

COMOX VALLEY SCHOOLS



Board Business Newsletter



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DECEMBER 2019





Board Highlights

Board of Education Adoption of the November 26 Regular Public Board Meeting Minutes

Board Chair's Report - Ian Hargreaves.

- Recap of the Ministry announcements (p.3)



Human Resources

- Retirements and Recognition

Board Committee Reports

- Finance
- Facilities
- Policy

Board Business

- Trustee Sheila McDonnell Report: First Nations Education Steering Council Meeting,
- Trustee Janice Caton Report: BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA) - Trustee Academy,
- Trustee Tonia Frawley Report: BC School Superintendents Association (BCSSA) – Fall Conference

Correspondence

Mary Talbot to Board of Education – Youth Vaping Epidemic

Superintendent's Report

Boundary Catchment Review

Consultation sessions will continue in the new year with Round 2. Complete details, dates, locations, and timings for the upcoming sessions can be found online at [School Catchment webpage here](#).



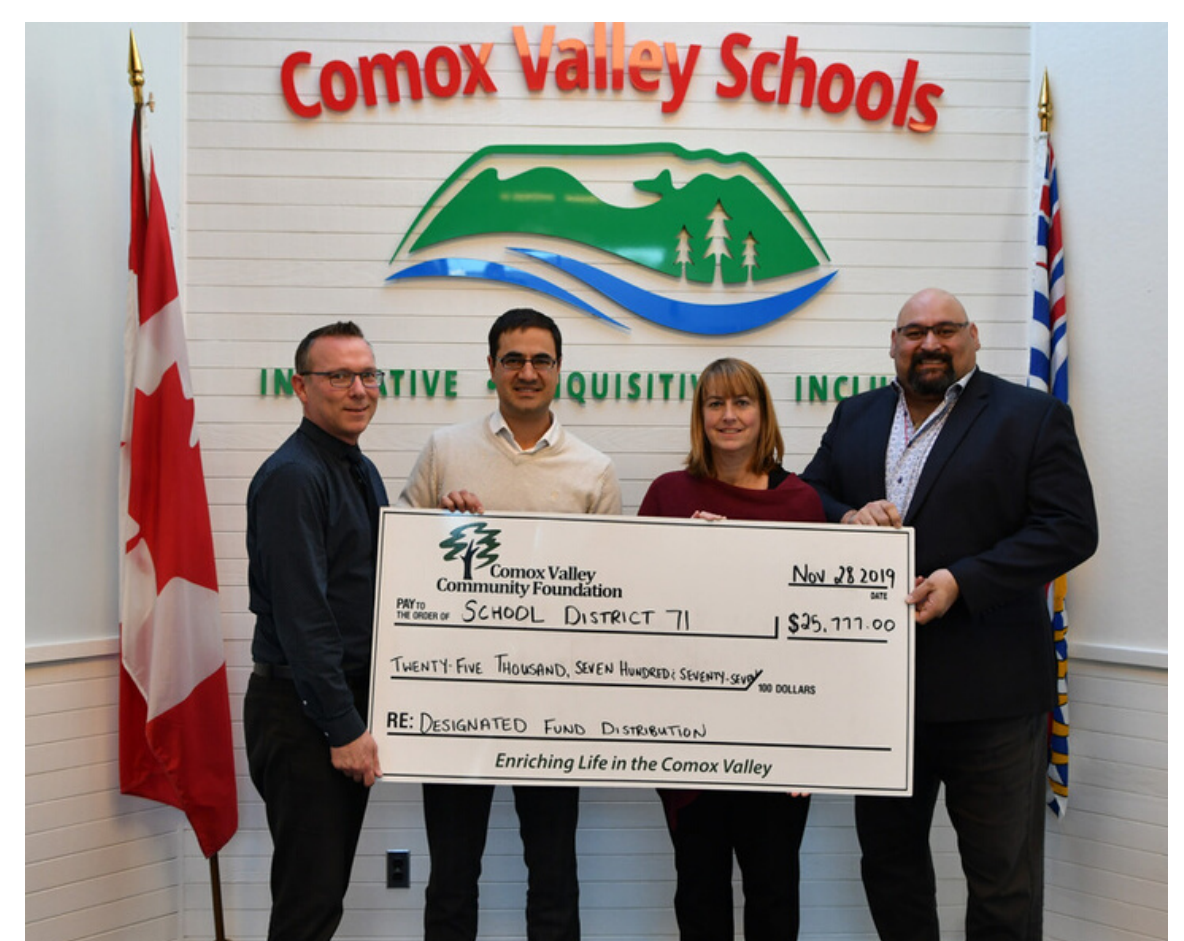
Let's *Clear* the Air - Youth & Vaping

Island Health offers a free information session for parents, staff and students January 8 to address a serious health issue impacting youth today. **Mark R. Isfeld multi-purpose room, 6:30 p.m.**

A committee will form in the new year to begin developing a community-wide campaign to help curb vaping in schools and among teens.

