

SOUTHEAST KOOTENAY PATHWAYS TO LEARNING



Celebrating the 80th day of
school on January 25th at Frank
J. Mitchell Elementary School

March, 2021





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

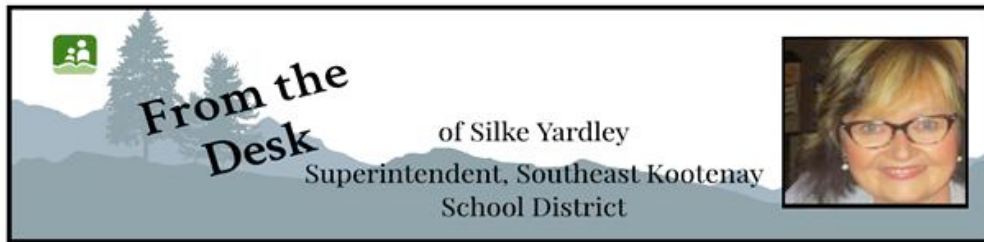
Goal: Continue to foster two-way, ethical communication between the District and all learners, students, staff, parents and community in a timely, concise and inclusive manner.

- 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



March 3, 2021

Dear students, staff, parents, caregivers:

Almost a year ago on March 12, 2020, the Ministry of Education announced that our schools would be going to online learning. This announcement, the day before our spring break, had a significant impact on all of us. While I reflect on the year, I feel very proud and grateful to be a part of School District 5. I want to acknowledge the struggles and difficulties that last year brought and the adverse outcomes and sadness that resulted. It was a challenging year for all and I want to recognize the resiliency I saw day to day in our students, staff, and parents during this time.

Kevin Cameron, Executive Director, North American Center for Threat Assessment and Trauma Response has offered insight about this past year and strategies to help guide us through this Covid-19 marathon. You can find his recent article [here](#).

I want to thank each and every one of you for the part you played in ensuring that our students could come to school to learn each day.

While school is not the same, and we do not offer all the same courses or opportunities, it became very clear from the few months that we did online learning that students needed to be at school to learn with their peers and staff. Sending children to school was not for all families and although some families chose to learn in other settings, the majority of our students came back to us.

Our staff did a marvellous job of adhering to the health and safety protocols laid out by the provincial health officer. While it was difficult, and people wanted “things back to normal” the district health and safety working group was able to continue to guide and lead us through this.

I feel renewed optimism for the next school year, but we need to hang in there for a bit longer. The news each day indicates we are closer to having a vaccine which will enable us to get back to some type of normal in the near future. All staff will be looking at the fall and working together to look at what went well last year, what we should continue doing, and what we should change. I will be curious to see what changes we decide to keep as a result of the pandemic.



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As the image says "In a marathon, the last miles are the toughest." We have done such a good job in our communities following the protocols laid out by the provincial health officer. It is important now, more than ever, (while I acknowledge it is difficult) to please continue to be diligent and follow our [guidelines](#) as we wait for vaccines and new information from the provincial health officer.

Thank you to all the parents and staff who continue to send us wonderful photos and videos of the good things happening in our district. Please continue to send them to cbomailing@sd5.bc.ca and we will put them on our [Facebook](#) page as well.

I wish you a restful spring break and hope you take advantage of all of the endless outdoor activities in our beautiful East Kootenays.

Take care,
Silke



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Engaging All Learners

Earthquake Test - KOES - Grade 3's at Kootenay Orchards Elementary took on the challenge of creating robust structures that could withstand an earthquake. They first built a prototype earthquake machine using the Lego Wedo kits. Once they had a working prototype, they began building a larger version out of cardboard to test out on the larger and more powerful earthquake machine. The challenge was a success for all. Some were dedicated to making their prototype as robust as possible while others moved ahead quickly to the larger build and redesigned them multiple times.



Make the Best Toboggan - TMRES

Students in Mr. Flegel's class took on the challenge of making "the best" toboggan. They drew some blueprints and built their designs using cardboard and the MakeDo kits that use special screws and tools made for younger students. With the cold temperatures, the toboggans barely slid at first. That led to some excellent inquiry into what would help make their creations slide better. They explored forces and motion along with snow science and came up with innovative ideas that succeeded. Click on the video link to the left!

Spheros and Space -JESS

Students in Ms. Traverse's class spent one afternoon learning about some constellations, basic coding, and robotics. Students traced the constellations and created their own constellation for Sphero to code and draw. The drawings represent code, and the young students learned that drawing and tapping on the canvas will execute the code for the Sphero. Teaching can be scaffolded with Spheros as it allows children to move through different coding spaces and challenges.



