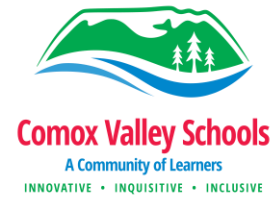


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School Property Vandalism Hits Valley Students the Hardest

Comox Valley, B.C. – Vandalism on school property is on the rise and the District is asking the community to help curb the crime by paying extra attention to school sites and facilities after hours.

In the past month, school property has been subject to several acts of vandalism, a reoccurrence that is becoming harder to control and more expensive to fix.

“Creating and maintaining safe learning spaces before, during and after school hours is a focal point of our facilities management and operations plan,” stated Tom Demeo, Superintendent of Schools. “Unfortunately, vandalism and graffiti cost the District a great deal of money and time in repairs and can contribute to a perception that our facilities and property are not well-cared for or are unsafe environments for students and staff.

The District is appealing to the community to be extra vigilant and watch for questionable activity on school grounds during off-hours, as well as share in educating others about the impact vandalism has on student learning.

“We aren’t necessarily expecting the community to police school properties,” explained Demeo. “Our hope is to build a better understanding around the fact that vandalism causes the District to use its resources to repair the damage instead of allocating these important funds to our schools for the benefit of staff and students.”

RCMP and the school district are calling upon the public to report any suspicious behaviour that neighbours or bystanders may have witnessed at any school location in recent weeks.

-End-

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