Lieutenant Governor Visiting Cranbrook Schools and the Regional Science Fair

In 2017 Canadians will join together in celebration of the 150th anniversary of Canada’s Confederation. To mark this occasion, the Honourable Judith Guichon, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, is planning to visit 150 schools across the province in 2017. She will speak with students about her role in Canada’s constitutional monarchy, encourage their participation in our democracy and share ideas about a healthy and sustainable future for all.

On March 10, 2017, the Honourable Judith Guichon will be visiting the following schools:

- 8:45 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. Mount Baker High School
- 10:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. Parkland Middle School
- 1:15 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. Highlands Elementary School
- 2:30 p.m. Regional Science Fair at College of the Rockies

Updated Information on Graduation Years

A recent update on the renewed curriculum was released from the Ministry of Education recently that can be viewed on our website and is attached to this report: http://www.sd5.bc.ca/Documents/Educator%20Update%202010-12.pdf

This update is to provide educators across the province of the current thinking, direction and decisions regarding the transformation of the education system. Much of this update had a focus on the Graduation Years (Grades 10 – 12).

School Growth Plans Now Available

School staffs have completed the work on their Growth Plans and they are now available for viewing on the individual school’s websites under the Tab: About the School. These plans are the roadmaps for schools to focus on student achievement. Staffs are commended for the very thorough work done to ensure our students are successful. There is a focus on such things as reading and writing improvement, numeracy, social and emotional learning, self-regulation and, of course, the renewed curriculum with a focus on embedding Aboriginal Perspectives and inquiry and project or place-conscious learning. Our Schools Rock!

Rogers Hometown Hockey Coming to Parkland Middle School

Just a reminder that Rogers Hometown Hockey will be in town this weekend but festivities will be kicked off on Friday, February 17th at Parkland Middle School. All Grade 6 students from Cranbrook Elementary Schools will convene at the school for an old-fashioned Ball Hockey Tournament outside the school between 12:30 and 1:30. The students will then be invited into the gym along with the Parkland Students for the Hometown Hockey Presentation. The presentation will outline the history of Hometown Hockey, introduce Hometown Hank, and provide a hockey circus show with an acrobat that has performed in Cirque du Soleil. Should be a great time for all. The Hometown Hockey will then be stationed at Western Financial Place for more community festivities over the weekend. For the weekend’s Hometown Hockey activities see: http://www.hometownhockey.com/events/cranbrook-bc-en-2016/

Priority Measures Spending Begins in SD 5

As reported last month, the Ministry of Education did provide an additional $50 million in net new funding for British Columbia’s public education system for the balance of the 2016/17 school year. Our District’s share of this was $552,890 for schools. All schools went through a consultation process (principal with the staff) to determine where extra teacher support could help students in their building. The information was collected and then Brent Reimer and I met with the CFTA Co-Chairs to determine where the money was best spent to support student learning. Agreement was met and then the report shared with the Board on Monday, January 30th for their approval. We are very happy to report that schools were informed of the funds they received and postings went out later in the week. District Management and the CFTA agreed on an expedited posting process to hire teachers as quickly as possible into the schools. This funding is for the remainder of this school year. All schools in School District 5 received some additional staffing.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR TRUSTEES

Committee Mgs—Feb. 27
BCSTA Prov Council—Feb. 17-18
BCSTA AGM—April 20-23
Retirement Party—June 8
Grads—SSS—May 27
MBSS, ESS, - June 29, FSS—June 30
Jaffray’s school theme for the rest of the year is Canada 150. They started Literacy Week with an interactive bulletin board that has a Canada Map zentangle the students coloured and a Canada word search. Right now the bulletin board is 150 Ways to Spread Kindness.

Mrs. Bock’s class is doing a spring play with the elementary students called “Jaffray Sing’s Canada’s History – With A Twist”. Mrs. Henderson’s class is infusing a Canada theme in all her elementary art enhancement classes.

Ally Beckman, grade 5, sings O’Canada for us every Monday morning and she is amazing, doing the bilingual version!

Mr. Reay has the grade 10’s giving a... on this day in ???, which is a little piece of history each morning on the daily announcements. Today was, “On this day in 1916 a fire broke out in the Center Block of Canada’s Parliament Buildings. Seven people lost their lives in the blaze. The most likely cause of the fire was an unextinguished cigar discarded in a wastebasket. The Library of Parliament was saved by an alert employee who closed the library’s iron fire doors.”

