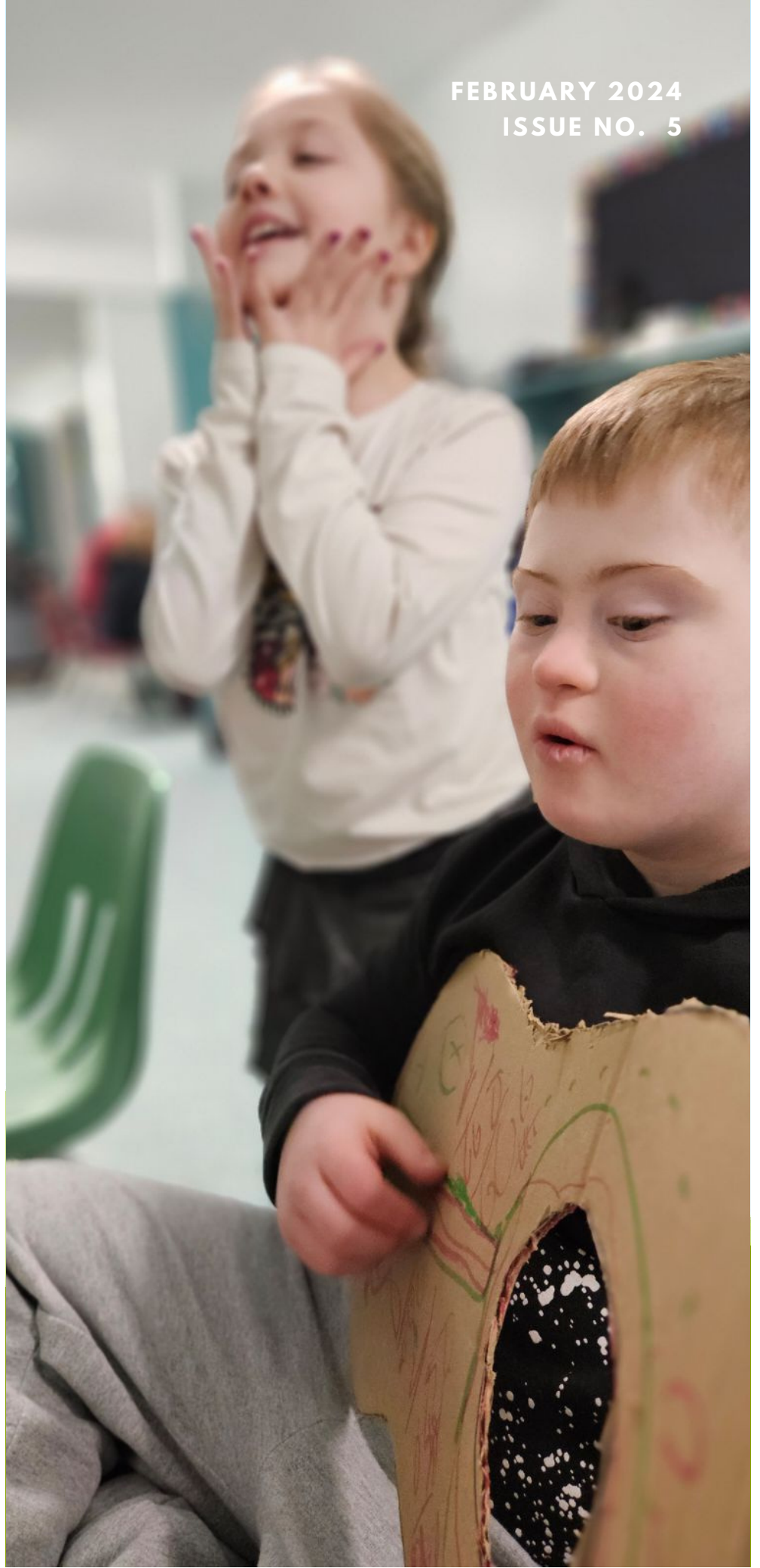


# LEARNING TOGETHER

NO. 5

FEBRUARY 2024  
ISSUE NO. 5





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A picture says a thousand words...

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



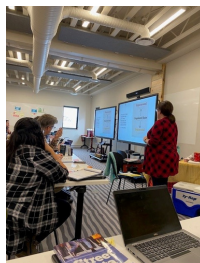
Please join me in welcoming Erin Stevenson to the position of Gang Violence and Exploitation Prevention Coordinator for School District No. 5 (Southeast Kootenay). This is a brand-new position funded by the Ministry of the Attorney General's Office. Erin's work will focus on supporting youth to reduce the risk of being recruited into exploitation and gang activity. Erin will work closely with schools and school personnel to establish awareness and support mechanisms for this important work. Erin brings a wealth of experience from her work as a mental health liaison with the RCMP and as a coach.

