

# 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

**navigate**  
NIDES  
Innovation for Learning



## BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

**Old Business :** Compost Pick-Up Proposal. Motion passed to have District leaders investigate developing a composting implementation strategy

### Board Standing Committee Reports

- Finance : 2021-22 Preliminary Budget Process
- Policy : AP 408-1; AP 170 migration into Policy 24: Discrimination; Policy 12

### Board Business

- Report on BC School Trustee Association (BCSTA) Trustee Academy

### Correspondence

- Ella Olddaker / Nalan Gossen - Compost Pick-up Proposal Presentation
- Rob Fleming, MLA and former Ministry of Education
- Jennifer Whiteside, MLA and new Ministry of Education

## IN THIS ISSUE

### EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING:

International Student Program  
and Distributed Learning

### SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

### SECRETARY-TREASURER REPORT:

By-election Results

### DISTRICT NEWS

### SCHOOL STORIES

Video recording of meeting  
on YouTube



# STRATEGIC REPORTS

## Education Committee Meeting

### International Student Program

Superintendent Demeo and ISP Principal Greg Kochanuk gave an update on the program as we move into the second half of the school year. Specifically, details were shared regarding the homestay program for students scheduled to arrive for second term and the Health and Safety protocols that are in place regarding quarantine and host family expectations.

### NIDES / Navigate

The District's DL school had more than 1000 students register beyond what was projected as a result of COVID. Principal Jeff Taylor shared the challenges of enrolling registrants in courses and the requirement to double the staff to successfully support all students.

Jeff Taylor also gave a detailed overview of what the ongoing picture of distance learning might look like in our school district in future years.

Full video presentation on YouTube



### Secretary-Treasurer Report

Six candidates ran in the December by-election for School Trustee- Area C. Cristi May Sacht successfully won and will serve out the remaining term that ends in 2022. An Oath of Office will take place in January after which Cristi will assume official duties in the capacity as trustee.

Results by candidate are as follows:

Cristi May Sacht: 62

Monica Parkin: 26

Terence Pruden: 23

Rob Thompson: 10

Kandice Bielert: 8

Randi Baldwin: 0

**TOTAL BALLOTS: 129**

Read full story in *Comox Valley Record* online.

## Superintendent Report

The District is part of a provincial -wide study into the impact COVID-19 has had on the social and emotional wellness of youth. The District encourages parents and students to participate in the MyHEARTSMAP mental health study. This self-assessment study is available online at <https://myheartsmap-pandemic.bcchr.ca/>



The District will launch its own survey in January to research the implications the COVID-19 pandemic on learning. This will help us find out what types of learning resources are effective and what is needed to support student success. Survey details will be released in the new year. Involvement from all education stakeholders is encouraged.

The Calendar Committee plans to reconvene in the new year to decide upon the next three-year calendar cycle.

Schools continue to demonstrate caring and kindness throughout the year and the holiday season is especially a time we see students give back to the community. The annual Hamper Program is a fine example. More stories of giving back on pages 4 & 5.







## YOUTH LEADING RECONCILIATION

Senior middle school students at Lake Trail engaged in a half-day session exploring the importance of reconciliACTION to deepen their understanding and discuss actions at a personal level and within the context of the school and greater community. With the help of Indigenous Support Workers, workshop leader Jeannine Lindsay guided the Grade 8/9 students through a discussion that focused on positive examples of inclusiveness in schools and in the community. Students were then challenged to identify other ways in which they could be an ally, show respect and have empathy. Lake Trail students are the only youth this year to participate in a YLR organized event. In partnership with Nanaimo Aboriginal Centre, Lelaina Jules, Indigenous Education Curriculum Support Teacher, successfully secured funding the workshop.

Full story in District News online at  
[www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/apps/news/](http://www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/apps/news/)



## Huband Students Launch Podcast

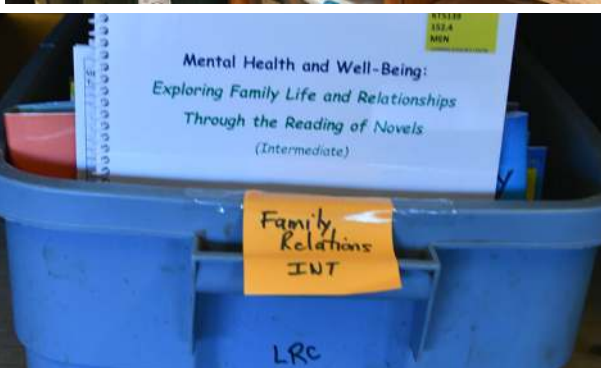
Grade 3 students are sharing their West Coast Indigenous stories in a podcast called *Legends of the West Coast*, created by Geoff Fleischer's class. The learning journey has allowed his students to experience the magic of oral storytelling traditions while using technology to go viral. The series is available to listen to on the popular platform *Spotify*.

