



Sparwood Secondary School
 Newsletter
www.sd5.bc.ca/school/sss
 MAY 2023

A Message from the Principal

The time of year is finally here to celebrate the 2023 Grad class and for all students and staff to focus on ending the school year strong. My job is focused on student learning and student safety. If student learning and student safety is not happening at Sparwood Secondary School nothing else matters. On that note, I want to congratulate all the students who have been working hard to expand themselves through academic courage at SSS. The days of memorizing facts are over, now we only must remember 'Google'. Students setting themselves up for success in an unknown future are building habits in resiliency: adaptability, learning from mistakes, willingness to risk trying again, creative thinker & innovator: use curiosity and imagination to inspire new ideas or build upon existing ones, and critical thinker & problem solver investigates, learns, and sees more than one way to solve a problem. I want to give a special mention to the Grad Class of 2023 – you finally made it, well done. It is always important to celebrate one's achievements. The staff of Sparwood Secondary School have collaborated to create an enriching learning environment, well done! Parents are an important part of student learning, your guidance is needed to help us do our job, thanks for all you have done. For those parents showing up for Parent Advisory Council meetings, thank you for your participation. Finally, to the community of Sparwood, we are on a learning journey that will connect the students and the school more than ever.

Be ready as we plan to strengthen community connections – look out for SSS learning all over town and for opportunities to be part of the school community!



Library Update

It's been a great year in the library this school year. We have doubled our graphic novel section, weeded out lots of old books and brought in some popular new titles.

Reminders:

Bottom Shelf Books in the Fiction section are free to take home and will be thrown out at the end of the year.

All books need to be returned to the library by June 21st. Fines for lost and missing books will be posted through School Cash Online.

Provincial Assessments

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



Upcoming Events:

June 2	No School – Green Day
June 2	Graduation Banquet
June 3	Graduation Ceremony
June 16	No School – Yellow Day
June 29	Report Cards

A Message from the Vice-Principal

As May ends, I am looking forward to seeing all our grads cross the stage to receive their diplomas and various awards they may receive at the beginning of June. It has been a pleasure getting to know all these students over the course of the year, and I hope they have a wonderful experience during one of the last formal times they will all be asked to come together as a grade. I would like to encourage our grads to continue pushing toward the finish line, as year-end grades may play into their ability to pursue the program they intend to enter.

I had a lot of fun taking a group of kids to play in the Kootenay Zone Golf Championship at Christina Lake just after May long weekend. The conditions and competition were tough, but the kids had fun and were back on the golf course the day after we returned. Right now, I am in discussions with the golf course about having a Sparwood Family Cup event, which would be a two-person best ball event near the end of June and would be open to all students of Sparwood Secondary and someone in their family they would like to bring with them (mother, father, grandparent, sibling, cousin, aunt, uncle, step-family members, etc.). Keep an eye out for more information on this coming soon!

Some students have begun taking extended lunch breaks with the weather warming up. Please encourage our students to maintain their punctuality and continue working towards life habits that will lead to future success. If students are going to be late or absent, we continue to ask that a parent or guardian uses the SchoolMessenger app, calls the office, or emails the office to excuse lates and absences.

Ms. Duffy's Foundations of Math 12 class paired up with Ms. Wagner's Students Services class and started a coffee shop for the staff. With help from Ms. Duffy and Ms. Wagner the students have followed a budget to buy the necessary supplies, decided on a fair selling price for coffee/tea, make and deliver drinks, and track all profits. We are open every day and hand deliver the drinks to each customer! We are looking forward to growing our business in the future!

Aboriginal Education

May has been a great month! The grade 10, 11 and 12 Indigenous students and the strive class went to the TELUS Sparks Center in Calgary and observed the Indigenous Digital Exhibit as well as explore the rest of the science center. We also honored our Indigenous Grads. We gathered with all the Indigenous Grads from the Elk Valley and enjoyed drumming and food. Grads received gifts in honor of the 13 years of school that they have completed. We are ending the month with the grades 7, 8, and 9 Indigenous students going to the Birds of Prey by Coaldale, Alberta. Students will participate in the education program there and get to enjoy time with the birds!



Athletics

Spring Sports season is here!

This is an exciting time for our sports program as there is a lot of activities happening.

Spring sports are on!!! Golf, Badminton, Soccer, Mountain Biking, Track and Field! Yahoo!

Badminton

This season, the badminton team competed in the Zone championship on May 11th in Invermere. The athletes competed in several different events played well, particularly with Jake Bowen, Caleb Morgan, Alex Vezina, and Liam Feltin finishing strong in boys' doubles. This year there were a few new players to the team, which was awesome to see! The season was short but sweet and Ms. Wagner and Mr. Parker can't wait to see the team grow for the 2024 season.



