

LEARNING TOGETHER

NO. 7



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A picture says a thousand words...

LEARNING TOGETHER IN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5 (SOUTHEAST KOOTENAY)



We hope everyone had a relaxing spring break; the school year always seems to go faster from now until the end of the year.

The District proactively sent out safety measures to follow during the solar eclipse, but included activities that could be explored under direct supervision with students. Many took advantage of the teachable moment, and we even had Mrs. Yadernuk's class from Jaffray that went all the way to Ontario to explore the grade 10 science curriculum first hand. You may have caught a glimpse of these students from the South Country on CBC! One of the big ideas in grade 10 science is "the formation of the universe" which allowed the students to connect content of the classroom to the real-world experience of viewing the eclipse. What an amazing culminating activity for these grade 10 students! Definitely an experience they will remember for a lifetime.

The District will be going to each community in May for community engagement nights. Please check with your school for an event schedule. These fun-filled evenings provide information on how the District has been doing with the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning outcomes, goals, budget and strategic planning. We look forward to seeing you there!

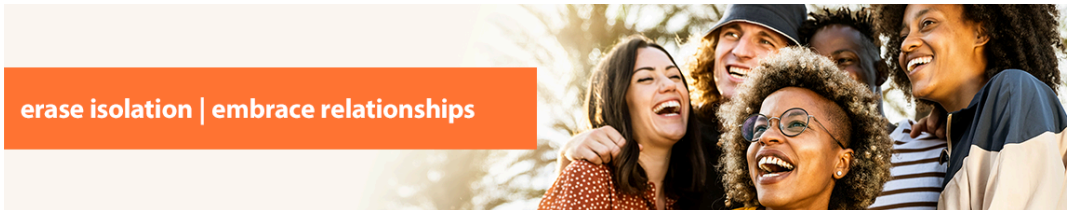
Jaffray School recently hosted an engagement night regarding the Grasmere School site, aiming to gather input from stakeholders to shape its future. There will be another engagement event planned for Grasmere, please watch our website and social media for updates.

Principals and Vice Principals (PVP) were engaged in a day of reviewing assessment practices and the Ministry's current reporting order. PVP discussed communicating student learning with parents/guardians at the centre and reviewed [AP 360](#) that outlines the guiding principles and standards for fair student assessment.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to 21 new students from Namibia and Zimbabwe South Africa to the community of Elkford. Rocky Mountain Elementary and Elkford Secondary Schools hosted two welcome events for the new families to help bridge the transition to a new community and school system. Wishing all the new families a smooth transition and a fulfilling experience in Elkford!

Viveka Johnson,
Superintendent

erase isolation | embrace relationships



News from District Teachers

District French Immersion Teacher, Marzia Bottoni

Bonjour tout le monde! Here is what has been happening in the wonderful world of French Immersion (FI) in the District.

We have been learning at various workshops about the Common European Framework of Reference for languages. This is an internationally recognized proficiency scale for language learning. A CEFR-inspired classroom is an inclusive space that uses a communicative approach to teaching and assessing second language acquisition. We will continue meeting and researching how we might implement this in our FI & Core French classrooms.

Our middle FI teachers also met in earlier this year to discuss literacy strategies for students being introduced to a new language in grade four. Once again we are using research from the science of reading to inform our practice. We left with the renewed knowledge that oral communication and listening in French is the first and most important step to learning to read and write in French. With language comprehension, reading and writing will follow.



The Big Picture

In collaboration with the early FI teachers in Cranbrook, we have completed a digital resource for our FI teachers, administration and families. This document contains a curriculum guide of competencies taught in late grade one, as well as teacher and parent resources for this level. We have begun a similar portal for our middle grade six teachers and parents.



Professional Development

We have held four workshops for our FI teachers with the amazing Shauna Nero from Simon Fraser University French department. We learned so much from Shauna on how to make our classrooms filled with comprehensible language input so that students can understand and feel success as their proficiency grows.

