Principal’s Message

Happy New Year! We would like to welcome everyone back from the winter break, and hope that you were able to enjoy the time to relax and participate in many activities with family and friends.

I am looking forward to meeting our grade 1 parents at the “Come Read with Me” Day on January 29 at 8:15. CBAL (Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy) Elk Valley has received Raise A Reader funding to facilitate a “Come Read with Me” session with parents and caregivers of grade 1 students in partnership with our school. The purpose of the session is to provide parents with strategies that they can use when supporting their child(ren) with home reading and to assist with building a home-school connection.

In regards to calendar items, our end of month assembly will be Friday, February 2 at 9:00. We will be handing out volleyball certificates and medals. The assembly will conclude with a movie from our first term.

Our third Communicating Student Learning dates will be February 19, and February 20. Students will be dismissed at 11:21.

Our Science Fair will be Wednesday, February 21 for students in Kindergarten through to Grade 4, including Ms. Wicken’s Class. The Grade 5 & 6 Science Fair will be February 22.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to phone the school at (250) 865-4625 or email me, laura-lee.phillips@sd5.bc.ca. If parents wish an interview with a teacher, counsellor, or administrator please phone, and request that the school arrange a convenient time.

We want to thank all of our families for all that you do in supporting our students and teachers as we look forward to an outstanding term here at Rocky Mountain Elementary School

Sincerely,

Ms. Laura-Lee Phillips

WELCOME

• We would like to welcome Weston Starzyk to RMES!! Weston is in Grade 4 and comes to us from Coalhurst. Welcome Weston!!
Thank You

- To Mr. Adam Gauthier & Ms. Jennifer Gernon for coaching the Boys Basketball Team
- To Mrs. Johanna Joy and Ms. Melanie Wagner for coaching the Girls Basketball Team!
- To Ms. Foy for producing yet another wonderful Christmas Concert!
- To Mrs. Christal Klassen and Mrs. Bewski for their help with music and set design for the Christmas Concert!!
- To the RMES PAC for organizing the Holiday Gift Shop so that our students could do their own Christmas shopping!!
- To all of the parents who came in to help the students shop!!

BIRTHDAY WISHES for the month of January go out to: Kayda Forsyth, Kinsley Brown, Jayden Logodi, Calli Benson, Adrian Harvey, Carmyn Forsyth, Taylor Smuin, Declan Cook, Madyson Johnston, Beau Hunink, Ronan Cook, Hope Bolton, Kavan Cook, Declan Sutherland, Taitum Brownell and Brooke Ingham.

PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS

- Interviews will be held on February 19 & 20, 2018. Teachers will be contacting you re: Interview times.
- Students will be dismissed at 11:21 on these days
- Report Cards will be issued on March 16, 2018.

Communicating Student Learning

The scale below explains the new terms you may see on your child’s report card.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Competency Scale</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Beginning</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>to acquire knowledge,</td>
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<tr>
<td>skills, strategies and</td>
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<tr>
<td>processes</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Student is beginning</td>
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<tr>
<td>to understand at</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>grade-level expectations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Shows evidence that</td>
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<tr>
<td>learner can demonstrate</td>
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<tr>
<td>some progress towards the</td>
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<tr>
<td>learning standards</td>
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<td></td>
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FAMILY LITERACY DAY
- Family Literacy Day is on January 27th this year, we are asking parents/families to send in photos of students reading in a variety of settings.

BASKETBALL
- Basketball Tournament will be held at Frank J. Mitchell Elementary School in Sparwood on March 8, 2018.
  - **Boys Practice:** Mondays & Wednesdays – 3:00 – 4:30 PM (Coaches: Mr. Adam Gauthier & Ms. Jennifer Gernon)
  - **Girls Practice:** Tuesdays & Thursdays – 3:00 – 4:00 PM (Coaches: Mrs. Johanna Joy & Ms. Melanie Wagner)
  - Shooting practice is on Tuesday mornings at 8:00 AM

REMINDER
- Winter is here! Remember to dress appropriately, don’t forget to wear hats, mittens, winter coats and snow pants to school.
- Although it is difficult to make hard and fast rules, the general guidelines for an “indoor day” are as follows:
  - Minus 20 C or colder
  - Minus 10 C or colder if there is a wind factor
  - Wet snow or rain conditions which would result in children getting soaked
- On “indoor days” all students must remain in the school because both supervisors are in the building
- We are hesitant to call “indoor days” too often because children need fresh air and a chance for some activity to balance the rest of their school day.
- Please help us by ensuring your children are dressed appropriately in cold weather.