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.

Girls Soccer

These girls amazed us this season, they have been a great team to coach! They worked extremely hard at practice and improved so much in the short time we had with them. These girls are a very young team but still held their own against the older teams. We were able to attend three tournaments as well as zones. We had lots of fun and laughs this season and were able to develop a love for the sport. We hope they all continue to play soccer and grow into the team we know they can be!



Golf

I cannot thank the Sparwood Golf Club enough for providing our students with free club rentals, push carts, range balls, and green fees when we go to practice this year! The golf club has given many students an opportunity they may have otherwise not had in the past. Our golf club has been very successful regarding participation this year, as we have had about 30 students come for at least one driving range day or golf course day. We are fielding a senior team and junior team in the zone tournament that will compete at Christina Lake after May Long and will have "playdays" at the Sparwood course and Fernie course in mid-June against Fernie and Elkford.



Mountain Biking

The mountain bike team is getting ready to head to provincials in Rossland May 26th -27th. The boys have been working hard on their fitness and have been trying to ride as much as they can. The team got the opportunity to ride trails in Fernie to further push themselves. Goodluck mountain bike team!



Outdoor Education

On May 16, the Outdoor Ed class had the fantastic opportunity to go whitewater rafting with Canyon Rafting on the Bull River. The students worked on developing skills in a complex and dynamic environment while learning how participating safely in outdoor activities requires teamwork, communication, and collaboration. Thank you to Canyon Rafting for such an amazing and unique experience!

HUUUGE shout out to Chad Watt and Alison Cox who volunteered their time to help fundraise for the Spawood Secondary School Ninja Fitness playground. Chad dressed up as Buddy the Miner for the Mine Rescue competition in Sparwood and Alison was his handler. They raised \$750. Way to go Spartans! We are so proud of you.



Electives Department

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

Foods Department

Mrs. Podrasky's Sr. Foods with delicious homemade burgers:



Careers Department

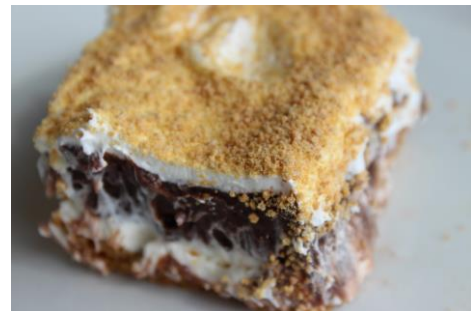
As the year wraps up there are several careers' projects in the final stages of completion. Grade 9 foods students are completing their family recipe projects. Shout out to Cayman Bay (buns), Payton Stanley (layered dessert), Londyn Freiheit (Christmas dessert) for leading the pack this year.

Capstone presentations are completed now, and all our grads have been successful. There are many excellent projects, from school-based coffee shops to mental health awareness programs, to community Valentine's Day engagements. Students demonstrated complex understandings of project specific information as well as the underlying skills and expertise that they have demonstrated throughout their schooling.

Grade 8 and 9 students can expect to complete a final self-evaluation on their relationship with the core competencies in the month to come.

Woodwork/Metal Shop Department

Last week the kindergarten class came to build mason bee houses with Mr. Lund's senior shop class.

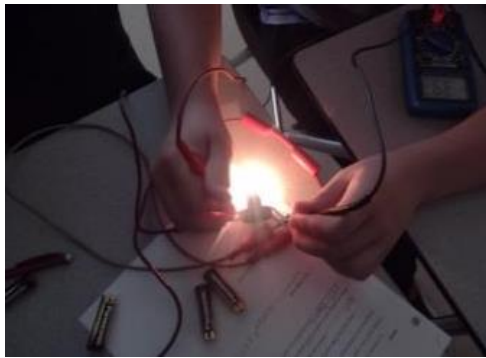


Math/Science Department

Mr. Faucher's Science 9 class enjoyed a day exploring the shores of Michel Creek during their Know Your Watershed fieldtrip facilitated by Wildsight. Students in these photos are analyzing the aquatic life present in the creek and are attempting to identify the different organisms living in the creek. The program hopes to promote awareness of our local watersheds and promote good stewardship of these fragile ecosystems.



Mr. Faucher's Science 9 class learned about Ohm's Law which states that the electrical current flowing through a circuit is proportional to the voltage divided by the resistance in that system. The class had the opportunity to test this Law in the lab by simulating different loads and voltages within various electrical circuits.



Art Department

The Grade 8/9 art class learned new print making techniques and did some Lino printing.



Art Students are learning about the art of stenciling and are practicing with spray chalk.