Check out the podcast on  
<http://legendsofthewestcoast.buzzsprout.com/1477357>



## School Mental Health Resource Kits

The District's vast array of resources to support social and emotional learning (SEL) has increased substantially with new Mental Health kits created by the Learning Resource Centre. Joan Pearce, LRC Teacher-Librarian, collaborated with NIDES counsellor Leanne Webster to create themed kits that will help primary and intermediate students explore, understand and develop empathy on topics such as worry, low-mood, friendship issues and grief, as well as neurological diversity and gender identity. Kits are available now to augment school libraries and to aid teachers in selecting appropriate material for a diverse range of learners and interest levels. Each kit comes with a handbook that lists a bibliography of other recommended novels or picture books on the specific subject matter. **Full story details in District News online.**





# SCHOOL STORIES



## FOOD GRANT FOR ASPEN PARK

Aspen Park was selected among 34 schools across Canada to receive a **Farm to Cafeteria Canada** grant. Funds will help the school invest in a Salad Bar program which will make them the 6th school to offer this healthy lunch option. Staff and the school PAC aim to have their lunch program up and running by January 2021.



## Letters for Seniors - A District Holiday Sharing Project

Huband, Royston, Cumberland, Valley View, Brooklyn, Aspen, Airport, and Queneesh took part in a new holiday tradition - a letter writing campaign. Students created personalized cards and letters for residents at three care centres - Cumberland Lodge, The Views and Glacier View Lodge - in hopes of lifting spirits during the holiday season when so many are unable to see their loved ones due to COVID restrictions. Indigenous Support Workers are also helping their students write cards to the Elders with an added gift of a lapel pin or broach offered by Ramona Johnson of IHOS Gallery. *Read story of Huband students' visit to The Views online in [Comox Valley Record](#).*



➤ Check out Huband students deliver their cards to residents at The Views on our YouTube Channel!



## Senior Leaders Give Back to Community

Pete Montana & Robyn Clarke, 98.9 The Jet FM, dropped by the Board Office recently to collect \$1,000 that our senior leaders raised for the **Pallet Challenge** - the station's community charity campaign to support the local Food Bank. The amount raised is equivalent to the value of two pallets worth of food. The District challenged other community and municipal leaders to step up and help **stuff the truck!**



## & MORE STORIES

### SHARING STAFF STORIES

As the guardians of employees, HR is focused on supporting students by serving the needs of staff. The HR team is now taking this critical role one step further to showcase the unique and valuable contributions staff provide in the delivery of education.

In 2019, the District launched Staff Cast, a podcast series of brief interviews with a school district employee. The series has been augmented with a new video format hosted by Sheila Powell, Manager of Human Resources.

**Sharing with Sheila** is a video podcast series that will continue throughout the school year to celebrate our diversity and to highlight the unique contributions of our employees within their individual working environments. In the first episode, Sheila sits down with Vanessa Schreurs for an interview about her unique 23-year experience working in the District as a senior custodian. Vanessa openly shares her story about hearing loss and its impact on her work life.

Watch the video podcast online at  
[bit.ly/SD71\\_Employment](https://bit.ly/SD71_Employment)

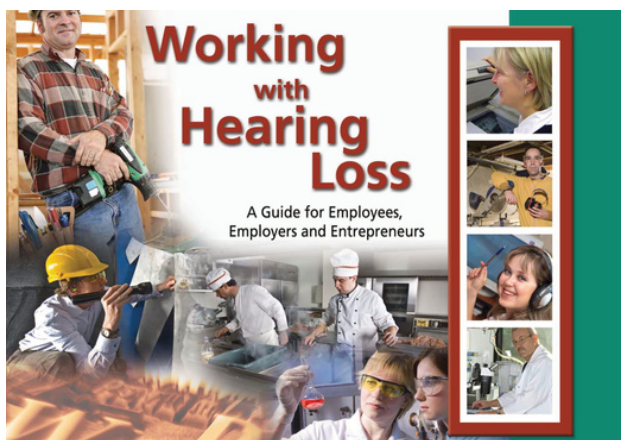
**Working with Hearing Loss is a Guide** published by the Canadian Hard of Hearing Institute and is available on our website at  
[www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/resourcesforstaff/](http://www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/resourcesforstaff/)

### EDAS Project Wrap-Up

Another successful, COVID-adjusted season for *Everybody Deserves A Smile* campaign. Beautifully hand-crafted EDAS gift bags and envelopes were delivered to communities in our region, as well as Victoria, Nanaimo, Vancouver, Montreal, and London, UK. The goal of 1,200 gift bags was not only achieved but surpassed with the support of 18 schools, parent volunteers and donations from the community.

Here are the results in numbers:

- Over 1300 envelopes
- Over 1300 homemade Christmas cards
- Over 2100 sugar cookies
- Over 170 EDAS bags



Queneesh Elementary created 340 ornaments for the **EDAS project**, just some of the contributions from our students and staff.

Check out more of the project here:  
[www.facebook.com/edasproject/](https://www.facebook.com/edasproject/)