The Ministry has announced a provincial requirement for public schools to restrict cell phone and digital device use during class time. All districts are required to revisit their current policies and procedures to ensure students have focused instructional time. This does not restrict access to devices for educational accommodations, medical requirements, or for educational purposes as directed by the classroom teacher. With these expectations, districts will also be required to revisit codes of conduct to ensure mechanisms are in place to address cell phone use and cyberbullying.

In response to this year's cold snap, we have created Administrative Procedure 133 (AP) for the transportation of students during extreme weather. Having an AP in place will allow for proactive decisions to be made the evening before, allowing families and schools to plan for the cancellation of buses and trips (both curricular and extra-curricular). I encourage you to review the AP, which is now available.

Principals and Vice Principals (PVP) across the district recently met for a full day of discussions and learning on topics such as parentification, saviorism, social-emotional learning, and listening to voices on the margins. The leadership group has been engaged in a book study of *Street Data: A Next-Generation Model for Equity, Pedagogy, and School Transformation* (Safir & Dugan, 2021). As part of the working session, the PVP heard presentations from Lauren Gruggen, a counselor from Laurie Middle School, and Kim Richards, the District Social-Emotional Learning Teacher.

**Viveka Johnson, Superintendent**



## SELF CARE

THE ART OF PAYING ATTENTION TO YOU AND YOUR NEEDS WHILE AT WORK

### EAT WELL & DRINK WATER

Pack a nutritious lunch and snacks. Water helps you to feel energized. Make it more fun with infusing your water with fruit, cucumbers, or fresh mint!



### REFRESH

Take mini breaks throughout the day. If possible get outside for your break!



### DECORATE YOUR WORKSPACE

Having items that spark joy for you such as family photos, plants, etc. in your workplace can help your space put a smile on your face!



### BE KIND TO YOURSELF

Using positive self talk and finding the positives in situations.



### BREATHE

Take 60 seconds to breathe to help calm your nervous system.



### KNOW YOURSELF

Wearing an outfit that makes you feel good, ask for help when things are too much and remember what brings you joy!



### FIND MOMENTS FOR MOVEMENT

Finding moments in which you can do some wall push ups, squats, lunges, etc. even for 1-2 minutes at random times in the day can help with circulation (if medically able). Monitoring your cumulative steps in a day can also be a way to monitor movement.

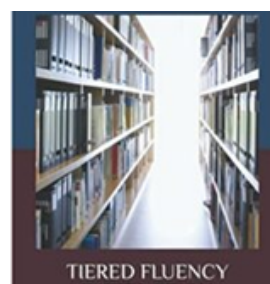
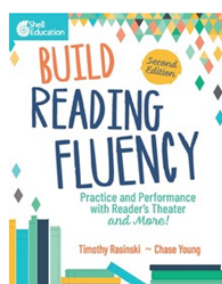
Brought to be the SD5 HR and Mental Health team.



# News from District Teachers

## District Literacy Teacher, Erin Jones

During the Professional Development day on February 2, 28 teachers and 2 administrators from 8 different schools across the District joined Erin Jones, the district literacy support teacher, for an incredible day of learning. The District welcomed Dr. Chase Young, a former elementary school teacher, literacy coach, current editor of Literacy Research and Instruction, and professor of literacy in the School of Teaching and Learning at Sam Houston State University. Dr. Young led us through an engaging and joyful day of learning with a focus on building reading fluency. Teachers participated in Reader's Theatre, explored case studies, and learned both the art and science of teaching reading. Many teachers left with evidence-based activities to try on Monday.



## District French Immersion Teacher, Marzia Bottoni

Bonjour! As we strive to improve the reading skills of our students, we have been meeting to learn about the [science of reading](#). As one teacher wrote, "This workshop allowed me to understand what I was and wasn't doing with the implementation of my phonemic awareness program."

As well as learning about the research behind reading, we are using a trial on a structured literacy program, *I can Read in French*, with our late French Immersion students at Isabella Dicken Elementary School.

Along with workshops to inform practice, district French Immersion teacher, Marzia Bottoni, has been creating teacher digital resource pages for each grade. The pages are proving very valuable to help organize tools for learning. Check out the latest parent and student page for grade 5 here: <https://start.me/p/q65YBJ/grade-5-resources-parents-and-students-middle>.