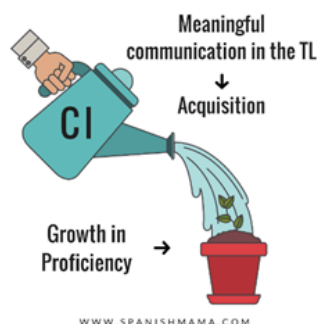
Qu'est-ce que **LES ENTRÉES COMPRÉHENSIBLES ?** *(Comprehensible input)*

Langage que les élèves peuvent comprendre sans connaître tout le vocabulaire et les structures des énoncés.

A un effet sur l'acquisition du langage et le développement des compétences de littératie.

Est intéressant, de haute qualité et pertinent.

(Krashen et Bland, 2014)



What's On The Horizon?

We will be meeting in our teaching groups one last time before year end to continue our learning on comprehensible input and CEFR strategies and resources.



News from District Teachers

Hearing Resource Teacher, Sarah Holmes

In April, two students from the District took part in a provincial event hosted by the Provincial Outreach Program – Deaf/Hard of Hearing. Haylee Mackie (TM Roberts) and Karina Galanov (Gordon Terrace) each wrote and delivered speeches alongside 25 other Deaf/Hard of Hearing (DHH) students from across the province. This year's topic was "My Deaf and Hard of Hearing Superpower." Both students did an incredible job representing the District, and bravely stood in front of the large crowd at the Michael J. Fox Theater at the BC School for the Deaf. They shared their personal speeches about their experiences as DHH students here in Cranbrook.

The students also had the opportunity to visit the Victory Hill/BC School for the Deaf dorms for a community barbeque where they got to meet with other DHH students from across the province. They also attended an event at Science World, where over 300 DHH students gathered for a day of learning, fun, and connections!

Haylee, Karina, and Sarah Holmes (Hearing Resource Teacher) want to extend their appreciation to POPDHH and to the District for the financial support to attend this amazing event!

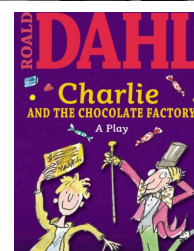


News from the DRC

District Resource Centre Librarian, Maxine Malmberg

Two New Novel Studies

"**Charlie and the Chocolate Factory**" - Roald Dahl (1964) A classic tale continues to captivate young and old audiences. The 2023 release of "Wonka" the movie prequel of "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" renews the imaginative magic of Roald Dahl's characters. Students in grades 4 to 5 will revel in the adventures of young Charlie Bucket while they explore the moral that we all experience the consequences of our actions in time.

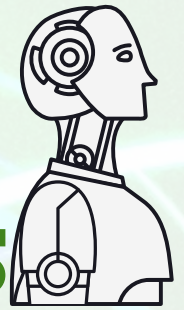


"**The Night Wanderer**" - Drew Hayden Taylor (2007) Recommended for students in grades 9 to 11, this novel explores many social themes while gripping readers with its creepy narrative. Thank you to the English Language Arts crew at Laurie Middle for this suggestion! Check out the [official book trailer](#). There are also a lot of fantastic reviews on the book.

"A mesmerizing blend of Gothic thriller and modern coming-of-age novel, The Night Wanderer is unlike any other vampire story." (Annick Press)

"Offers food for thought as well as frights. Taylor sensitively works several important themes (redemption, coming of age, ties that bind) into his treatment of discussion-worthy issues (prejudice, bullying, suicide). His representation of life on a small reserve is authoritative, his Anishinabe vocabulary is authentic, and his refreshingly smart humour runs liberally through the book. Hats off to Annick Press for approaching a writer of Taylor's stature to write a novel for young teens. The Night Wanderer is a quality offering." (Quill & Quire)