Landforms and Greenscreen -JESS

Students in Ms. Markle's class at Jaffray Elementary Junior Secondary wrote and performed amazing presentations as part of an inquiry project on landforms. Students brought in props and chose the appropriate background for their presentation. They then recorded the presentations using greenscreen technology. Students performed flawlessly in front of the camera!

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Spheros and Biomes -FJMES and RMES

Students in Ms. Nohel's class at Frank J. Mitchell Elementary participated in an inquiry project on different biomes. In small groups, they studied the flora, fauna, and threats/dangers in these habitats. They then chose an animal to study. Students created a map of their biome. Collectively, they programmed the Sphero to act as the animal and to travel to different places on the map to explain what it eats, where it lives, and its threats. Students in Ms. Bisson's class at Rocky Mountain Elementary are also completing this project in the month of February.



Traveling "Home" During a Pandemic -ESS

One lucky student at Elkford Secondary was able to travel back home to South America, thanks to the modern technology of virtual reality. The student was very excited to "travel" through the streets to see the cars, motorbikes and buildings that were familiar. Virtual reality can be used as a social emotional tool and to research and explore places not easily accessible. It can also be used to teach science and history in a fully immersive environment. It can even be used to encourage physical education through different interactive gaming applications.

EKEEPSA Workshop - February

Jennifer Roberts had an amazing day with the EKEEPSA executive and facilitator Selina Metcalf, brainstorming topics such as what is going well, what are the local challenges and what are some future goals. It was fabulous to connect and have discussion around these topics and how we can support teachers in our district getting students outside for learning.

https://jamboard.google.com/d/10EBQq_pEjRpEuFDbOikT1KDF7Z_ZrW1lwVfSesJzMpv8/edit?usp=sharing



Grade 7 Aboriginal Girls Group at Parkland Middle School is a group that met after school on Wednesdays in January and February. They worked with Big Sisters who Zoomed into their program for the four sessions. The girls enjoyed the group and they finished it off with kindness on Have a Heart Day by making the presenters hearts and thanking them.

The Caring Society

The First Nations Child & Family Caring Society is a non-profit organization that works with Indigenous and non-Indigenous people of all ages and organizations to ensure First Nations children and young people have the same opportunities as others to grow up safely at home, be healthy, achieve their dreams, celebrate their languages and culture and be proud of who they are. www.fncaringsociety.com



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[Reconciliation Begins with You and Me](#)

Learn from young people why reconciliation matters and how you can help make a difference.

<https://fncaringsociety.com/7-free-ways-make-difference>. A film by Rhiana Chinapen for the Caring Society. www.youtube.com.



Amy Woodland Elementary School Have a Heart Day - February 14, 2021



Posters in the Compass class at Laurie Middle School



Sparwood Secondary School Have a Heart Day - February 14, 2021

Technology Update

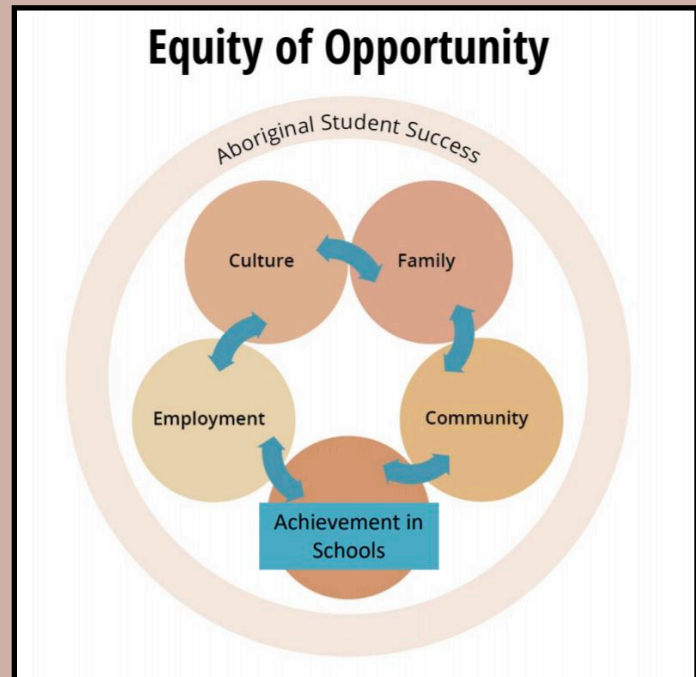
The teacher laptop roll-out was completed on February 25. Laptops were replaced at Amy Woodland Elementary, Gordon Terrace Elementary, Pinewood Elementary, Steeples Elementary and F.J. Mitchell Elementary.