Mrs. Henderson’s class “Landscapes across Canada”. 

Our Helping teachers of transformative learning and technology now have technology kits to support coding and computational thinking in the classroom. We a have also put together 34 Maker Kits for our upcoming Maker Series with teachers. Each school will receive two Maker kits to compliment the learning that happens at our workshops and in schools.

So far we have 10 schools and over 1000 students committed to participate in the winter edition of “Take Me Outside” on Thursday February 9th. Students will partake in at least one hour of placed-based outdoor learning and activities on this day.

The application for the Environmental Educational Leadership clinic will close on February 15, 2017. SD5 has committed to sending 6 teachers who are keen to participate in this 4 day workshop in the spring at Nipika Resort.

Students at Sparwood Secondary explore coding with Makey Makey’s

Math Project- Designing a tinker card

Ms. Phillips teaching the basics of using a green screen

Finance/Operations Updates:

As of this week staff is healthy and just in time for year-end and T4 season so lots of busy people in Payroll.

Budget prep is underway with 2 budgets, one we are finalizing and one we just beginning with costing and enrolment projections.

Operations are busy with snow related issues and startup of the HVAC project at Jaffray School.

Financial issues such as the Priority Measures Grant, Transportation Fund and Exempt Compensation are top priorities.
**Update from the Director of Instruction/HR**

Staffing for the current school year continues for secondary schools as second semester blocks have been posted and filled. To date there have been 180+ teacher postings and 144 CUPE postings for the 2016-2017 school year. A further 25 teacher postings went out the week of January 30, 2017 to support schools from the Priority Measures Fund. The funding equates to over $550,000 dollars of extra teacher supports to our 17 schools.

The School Joint Occupational Health and Safety Teams are receiving a days training on February 23, 2017. The teams are receiving in-service on their roles and responsibilities to help them better serve their mandate under WSBC requirements.

Planning for the 2017-2018 school year has begun. District staff will be meeting with school principals/vice principals in early March to discuss staffing and student projections.

Registration for the next year officially started February 1, 2017. With the expectance of new registrations, also comes the process of out of catchment transfer requests. This process of requesting a placement outside of the catchment for next school year also commences the first day of February. Requests received before Feb 28, 2017 will be reviewed according to District policy 3.1 with decisions being made on the requests by the end of May.

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**Update from Director of Student Learning and Aboriginal Education**

**Skills Training** - Our SD5 Transitions Coordinator and I have been asked to sit on a provincial panel at a Ministry training session to explain the skills training initiatives in SD5. The emphasis will be on how we have implemented our 'Shoulder Tapper' role and supports. An exciting opportunity!

**Aboriginal Education** - We had our scheduled Enhancement Agreement Review Committee meeting last week and are nearing the 'finish line' on our new Enhancement Agreement. It looks like we may be able to have our signing ceremony this spring!

As well, our Ab Ed Support Workers will be meeting soon. Among the topics on the agenda are a report on how are Aboriginal Learners did last year, as well as a 'scope and sequence' discussion of resources and programs.

**Math Opportunity** - We are excited to have secured a series of working sessions with Dr. Peter Liljedahl, a professor at SFU. Dr. Liljedahl has some very inventive pedagogy, with a focus on mathematics. He will be the keynote speaker at the RSA day this spring, and we have booked him for two other days to work with math teachers from each of our middle and secondary schools. We have invited SD6 folks to join us, as they will be sharing Dr. Liljedahl at RSA day as well.

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**Update from the District Principal/Student Services**

The winter months always bring about a number of meetings and deliberations as we readjust plans and supports for the rest of the school year. It is also the time we look forward to next year’s constellation of students requiring support.

The District continues to focus planning for students identified on the autism spectrum and discussions have been held at the Board Committee Level to inform the Trustees on our progress forward.

Our Speech-Language Pathologists have been working with Special Education Technology-BC (SET-BC) to build capacity in working with student communication over two solid days in early February. Our district applied to SET-BC for and received approximately $9000 in low and high tech solutions for providing augmented and alternative communication, often called AAC. The equipment will be used to trial with students to determine their needs for communication.