During December and January our late immersion teachers from Isabella Dicken met for three workshops with Myriam LeMay to learn how to better teach speaking skills. We ended up learning about all of our own bad habits and left with new tools and a renewed appreciation of how our students feel when trying something new! Growth mindset!

Kudos to Madame Bower's grade 5/6 class at Isabella Dicken who wrote a great article for the Fernie Fix about growth mindset and how to support our children in language learning. Bravo!

Read the article here: [February Fernie Fix 2024](#)



**"People with a growth mindset, as opposed to a fixed mindset, learn a lot more from their mistakes and are better able to overcome challenges,"** adds Viora.

"If you don't make mistakes, you aren't pushing yourself far enough," said Viora.

Teachers can support their child's learning by modeling that challenges are a part of life. We have been modeling and modeling to our child as we support them to learn.

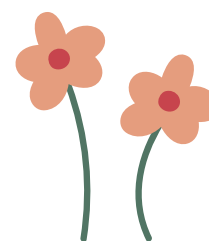
Submitted Photo

"I think when we compare ourselves to others, it can make us feel worse," said Viora.

"I'm not even trying to impress," said Viora.

Teachers can help their children understand their mistakes, but don't compare yourself to anyone else. We should only compare ourselves to our own progress. Children that are not doing well can work on one work on one year to reach the level of the other child.

Our focus on working together in French, as well as the other languages, is to continue to progress in our language learning.



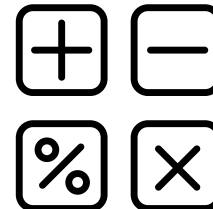
# News from District Teachers

## District Numeracy Teacher, Kathy Conlin

### Parent Numeracy Connections at Isabella Dicken

As part of the Isabella Dicken Elementary Parent Connection series, Kathy Conlin (district numeracy teacher) hosted two evening numeracy sessions. The goals of the sessions were to help parents understand:

1. Why math instruction has shifted?
2. What are the new math strategies?
3. Joyful ways to support their child(ren) at home.



The first session focused on helping parents understand the progression of basic fact strategies (foundational facts then derived strategies) for addition and subtraction. The second session focused on multi-digit strategies for multiplication and division. Attendees of both presentations went home with a package of games they could use for joyful practice with their child(ren).

### Meaningful Small Groups in Math

Teams of classroom and student services teachers from Frank J Mitchell, Isabella Dicken and Amy Woodland met for two sessions to explore the book, *Meaningful Small Groups in Math* by Kimberly Rimbey.

The book explains a framework for supporting struggling learners within the classroom so that teachers can meet the needs of all learners. The book also includes a series of small group lessons on each of the critical concepts for kindergarten to grade 5 students. Participants in the book club identified a learning standard from the curriculum, taught a whole class lesson, collected evidence of learning from students, and implemented small group math lessons to support struggling learners. Participants will continue to meet to plan lessons and formative assessments to support using small groups in math.

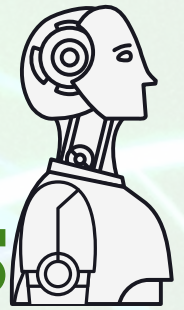


### Growing Innovations: Culturally Responsive Numeracy Tasks

Teachers toured Nupku's Native Plant Nursery and met with operations manager, Gerald Puhach, to learn about the process of seed collection, cleaning, storage, and propagation to facilitate reclamation and revegetation within the Ktunaxa territory and beyond.

The facility was an excellent provocation for math and platform for Indigenous knowledge. The team was excited to begin designing numeracy tasks right away. We hope the tasks will enhance students' relationship with land and strengthen their identity as mathematicians. The teachers will meet a few more times to finish planning the tasks. Then the team will begin trialing them with classes. This project is a continuation of last years work where the Ktunaxa Creation Story was a provocation for kindergarten to grade 9 numeracy tasks. These tasks are currently available on the portal.