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Engaging All Learners

This past week saw the virtual gathering of all leaders of Indigenous Education in the province. We have started the conversation around joining the Provincial Equity in Action program for Indigenous Learners. This provincial level work really dovetails well with our district programs, agreements and philosophies. We were very happy when the Ministry reached out to ask us to talk about this program knowing the successes we already have and the focus we have on success for all students.



Reconciliation is All of Us

No matter who you are or where you're from, you can take part in peaceful and respectful actions to help make a better Canada for First Nations children and their families. Here are a few ways you can participate.

Reconciliation Ambassadors - Year-Round
The Reconciliation Ambassadors Program invites groups to host one of our Reconciliation Ambassadors (ambassadors + bearbuddies) who will guide you through a year of free ways to make a difference for First Nations children and promote the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. Hosting groups work alongside Elders, "teach" the bear Indigenous languages and stories, and make sure they join in cultural activities so they become a well-known Reconciliation Ambassador in the community.

School is a Time for Dreams - September-October
Every child in Canada has a right to quality education, but many First Nations young people do not get the same opportunities to learn or to achieve their dreams as others do because of inequities in First Nations education. Shannen Koodachin, founder of Shannen's Dream for safe and comfy schools, wanted all children to be able to live their dreams. Caring individuals can support equitable education for First Nations and all young people in Canada by learning about Shannen's Dream and sending letters to your elected officials.

Have a Heart Day - February 14
First Nations children on reserve receive less funding from the federal government for education, child welfare and health services than other children receive from the provinces and territories. Have a Heart Day is a child and youth-led reconciliation event that brings together caring Canadians to help ensure First Nations children have the services they need to grow up safely at home, get a good education, be healthy, and be proud of who they are. Anyone can take part by sending a Valentine's Day card or letter to your elected official, hosting a Valentine's Day party to raise awareness.

Elderberry Day - March 20
Elderberry Day honours and celebrates the contributions of our Elders, who do so much to teach and raise our little ones. Celebrate by thanking your Elders for all that they do for you and for your community by writing them letters, drawing them pictures, or in any way you believe best represents how much you care.

Bear Witness Day - May 10
May 10 is Spirit Bear's birthday and an important date in the history of Jordan's Principle at the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal. Jordan's Principle is a child-first principle and legal rule named in memory of Jordan River Anderson. It ensures that First Nations children receive the services and supports they need when they need them. Supporters of all ages can celebrate Bear Witness Day by bringing their teddy bears to work, school or even daycare to "bear witness" and support the full implementation of Jordan's Principle in honour of Jordan River Anderson.

Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams - May/June
Individuals and groups are invited to plant Heart Gardens in memory of the children lost to the residential school system and to honour residential survivors, their families, as well as the legacy of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

fncaringsociety.com/events

First Nations Child & Family Caring Society of Canada

COTR Education Students host Winter Carnival for TM Roberts School

La Carnaval d'hiver is a tradition in Quebec City that is over 400 years old. On February 22, 2021 some of the Education students from the College of the Rockies in Cranbrook brought the winter celebration to École TM Roberts School.

Students enjoyed circus tricks, sled relays, ice decorating and other fun activities during the morning activity.



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Inclusive Partnerships

Enhancing Communication with Parents and Students

School District 5 has launched the [MyEducation BC Family Portal](#) in three schools: Mount Baker Secondary, Elkford Secondary and Parkland Middle. The family portal allows parents to have access to the MyEducation BC system where they can view report cards, attendance, demographics, and progress towards graduation.

SchoolMessenger Communicate and SafeArrival – A Powerful Way to Stay Connected

SchoolMessenger Communicate and SchoolMessenger SafeArrival are being utilized by our schools to send announcements and attendance information to parents. Parents can decide how they want to receive information (email, phone call, and/or text message). Parents are also able to report a child's absence from school through the automated system.



Upcoming Online Workshops for Educators

1. March 11 - [Voice of the River – Students Connecting to the Columbia Basin](#)
2. April 20 - [Imaginative Ecological Education](#)
3. April 27 - [The Sky Above and the Mud Below](#)

4 PM PT
7 PM ET
Tues & Thurs
In April & May

Canada's Outdoor Learning Spring Virtual Workshop Series!

