



**SOUTHEAST KOOTENAY
PATHWAYS TO LEARNING**

2020

January, 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

Welcome Back!

by Silke Yardley



Welcome back to 2020! It is hard to believe that we are in new decade and that Christmas holidays have come and gone. The time between January and spring break is a prime learning time for our students where all of the systems and procedures are in place, classroom routes are well established and this is a great time for students to focus on their learning.

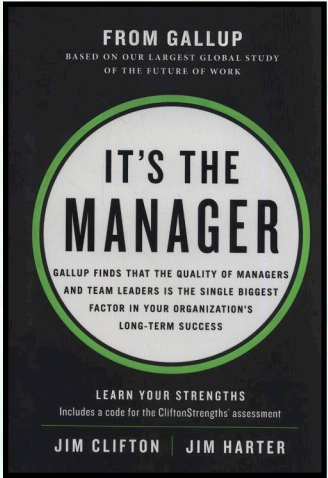
The board and district staff are also focused on student learning and are looking carefully at different information from our students in order to plan for next year. It seems strange to be talking next year, but budgeting starts and district staff and the board start to look at the areas that may need support for the following year to improve student learning outcomes. We look forward to working with our partner groups on the upcoming budget to support our students and schools.

My focus for the next few months will also be to visit schools. I hope to pop into different classrooms and visit with students and staff and see the great work that is happening in our district.

District staff, principals and vice principals have just completed their personal, professional growth plans for the year. The professional growth model is a framework for supporting and encouraging the professional development and growth for our SD 5 management team. The professional growth model is a continuous process aimed at enhancing professional learning, growth, performance and heightening job satisfaction. During the yearlong cycle, action is initiated, feedback sought, data is collected and analyzed and progress is made. We will be connecting in February to see how growth plans are going and how we can help support.

It is always good to look at leadership and how to grow and the following resonated with me. The authors Jim Clifton (CEO of Gallup) and Jim Harter (Gallup's Chief Scientist) share information on *"The 5 Traits of Great Managers..."* where the work centers around two things: examining traits that tend to come naturally to great leaders based on their 'hardwiring', and what the best managers choose to intentionally improve upon over time."

- The 5 Traits of Great Managers:**
- 1. They inspire teams to get exceptional work done.**
 - 2. They set goals and provide resources for teams to excel.**
 - 3. They influence others to act, pushing through adversity and resistance.**
 - 4. They build committed, collaborative teams and deep bonds.**
 - 5. They take an analytical approach to strategy and decision-making.**



It is great for us to strive to move towards any of the top 5 in our leadership development in every capacity.

[Click here for the whole article: The 5 Traits of Great Managers](#)

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Out and About

On our last professional development day, Alan Rice and I visited the Changing Results for Young Children learning session at St Eugene's. We chatted with a very enthusiastic group of educators who organized the day. We were also fortunate to meet with Maureen Dockendorff and Carol Johns in the afternoon to discuss the implementation of the new Early Learning Framework.



Alan and I then traveled to Sparwood where Frank J. Mitchell elementary school had brought in Dr. Jen Kelly, a teacher from the Provincial Outreach Program for Early Years (Popey) who was there supporting the teachers. I have had the pleasure of working with Jen in two districts and know how passionate, supportive and a strong teacher-leader she is. It was nice to see she was supporting us in our district!

The BC principals' association president David DeRosa came for a visit to our district and Alan and I had the pleasure of meeting with him and our PVP president Aaron Thorne. We had good conversations about their new BCPVPA standards tool to support principal and vice principal growth plans, and also on their mentorship program.



