

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.



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INTERNATIONAL
STUDENT PROGRAM
COMOX VALLEY



BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Adoption of the Regular Public Board Meeting Minutes,
January 26, 2021

Education Committee Meeting, February 9: Mental Health and Wellness. (see video presentation on our YouTube channel)

Strategic Direction

- Enrolment Projections

Board Standing Committee Reports

- Finance
- Facilities
- Policy

Board Business (Reports):

- Committee updates
- Trustee Liaison
- Notice of Motion
- BCSTA Provincial Council Meeting

IN THIS ISSUE

PRESENTATION / DELEGATION:

Maurita Prato, Executive Director of LUSH Valley Food Action Society - School Food Program

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

- Pro-D Day Recap (See Pg. 2)

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

- Proposed District Calendars

DISTRICT NEWS & SCHOOL STORIES

Video recording of meeting
on YouTube



STRATEGIC REPORTS

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Pro-D, A Day of Togetherness in Truth and Reconciliation

Allan Douglas, Director of Instruction K-12 and member of the Pro-D committee delivered an summary of the successful February 12th event. Pro-D Day called *We are All One* was an opportunity for all staff to come together in a morning session lead by Doug David, chair and his Pro-D committee on reconciliation. The session opened with messages from members of our Indigenous community including Nicole Rempel, Chief Councillor KFN and Wedlidi Speck, Hereditary Chief, to share a message of a sense of place. The opening remarks set the pace for what followed, a presentation my Mike Downie, co-founder of *Downie-Wenjack Fund (DWF)*. Mike shared the story of how DWF and the *Legacy School Program* were created for which all of our schools are involved with - the first in Canada to make a District-wide commitment to the program. To learn more visit Indigenous Education page dedicated to [Secret Path here](#).



A highlight video reel of the Pro-D day event including a portion of Mike Downie's presentation. Created by Doug David

Assistant Superintendent Report

District Calendars (2021 - 2024)

Draft school year calendars for 2021 through to 2024 are available for review. The District is seeking community feedback for the next 30 days before final Board approval, a process that is in accordance with the School Act. Calendars and feedback can be submitted at this link here:

<https://www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/4751-2/>

It should be noted that amendments can be made to the calendar provided the Board make the amendments publicly available at least one month before initiating any changes.

Background

The goal of the Calendar Committee was to create district calendars to cover the next 3 school years. The calendars were designed to provide some consistency within our District and with our neighboring school districts and also to facilitate some long-range planning for staff and families. The guiding principle was that the calendars would be presented as a three-year package. Due to the overwhelming positive response of previous surveys with stakeholder groups regarding the length of the spring break period, a two-week spring break has been incorporated into the three proposed calendars including the Distance Learning calendar.



DISTRICT NEWS



*Each month one District program will be profiled to showcase our innovative, inquisitive and inclusive approach to education. This month we profile our **Mental Health & Wellness programs***

Mental Health and well being are so much bigger than one person. They include every part of our lives. When people have the right tools and supports in place, they can flourish regardless of health problems.

When people do not have the support they need or are excluded, the entire community suffers.

- Canadian Mental Health Association BC Division

Comox Valley Schools is committed to the well-being of all students and staff. It is recognized in our Strategic Priority Plan as a top priority and we continue to invest funding and resources to ensure we maintain and enhance a robust program that addresses all topics related to mental health. The following is a [link to a presentation](#) that summarizes a report on the most recent developments in building capacity and competency with **Mental Health Literacy**. As well, it highlights steps to growing a robust and responsive mental health and wellness plan.

A comprehensive list of resources in our community is available to ensure that no matter what a situation or circumstances might be, there is help. It's just a phone call or a click away. Click on [Mental Health Supports](#) here.



Sharing with Sheila is a video podcast series that shines the spotlight on our support staff and highlights their unique contributions to the District to support student success. In this episode, Sheila Powell, HR Manager, chats with Michael McNamee, a plumbing & heating mechanic chargehand. Mike began his employment with the District in 2011 starting as a plumber / gas-fitter. He shares his passion and experience of working with the District and recounts an impactful encounter with a student.

HR Launches 3rd episode of **Sharing with Sheila**



DISTRICT NEWS

Cumberland Students participate in #CNOY walk for homelessness



Cumberland Community School participated in the **Coldest Night of the Year** walk Feb 17. The first District school to have 100% participation from all classes. Cohorts of all grades walked the route one at a time throughout the morning in staggered starts. Along the route throughout the Village, a cohort of Grade 6/7 students set up interactive rest stops to deliver presentations on Dawn to Dawn & the Comox Valley Transition Society.



The walk concluded at Gwax'dzi dsas: Tall Tree Place, future location of Dawn to Dawn's housing project adjacent Cumberland Lodge.

