

BOARD BUSINESS



The Board of Education acknowledges that we are on the traditional territories of the K'òmoks First Nation. We would like to thank them for the privilege of living on their land and the gift of working with their children.

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Tuesday, November 26, 2019

IN THIS ISSUE

WITH GRATITUDE

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

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With Gratitude

On behalf of Comox Valley Schools, Tom Demeo, Superintendent, extends his sincere gratitude to outgoing Board Chair, Trustee Caton. Her long-standing service and unwavering commitment to education in the Comox Valley has helped lead the Board of Education for the past several years.



Janice Caton

We extend a warm welcome to Trustee Hargreaves into the position as Board Chair. We look forward to your leadership throughout the year ahead as the Board of Education continues to implement the new Strategic Plan priorities.



Ian Hargreaves



Board Meeting Highlights cont...

Board of Education

- Adoption of the Regular Public Board Meeting Minutes
- Board Elections

Presentations / Delegations

- Andrew Young, G.P. Vanier educator, recipient of the 2019 Alex Trebek Medal for Geographic Literacy
- Coldest Night of the Year Walk, February 2020 - a presentation by Dawn to Dawn Action on Homelessness and the Comox Valley Transition Society

Board Committee Reports

- Education (October focus: Environmental Programs)
- Finance (meeting November 18)
- Policy (meeting Oct 21 and Nov 19)
 - acceptance of policies & admin procedures.

Board Business & Correspondence

- Trustees' Reports
 - Ian Hargreaves, Sheila McDonnell and Kat Hawksby
- Correspondence received
 - Letter from **Spark BC / Farm to Cafeteria** announcing the position of a new Cafeteria Learning Circle Coordinator for the Courtenay-Comox Region, Jenn Meilleur.
 - Letter from Morrison Creek Streamkeepers regarding the start of an environmental assessment on District properties, riparian area protection and salmon activity in creeks adjacent schools.

Superintendent's Report

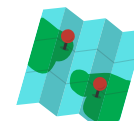
District News

- High School Athletic Achievements
- Everybody Deserves A Smile (**EDAS**) Campaign, Year 16.
- Band & Choir Festival
- NIRD Fest
- RCMP / ICBC / SD71 *Think of Me* Campaign
- **Winter Concert Schedule**
- Highland Secondary / Town of Comox Village Carolers Restoration Project

(see more Pg. 3 - 5)

Boundary Catchment Update

Round 2 will commence in January 2020 to allow ample time to review and summarize the record-setting amount of input gathered during Round 1.



Senior Leaders' Reports

Assistant Superintendent

- **Graduation Rates**
 - Preliminary results indicate increase in completion rate for Indigenous and non-Indigenous students.
- **FSA Update**
 - Student participation up. All assessments are marked. Process of reporting results underway.
- **Dress Code Review**
 - All school policies reviewed and updated to remove gender bias language and use of word "distracting."

Secretary Treasurer

- Briefing Note - **Lead Levels in Water**

Human Resources

- Retirements & Recognitions

Video recording of Board meetings available on our
[YouTube channel](#)



In the News

Courtenay Teacher wins Prestigious National Teaching Award

Ottawa, November 18th, 2019 — Andrew Young is a self-proclaimed “geovangelist.” Early in his career, Young volunteered for two summers at St. Theresa’s Secondary Technical School in Gambia with the Nova Scotia Gambia Association, a program funded by Global Affairs Canada. This experience changed his life and taught him about different ways of living, knowing, and learning.

Today, Young teaches geography at Georges P. Vanier Secondary where he works to connect classroom concepts to real-world issues. For his significant contributions to geographic literacy, Andrew Young has won the 2019 Alex Trebek Medal. While Young has won awards before, this one in particular holds a special significance.

“I am incredibly privileged to be a recipient of the Alex Trebek medal,” says Young. “In order to live up to the philanthropic spirit that Mr. Trebek exudes and to thank him for his tireless support of geographic education, I am donating the entire sum of this award to the British Columbia Cancer Foundation for the 2020 Ride to Conquer Cancer, for which Mr. Trebek has graciously allowed me to ride in on his behalf for his battle with pancreatic cancer.”

The Geographic Literacy Award comprises a medal and \$2,500 prize, usually split evenly between the award winner and a donation in their name to a Canadian charitable organization.

Read more online at

<https://www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/apps/news/article/807142>



The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, presented Young with his award at a medal ceremony Nov 21st. at the Canadian Museum of History in Ottawa. More information about the medal online at

http://www.rcgs.org/awards/geographic_literacy/



Young is piloting a new geographical sciences Grade II course with fellow Vanier teacher, David Benton - a course that focuses on environmental sciences aspects of geography and the impact of global climate change. One outing this October was at Amara Farms. Read more online at [The Comox Valley Record](#).