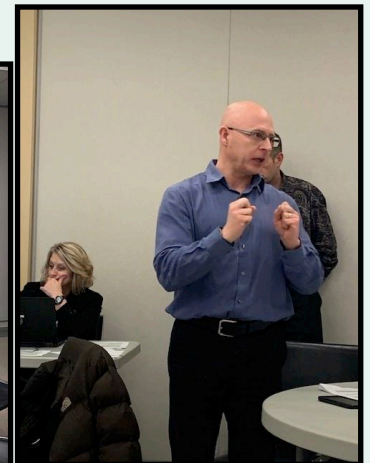
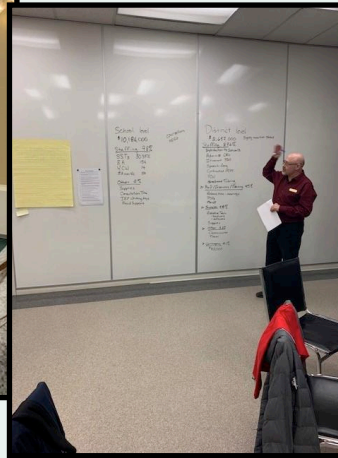
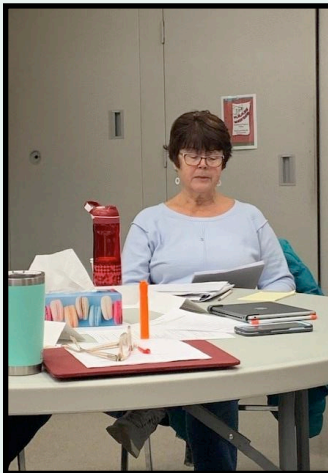
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We had a great get together with the board and with staff just before Christmas! The food and ambiance at all locations was wonderful!



Our inclusion working group met again. This meeting was very emotional as we heard stories of the day in the life of a student services teacher, the day in the life of an EA, and a parent. There wasn't a dry eye in the room when people were presenting. The passion that was shown from all groups was remarkable and made me proud to work in School District 5. We have all partner groups on the committee, please check with your different group leaders for more information.



That's it for now, hope to see you in my travels out and about in the schools!

Silke Yardley, Superintendent



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ENGAGING ALL LEARNERS

Thinking Classrooms Series Continues

Following the success of our work with Dr. Peter Liljedahl and Dr. Judy Larson, we have once again partnered with School District 6 to continue with our Thinking Classrooms initiative for Middle and Secondary School teachers. Our second cohort started working with Judy Larson last year, and we have offered this opportunity to keep the conversation going with the teachers from across our district who were in last year's cohort. The first day was in early December and we have a few more in-service days scheduled this spring! Check out more information on Judy's Thinking Classrooms [here](#)



Transformative Learning The Teachers of Transformative Learning received an early Christmas present when they learned that the Growing Innovations grant application was approved. The grant will go towards the purchase of two Ocular Quest VR Headsets. The brand new Ocular Quest headsets were used at the DSAC meeting on January 9.



On December 11, 2019 seven grade 7/8 students from Fernie Secondary School, led by Harmony Lloyd, participated in the Hackergal Hackathon. The theme of the day was, "Leaders in HERstory". Students were challenged to collaborate with their teammate to code a game or story using the Lynx platform.



Elkford Secondary is using the Autodesk Sketchbook App to create various art projects. The students have also been using the VR google tilt brush.



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Values - Vision

Fernie Secondary Drama Trip

Fernie Secondary School students went on a field trip to Calgary to Stage West Theater to watch the musical, Mamma Mia.



Values - Collaboration

Mount Baker Fine Arts production of "A Christmas Carol" was a success! Pictured is the student orchestra from the seasonal production.



Professional Development

On Thursday, December 5, Student Services teachers met at Jaffray School for a workshop entitled, "What Does Current Research Say about Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder". Topics of this session included:

- What is FASD from a brain based perspective
- Diagnosis and Designation
- Supporting and Strategies (the 8 Keys and Get Ready, Do Done)

A huge thank you to Kim McKeown and Julie Russchen for organizing the Professional Development sessions in Cranbrook and the Elk Valley on December 6. The feedback from these engaging sessions was very positive and the collaboration with other support staff fostered team building and learning together.