Organizers Christa Petch and Jina Taylor hoped to raise \$2,000 and surpassed their goal with more than double the amount. A cheque for **\$5,250** was presented with additional donations coming in while the walk was in progress.



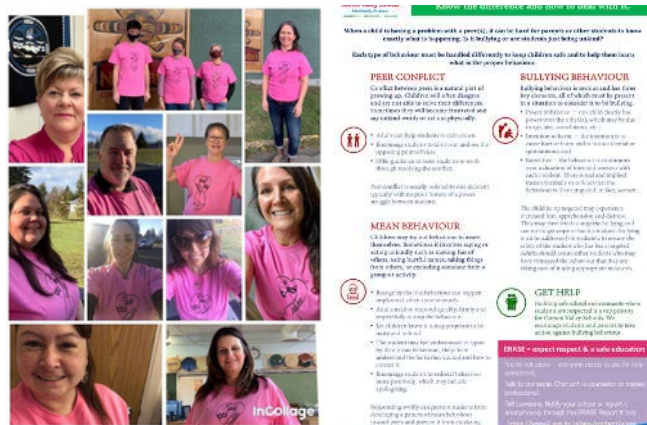
Congratulations to all students & staff, especially to Ms. Spearman's 4/5 class for raising \$712 as a class alone, which earned them a pizza lunch for their fundraising achievement.

For a video recap of the event visit **Kayla McDonald Video** at this link here <https://fb.watch/3KmYsK3CPw/>

SALAD BAR SAFELY LAUNCHED AT ASPEN PARK



Another Salad Bar program launched February 23 thanks to the efforts of a group of Aspen parents and a grant from Farm to School BC. Our healthy school food programs benefit the physical and mental wellness of students and increase community connections within schools. In accordance with the [Provincial COVID-19 Health and Safety Guidelines](#) schools can continue to provide food services, including for sale. Jenn Meilleur, F2S Learning Circle Coordinator, hosted a learning session with the Senior Environmental Health Officer from Island Health in September, along with DPAC, parent volunteers, and staff to learn about how to continue to provide healthy local school food safely in COVID times. Safety plans were reviewed and approved to proceed!



#PINKSHIRTDAY

Comox Valley Schools participated in the annual anti-bullying initiative recognized across Canada on February 24. CKNW Kids' Fund's #PinkShirtDay campaign theme for 2021 *Lift Each Other Up* focuses on working together and treating each other with dignity and respect. Royston Elementary dedicated the month toward teaching empathy, respect and encouraging kindness. Students were given special recognition on Pink Shirt Day for their individual efforts and shared messages of appreciation for one another on the school's kindness wall.

We have all been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, which is why it is more important than ever to help students and advocate on behalf of those who need it. The anti-bullying campaign serves as a reminder about the importance of being respectful, which can help curb peer conflict issues before they become problematic. Building safe school environments where students are respected is a top priority for the District. We encourage students and parents to take action against bullying behaviour. The District created an **infographic** to help identify and appropriately address student behaviour at all levels, [online at www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/peer_conflict/](http://www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/peer_conflict/).

#YOUROCK YOUTH AWARD

The 2020 Chamber of Commerce Youth Recognition Award, sponsored by NIC School of Business, was awarded to Charlotte Kimmins, G.P. Vanier Grade 12 student. Charlotte was nominated for her climate activism and her initiative to ban single use cutlery in her school. Her campaign sparked national interest and helped other schools nation-wide to implement similar initiatives. Charlotte was among the first female students to participate in the Ocean Literacy camp at Tribune Bay Outdoor Education Centre in 2018. Charlotte was among three finalist, which included Kyle Papineau, a fellow Vanier student who has been instrumental in community causes including Relay for Life.



& MORE SCHOOL STORIES



RANDOM ACT OF KINDNESS

February - a month of Kindness in schools

Students at Ecole Robb Road celebrated a week of kind acts and thoughtful gestures sharing kindness cards and every staff member received a personalized goodie bag. The school also mounted their Essential Workers' mural – a collage of artwork students of essential workers created last spring while attending classes during the earlier months of the pandemic. The mural is enhanced with the wolf painted by artist Jason Craft.



Over at Valley View, it was a month of kindness in the lead up to #PinkShirtDay. Students shared messages of kindness to one another and posted to the school's kindness wall.

Huband Park students uniquely demonstrated their kindness and appreciation for friends and the community by organizing a Valentine Candy Gram sale raising \$1,001 to donate to Habitat for Humanity.



And at Highland Secondary, students celebrated **#RandomActofKindnessDay** by "love bombing" the residents of The Views and Stevenson Place (home to Tinney Davidson – waving granny) with cheerful messages to show how much they too *have heart!*



Hearts were made using recycled milk jugs and coat hangers!

