

**SOUTHEAST KOOTENAY
PATHWAYS TO LEARNING**

**Back to
LEARNING**

**Back to
FUN**



**BACK
TOGETHER!**

September, 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

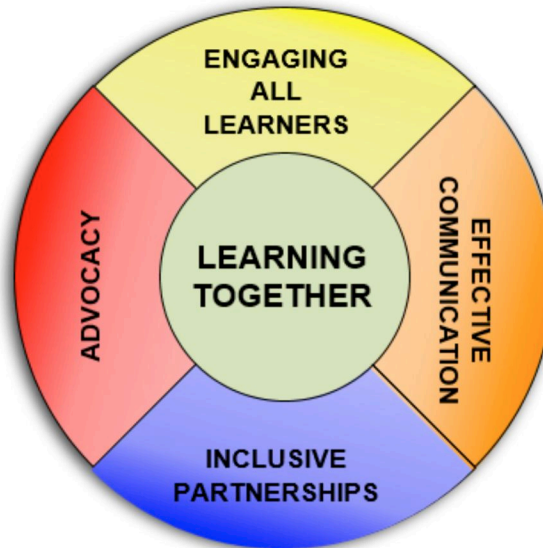
Goal: To inspire all learning partners to create and contribute to an engaging, personalized educational experience for our learners.

- 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

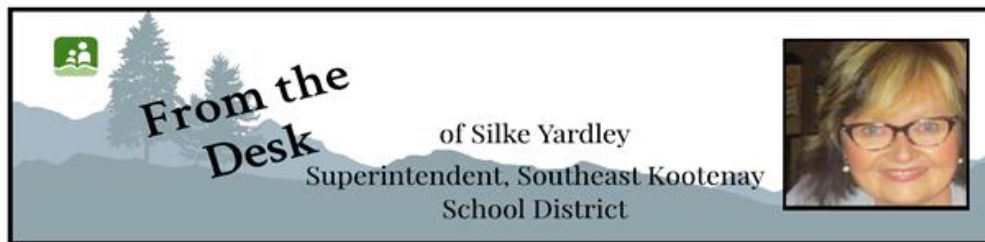
Goal: Continue to foster two-way, ethical communication between the District and all learners, students, staff, parents and community in a timely, concise and inclusive manner.

- 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



September 7, 2021

Dear students, staff, parents and caregivers:

September is always a time of renewal and excitement in our schools. Schools are shiny and clean, ready for students and staff as we look forward to another year of learning!

This year, as last year, continues to have its challenges with COVID-19. Please rest assured that our schools are following the Interior Health Guidelines for our students, staff and visitors. As we have learned in the last few years, things change and we continue to adjust and adapt. If there are any changes, we will contact you as soon as we can.

I am very excited about our new Framework for Enhancing Student Learning (Framework) that will be shared with you in our October Pathways to Learning. Our Board will give final approval at our next Board meeting. It will then be sent to the Ministry of Education after which time it will be shared widely to our schools and community.

I am very proud of the work and contributions the district team, along with the Board and many staff, parents, students and community partners, who have worked together to come up with a plan on how to improve student learning outcomes for our students.

During our process we looked at a variety of student data while following the requirements of the Ministry. Data is only one part of a student story, and the data gives us a window into how we can support our students and staff. We have a good plan to look at data and then put actions and strategies into place.

We are also looking forward to learning together with our school staff. We will be offering professional learning opportunities for our staff to support our students which will start to roll out in October once students and staff have settled in.

The Framework is a 4-year plan, and it is important for us to celebrate our successes and also look at how we can continually improve at the end of each school year. Schools will also model our Framework with their individual plans as we are all working towards a common goal; success of our students.

Please continue to share your wonderful stories, videos and photos of your students, staff and schools. If you haven't already done so, please "Like" our [Facebook](#) page or have a look at our school district [website](#). Last year, seeing all the smiling faces of students, staff and parents, seeing the incredible learning opportunities for our students, and the ability of our students to go outside and learn from the land really speaks to our wonderful district and the learning that our excellent school staff are providing.