IEP WRITING sessions

The IEP writing sessions continue monthly. These IEP Writing Sessions give our Student Services Teachers a chance to collaborate and collectively review IEP's in an uninterrupted environment.

At the beginning of December, Mount Baker Music Composition and Production students made a field trip to talk about recording arts and performance, and to record Parkland Grade 9 band for their Disneyland audition.



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INCLUSIVE PARTNERSHIPS

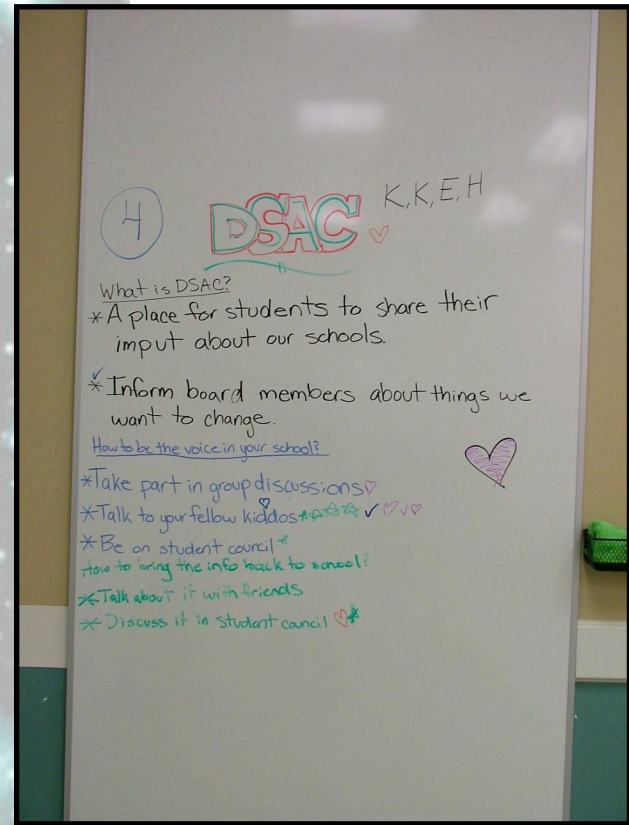
District Student Advisory Council (DSAC)

January 9th saw the first face-to-face District Student Advisory Council (DSAC) meeting of the year. We brought together 7 student-leaders from each of our middle and secondary schools to the Kootenay Learning Campus in Fernie to continue this important program.

We gathered student feedback on our Menstrual Products policy, Cell Phone Policy as well as important feedback from students on their work in schools on climate change initiatives, helped develop their communication and leadership skills and did some work on vaping education and strategies.

Special thanks to District Principal Jennifer Roberts and her Transformative Learning and Technology Helping Teachers Ryan McKenzie and Kim Froehler, Trustee Bev Bellina, Vice-Principals David Doll and Ian Jarrell for all their help in making this a very successful day for the students.

Our next meeting will be February 20 where we are hoping to bring in a guest speaker on mental health! Stay tuned!



Environmental Education - Students LOVE to learn here

We look forward to updating and reporting on upcoming winter activities in School District 5 during the month of January. Snow shoes, cross country skis and other outdoor adventure gear is available at our DRC!



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fseap SOLUTIONS

An excerpt from the December issue of our Family Services Employee Assistance Program!

Moving Beyond “Just Coping”

We are all different psychologically, so an event that creates acute stress for one person may not affect another. Don't be fooled into thinking that your crisis requires toughening up or “pressing on” like you imagine others might. Stigma against asking for help can lead to needless suffering. Fact: Getting help earlier shortens the period of distress and solves problems faster, and most counseling is not long term. One or two sessions may be all it takes to resolve the problem you face.



District Resource Center – Promoting meaningful student learning

The District Resource Centre has impacted 60 teachers and their students in the first half of the 2019/2020 school year. Novel sets, always a popular item, helped our district teachers foster literacy in Grades 2 and up. By loaning our disc golf sets, we have helped our patrons take their classroom learning outside. Interest in our Aboriginal Education shelf has allowed us to provide resources in print about First Nation's legends to middle school and elementary levels. We look forward to extending and reaching our resources out to everyone in the District in 2020!