STUDENT DROP OFF/PICK UP
*Parents/Guardians/Friends/Relatives:*
- PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE.....DO NOT drive into the school parking lot to drop off or pick up students at the main doors! We must ensure the safety of our children and it is therefore necessary for us to restrict the amount of vehicular access to the school grounds when the children are entering and leaving the premises.
  1. This is a bus lane and the bus needs clear access coming into and out of the school grounds before and after school as well as during school hours for extra-curricular activities!
  2. Students line up on this side of the school to enter and leave classrooms (sometimes darting out of the door)
- Please drop off and/or pick up your child(ren) in front of the portable, on Deerborne Drive, or on Balmer Drive.
- Please ensure that you drive with the utmost care as children may be around the grounds during a lunch or recess time.

School Bus Safety
If you ride a school bus, make sure that you remember the following rules:
Street Smarts
- Never run into the street.
- Look and listen for cars and trucks to the left, then to the right, and then to the left again.
- Never go between parked cars to cross the street.
- Always walk with a friend or a parent.
- Don’t talk to strangers. If a stranger comes up to you, yell as loud as you can.
- Never get into a stranger’s car.

The Danger Zone
- There is a 10-foot area around the bus known as the Danger Zone.
- The bus driver is not able to see anything in this area. The Danger Zone is right in front of the bus and the area all around the rear wheels and the back of the bus.

Waiting for the Bus
- Be at the bus stop 5 minutes early.
- Stay away from the curb.
- Be quiet while you wait for the bus.
- Don’t get on the bus until it stops.
- Don’t push getting on or off the bus.
JANUARY
8  School Is Back in Session
10 12:30 – Mrs. Roberts’ class swims
    1:30 – Ms. Bowker’s class swims
11 12:30 – Mrs. Bewski’s class swims
    1:30 – Mr. Pettifor’s class swims
17 12:30 – Mrs. Roberts’ class swims
    1:30 – Ms. Bowker’s class swims
18 12:30 – Mrs. Bewski’s class swims
    1:30 – Mr. Pettifor’s class swims
22 Send in your photos of your child reading
24 Gr 5/6 & Gr 6 to FAR for Ski Lessons
    12:30 – Mrs. Bewski’s class swims
    1:30 – Mr. Pettifor’s class swims
25 12:15 – Gr 6 Skating (Elkford Arena)
    12:30 – Mrs. Bewski’s class swims
    1:30 – Mr. Pettifor’s class swims
26 Gr 3 & 3/4 to FAR for Ski Lessons
    School Spirit Day – Jersey/Sports Day
    Family Literacy Day
27 8:15 - “Come Read With Me” (Gr 1 parents)
29 AM – Winter Wonder – Mrs. Roberts’ class
    PM – Winter Wonder – Ms. Attorp’s class
31 12:30 – Mrs. Roberts’ class swims
    1:30 – Ms. Bowker’s class swims

