

BOARD BUSINESS

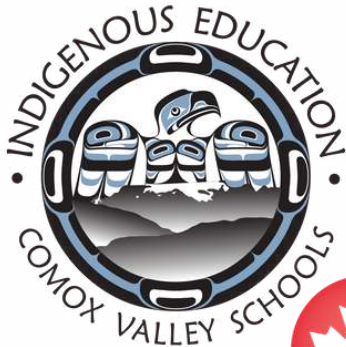


Comox Valley Schools

A Community of Learners

INNOVATIVE • INQUISITIVE • INCLUSIVE

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



INTERNATIONAL
STUDENT PROGRAM
COMOX VALLEY



BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Adoption of the Regular Public Board Meeting Minutes, October 27, 2020

Board Chair Report

Strategic Direction

- COVID-19 Update
- Early Learning Programs Briefing Note

Board Standing Committee Reports

- **Finance**
- **Facilities** - Dog Park Partnership Town of Comox

Correspondence

- Tsolum River Restoration Society - Towhee Creek
- Letters to MLA for Courtenay-Comox and Mid Pacific Rim Constituencies

IN THIS ISSUE

**PRESENTATION OF
DELEGATES:
COMPOST PICK-UP PROPOSAL
SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

**WELCOME TO THE NEW
SECRETARY-TREASURER**

**TRUSTEE BY-ELECTION
UPDATE**

DISTRICT NEWS

SCHOOL STORIES

Video recording of meeting
on YouTube



STRATEGIC REPORTS

COMPOST PICK-UP PROPOSAL

A proposal by Julia Jungwirth, G.P. Vanier grad (2020), presented by Ella Oldaker & Nalan Gossen, co-leaders Mark R. Isfeld Environmental Club

The report and presentation summarize the findings from recent waste audits conducted by CVRD Waste Management and proposes that the school district adopt a composting program similar to successful programs at UVic and Seattle public schools. Environmental benefits and a cost-benefit analysis produced by Ministry of Education is cited in the proposal.

Full details in Board Agenda pages 8 to 23 online.

Full video presentation on YouTube
(time mark 9:18)

Superintendent Report COVID UPDATE

School staff and students continue to have resiliency and demonstrate innovative and creative ways while adopting to COVID-19 restrictions. Examples are featured in District News on pages 3 & 4.

A province-wide poll conducted by Insights West, titled *Over Two Months Into the School Year, Parents Provide Top Scores To the School System But Remain Divided On Preferences for In-Person vs. Remote Learning*, revealed an increase in support overall for how the province regulated the return to school during COVID-19. Noted in the report was the fact that, now parents have had a couple of months to adjust to new school routines, there was significant increase in support for school districts' implementation of the COVID-19 precautions with clear communication around protocols and adapting all learning spaces.



A Warm Welcome to our new Secretary-Treasurer

Brenda Hooker joined the District Nov. 1st bringing 20 years of accounting experience and more than nine years of experience working with boards of education. Prior to assuming her new role, Brenda was the secretary-treasurer for Peace River North (SD60) and an elected trustee for Prince George (SD57).

Brenda noted that she was attracted to the District because of the strong collaborative partnerships with its community and educational stakeholder groups.

"It was very clear to me that the District recognizes its community stakeholders when making informed decisions about education opportunities."

"I am thrilled to be joining the SD 71 team, bringing my experience to continue a long history in the district of educational excellence and fiscal responsibility."

Full interview details available on the District podcast at comoxvalleyschools.podbean.com

TRUSTEE BY-ELECTION UPDATE

Six candidates will run in the by-election for School Trustee - Area C. Advance polling takes place Dec 2nd & 10th with general voting on Dec 12th from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Voting open to Area C residents only. **Visit the website for complete details, times & locations.**

SCHOOL STORIES



REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONIES

COVID restrictions may have prohibited the possibility of holding live, in-person school assemblies but didn't interfere with recording a ceremony in advance of November 11th. Six District schools shared their video production, which are available for viewing on the website https://bit.ly/SD71_RemembranceDay2020 ◀



UNIQUE WAYS TO REMEMBER

Ecole Puntledge Park created a clever display to engage students in remembering. Colleen Devlin, Indigenous Educator K/1, turned the book, *A Poppy is to Remember* by Heather Patterson, into a story walk along the forest adjacent the school, displaying select pages of the book to explain the importance of November 11th.



In addition, the Courtenay school was one of only two schools in Canada to be granted permission from the Canadian Armed Forces to allow military personnel to participate in Remembrance Day activities. On Nov 9 & 10, members of 19 Wing Comox visited students at their outdoor classroom, an event successfully arranged by the school's outdoor education teacher Taylor Gowie.

Students Give Back to #dosomething

Mark R Isfeld's Interact Club, International Student Program and the Life Skills students teamed up with teacher Victoria Mulrooney to host a hugely successful COVID-SAFE food drive campaign - a project made possible by many community members and groups, including the Interact Club's sponsor, Comox Rotary Club. It was also an initiative with Indigenous Education to #dosomething as part of their commitment to being a #DWF Legacy School.

▶ Check out the video story on our YouTube Channel

G.P. Vanier's Interact Club students hosted their similar and equally successful drive-up 'n' drop-off food drive for our local Food Bank with many community supporters pitching in, including Thriftys Foods as well as their sponsor, the Courtenay Rotary Club.



Early Learning Ed-ventures

StrongStart | Kindergarten | Community Collaborative

EL NEWSLETTER

Jacquie Anderson, Early Learning (EL) Support Teacher, launched the first EL newsletter to give families and staff a quick snapshot of their unique program and initiatives. Each issue will be shared on the District website, linked under Programs and Services / Early Learning.

Featured in the newsletter is a highlight of the fall activities that has seen the creativity of our educators as they adjust their outdoor learning spaces to accommodate COVID 19 limitations. The Courtenay Elementary Pumpkin Patch was one such event for early learners and younger grade students, a Strengthening Early Years to Kindergarten Transitions (SEY2KT) project currently underway at Courtenay and Cumberland Community School. SEY2KT is a Ministry of Education initiative to help community partners and childcare providers collaborate to support early learners. Sieffert's Farm Market collaborated by generously donating 150 pumpkins to Courtenay El.

[Take a look at the video story on YouTube](#) ◀

Pumpkin Creativity at all grades

Ecole Robb Road used their own version of creativity and imagination to transform their collection of pumpkins. Students carved their "citrouilles" into a colourful depiction of a favourite book - scene or character. Emily Pontus, Teacher Librarian, used a creative Halloween activity as a creative learning experience to enhance the students' love for reading. ▶ [Check it out in this YouTube video!](#)

EDAS SEASON 17 COVID-STYLE

EDAS Project will be a unique season with 17 schools signed up and another two being finalized. This year's goal is to create *envelopes of love* to those in need throughout the Comox Valley, Victoria and East Hastings, Vancouver. Project founder and leader Chantal Stefan and the Ecole Puntledge Park G7 EDAS students will work within their cohorts to complete all the packaging on Dec 11th, while the EDAS Adult Team will carry out delivery.

