

SOUTHEAST KOOTENAY PATHWAYS TO LEARNING



FSS Physical Education 7 & 8 enjoy the last day of sunny, dry weather in November and hike to a local waterfall.



DECEMBER, 2020





School District 5 (Southeast Kootenay)

PATHWAYS TO LEARNING

Vision	Mission	Values
Students love to learn here, staff love to work here, families love to gather here	Our students will graduate with dignity, purpose and options	Respect, Vision, Fairness, Collaboration, Integrity, Inclusion

Engaging All Learners

Goal: To inspire all learning partners to create and contribute to an engaging, personalized educational experience for our learners.

- Provide a safe, supportive environment that fosters continued growth in a rapidly changing environment
- Honour all pathways to graduation
- Acknowledge deeper learning opportunities based on individual strengths and abilities

Advocacy

Goal: Advocate for specific needs in our District and for public education in general.

- Encourage governments to fully fund public education
- Advance the replacement of aging schools through Ministry and community partnerships
- Provide a forum for the development and celebration of innovative practices



Effective Communication

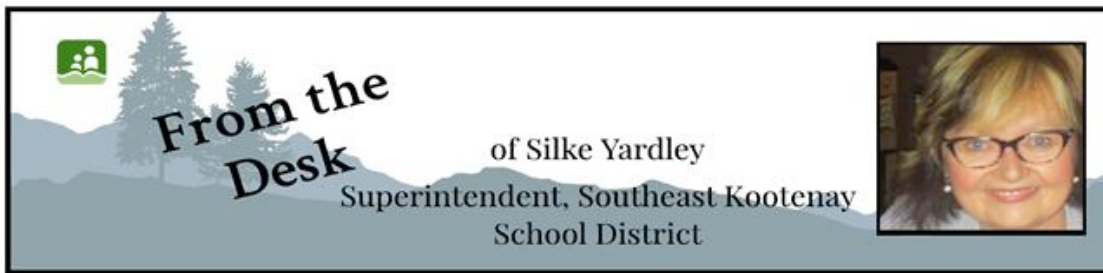
Goal: Continue to foster two-way, ethical communication between the District and all learners, students, staff, parents and community in a timely, concise and inclusive manner.

- Ensure information is current
- Provide user-friendly platforms
- Create opportunities for meaningful dialogue

Inclusive Partnerships

Goal: Cultivate opportunities for shared community awareness, engagement and resources to enhance student learning.

- Engage community participation in providing meaningful student learning opportunities
- Promote educational partnerships that enhance student learning and are beneficial to the community
- Advance active community engagement in real-world learning opportunities for students



Dear students, parents, extended families and staff:

As I am writing this, I am reflecting on 2020 and everything that has happened this year. Sometimes it is still difficult to wrap my head around the words “we are in a pandemic” as I never believed that in my or my children’s lifetime we would ever go through something like this.

As we are nearing the end of 2020 with an entirely new understanding of what a pandemic looks like, I reflect on the challenges we had in so many of our school communities. But in all of what we have been through there continues to be moments of wonder, moments of greatness and moments where we see our students learning, celebrating and thriving, our staff loving the time spent with their students, and our district taking pride in the accomplishments that our students and staff are achieving. I share my gratitude to all of you on the SD 5 team - all of you - students, parents, grandparents, community and staff.

I reflect back to the moment when I knew that “we weren’t in Kansas anymore” and that things had shifted significantly in our province and within our school community. This felt so unreal for all of us. The team always came together with a can do attitude to support what is best for students, which was wonderful to see. I am grateful to you.

Was it difficult? Absolutely.

Were we scared? Yes.

Did we overcome and create a place where our students are thriving? Yes we did!

*That was because of **YOU**, our SD 5 team!*

As we progressed through the year, some things shifted, changes were made, all the while working together keeping our eye and focus on the safety of our students and staff. You all pulled together to do what was best for our team. I am very grateful to be in a district where we work together and care for all our students and staff.

My challenge to you this holiday season is to write a letter to someone you are grateful for. Here is a link to an article that speaks to gratitude. It is well worth the [read](#).

I recommend, if you have not already done so, to please check out our SD 5 [Facebook](#) page and our SD5 [homepage](#). The purpose of these pages is to celebrate our successes together. You will see joy in our students, pride in our staff and the opportunities our students have “in a pandemic”. It is really remarkable to see our students fishing on the shore of a majestic river, building snow forts, learning survival skills or learning through play .