FEBRUARY
1 12:30 – Mrs. Bewski’s class swims
    1:30 – Mr. Pettifor’s class swims
2 9:00 – Assembly (wear school clothing/colours) – PARENTS WELCOME!!
5 Story Theatre Presentation “Blue Beads & Blueberries”
6 Blue Lake Parent Mtg (Gr 6 Student Parents)
7 12:30 – Mrs. Roberts’ class swims
    1:30 – Ms. Bowker’s class swims
8 Gr 5/6 & 6 to FAR for Ski Lessons
    12:30 – Mrs. Bewski’s class swims
    1:30 – Mr. Pettifor’s class swims
12 ALTERNATE CALENDAR DAY – NO SCHOOL
    FAMILY DAY – NO SCHOOL
13 Gr 3 & 3/4 to FAR for Ski Lessons
14 Red/Pink Day (wear red or pink)
    Hot Lunch (Taco in a Bag)
    12:30 – Mrs. Roberts’ class swims
    1:30 – Ms. Bowker’s class swims
15 12:15 – Gr 6 Skating (Elkford Arena)
    12:30 – Mrs. Bewski’s class swims
    1:30 – Mr. Pettifor’s class swims
19 Parent/Teacher Interviews – 11:21 Dismissal
20 Parent/Teacher Interviews – 11:21 Dismissal
21 AM: K – 4 – Science Fair
    12:30 – Mrs. Roberts’ class swims
    1:30 – Ms. Bowker’s class swims
22 Gr 5 & 6 Science Fair
    Take Me Outside Day
    12:30 – Mrs. Bewski’s class swims
    1:30 – Mr. Pettifor’s class swims
23 PRO-D DAY – NO SCHOOL
28 Pink Shirt Day
    12:30 – Mrs. Roberts’ class swims
    1:30 – Ms. Bowker’s class swims

“If you want your children to be intelligent, read them fairy tales. If you want them to be more intelligent, read them more fairy tales.” — Albert Einstein
Dear Parents,

Southeast Kootenay School District has been looking into apps for education and platforms that allow educators to connect with parents in the safest and most secure way possible.

Technology is constantly evolving and changing. FOIPPA (Freedom of Information, Protection of Privacy Act) legislated from the BC government has mandated that all data stored must be stored “in house” on a server directly owned by SD #5. With this new mandate, SD #5 has moved to use only apps/programs where data is housed within servers that are owned or licensed by SD #5.

Unfortunately, this means that some of the apps used in previous school years as well as this year are no longer supported by SD #5. Apps such as Bloomz and Remind will no longer be used within Rocky Mountain Elementary by teachers as of January 22nd, 2018.

SD #5 has licensed Microsoft Office 365 which has apps available to replace these old apps. Your classroom teacher will send out information once an alternative has been chosen in each classroom level.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours in learning,

Laura-Lee Phillips, Principal

Thomas Skelton, Vice Principal
Come to School With Us
Viens à l’école avec nous
FOR KINDERGARTEN AND FRENCH IMMERSION
SEPTEMBER 2018 ENTRY

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

School District 5 Southeast Kootenay welcomes all children born between January 1, 2013 and December 31, 2013, and encourages parents to register their children at their catchment area school for September 2018 Kindergarten entry.

School District 5 Southeast Kootenay provides a warm, caring learning environment for all students. We offer our Kindergarten students a developmentally appropriate program along with access to computer technology, a Fine Arts program, student services support and, if parents choose, French Immersion. French Immersion Kindergarten is available at T.M. Roberts Elementary School.

To ensure your child is able to attend your catchment area school, please register early. In any given year, registration and enrolment application forms shall only be accepted by the catchment area school commencing on the first school day in February. If you are unsure which school is your catchment area school, please visit the “school locator” on our district website at http://www.sd5.bc.ca/Schools/Pages/default.aspx

All such applications will be dealt with on a first-come, first serve basis. A birth certificate or other legally acceptable document, along with proof of B.C. residency (i.e. mortgage statement, rental agreement, or utility bill) must be provided at the time of registration. The child will not be registered until such documentation is made available.

Parents who wish their child to attend a school outside their catchment area still need to register their child at their catchment area school. To request a transfer, pick up a “Family Request for Student Placement Form” from your catchment area school and return to the School Board Office. These completed forms shall only be accepted by Board Office staff commencing on the first school day in February. Forms can also be submitted via email to studenttransfers@sd5.bc.ca. Please refer to Policy 3.1R at http://www.sd5.bc.ca/Board/Policy/manual/Pages/default.aspx for more information.