Darcy Verbeurgt and two Youth Care Workers attended the safeTALK workshop on suicide awareness sponsored by Canadian Mental Health Association. After attending the workshop all YCWs and AESWs have been training in this mental health first aid for suicide. Counsellors all have the more advanced ASIST training.

This month is also very busy as we prepare for the East Kootenay Regional Science Fair on March 10th and 11th. March has been declared as Science Fair Month by the BC legislature again this year. Canada Wide Science Fair takes place in Regina from May 14th to 20th. Four finalists from the EKRSF will represent the East Kootenays there.
Update from the Director of Student Learning and Innovation

SD5 Collaborative Inquiry Teams 2016-17

“Student achievement is improved when teachers work together in collaborative teams to:

- clarify what students must learn
- gather evidence of student learning
- analyze that evidence
- identify the most powerful teaching strategies to address learning needs
- meet to discuss progress”

Visible Learnings: John Hattie

We currently have 152 staff members who have taken advantage of the collaborative inquiry approach to improving student achievement. Some of the inquiry questions include:

- By using a whole school, integrated approach to using student inquiry as a method of integrating the redesigned curriculum into our classroom teaching practices, in what ways will student learning and achievement improve?
- How does choice and small collaborative dialogue increase motivation and French language acquisition?
- How can we use story to deepen our students’ engagement and understanding of concepts such as identity, culture, place and traditions?

Save the Date: Wednesday May 31st for our District Collaborative Sharing Fair

Congratulations to Steeples Elementary School who was the first to volunteer their school and students.

The SOAR program delivers fundamental movements, sport discovery skills, and curriculum based physical activity in a safe and fun environment within the school gymnasium. Students receive an introduction to curling, golf and tennis which are all three lifelong sports widely available at the community level. A SOAR program (3 days) is usually $600. They were looking for a school to host their coach training workshop on Sunday February 5, followed by delivery in that same school Monday-Wednesday, February 5-8.

In exchange for use of the school gym on Sunday, they will provide the SOAR program FREE OF CHARGE to SES students! Well done SES!!

PacificSport Columbia Basin Workshop - April RSA

Workshop Title - Discovering how PacificSport can support teachers to develop Physical Literacy in their classrooms

Description of workshop - The purposes of this workshop are to inform teachers about resources available through PacificSport Columbia Basin and to seek their advice on how to support them in developing the Physical Literacy of their students.

Workshop participants will work with the facilitator(s) to answer 3 main questions:

1. What is PacificSport Columbia Basin’s role in promoting Physical Literacy?
2. How does Physical Literacy fit into the new curriculum?
3. How can PacificSport best support teachers to plan and implement learning opportunities that develop Physical Literacy?

Other PacificSport Joint Projects - PacificSport Inclusive Physical Workshop (TBA)

Objective - Participants will be introduced to the many different facets of offering an inclusive program, from practical games and activities to organizational understanding. Participants will be given ideas on how to adapt games and activities for all individuals, including those with physical and cognitive disabilities, and the equipment and cues that PISE leaders use to teach these games. Along with this, the workshop will discuss what organizational structures are key in order to be able to offer a supportive and welcoming environment for people with a disability.

PacificSport Teacher Mentorship Program - Participants (one teacher) from every elementary school will trained to support schools in the area of physical literacy and fundamental movement skills. Training sessions will be announced as soon as training has been confirmed.

Lunch Hour Physical Literacy Game Sessions - We currently have 24 UVic TEP and KNES students now employed through our Student Opportunities/RBC PL Grant program. We also have a large number of students (36 first year KNES students) that will be visiting the 6 schools for the month of February, to assist in the delivery of the games. These students are just learning how to implement physical literacy skills (including motivation and confidence) into this setting. Secondly, since "Inclusive PL" is our emphasis this year, three small sport wheel chairs (from Interior Health) will rotate through the lunch hour games program. They are currently at Steeples, and will then move to Highlands school, followed by TM, GT, KO and then Pinewood. I would like to ask each of you (with reminders from me) to put in a service order for transfer of the chairs at the end of your designated week. The chairs are to be used as much as possible, so please encourage your staff to use them. Our Leaders can give you a few tips on how to incorporate the chairs into a regular gym class.