Please look out for your neighbour or an Elder who may be alone this holiday season, reach out, and take the time to connect. Your connections this year are so important and will be appreciated.

Take care of yourselves, enjoy a well-deserved rest and we will see you in January 2021!

Silke



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Engaging All Learners

Place Based Learning

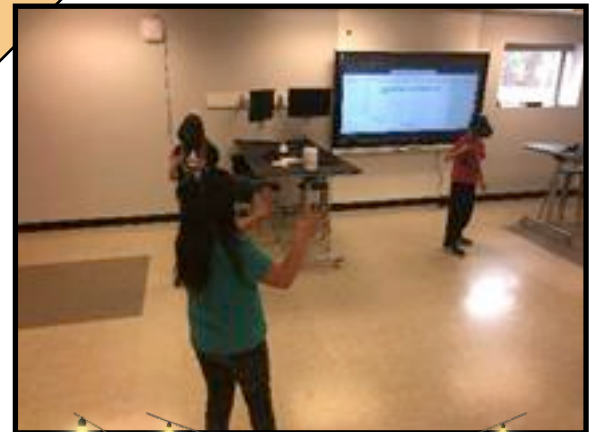
Learning about wayfinding and navigation are important skills in developing mapping, place-based learning, and spatial reasoning skills. Students in grade 3 at FJMES (Ms. Wittig, Ms. Griffiths, and Ms. Lewis) participated in a weeklong project to study mapping at different landmarks in Sparwood.



Prototyping for a better future

Mme Catherine's class at TM Roberts Elementary tried out the new Climate Action Kits. Students learned to code and design prototypes for a self-driving buggy that could plant trees to combat climate change.

Still getting to go places - We were worried the Oculus VR headsets at the Design Lab would have to sit on the shelf this year. That's until we created the **Interactive Technology** pilot program. Specific students get to come to the Design Lab in small groups to use technology to help enhance their writing. Students have explored the Arctic, Ann Frank's house, gone to space, and learned what its like to be a wizard, all in virtual reality. They also learned how to use Microsoft's reading and writing tools to do pre-write and post-write about their experiences. The students have improved their abilities to use voice to text technology and edit their own work.



Terrific Inventors

Mme Ashley's class were inventors for a day. They built and coded some unique designs using the new Lego Spike Kits at the lab. They excitedly embraced the design process, building, testing, and reiterating their contraptions throughout their day.

Both Design Labs are OPEN! Book your session by emailing Kim.Froehler@sd5.bc.ca in the Elk Valley and Ryan.Mckenzie@sd5.bc.ca in the Cranbrook area.

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Mathletics/Mathseeds

We are so excited to be able to launch and support Mathletics/Mathseeds program district wide. The District Resource Centre has created accounts for over 1900 students! We also had 20 teachers attend the Mathletics Launch Webinar. The inclusive K-12 curriculum of Mathletics is aligned with the BC curriculum, which means we can serve all of our grade levels. We currently have participation at 12 of our district schools.



Reading Eggs

The District Resource Centre continues to offer Reading Eggs to School District 5 (Southeast Kootenay) elementary schools. Reading Eggs is an online program that supports students in their reading journey through interesting and engaging online activities and games. Reading Eggs has been a helpful resource for teachers providing remote instruction and we are excited to have 970 students and 70 teachers utilizing this program.

MusicPlay

Music Instruction is an important component of programming especially at the elementary level, often impacting every child in the school. The District Resource Centre is supporting all our students and their music teachers through our district subscription to MusicPlay, an online teaching resource purchased this November.

Messy Math

Thank you for the gear! Students at FJ Mitchell enjoying messy math with their new sit seats from the [CBEEN Outdoor Learning Store](#).



Congratulations to Leah-Rose Traverse at FJ Mitchell Elementary!!

Leah-Rose signed her class up for Take Me Outside for Learning and is the winner of the draw for \$500 at the CBEEN Outdoor Learning Store!!



Forest Habitat

Ms. Anselmo's class at Jaffray Elementary Junior Secondary made wonderful memories while they danced along with Baloo singing about the "bear necessities" in the Ancient Cottonwood Forest. They experienced lots of learning along the way!!!