 David Sobel THE SKY ABOVE AND THE MUD BELOW	 Laura Gilbert WATER EDUCATION RESOURCES
 Ian Shanahan TEACHING ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE	 Hailey Higdon THE IMPORTANCE OF INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVES IN CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL INQUIRY
 Remy Rodden INSPIRING ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING THROUGH MUSIC & SONG!	 Gillian Judson IMAGINATIVE ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION



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www.outdoorlearningstore.ca

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The Childhood Experiences Questionnaire



A CHEQ parent information session is planned for April 7th where representatives from CHEQ will present our district's CHEQ data along with a breakdown of the data. Anyone interested in attending should watch for an invite from the DPAC.

French

Collaborative opportunities are being provided for French Immersion schools in each community to begin discussions on the areas identified as being of priority.

1. Support diverse learners
2. Review current programs and plan for the future
3. Examine the recruitment and retention of staff
4. Plan for retention of students through to graduation
5. Improve communication/information sharing with stakeholders
6. Understand the budget process/allocation and make recommendations
7. Investigate flexible/distributed learning programs
8. Teacher access to professional development.



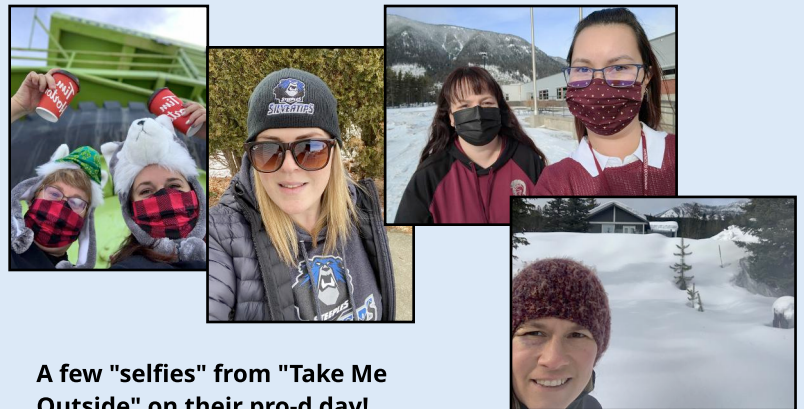
Both Design Labs are OPEN! Book your session by emailing Kim.Froehler@sd5.bc.ca in the Elk Valley and Ryan.Mckenzie@sd5.bc.ca in the Cranbrook area.

READY, SET, LEARN

Ready, Set, Learn planning has begun! Dates of all events will be shared in April with an April/May time line.

Clerical Professional Development

On February 26, the entire clerical staff came together by TEAMS for the second time this year for a professional development day. With the support of the MyEducation Team, our clerical spent the day learning about the new SchoolMessenger as well as other valuable tools for their everyday roles as well as registration tips for the coming school year. They also had time to share ideas with their peers as well as time for working sessions. Our SD5 clerical rock!



A few "selfies" from "Take Me Outside" on their pro-d day!

2021 District Day Planning

Our planning committee for our October, 2021 professional development day has come together to start the process of organizing the Indigenous Education day. Building on the successes of the past two years, the committee is charged with the task of keeping the conversations going, while at the same time having to plan multiple options given potential Covid-19 regulations. We are trying our best to honour the work that our partners and friends had previously planned but were unable to do last year. We will also be using participant feedback to shape our day moving forward.

More details to come!

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Inclusive Partnerships

Black history month during February is a great time to celebrate and reflect on diversity. We are proud to add these two novels to the District Resource Centre sets of novel studies. Please scan the QR codes to watch a book trailer for a sneak peek.



▶ SCAN ME

"Gracefully Grayson" - A. Polonsky (2014) - "deals sensitively and honestly with the struggle people feel when who they are does not match what other people think they should be." (Focused Ed) Requested by one of our amazing Grade 6 teachers, Gracefully Grayson examines the issues of stereotypes, bullying, and self-identity of a young transgendered person. (Grades 6-9)

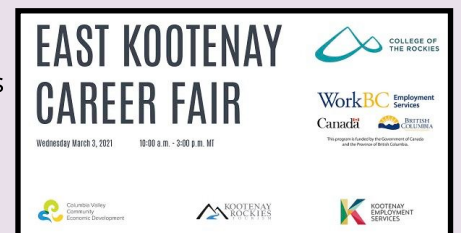


▶ SCAN ME

"A Boy Called Bat" - E.K. Arnold (2017) - Focused Education says: "The character with autism serves as an example of anyone who may appear "different." He is lovingly accepted by his family, teachers, and ultimately makes a friend. Class discussions around acceptance, diversity, and integration would support tolerance and develop further a positive classroom culture." (Grades 3-6)