CV Community Foundation The Robert L. Ash Endowment Fund

The Comox Valley Community Foundation recently presented the first distribution from the Robert L. Ash Endowment Fund to Comox Valley Schools for \$25,777. The fund was established in 2017 by Beryl St. Albyn Hargood-Ash in honour of her nephew Mr. Ash, a long-time supporter of secondary school athletics and former high school wrestling coach. The annual income will support the cost of travel for sport team travel for student athletes and other expenses related to extra-curricular programs.



Read more about the endowment fund [here](#) on the CVCF news online.





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ISSUE 2



IN THE NEWS



Province announces new school for Hornby Island; \$27 million in upgrades to Lake Trail

"All students deserve to learn in safe and inspiring schools that give them the best chance to succeed," said Rob Fleming, Minister of Education, at a press conference held at Lake Trail. "With new, modern facilities coming to Courtenay and Hornby Island, thousands of students will have a better learning experience for generations to come." The Government of B.C. is providing \$10.4 million for a new, 95-seat Hornby Island Community School, replacing the previous building that was lost in a fire in August 2018. In addition, construction is set to begin on the \$27.2-million seismic upgrade of Lake Trail Middle school, which will replace everything but the school's gymnasium with a modern facility. "People in our community showed how resilient they can be when the former Hornby Island Community school burned down," said Scott Fraser, MLA for Mid Island-Pacific Rim. "Our government took immediate action to provide short-term classrooms for Hornby students after the fire, and the new school will give them the long-term learning environment they deserve." In addition to a seismically safe school, the investment in Lake Trail Middle school also includes a \$1.5-million child care centre, which will benefit local families. "Today's groundbreaking ceremony is one more positive step toward revitalizing and modernizing a unique school community here in west Courtenay," said Ian Hargreaves, board chair, Comox Valley Schools. "This project will create a safe school for staff and students; moreover, it will allow for significant improvements in the learning environment."



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

BOARD BUSINESS



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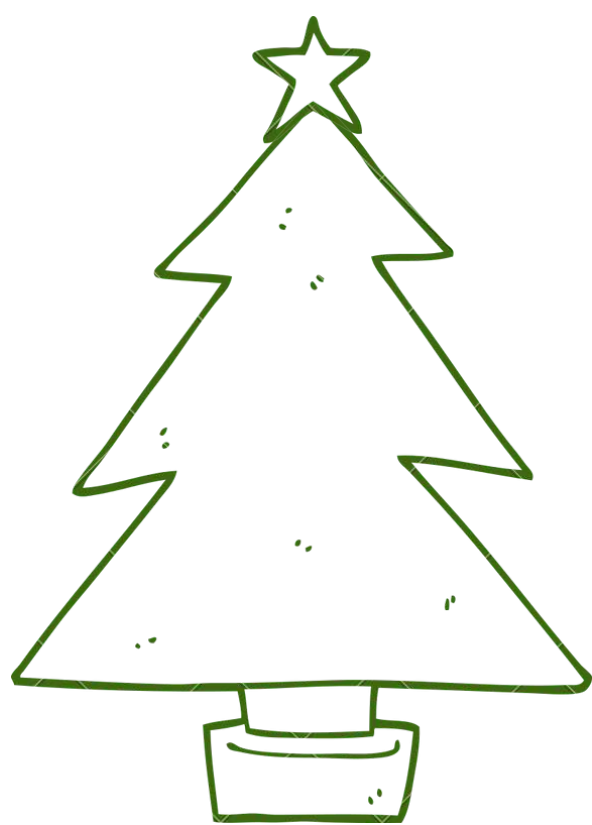
INDIGENOUS JUNIOR JOURNALISM ACADEMY

Seven Nala'atsi Indigenous students participated in a day-long journalism academy hosted in Vancouver by CBC November 13. The event involved audio, video and storytelling workshops, to encourage youth to consider broadcast journalism as a possible career prospect. Veteran Indigenous journalists including Duncan McCue, Ian Hanomansing, Angela Sterritt, and Gloria Macarenko led students through workshops. This is a first-time experience for the students who were among 150 Indigenous youth across Canada to participate.