To wrap up their forest habitat unit, the class celebrated by joining Mr. Fennema in the Wood Shop where they created little hedgehogs. The smiles on the children's faces says it all!!!!



TM Roberts Grade 6 students at Elizabeth Lake playing a game of camouflage while learning about themselves and others through nature.

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Professional Development

On Friday, December 11, there will be a professional development opportunity for Education Assistants and Youth Care Workers held via Zoom. In the morning, all participants will hear from keynote speaker, Tamara Strijack. Tamara will be speaking about Emotional Safety: unpacking the role of emotion and defense.

In the afternoon, the Cranbrook staff will join a session with Trina Chivillo. Trina will be teaching our participants about Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and how an FASD-informed approach to teaching and supporting students with FASD can also be utilized with students who have other complex learning needs or challenges.

That same afternoon, the Fernie staff will be learning about the Autism Spectrum Disorder from Leni Hogg. Leni will be drawing from the most recent research available as well as experiences with Autism in the classroom, at home and through university studies. Our EA's will learn what they need to know about neurodiverse learners.



Social emotional learning centre update

The fall learning group of the Social Emotional Learning Centre (SEL) has wrapped up at Highlands Elementary. Teacher, Tanya Meijer and Youth Care Worker, Nicole Babcock are eager to start with their new cohort at Steeples Elementary School in early December. Education Assistant, Adebisola Adebisin, has been recently hired to join the SELC Team.

This learning group of students will attend the Social Emotional Learning Centre until spring break. Following this, there is a possibility of a mini program in the spring.



Clerical Administrative Professional Day - December 11, 2020

The 2020 clerical professional development day on December 11th will look considerably different from last years' pro-d day as clerical will be meeting via TEAMS. Topics from various presenters include KEV, missed prep, conflict resolution, 7 Habits of Highly Effective People, coping skills and self-care and handling and awareness of micro-aggression and inclusive language. Should be a great day of learning for all!



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Inclusive Partnerships

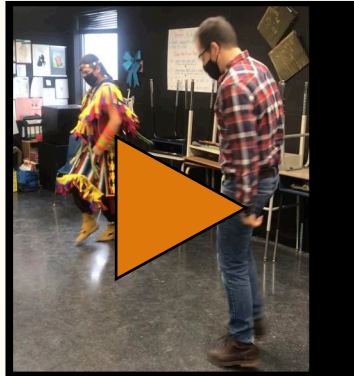
Ktunaxa Basics:

Christopher Horsethief put together a series of short videos on "Ktunaxa Basics". They are a great resource! Check them out [HERE](#)



Here is a photo of a unique opportunity arranged by Denise Bueckert at MBSS for her English class. After the class read Jessie Thistle's From the Ashes, Denise arranged for them to talk about the book with the author over Zoom. One of the students astutely pointed out, "we couldn't have done this after reading 1984."

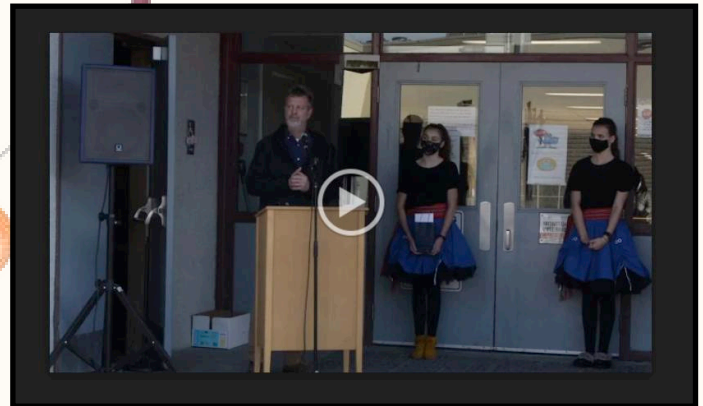
Nicholas Johnson, former student, teaching grass dancing moves to Mr. Popoff at LMS



Dual Credit Opportunities

We have been engaged in a series of meetings with our partners at College of the Rockies to look to expand on Dual Credit opportunities for School District 5 students. We are looking to expand our offerings to Diploma programs such as Early Childhood Educator and Human Service Worker.

We are excited about the conversations so far and look forward to making some announcements soon about offering these diverse options for our students.