Young presented his medal to trustees at the Nov. 26 Board Meeting



Around the District



Witness Blanket Ceremony

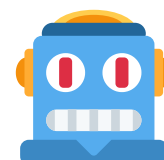
Claire Everson, Mark R. Isfeld G. 12 student, was among the Kumugwe Dancers who performed at the Bighouse Oct 16th in a welcoming Kitlala dance to open the floor for the ceremony - a precedent setting event that made Canadian legal history. For the first time, a federal Crown Corporation had ratified a legally binding contract through Indigenous traditions. Full story in [Globe and Mail online](#).
Image credit: Doug Harrington /Media One.

Healthy Living Grant

Congratulations to Brooklyn & Airport Elementary for being successful winners of a Healthy Living Grant (\$5,000). Their winning application was submitted in conjunction with Public Health, Indigenous Education and the teacher-librarians. The two schools were among five local schools, which worked closely with a medical practitioner on a Health Challenge for one month to monitor sugar intake, screen time, physical activity, and overall well-being.

Rock Your Mox

It was definitely a #rockyourmocs day Nov 15th at Courtenay Elementary. JoAnn Restoule, Dean Quiring and Jeannie McDonald led students through cultural teachers with dance to enhance Indigenous ways and knowing - a key priority in the 2019 [Strategic Priorities Plan](#). The activity was arranged by Holly Douglas, ISW, and demonstrates one of the many events schools are organizing in their commitment to the [Downie Wenjack Fund \(DWF\) #LegacySchool](#)



VEX ROBOTICS

Navigate NIDES sent 11 of 12 teams to Shawnigan Lake School for the first VEX Robotics tournament held on Vancouver Island. Navigate's contingent was the largest, making up one quarter of the total number of teams competing. Navigate team 7842F won a design award. The Isfeld teams had a particularly strong showing. Comox Valley Schools will host a regional tournament at Isfeld early in 2020.

NIRD FEST 2019



Highland Secondary hosted the North Island Regional Drama (NIRD) festival - an event that has taken place for at least 25 years. This year, well over 250 students from 12 schools showcased their theatrical talents to adjudicators and peers. Two Valley teams took part. Congrats to Highland's cast and crew of *Ghost Story* named the Alternate Production, while G.P. Vanier's play *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* took honorable mention. Kudos to Lisa Williams, Highland drama teacher, co-host Lori Mazey, Vanier and they NIRDs for putting on a well organized and entertaining event.



In the Community

EDAS ❤️ 16 Years Strong / 16 ans fort!

EDAS Comox Valley has 17 Partnering School Communities working on this important community project with its host school, École Puntledge. This season here is what is still needed

For men:

Woolen or part wool socks - size XL

Toques - size XL

Mitts or Gloves - size XL

Scarves or Neck Warmers

For women:

Woolen or part wool socks -size Med

Toques - size Med

Mitts or Gloves - size Med

Scarves or Neck Warmers

Drop-off deadline **Dec 9th**. Monetary donations accepted, payable to **EDAS**, or e-Transfer to theedasproject@gmail.com until **Dec 10th**.



Caught on Camera!



The photography artwork of **G.P. Vanier** students Danielle Egilson and Emilie Van Holderbeke was on at the Comox Valley Art Gallery late October through to Nov. 23rd as a feature to their display *Uncover*. Well done to our student artists!



It's that time of year again!

The 3rd Annual **Work2Wellness** Challenge: 12 Days of *Fitmas* starts Monday, Dec 2nd. Get your sweat on! Prizes and a strong heart are to be gained by going that extra mile!! More details **online**.

Culinary Creators in the Community



Mark R. Isfeld Secondary Culinary Club often gets out into the community. This November, Tammy Williamson and her chefs were asked to make soup for the recent Indigenous Baby Honoring Ceremony. Some of the ingredients was graciously donated by Lush Valley Food Action Society. The club made enough to feed 100 individuals a delicious bowl of Borscht.

Lest We Forget



Several of our students took part in Remembrance Day ceremonies throughout the community on November 11th including Vanier band students and Glacier View Secondary student Jacob Dyck.

#sd7lproud

CONTACT US

There are many, many things to celebrate daily in our schools. We encourage anyone with news to send items to heidi.bell@sd71.bc.ca so that monthly we can honour all that our schools do to support the community and world.