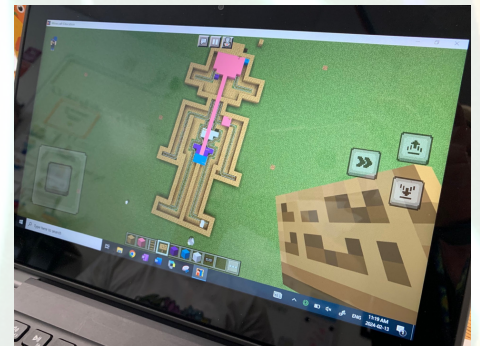


# DISTRICT DESIGN LABS

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

## Students Showcase Innovative Learning in Minecraft Education

Students from Madame Heath's grade 6 class at Isabella Dicken have harnessed the power of Minecraft Education to create detailed 3D models of the human body systems. Impressively, some students incorporated redstone to mimic the nervous system's functionality, adding an interactive element to the project. Additionally, to enhance accessibility, some students labeled their model in both French and English, promoting inclusivity in learning. One student went above and beyond by crafting a full 3D body museum, offering a unique educational experience.



## Extreme Environments and Mission to Mars

Students in Madame Brower's grade 5/6 class at Isabella Dicken travelled virtually to various extreme environments such as the Sudanese desert, Antarctica, and the International Space Station using virtual reality. After conducting research about the environment on Mars, they collaborated in small groups to create and build colonies on Mars using Minecraft Education.



## Water Cycle Comes to Life

Students in Ms. Lennox's and Ms. Sutherland's grade 2 classes at Isabella Dicken used iPads to create stop motion videos depicting the water cycle. With handmade backdrops and props, they were able to illustrate each stage of the water cycle. Their collaborative effort not only showcased technical skills but also fostered teamwork and problem-solving.





# AROUND THE DISTRICT

## Meet the Cranbrook Maintenance Department

### Andrew Koswan - Carpenter

Andy has worked for the District as a carpenter for the last two years. He was born Yellowknife but grew up in Wasa. He moved to Ontario with his parents and sister and took up turkey farming! He then moved back to Wasa in 2007. He worked as a carpenter doing framing, foundations and later on owning a construction company for seven years. Andy enjoys spending time with his two nephews and doing anything outdoors that can include his two dogs.



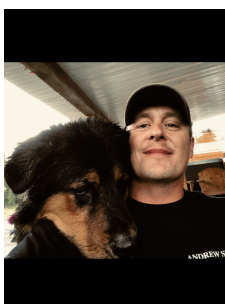
### Bernie Primbs - Painter

Bernie is a red seal painter with 25 years of experience. He started painting with his dad's company at an early age, then started his own painting company. He has been a painter with the District for four years. He is a husband and father of two children, member of the Volunteer Ski Patrol, and plays saxophone and keyboards in a local show band called the Mile High Club. In the little amount of spare time he has, he enjoys going for a daily ice plunge, skiing, mountain biking, and gardening.



### Chris Thorsteinson - Carpenter

Chris has been a maintenance carpenter for the District for 12 years. He completed his apprenticeship and timber framing course at the College of the Rockies. Chris is married and has a son studying AI at UBC. He also has step-kids and step-grandkids in Cranbrook. Chris likes skiing, cycling, camping and road trips. This photo shows Chris at 8th and 40-deuce (as the Beastie Boys called it) with the Empire State Building. He loves NY!.



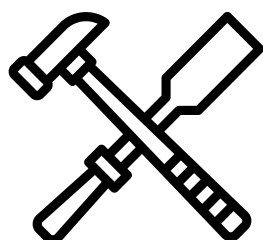
### Clint Lepine - Trades Foreperson

Clint was born and raised in Fernie and graduated from Fernie secondary in 1997. From high school, he went on to pursue an education in plumbing, gas, and HVAC. He graduated with dual trades from SAIT in Calgary in 2005. After graduating, Clint moved back to the Kootenays so he could get back to the lifestyle he had always enjoyed. Clint started working for the District in 2012 as a HVAC/Plumber and is now a trades foreman. Clint feels fortunate to be the father of a 17-year-old son and 16-year daughter. Clint has three horses, three dogs and spends a lot of time outdoors! He loves to hunt, fish, hike and snowshoe.



### Greg Wade - Foreperson

Greg has been with the District since 2004. He enjoys spending time with his family and pets in the outdoors. He loves camping, mountain biking, hiking, and all the great things the Kootenays have to offer year round.





# AROUND THE DISTRICT

## Meet the Cranbrook Maintenance Department

### Herman Rosner - Electrician

Herman has been one of the maintenance electricians at the District since 2015. Prior to his time with the District, he was an environmental consultant and also worked various jobs in construction, auto service, and industrial settings. He completed his education at Lakeland College, NAIT, and Medicine Hat College. Herman grew up in Leduc, Alberta and currently resides in Cranbrook with his wife and three children. Herman spends his time off hiking, biking, gardening and cross-country skiing.