DISTRICT DESIGN LABS

Teachers of Transformative Learning **Ryan McKenzie and Kim Froehler**

Making The World Turn

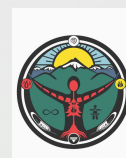
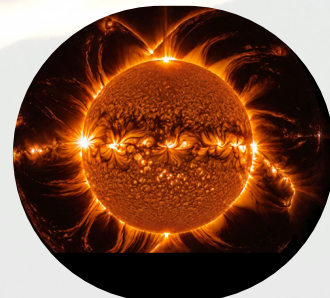
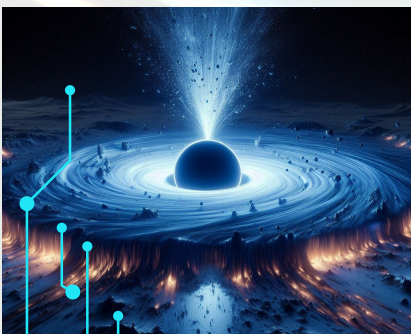
Students in grades 3 and 4 from Mrs. Meijer's class and UVic practicum teacher Mme. Champigny embarked on an enriching learning journey titled, "Exploring The Motions of the Earth, Moon and Sun Through Different Mediums."

The learning experience explored the observable patterns caused by the motions of Earth, Moon, and Sun. Students engaged in five distinct approaches to better understand the topic:

1. Research using online education databases like Learn 360, NatGeo Kids and World Book Kids
2. Observation using compasses from the District Resource Centre to look at the position of the sun and moon at different times of the day
3. Model-making using the Design Lab Lego
4. AI exploration by gaining more understanding from language generators that could curate information and answer questions at grade level language
5. AI image generation to depict the student learnings

Learning Circuits With Bugs

Grade nine students at Parkland, put their understanding of electronic circuits to the test with a mini design challenge that had them creating cardboard circuits. Their challenge was to design a cardboard bug and use a combination of a watch battery, copper tape and LEDs to make different parts of their creation light up.





AROUND THE DISTRICT

Meet the Cranbrook Bus Drivers



Art Morris - Driver

Art has worked for the District for 40 years! He has worked in various roles such as custodian, bus washer, and bus driver. Art is retired but came back to a full-time position during the pandemic. Art loves classic cars and volunteers for the Cranbrook Bucks. He also is a volunteer guest guide at the Kimberley Ski Hill. Art loves to spend time at Wasa around the campfire.



Christine Portsmouth - Driver

Christine has been a bus driver for 25 years. She has had the opportunity to work in different departments for the District which has given her a chance to learn different jobs and meet great people. In her spare time, Christine spends time with her family in the great outdoors - fishing and camping.



Darryl Bishop - Driver

Darryl has been a spare bus driver since 2009. Darryl and his wife, Janet, love to camp, travel and spend time with friends and family.



Donnie Nelson - Driver

Donnie has been a bus driver for 15 years. Before driving bus, Donnie was a fire line supervisor for the BC Forest Service for 27 years. Donnie's hobbies include writing and playing music. His latest song is the Bus Drivers Prayer! Donnie loves his family and his dogs.



Frank Feil - Driver

Frank has been a spare bus driver with the District for almost two years. He likes spending time in nature and enjoys gold panning, hunting, fishing and working in the garden on the farm.



Gerry Atwood - Driver

Gerry has been driving a bus for the District for 26 years. He enjoys time in the outdoors and camping during his summers off work.



Judy Syme - Driver

Judy's driving career spans 29 years. She has been helping passengers with special needs for 16 years. You can find Judy in the gym when she is not at work.





AROUND THE DISTRICT

Meet the Cranbrook Bus Drivers



Ken Jarabek - Driver

Ken retired ten years ago and started driving school bus. He thinks it is the best retirement job to have!



Leo Snow - Driver

Leo has been in the heavy equipment and transport industry for 30 years. He has driven school bus for the District for the past five years. Leo loves hunting and fishing with his wife, five children and two grandchildren. He also likes gaming and is a Dungeons and Dragons nerd!



Linda Smith - Driver

Linda has been driving the Gold Creek East School bus route for eight years. She shares her life at home with four horses, three cats, two dogs, and her husband Bill



Randy Biddles - Driver

Randy has been working as a full-time bus driver for three years. In his spare time you can find him either barbequing or on a cruise ship somewhere.

Mike Schultze - Driver

Mike has been a full-time bus driver for 1-1/2 years. When he's not driving, he enjoys walking his dog Jack, mountain biking and aviation.



