announcement reflects the restoration of policy that was in effect prior to May 2015, that allowed for all adult learners, both graduated and non-graduated, to access tuition-free ABE.

The new policy takes effect September 1, 2017 and applies to both the K-12 and post-secondary systems, in order to provide the greatest amount of access and individual choice.

The restoration of ABE provides opportunities for all British Columbians looking to upgrade their skills, transition into post-secondary, and prosper in the workforce.

Education by the numbers --The following facts provide a snapshot of British Columbia's education system. Check it out below:

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2017EDUC0095-001489>.

NEWS FROM SCHOOLS

The following students took home the Southeast Kootenay SD5 2016/2017 Top Student Awards:

Elkford Secondary School – **Dana Barclay**

Sparwood Secondary School – **Nikita Paskiewich**

Fernie Secondary School – **Fynley Kuijt**

Mt. Baker Secondary – **Daniel Denegri**

Congratulations to all students and good luck in your future endeavors!!



Yvonne Prest, Teacher from Sparwood Secondary School will participate in the twentieth British Columbia Teachers' Institute on Parliamentary Democracy in Victoria from October 17-21, 2017! Thanks Yvonne for promoting an awareness of the Legislature and its relevance in the lives of our students!!



Two Isabella Dicken Elementary students have won the Rick Hansen 2017 Provincial Student Difference Maker Award for their efforts organizing and fund raising for two 'Buddy Benches' that were placed on the school's **playground** last fall. **Helen Lazar** and Avery **Sikkes** were presented the award by SD5 Superintendent Lynn Hauptman and IDES Principal Dawn Voysey at a recent awards ceremony.



A total of 74 International Students will be attending Southeast Kootenay schools for the 2017/2018 school year as follows:

Mount Baker Secondary School - 44

Parkland/Laurie Middle Schools - 10

Fernie Secondary School - 16

Sparwood Secondary School - 4

Welcome to all students!!

Important Dates for Trustees:

KBB AGM September 15-17, 2017

BCPSEA Symposium November 2-3, 2017

Ministry of Ed-BCSTA Partner Liaison Meeting October 25, 2017

Trustee Academy 2017 November 23-25, 2017

BCSTA Board Chairs Meeting October 26, 2017

BCSTA Provincial Council/Committee Meeting October 27-28, 2017

NEWS FROM THE SECRETARY-TREASURER, DIRECTORS, DISTRICT PRINCIPALS

Update from the Secretary-Treasurer:

Completion of the Annual Audit is always the main focus during the summer. This year things went very well and I would like to thank the Accounting staff, especially Darlene Soper and John Paul, for attending to the daily questions and request for documents from the Auditors. The Auditors will be reporting to the Board on September 12th. Classroom renovations, portable additions and equipment orders are a high priority for our Operations department as well as the many summer Maintenance Projects completed by our Maintenance crew, a list of projects is attached to this report.

annual
audit



We continue to implement the purchasing cards to our system slowly to make sure proper accounting rules are followed.

Update from the Director of Student Learning and Aboriginal Education

New Graduation Program

We have shared with our schools new information that we have received on the Graduation program. The new Graduation program will go 'full steam ahead' for implementation next school year. There are some excellent documents the Ministry has made available, such as Curriculum comparison guides and individual Course descriptions, that are enabling the system to move forward in anticipation of implementing these exciting changes.

Aboriginal Education

We have had a very productive start to the school year already! Our Aboriginal Education Coordinator, Joe Pierre, and I were able to present to all Southeast Kootenay new employees the new Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement and give a brief overview of the goals and objectives of the agreement.

As well, Joe and I were able to do a similar presentation to all of our school leaders at the Leadership team meetings. Joe and I will be following up with a meeting of school leaders from each of our schools on the 14th of September to go over the new Agreement in detail.

Update from the Director of Human Resources:

The following principal/vice principal changes have occurred effective August 1, 2017:

Laura-Lee Phillips – Principal @ RMES
Thomas Skelton – Vice-Principal @ RMES
Kate Russell – Vice-Principal @ ESS
Lois Ehman – Principal @ FJMES
Erin Hay – Vice-Principal @ SSS
Carlene Lochrie – Vice-Principal @ JEJSS
Maggie Lindsay-Tadey – Vice-Principal @ LMS
Judi Poole – Principal @ PES
Pamela Drydale – Vice-Principal @ GTES
Jill Carley – Vice-Principal @ AWES
Chris Catherall – Vice-Principal @ HES
Mike Kelly - Vice-Principal @ FSS
Janet Kuijt - Vice-Principal @ IDES

155+ teacher postings have been posted and filled since the first round of postings began in early April. CUPE postings (Education Assistants) continue to be ongoing based on school needs and budget allocations. We will be assessing school needs in the first few days of school to determine the required supports for students.

All elementary EAs within the District have had their day extended 15 minutes as a result of SSEAC (Support Staff Education and Adjustment Committee). The money to support this increase has been provided through the Learning Improvement Fund.