Advocacy

With the arrival of spring comes the work of school budgets so, as we head into the next few weeks, human resources, together with the secretary treasurer, district management and school administrators will meet to take a look at the 2021-2022 school year. As we look at enrollment projections we start to get a glance into what the next school year will bring. While most of our postings for next year will go out after spring break we have already started recruiting for some hard-to-fill positions for next year. Human resources staff attended the College of the Rockies annual hiring fair in March and this year is no different as we learn to navigate a new on-line platform – HOP IN. Much like Zoom and Teams this platform will help us to connect with members of our communities about the many job opportunities School District 5 can offer job seekers. Our jobs are vast and are not limited to those in a classroom setting as this year we are actively recruiting for custodians, mechanics, plumbers, grounds workers as well as many more positions. Visit our website to review all the opportunities we have available and don't forget to check back often so you don't miss out on the next opportunity at <https://bc09.atriveerp.com/postings-sekootenay/>.



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Ministry of Education Update

FOR ACTION, SUPERINTENDENTS – Homeschooling Procedures and Guidelines Manual: A [consultation draft of a Homeschooling Procedures and Guidelines Manual](#) has been posted for public review and feedback. Please share this information with your school community, as appropriate. Questions, comments or suggestions can be sent to educ.Homeschooling.Guidelines@gov.bc.ca until April 2, 2021.



The [COVID-19 Daily Health Check website](#) contains the most up-to-date B.C. health guidelines and is user-friendly for children to complete daily. This resource can assist in preventative measures for families and help with the decision on whether students should attend school that day. A mobile app is also available and can be downloaded on [iPhone/iPad iOS devices](#) or [Android devices](#).



Youth Work in Trades 2020/21 Awards: As outlined in the [Spring Cycle 2021 schedule](#), the Ministry will work with school district career program staff and the Industry Training Authority in the coming weeks to process [2020/21 Youth Work in Trades Award](#) winners. Please contact educ.skills@gov.bc.ca if you have any questions or concerns.



ChARTing Change Art Contest: Access to Media Education Society's [ChARTing Change Art Contest](#) is now open until May 1, 2021. B.C. students aged 14-18 are invited to submit original art on the themes of social and environmental injustice, activating change, and envisioning a better future.

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Schools



The Compass class from Laurie Middle School enjoyed a fantastic day snowshoeing at the Wycliffe Butte.



ESS Photography Class



All Grade 7 students at Elkford Secondary School in Mr. Gulyas' English class studying the novel *Hatchet* and learning outdoor survival skills.



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Schools



ESS Careers 9 Class spent some time trying the trades of electrical, drywall installer and drywall finisher. Each student had to cut some drywall, install it on a frame, then put a hole through it with a hammer and go through the process of repairing it. They also had to wire a switch and a light. Trying a trade serves several purposes. First, it exposes students to some practical real-life skills that they may use in the future. It also gives them a taste of what it would be like to be in that trade. This experience will help students decide if they would like to apply for a trades program in the future. We hope to expand the program with plumbing, mechanics, painting, concrete, and cooking. Students are also exposed to the welding, carpentry, cabinetry, and culinary trades in other classes.



Gordon Terrace Elementary School grade 1-2 class learning outside.



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Schools



Sparwood Secondary School teacher Mr. Lund applied for several grants to purchase this sawmill. Students will mill lumber from fallen trees from around the community.



New sign at Kootenay Discovery School!



Madame Patrice's Grade 6 class with PE teacher Mr. Barlow at Fernie Provincial Park.

Highlands Elementary students using the outdoor classroom at Idlewild Park.



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Schools



Celebrating the '80s at F.J. Mitchell Elementary



Celebrating Green Heart Day! Powerful Poems about our Wild Knocks!



Have a Heart Day at Amy Woodland Elementary



Library Learning Commons at Frank J. Mitchell



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Schools



Parkland went to Mars last month!



Mme. Ashley's grade 3 class at T.M. Roberts Elementary on their hike up the Butte.



100 Day at Gordon Terrace Elementary!



Kindergarten class at Gordon Terrace discovering dinosaurs!

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Schools

Pink Shirt Day! February 24, 2021



SSS



MBSS



ESS staff photoshopped by a very talented student!



PMS

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