FRENCH IMMERSION REGISTRATION

French Immersion is available in both Cranbrook and Fernie:
• Cranbrook - Kindergarten or Grade One: please register at T.M. Roberts Elementary
• Fernie - Grade 4: please register at Isabella Dicken Elementary

For more information, please contact: Brenda Tyson, Principal T. M. Roberts Elementary School (250-489-4575) or Nicole Neufeld, Principal, Isabella Dicken Elementary School (250-423-4651).

If you have any questions, please contact your neighbourhood school or the Office of the Superintendent (250- 417-2052) or toll free 1-866-489-4201 (Local 2052).

We look forward to your child joining us in School District 5 Southeast Kootenay.
Come to School With Us
Viens à l’école avec nous
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We look forward to your child joining us in School District 5 Southeast Kootenay.
January 10, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians of SD5,

**URGENT MESSAGE**

Since it’s inception, as the legislated voice of Parent Advisory Councils in SD5, the Southeast District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) has worked diligently to provide parent information, resources, educational opportunities, forums and most importantly, parent perspective to your district school board on items pertaining to education.

Through monthly meetings, parent representatives from each of our schools in Cranbrook, Jaffray, Fernie, Sparwood and Elkford connect and converse with each other as well as our district Superintendent, Trustee, and Teacher Union President.

These conversations not only allow parents to gain better knowledge and understanding of the programs, policies, issues, and changes that may affect their child and their schools, but they lead to better decision making and have proven repeatedly to be beneficial for all.

This year DPAC has been unable to fill the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair. Prompt action is required, as without leadership, the organization can not continue and the consolidated SD5 “parent perspective” falls silent.

As with any volunteer position, these can be as minimal or as expansive as a parent wants to make them, based on their available time and interest, with mentoring available.

If you would like more information regarding these positions, please contact Debbie at sd5dpac@gmail.com
# School District 5

## 2017-2018 Annual School Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>July 2017</th>
<th>August 2017</th>
<th>September 2017</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>School Breaks</strong></td>
<td><strong>Professional Development Days</strong></td>
<td><strong>Second Semester</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Stat Holidays</strong></td>
<td><strong>Administrative Day</strong></td>
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Approved February 22, 2016
Local School Calendar (School District No.5, Southeast Kootenay)

From the School Act, sections 87.01 and 87.02 and the new School Calendar Regulation

Days in Session: 181
Days of Instruction: 173
Non-Instructional Professional Development Days: 7
Administrative Day: 1
First Day of School: Tuesday, September 5, 2017
Thanksgiving Day: Monday, October 9, 2017
Remembrance Day: Monday, November 13, 2017
Christmas vacation period: Friday, December 22, 2017 - Friday, January 5, 2018
Schools reopen after Christmas vacation: Monday, January 8, 2018
First day of second semester: Monday, January 29, 2018
Family Day: Monday, February 12, 2018
Spring vacation period: Monday, March 19, 2018 to Thursday, March 29, 2018
Good Friday: Friday, March 30, 2018
Easter Monday: Monday, April 2, 2018
Schools reopen after Spring vacation: Tuesday, April 3, 2018
Victoria Day: Monday, May 21, 2018
Last day of school for students: Thursday, June 28, 2018
Administrative Day: Friday, June 29, 2018
*Hours of instruction (Kindergarten): 848 hrs
*Hours of instruction (Elementary): 873 hrs
*Hours of instruction (Secondary): 947 hrs
*Hours of instruction per day (Elementary): 5 hrs 3 min
*Hours of instruction per day (Secondary): 5 hrs 29 min

*This meets the requirement of ministry hours of instruction.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Professional Development Days</th>
<th>School Breaks</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 22</td>
<td>Semester 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 20</td>
<td>October 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 4</td>
<td>November 24</td>
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<td>February 23</td>
<td>March 9, March 19-29</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 16</td>
<td>December 22-January 5</td>
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<td>May 4, June 1</td>
<td>April 13</td>
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<td></td>
<td>May 18</td>
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<td>June 15</td>
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Approved February 22, 2016