### Russ Swain - Electrician

Working for the district as an electrician has given Russ the opportunity to be around his family all the time. He enjoys being involved with his children's sports as a coach or as a helper. He also enjoys helping children in the community learn to grow into great people. He enjoys the outdoors as much as possible, including hiking, biking, camping and being by the lakes in the community. Russ feels very fortunate to call this amazing place home.

### Trent Hauprich - Carpenter

Trent worked as a carpenter for the District for the last four years. He was born and raised in Cranbrook and has been working as a carpenter for 36 years. Growing up in the Kootenays, Trent has always enjoyed the outdoors. He loves hunting, Guiding, fishing, and spending time with Barb and his dogs.

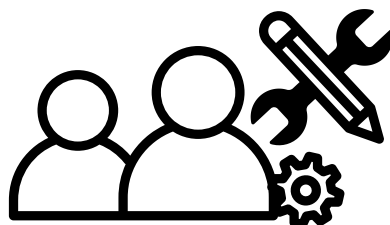


### Tyler Hollander - Plumber

Tyler is a plumber for the District and works in both Cranbrook and the Elk Valley. He has been with the District for two years and feels that the District is a great employer. Tyler has been a plumber for 22 years. He has worked for the Vancouver School Board and for the City of Vancouver as a plumbing inspector. He also has his own business. Some of Tyler's hobbies include going on long walks on the beach and holding hands with his wife. Here's a fun fact about Tyler...he really likes cheese.

### Thank you

A huge thank you to our Operations Department for helping us gather this information on our Cranbrook Maintenance Department! There's more to come!!! We will be introducing our Elk Valley Maintenance staff in the next issue of Learning Together. Stay tuned!



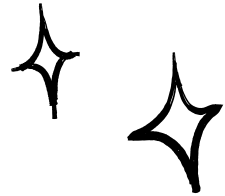
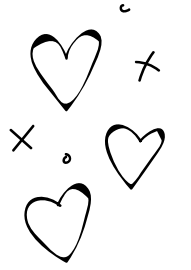


# IN THE SCHOOLS

## News from Schools Across the District

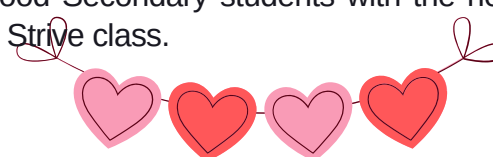
### Basketball Camp

Pinewood Principal, Jill Carley, coached a basketball camp on Friday, February 23. Students from Highlands, Steeples, Pinewood and ʔAQAMNĪK joined in the camp. The amazing day started off with an opening drumming ceremony with 80 participants. Thank you to ʔaq'am for the gym space and a huge thank you to Principal Carley!



### Have a Heart Day

Ms. Traub's Contemporary Indigenous Studies class honoured Have A Heart Day by making over 700 cookies for Sparwood Secondary students with the help of Ms. Wagner's students and Mr. Parker's Strive class.



Kindness- no words needed. Love from Kindergarten! ❤️❤️



### Kindness in Kindergarten at Kootenay Orchards

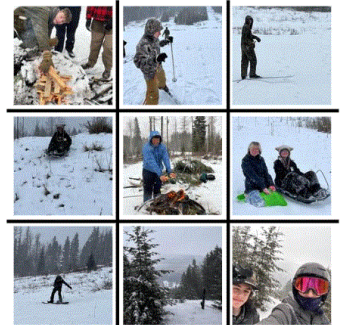
Kindergarten classes at Kootenay Orchards pay homage to a book on kindness.



### Learning Extension Day

Physical Education grades 10-12 went on an outdoor adventure which included cross country skiing, snowboarding, fire making, tobogganing and hot dog cooking! Student and teachers alike had a lot of fun enjoying our local outdoor spaces in Sparwood Heights.

### Learning Extension Day



SSS PE 10-12  
Outdoor fun

### Legends at Steeples Elementary

Bonnie Harvey performed Ktunaxa legends at Steeples Elementary School in February.



A picture says a thousand words...



### Kootenay Discovery School OPEN HOUSE

March 5th from 4-5pm  
1301 2nd ave Fernie - Portable #223



Interested in flexible, personalized learning opportunities for your child?

Join us for a presentation about the elementary program with time to ask questions, meet the teacher and tour our classroom space.



WWW.KOOTENAYDISCOVERYSCHOOL.COM