My goal this year will be to visit schools on Thursdays. Last year was a unique year, where we didn't have the ability to have many visitors in our schools. I am really looking forward to connecting with students and staff and getting to see firsthand the wonderful learning that happens in School District 5.

Take care,

Silke



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Ministry of Education Update



School District 5 Back to School Summary of Changes to September 2021 - [click here](#)



Education Minister Jennifer Whiteside and Dr. Bonnie Henry [announced](#) that B.C. K-12 students will return to school for full time, in person instruction in September. To ensure a healthy and safe return to school, updates have been made to the [Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#) (in alignment with the [BCCDC COVID-19 Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools](#)), including the authority for medical health officers to introduce additional regional measures specific to individual schools or school districts where community transmission rates are higher. Masks will also continue to be required in all indoor spaces for all K-12 staff, visitors and students in grades 4 to 12 in schools and on school buses. School district administrators should refer to the updated [K-12 Education Recovery Plan](#) for direction to deliver education programs and supports this school year.



[BC launches proof of vaccine to stop spread of COVID-19](#)



[Extra supports for student, staff mental wellness](#)

Featured Services

- [Student Transcripts Service](#)
The Student Transcripts Services lets you view, order, and send your transcript and or graduation certificates online.
- [erase = expect respect & a safe education](#)
erase is all about building safe and caring school communities. This includes empowering students, parents, educators and the community partners who support them to get help with challenges, report concerns to schools, and learn about complex issues facing students.
- [Certificates of Graduation](#)
The B.C. Certificate of Graduation or "Dogwood Diploma" is awarded to students who successfully complete the provincial graduation requirements.
- [Teacher Certification](#)
Educators need a certificate to teach at Kindergarten to Grade 12 schools in B.C. Learn more about how to become a certified teacher.
- [Scholarships, Grants, Awards & Bursaries](#)
Get help with post-secondary tuition and fees. Learn about the scholarships, grants and bursaries available to Grade 12 students graduating high school.
- [StrongStart BC](#)
Participate with your young child (aged birth to five) in play-based early learning activities – including stories, music and art.

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Engaging All Learners



Creating a Relationship of Mutual Respect

District Professional Development Day - October 1, 2021



Dr. Dustin Louie is a First Nations scholar from Nee Tahí Buhn and Nadleh Whut'en of the Dakelh Nation of central British Columbia. He is a member of the Beaver Clan. Dustin's education background includes a degree in Canadian history, a master's degree in international relations, and a PhD in educational research. The topic of Dr. Louie's doctoral dissertation was Sexual Exploitation Prevention Education for Indigenous Girls. He has worked as an historian in a land claims law firm, studied Indigenous homelessness in Western Canada, worked internationally for non-governmental organizations in Uganda and Australia, and is now at the Werklund School of Education in the University of Calgary. As an Associate Professor, Dr. Louie: teaches courses related to Indigenous education, social justice, and educational philosophy; works closely with four school districts on decolonizing at the provincial and local level with government and private organizations, researches practical approaches to Indigenizing education, decolonizing education, Indigenous pedagogies, and critical theory. Dr. Louie has published in the top educational journals in Canada on diverse topics in Indigenous education.