Practicum placements and COTR

As always, we are pleased to be in partnership with the COTR and the East Kootenay Teacher Education Program (EKTEP). Not only do we support beginning teachers but are fortunate to also work with the COTR and their Education Assistant program. We also have teacher and EA candidates from U Vic, U of C, UBCO, U of L, Lethbridge College, Stenberg College, Northern Lights College and UNBC. In addition, we are supporting 1 School Psychologist placement. This would not be possible without the great mentor teachers in our District. Thank you for your time and expertise!

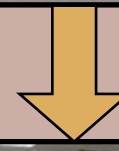
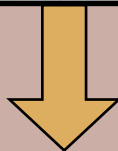
Congratulations Janice Paetz on your well-deserved retirement. Your time, energy and dedication to Southeast Kootenay School district has been very much appreciated. Enjoy!! You earned it!! Janice will be wrapping up this week and leaving the education learning department in the very capable hands of Laurel Geisbrecht. Welcome Laurel!



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Social Emotional Learning Centre



The Social Emotional Learning Program located at Highlands Elementary School is currently serving students from Highlands, Steeples and T.M. Roberts Elementary Schools. They have been operating in this new space since early December. Prior to that the program was supporting students in their home classrooms.



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COMMUNITY



Every year, all Cranbrook schools and the Board Office get to enjoy the wonderful sounds of the Mount Baker Concert Choir! They jump on a bus and travel to each school performing carols at each stop! It always helps students and staff to get into the Christmas Spirit! Thank you Evan Bueckert and your Choir! Have a listen.....

In addition to the many Christmas band concerts, Christmas concerts, Christmas choirs singing in hallways, and many other activities happening in schools over the busy Christmas season, here is just a few examples of how and to who our schools and our Board Office gives to in our local communities, each and every year!

- Cranbrook and Elk Valley local food banks – donations of food, cash and clothing
- Local Salvation Army – donations of food, cash and clothing
- Toys for Tots
- Holiday Train fundraiser
- Hampers – numerous for each and every school and the Board Office
- Haiti Fundraiser
- Nepal Fundraiser
- Terry Fox Run
- Street Angels

HANK YOU

Thank you to all students and staff for a job well done again this year!!

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SCHOOLS



Holiday Spirit at Laurie Middle School



Outdoor Education students from MBSS on overnight trip to Lake O'Hara



2020
VISION



Sparwood Secondary School passion day (fire making and archery) and when the kindly kids came over to make treats in Foods 10-12. Also the grade 7s making ornaments in shop class.

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SCHOOLS



CANDY GRAMS

Candy grams have a little card (with a message you can write to the recipient) and a candy cane or snowflake pencil

When: Wednesday, **December 4th** from 3 – 7 pm in the gym during the PAC book fair and bike sale

Cost: \$2

Why: All proceeds will be donated to Elk Valley Angel Flight

Candy grams will be delivered to students in their classrooms on Thursday Dec. 12th



Fundraising at Isabella Dicken Elementary School - Mrs Conlin's grade 5/6 class sold candy grams to raise money for Angel Flights. Todd Weselake (pilot) and Val Lanthier from Angel Flights (www.angelflightek.ca) came to meet the class and to hear about their fundraising project. They were very touched and appreciative that the class had chosen Angel Flights to fundraise for. This project is becoming a tradition for Mrs. Conlin's students and directly relates to the Core Competency of Social Responsibility in BC's Renewed Curriculum by contributing to the community and acting to bring about a positive change!

**2020
VISION**



The human body under the microscope lab taught to grade 6s from T.M. Roberts Elementary by a grade 10 Science class at Mount Baker Secondary... learning about labs, safety, microscopes and of course Science!

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