Partnerships with COTR

We have been very pleased to have agreed with the COTR to help fund the Transition Coordinator position for another year. Brian Conrad will continue in this vital role which coordinates Southeast Kootenay students' participation in everything from Project Heavy Duty, to Ace-It, to Student for a Day, to Yes to It, to Trades Sampler courses to enrollment in regular College courses. Great to have Brian back!

Grant for shop equipment

The invoices have started to roll in and we are well on our way to spending over \$100,000 of grant monies. Exciting times!

NEWS FROM THE SECRETARY-TREASURER, DIRECTORS, DISTRICT PRINCIPALS

Update from the Director of Student Learning and Innovation

Early Learning

In addition to supporting the Ready, Set, Learn events in each of our elementary schools, we supported many Early Learning initiatives this year:

- Elk Valley Early Learning Fair and the Magic school bus
- Early Years - K Transition Meetings (Cranbrook and Fernie)
- Collaboration Mtg. with Kindergarten Teachers and Preschool Teachers
- Kindergarten Orientation (TTOC release, supplies and snacks for our elementary schools)
- Fernie Early Years "Hub" development
- Early Years - Kindergarten EDI learning and sharing day
- Mom and Me Program support in the community of Elkford
- Toddler park in Sparwood extension to focus on Physical Literacy
- Satellite "Start Strong" Program in Jaffray
- Field Trip to Fort Steele for StrongStart families
- Equipment/supplies purchased for all four StrongStart Programs
- Development of the AWES StrongStart library

Place-based Education: Making School More Like a Farmer's Market

David Sobel October 26

School Board Office (B1/B2) 4:00 - 6:00 pm



The landscape of schooling has begun to look like the sprawl of America. Generic textbooks designed for the big markets of California and Texas provide the same homogenized, unhealthy diet as all those fast food places on the strip. Educational biodiversity falls prey to the bulldozers of standardization. What is nearby has become parochial and insignificant. Place-based education is a response to the alienation of schools from community, and the decoupling of schools from historic sites, local landscapes, and farms. Instead, we need schools organized around the principles of the farmers' market, drawing on the resources and variety of the local community.

Audience: All Staff K-12 (Limit of 60 seats)

Email Janice Paetz (janice.paetz@sd5.bc.ca) to register. (First come - First served)

Regional Early Learning Committee *Kootenay Boundary*

Early Years to Kindergarten Transition Session

October 27, Creston, BC

10:45 am - 12:00 pm

Audience: Kindergarten Teachers, StrongStart Facilitators & EarlyYearsCommunity (District & Community Team pre-selected)

check out the new Director's News at:

<http://pub.lucidpress.com/DirectorsReport-Sept17/>

NEWS FROM THE SECRETARY-TREASURER, DIRECTORS, DISTRICT PRINCIPALS

Update from the District Principal Transformative Learning:



A big thank you to the technology department for all their hard work over the summer. We appreciate all of our ipads and laptops being re-configured and all the other tasks that were completed to get our district ready for the 2017-18 school year.

Our Helping teachers of Transformative Learning, Ryan and Kim, will continue to support teachers and students throughout our district with Computational Thinking and coding. We have developed a strategic plan to build capacity and reach as many teachers as possible.

HR certainly has been busy hiring staff over the last few months. September will be a busy month for training all the new clerical staff, teachers and administrators on our Student Information System, My Education BC.



In addition to Stan Kozak presenting at our District Wide Professional Development day, he is also providing an Inquiry Workshop on Saturday September 23, 2017.

A one day professional inquiry	Location: Aboriginal Gathering Place COTR Campus
<i>Making Authentic Inquiry Work!</i>	Date and Time: Saturday, September 23, 2017 10 am - 4 pm
Exploring transformative pedagogies	Cost: \$20
	Please bring a bagged lunch.
	Space is Limited! Register by Sept. 15 to: jennifer.roberts@sd5.bc.ca

Update from the District Principal Student Services and Health Promoting Schools:

As occurs most years, we have several new students with diverse learning and support needs arriving at our Southeast Kootenay schools. We have temporarily placed an increased level of support at schools to accommodate for the uncertainty of actual students requiring support. The reconciliation of students needing support and the level of support is a daily ongoing process. We will adjust year-long support staffing as needed. As for district level student support services, we have realized some changes to our staff. We welcome Kerri Barclay as the Vision Resources Teacher, Sarah Pazuik as the Hearing Resource Teacher, and Kristal Bodaly as a new Speech-Language Pathologist for the district. We also welcome Barbara Kaufmann to the new position of Health Promoting Schools Coordinator and Megan Stasuik to the new position of District Behavioral Specialist (working primarily in Steeples Elementary to start out the fall and winter period).

September is Breakfast for Learning month. In each school there is a small group of adults that greet students and provide breakfast for those whom do not have access to food in their own homes or who have missed breakfast that morning. This breakfast initiative and other food programs are supported through Community LINK funding, the Salvation Army, and donations from individuals and community services groups. Some schools also qualify for funding from Breakfast Club of Canada and The Children's Breakfast Club. All together these programs ensure students who need the food are ready for learning each day.