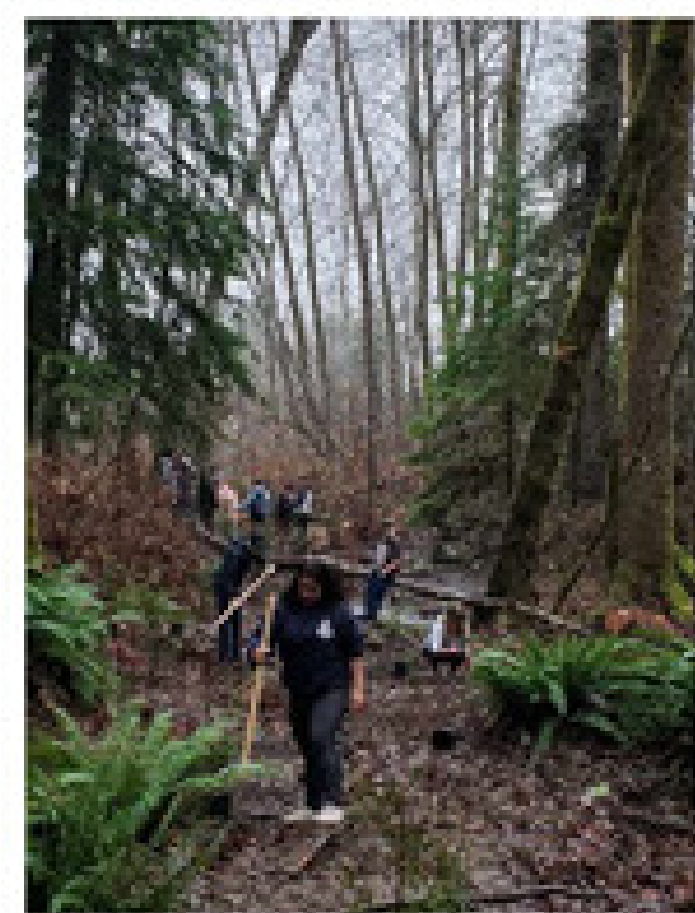


Read more about Nala'atsi students' experience at the CBC Vancouver studio [here](#) in our District news online.

Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation Grant



Students at Lake
Trail Middle School participated in planting around Morrison Creek December 11 in effort to restore some riparian zones. The efforts were made possible by a Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation grant and demonstrates the District's commitment to enhancing more outdoor education and environmental learning opportunities throughout the community.



LAKE TRAIL STEWARDS OF THE COMMUNITY

Educator, Jeff Hoy and his Outdoor Education 8/9 classes and Climate Crew have caught the attention of the province. Recently, Lake Trail Middle School was notified it will be awarded a **Stewards of the Future** grant from the Honourable Janet Austin, Lt. Gov. of British Columbia, supported by the Government House Foundation. The program is designed to promote stewardship and environmental awareness among youth, and encourage emerging leaders to explore their communities. Funding is available for youth to go on field trips, visit local sites of interest and engage in stewardship projects. Receiving this grant is a testament to the hard work and leadership Jeff and his students are providing.





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DISTRICT NEWS

Youth Work in Trades



Twelve Youth Work in Trades (YWT) students received a cheque for \$1,000 from the Government of British Columbia December 5th for completing 900 hours toward a Level 1 apprenticeship. The monetary incentive is from the Ministry of Education and the Industry Trade Authority (ITA) and intended to encourage and support students in the province to pursue a trade career in effort to address the work shortage throughout the industry. Trades educator Murray Shold went around and delivered each student their cheque.



EDAS WRAP-UP

EDAS reached its targetted goal of 1,160 gift bags to those in need with 19 schools involved. Deliveries began December 13 by students, staff and volunteers throughout the Valley and down island. The 2019 season will conclude with a visit at shelters in Victoria December 21.

For a complete summary, read article online at

ComoxValley Record.

Arden holds a Santa's Workshop



Third annual Santa's Workshop organized by Sara Kerr, Arden educator, was a tremendous success thanks to the generous donations of new and gently used items from the community. The workshop ensures every child has a gift or two to give to a loved one.

WINTER CONCERTS

Kudos to #learn students, as well as staff & volunteers for putting on several great concert performances this season and making our spirits merry & bright! Check  to see more images.



CONNECTING WITH THE Q



Principal VanderRee, Queneesh Elementary, started a regular storytelling feature this school year and has been sharing the experience with her school community on [YouTube](#). Check out her channel and subscribe!

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DISTRICT NEWS

CBC MUSIC CHALLENGE



Royston's primary vocalists made it to the top 10 finalists for the **CBC Music Challenge** from among 1,200 submissions across Canada. Student musicians are led by music teacher, Allie Hoy. Congratulations, we will be watching for the results later this month!



LIFE OUTSIDE THE BOX

Grade 4 & 5 students at Arden Elementary spent a day with the RCMP. Of all things, they were learning to create superheroes and comic book characters - the kind that combat social injustices. The education program was developed by education consultant [Jessica Motherwell McFalrane](#) who is a Research Associate for the B.C. Justice Institute. Her workshop, called *Life Outside the Box: Creating small comics to tell BIG stories*, is centered around teaching real-world skills to address tough situations and promote kindness.



NAVIGATE NIDES SISTER SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

Navigate NIDES held its first Christmas Craft Fair December 12 as a fundraiser for its sister school, El Granadillo, in Mexico. Over \$1,000 was raised with 25 presenters taking part filling the gymnasium with treasures. Monies raised will help support a project through the [Bacaanda Foundation](#) to bring Internet to the school and surrounding rural community.



*Schools & the Board Office will be closed during the holidays. We will re-open Monday, January 6, 2020.
Happy Holidays!*