Sarah Kimber - Driver

Sarah started riding when she was three years old. She has learned so much from her horses. Sarah competes at Spruce Meadows in Calgary, Thunderbird in Vancouver, California and in Utah.



Sam Nicoll - Bus Cleaner & Driver

Sam has been driving school bus for over a year. He loves playing hockey, reading and music. Interesting fact about Sam...he lived in England for 20 years.



Photos and Biographies missing for Jacob Larson and Kevin Ward

In the next issue of Learning Together, meet the Bus Shop Mechanics that keep the District buses running smoothly!





IN THE SCHOOLS

Spring

News from Schools Across the District



Sashing Ceremony at Kootenay Orchards

Kootenay Orchards Elementary School invited the Métis Elders to perform a Sashing ceremony for the Intermediate students. Maarsi to Ms. Alexis for convening and welcoming everyone.



Steeles Reads Spring Break Challenge

Congratulations to the Steeles Elementary students that earned a free book! They enjoyed a walk to Coles Bookstore to pick out a new book.



Frank J. Mitchell Elementary Reading Room
The beautifully transformed Reading Room is now open at Frank J. Mitchell.



Mount Baker Secondary Outdoor Careers

Students are currently working at the local food action garden. They will return three more times to pitch in, including a session where they plant the seedlings that they are growing in class. Such rich learning opportunities, where students are connecting to self, community, and the environment.



Highlands Elementary "Survival Skills"

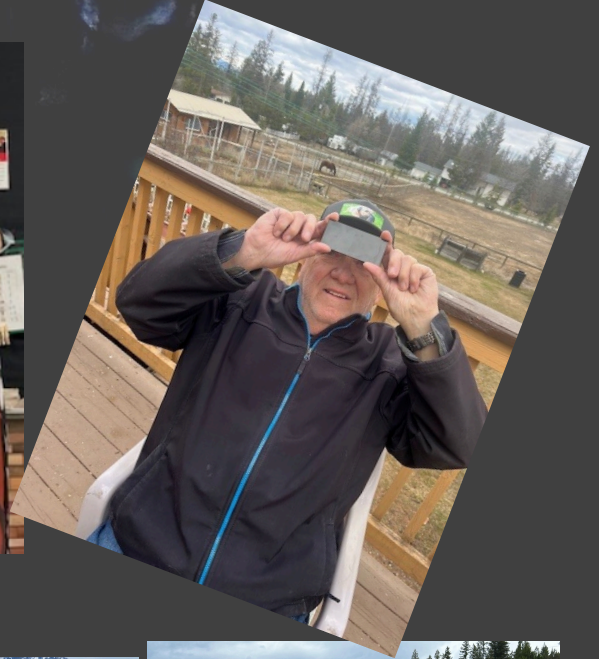
Mr. Bartraw's class learned outdoor skills such as how to whittle a stick and build a campfire at the Wildhorse River.



Principals and Vice Principals meeting at the Cranbrook Board Office on April 16.



A picture says a thousand words...



A picture says a thousand words...



BCSTA VISIT

April 29, 2024

On April 29, 2024, two executive members of the British Columbia School Trustees Association (BCSTA) visited the District. The itinerary included lunch with the Board of Education and District Management, followed by a tour of Mount Baker Secondary. The group also travelled throughout the Cranbrook catchment areas on an electric bus driven by bus driver, Frank Feil.

The Board of Education would like to thank the students and staff of Mount Baker Secondary for the tour of the school, the wonderful performances and the great demonstration of School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay) spirit. They would also like to acknowledge the Transportation Department for providing the bus and driver.



Pictured (l-r): BCSTA CEO Suzanne Hoffman, Chairperson Doug McPhee, Trustee Irene Bischler, BCSTA President Carolyn Broady, Superintendent Viveka Johnson, Trustee Trina Ayling, Secretary Treasurer Nick Taylor, Trustee Chris Johns and Trustee Alysha Clarke. (Missing from photo: Trustee Wendy Turner, Trustee Nicole Heckendorf, Trustee Bev Bellina and Trustee Sarah Madsen).