Metis Flag Raising Nov. 16 - MBSS



Climate Action Change Movement - Students from Mount Baker Secondary School, along with their teachers Paul Matthews and Holly Millinoff, presented climate action initiatives to the Advocacy/Education Committee last week. Some of these initiatives were undertaken in their school last year and some they are currently working on this year. The students formed a climate action club last year in their school. Click on the picture to the left for the presentation! Thanks for all you are doing!



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BC Tripartite Education Agreement Jointly Convened Annual Meeting (JCAM)

This past week the annual meeting in support of the BC Tripartite Education Agreement was held. We were fortunate enough to have the Education Ambassador from the Ktunaxa Nation join us and participate in this valuable day.

Considerable time was spent during this virtual meeting on the significant new legislation coming from the Provincial Legislature. The newly minted BC Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act is the first legislation of its kind at the provincial level and will be a ground breaking document for our province moving forward.

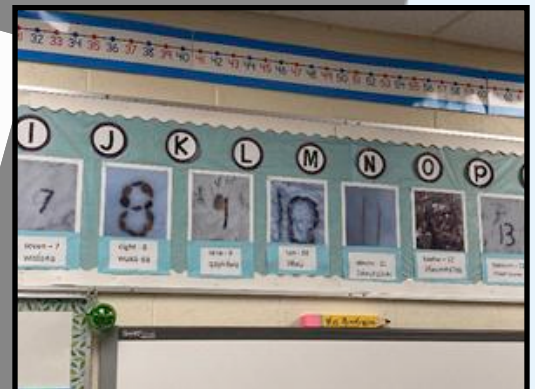
As well, two other topics of great interest to School Districts were discussed. There will be significant changes to targeted funds regulations coming from the Ministry and there are updates to the Local Education Agreement processes as well.

We look forward to working with our partners and stakeholders to honour these new regulations!



The grade 1/2 class at Steeples Elementary were excited to spend some Tinker Time with Mr. Duczec of Mount Baker Secondary School.

Mrs. Henderson's grade 1/2 at Steeples Elementary also completed the Giving Tree project and created a number line in English and Ktunaxa with materials they found outside.



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ADVOCACY

Recruitment, Recruitment, Recruitment, HR has teamed up with Make A Future to enhance the way the world sees our district postings. We are currently in the finishing stages of putting together a video that will showcase the wonderful communities that make up School District No. 5. This will be a video link on district postings that applicants considering a move to SD5 can review prior to applying for work. In addition, with the help of Thomas Skelton, Vice-Principal of Rocky Mountain Elementary School, Make A Future is working with Thomas to present a blog to feature on the Make A Future website about life in Elkford.

MBSS Vocal Jazz in the CBC Music Class Challenge

The Vocal Jazz ensemble is competing in the national competition for school music programs of all ages. Under the direction of Mr. Bueckert, the group had to choose and create their own version of a Canadian-content song from a list provided by the CBC, then make a live one-take video of the performance and submit it for adjudication. Check it out! Please give it a "like" and share! The hashtag is #cbcmusicclass.

The judges will be announcing their short list of finalists on December 8th, and the category winners on December 15th, live on CBC Q.



Elkford Secondary School's PE 10/11/12 students were rock climbing at the Arq Climbing Gym in Cranbrook. Students learned how to tie a figure 8 knot, secure their rope to their harness as well as how to belay.



Please enjoy a video created by Sean Roszell's IT class at ESS.



Inclusive Education Working Group

The Inclusive Education Working Group will be resuming in December. This will look different than last year as we will be meeting virtually. We are looking forward to working with our teachers and parent partners to set future direction for student services.

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Ministry of Education Update

On November 26, 2020 Premier John Horgan [announced](#) a new Cabinet, including the appointment of MLA Jennifer Whiteside as Minister of Education. As the re-appointed Deputy Minister of Education, the Ministry is looking forward to working with Minister Whiteside to fulfill the expectations outlined in the [mandate letter](#). Minister Whiteside brings a wealth of leadership and expertise as a policy researcher, health expert and labour relations specialist through her work in B.C. and across Canada.



