

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5 (SOUTHEAST KOOTENAY)



APRIL 2023

Students love to learn here, Staff love to work here, Families love to gather here

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Spring is here, and schools are busy with field trips, outdoor activities and preparing for next year. As part of the planning process, we have begun our engagement nights in each of our District's communities. The purpose of engagement nights is to share our current priorities and goals, provide a breakdown of the District's budget and gather any feedback or suggestions that our stakeholders (you) may have for us. Schools will also present their growth plans and their focus for the upcoming year.

It is an excellent opportunity to engage in conversation and meet the District team. Babysitting is provided. There is also a link that was sent out by Amanda Skene that invites you to provide your input online. If you haven't received the link and would like to participate in the online engagement questions, please email amanda.skene@sd5.bc.ca for the link. For upcoming engagement dates, please look at our [District's website](#).



A huge shout out to Jaffray Elementary Jr. Secondary School for their flexibility around the recent water issues at the school. Thank you to Joe Tank and his team, who quickly identified the issue with the well's pump and ensured that there were bottled water and porta potties available at the school so there was no disruption for students and staff while the issue was sorted out. Thank you, JEJSS, for your flexibility and for rolling with the situation at hand.

The District completed a Child Care Survey and received over 750 responses. The responses indicate a need for before and after-school care and we hope to move forward with spaces in the near future.

The Student Learning Survey deadline has been extended. This is a Ministry survey that asks you to share your student's school experiences which help us plan for around identified needs. Parents of students in grades 4,7,10, and 12 are invited to participate in the online satisfaction survey about their school experience. The survey takes approximately 30 minutes to complete and is available in multiple languages. If you have trouble accessing the survey, please reach out to your school.

Ready, Set, Learn (RSL) events are currently happening in your community. RSL is all about fostering positive connections between families, the school system and local community agencies. The event is to help families bridge the transition to Kindergarten as it is geared toward families of 3-5-year-olds. We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated group of educators that promote and foster the development of all children through the Early Learning Framework. The primary years are critical for your child's social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development. Please reach out to your catchment school for more information.

LITERACY

LASER NAMES

Ms. Radies' and Mrs. Dyck's grade 6 class at AWES recently took on an exciting design project that tasked them with creating custom name tags. The students could make them using a 3D design or a laser-cutting file. Using various technologies, from Tinkercad to digital art tools and file conversion resources, they explored a variety of software and tools to turn their hand-drawn art into digital files that could be printed and cut out. The students developed their design literacy skills, resulting in unique and personalized name tags showcasing their creativity and hard work. One student even made a custom keychain for Ms. Radies.

WORDS THAT END IN ING

Students in Ms. Wurmlinger's Grade 2/3 class at RMES combined spelling with robotics. Students chose and wrote a word ending with ING and then programmed their Ozobot to perform different commands while driving through the letters of each word.

BOOKS FOR STRONGSTART

The Ministry of Education and Child Care's Early Learning Branch has sent a beautiful set of 8 Indigenous children's literature to each district office for use in our StrongStart Centres! We have ordered additional sets for each primary school from our Equity in Action Early Years funding, along with three more Indigenous children's books.



NEWS FROM THE DRC

"THE BOOK THIEF"

Liesel, an orphan in Nazi Germany, learns to read from her foster parents.

Her passion for reading emboldens her to secret a book away from a Nazi bonfire. Life becomes complicated when Liesel's new family hides a young Jewish boy in their home. Explore this and many other titles on our Novel Studies Book List on the DRC Resources Menu.

PICKLE BALL

Get outside in the spring weather! Use our paddle and ball sets at your local court or borrow one of our portable nets for practice on pavement or in the gym.

CURIO

What a great way to access various levels of current events and news items. Find this and many other digital resources on the DRC Portal Page.

NUMERACY

COLLABORATIVE MATH GROUP

Kathy Conlin is thrilled to work with teams of intermediate teachers from 3 schools (EIDES, TMRES, FJMES) this Spring for 8 weeks to improve student achievement and confidence in math! They started by implementing and collaboratively marking a common assessment. Based on the results, the group decided to implement Sherry Parrish number talks in their classroom three days a week to bolster number sense, mathematical discourse, and reasoning. Number talks are a 10-minute warm-up routine that involves the teacher putting an equation on the board, students solving the equation and sharing their various strategies for reasoning through the equation. The teacher models the students thinking on the board and fosters a discussion about how strategies are the same and different. At the end of the 8 weeks, teachers will reassess students' skills. They will meet as a group to mark the assessment and debrief the process collaboratively.

$$y = mx + b$$

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

EKRSA DAY

Two half-day sessions were offered for grade 4 – 7 teachers that focused on promoting understanding in proportional reasoning (fractions, decimals, percent). The Carole Fullerton lesson sequence we explored used Cuisenaire rods and base 10 blocks to explore different types of models (set, area, and linear). The session also highlighted the 'keyword' strategy for making vocabulary visible and how to use it as an assessment for learning tools.



SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

Teams of grade 4-6 and 7-9 teachers came together to create a scope and sequence for the intermediate/middle school math curriculum. With support from the Ministry, they discussed how the core competencies, numeracy performance standards, curricular competencies, and content worked together. After identifying big ideas and critical concepts in the curriculum, they organized content into a suggested flow with a suggested amount of time to spend on each topic. The next step is to attach resources (lessons/vocab) to the content and identify numeracy tasks for each grade level. Identifying ways to spiral or interleave the content is a goal for the future.

AROUND THE DISTRICT

TECHNOLOGY FUNDING

As a result of a Canadian Microsoft Software class action suit, eight schools in SD 5 (listed below) applied for and were awarded a portion of settlement funds for being used over the next five years. These funds will facilitate access to computing devices, software, and teacher training support to improve the overall educational outcomes for students and their teachers.



STEEPLES	\$20,000
AMY WOODLAND	\$25,000
ELKFORD SECONDARY	\$25,000
PARKLAND	\$35,000
ISABELLA DICKEN	\$50,000
GORDON TERRACE	\$75,000
FJ MITCHELL	\$100,000
LAURIE MIDDLE	\$100,000

CUSTOM ARCADE

Mrs. Kirkpatrick's grade 5 class at AWES recently dove headfirst into STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) with a thrilling game design unit. The students began their journey with some unplugged cardboard games. At the Design Lab, they got to flex their creative muscles and experiment with different materials to create their very own carnival games using coding, Lego and other crafting materials. The pinnacle of their unit came with the task of designing a unique controller for an online game. Armed with Makey Makey kits and various crafting materials, the students created unique controllers to immerse the player in the game fully. The results were impressive, with some standout creations, including a monkey swinging game that utilized a vine for play and an airplane game controlled by a giant paper airplane.

MAKING MUSIC WITH MAKEY MAKEYS

Students in Ms. Medcalf's grade 3/4 class, Ms. Nohels' grade 6 class, and Mr. Buck's grade 6 class at FJMES created musical instruments from conductive objects such as tin foil and Play-Doh. They used Scratch to code different instrument sounds and notes to play their musical instruments. Mr. Buck's class could play the first few musical notes from "Smoke on the Water" using their instruments.



LEGO LIMBO

Students in Cara London's Grade 4 class at AWES embarked on an exciting project to explore animal adaptations and create adapted robotic animals. They used a Venn diagram to compare the different senses between living things and robots. This helped them understand which senses a robot could mimic. Next, they headed to the Design Lab to build a guided Lego model of a rhinoceros and code it to use its horn as a sensory tool. The students' creativity was tested when they were asked to modify their rhinoceros to become more like a giraffe, with the ability to reach up high. The class then faced their most formidable challenge, transforming their creation into a snake-like robot that could fit through a tunnel by becoming as low and long as possible. Students exercised their critical thinking and problem-solving skills in a fun and engaging way.

RSA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

The District hosted the Regional Specialist Association (RSA Day) on April 24th at Mount Baker. The day started with keynote adventure speaker Bruce Kirkby, an acclaimed explorer, travel writer and photographer. His talk focused on the concept of grit and having a purpose with a mindset of progress over perfection. In the afternoon, the principals and vice principals had a focused session on moving trauma-informed practice and compassionate systems leadership into action at the school level while teaching and support staff enjoyed various break-out sessions from primary literacy to artificial intelligence.

STUDENT SERVICES

Transitioning has begun for students moving from elementary school to middle school or middle school to high school. SD5 staff will work directly with students who may have difficulties with the change by taking them on a school tour and introducing them to the staff at their new school.



NIPIKA LEADERSHIP CLINIC

From April 14-16, nine School District 5 staff attended the annual Nipika Environmental Education Leadership Clinic to share, learn and brainstorm ideas for future Environmental Education in SD5. The team that represented SD5 included Emma Garforth-Bles and Faye O'Neil as part of the organizing committee, Janet Kuijt, also a CBEEN board member, along with other leaders in SD5 who have a passion for Outdoor Education and Place-Based Learning, including Carling Cross, Leigh Cormier, Janelle Park, Carissa Hart, Kelly Henderson and Matt Taylor.

Each educator brought different passions and experiences to the discussion. The team had the entire weekend together (without cell service or reliable internet) to share the successes with our District's support of Outdoor Learning and examine our next steps in getting more students outside for learning.

The networking and collaboration with eight other districts provided opportunities to celebrate the fabulous outdoor learning already occurring in SD5 and many 'ah-hah' moments while listening to other programming ideas that could help develop our local actions further.

Stay tuned for a summary of action items being compiled for more great Environmental Education resources, local opportunities to collaborate, and benefit from EEPSA offerings and Pro-D recommendations.

We are grateful for the support we receive to grow outdoor learning in our district. Additional thanks to SD5, CBEEN, KBEE, Wildsight, Take Me Outside, C2C and HCTF, who supported our attendance at the Nipika Leadership Clinic event.