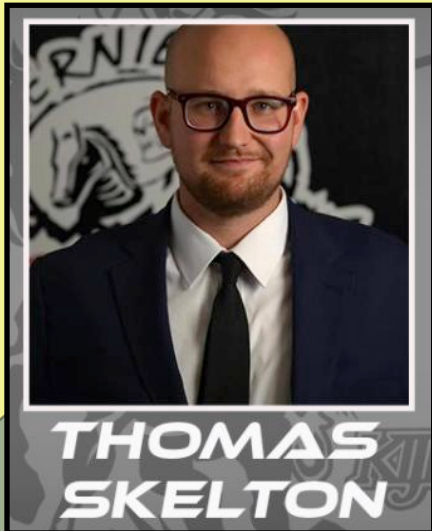
Marisa Phillips is a First Nations artist of the Ktunaxa and Kaska Dene Nations of BC, Canada. Born to Gwen and Anthony and granddaughter of Alex and Florence Phillips. She is also a Ktunaxa language activist, Indigenous holistic education advocate and presenter. She believes that art should invoke emotion, thought, imagination and bring excitement to the eye, while creating a mirror for humanity to see itself on multiple levels. As a child growing up, she was taught that everything had a spirit and to respect all things that Mother Earth created, equally. Due to those teachings, many of her artistic expressions have a spiritual and/or natural theme associated with them. Some of her artistic mediums include: large scale wall murals, canvas paintings, children's book illustrations, graphic design, dance, poetry and song. The Ktunaxa language is a critically endangered language isolate, meaning that it is unlike any other language in the world. Marisa does not consider herself to be a fluent speaker of the language but has made an effort to both learn and create digital platforms to share what she knows of the language with those around her, while spiritually connecting it to the lands and the culture of the Ktunaxa people.

We look forward to continuing the conversations from last year's September day. Our descriptions of the breakout sessions will come out shortly. We are very excited about the outstanding lineup of presenters we have to help us continue our conversations from last year!

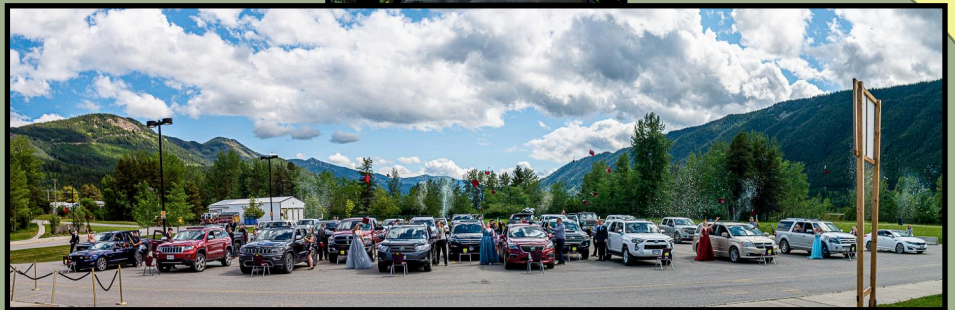
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Schools

The Governor General's Academic Medal is awarded to the student who graduates with the highest standing in his or her institution in their Grade 11/12 years combined. The 2020 / 21 recipient of the Governor General's Award from Sparwood Secondary School is Kourtney Holberton. Congratulations Kourtney!



Ghostriders' Thomas Skelton, and Vice-Principal of Rocky mountain Elementary School in Elkford- Cycling for Mental Health this summer- see whole story [here](#)



**Sparwood Secondary School Grad
2020/2021**



Grade 6 graduation at Frank J. Mitchell Elementary School



Covid-friendly graduation at Elkford Secondary School

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Schools



Proud of our graduates from Kindergarten to grade 12 - way to go!!



Here are some pictures of the Sparwood Secondary School Students building a community greenhouse for the community garden here in Sparwood! They did an amazing job!

French Immersion grad class of 2021 in front of T.M. Roberts Elementary School with their former grade 6 teacher, grade 10-12 French teacher Madam Leanne, grade 7-9 French teacher Madam Larson and Madam Subra.



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Schools



Mrs. Ivanco's grade 1/2 students at T.M. Roberts Elementary School are celebrating all of their hard work this year with a fun day in the sun!



Physical Education 9 students at Elkford Secondary School learned some valuable lessons at the local pool. From water safety around boats, fast moving water, to First Aid and lifesaving skills that could help students in a dangerous situation. Students were also informed about a career or a part time job in life guarding. Students heard about the process and the courses required to get into such an occupation. Fun, hard work and education at the pool.



We have the best PAC! Look at the goodies and kind, clever messages T.M. Roberts Elementary School PAC left T.M. Roberts Elementary School staff in June as a thank you for this year. We feel so loved, our hearts (and bellies) were full.

Thank you

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