The Ministry is working with the BC Centre for Disease Control and the K-12 Education Restart Steering Committee to develop a Q&A document for schools and school districts to assist them in interpreting the new provincial orders and updated WorkSafe BC guidance regarding COVID-19. The Q&A document will be disseminated next week and topics will include mask requirements, employee health checks, school programs and sports, and community use of schools. In the interim, please email educ.covid@gov.bc.ca if you have questions or require assistance.



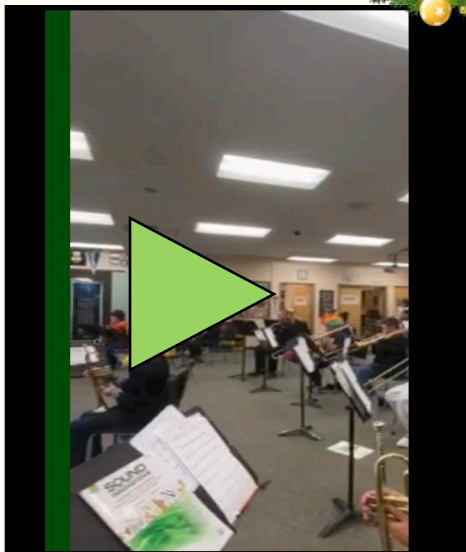
Featured Topics

- **[Teaching](#)**
A great teacher has always been the key to outstanding learning experiences. As our education system continues to evolve, the teacher’s role is shifting from information provider to facilitator – a professional who helps each student learn how to learn.
- **[Administration](#)**
Access information and data such as education standards, capital planning funding, reporting, programming and enrolment tracking. Use it to manage and develop programs, support leadership and plan for the future.
- **[Legislation & Policy](#)**
See how laws and regulations are used to govern administration, partnerships and operation of B.C.’s education system.



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Schools



Parkland Middle School Band

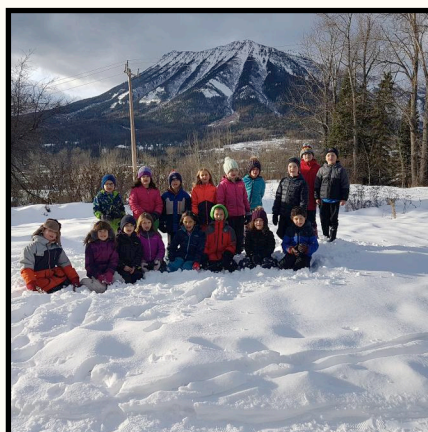
**Lois Ehman, 2020 CBAL Champions
for Literacy Award Winner**



Congratulations Dr. Atwal!!



Mme. Heyde's kindergarten class at Ecole TM Roberts. Inspired by the book "Ish" by Peter Reynolds.



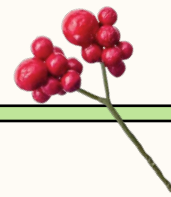
Grade 2 students explored and looked for animal tracks in the forest near EIDES!



SES students in Ms. Wilson's class joined Ms. Henderson's class outside for math.

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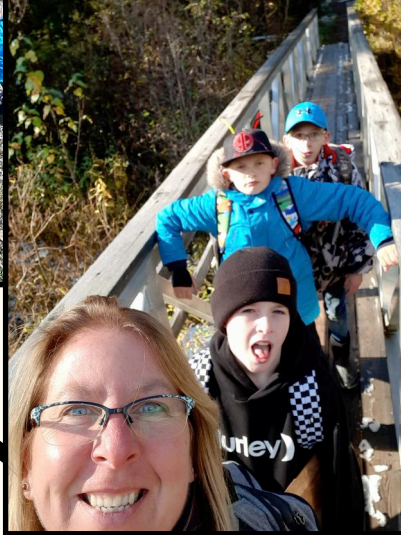
Schools



**Mr. Buck's Grade 6 Wildsight trip
FJMES**



new playground at TMRES



Snow fun at FJMES



**TMRES scientists testing the
water quality of Joseph creek**



SSS class skating



Grade 9 FSS



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Schools



Elders in residence program at MBSS



Quarter One art show, "Behind the Mask", October 29th was organized largely by MBSS grade 12 art student, Dylann Couttie. Included was art work inspired by one's fear and living through the anxiousness of being a teen in 2020. A portion of the proceeds went to the Food Bank.



HES Remembers



Poppy Rocks at SSS



Final project for the Biodiversity Unit in Science at IDES



GTES Kindergarten

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