

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.

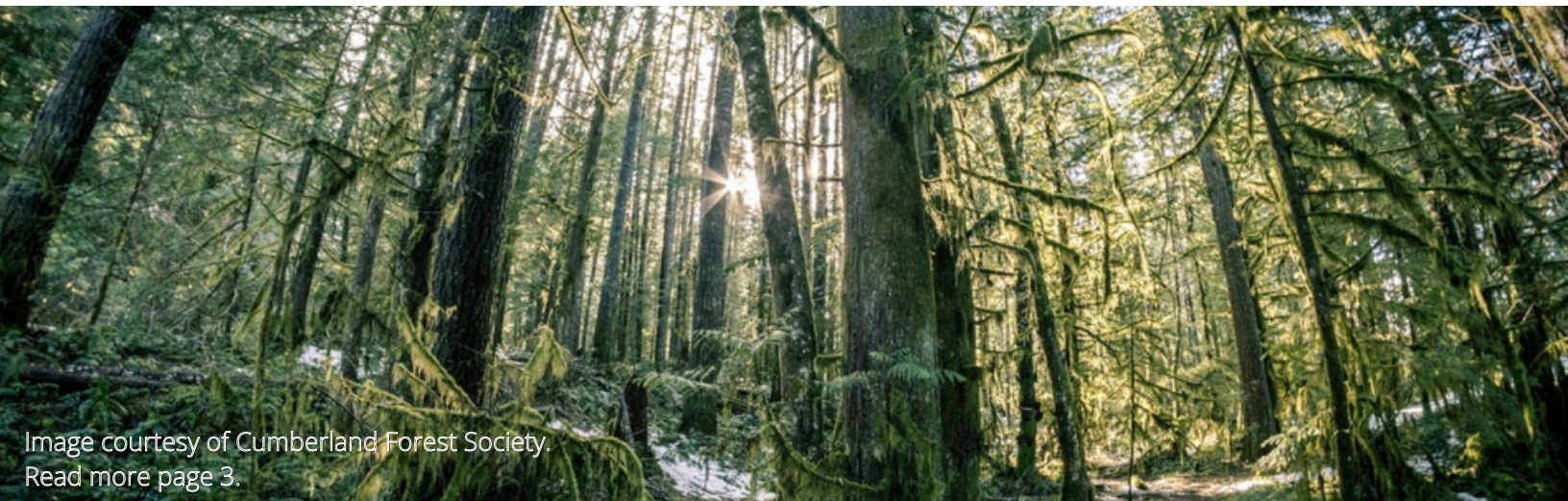


Image courtesy of Cumberland Forest Society.
Read more page 3.

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Adoption of the Regular Public Board Meeting Minutes,
February 23, 2021

Presentation / Delegation: Building Connections for Valley Families Kris Johnson, Coordinator for Comox Valley Early Years Collaborative, & Joanne Schroeder, Connections Steering Committee Member & Director of External Partnerships with HELP (UBC)

Strategic Direction

Board Business (Reports):

- Notice of Motion
- Notice of Special Public Board Meeting – Tuesday, April 6, 7 p.m.

Video recording of meeting
on YouTube

In this Issue

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

- Huband Boundary Recommendation Update
- School Year Survey Summary

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

- Special Board Meeting – District Calendar

SECRETARY TREASURER REPORT

- Preliminary Ministry Funding Announcement

DISTRICT NEWS & SCHOOL STORIES



STRATEGIC REPORTS

School Year Survey

SUMMARY REPORT



Total Respondents 3,599



In February 2021, Comox Valley Schools launched a survey to all members of our school communities seeking feedback in five focus areas:

1. Health & Safety
2. Educational Experience (Secondary)
3. Educational Experience (Elementary)
4. Academic Supports
5. School Structure (i.e. Cohorts)

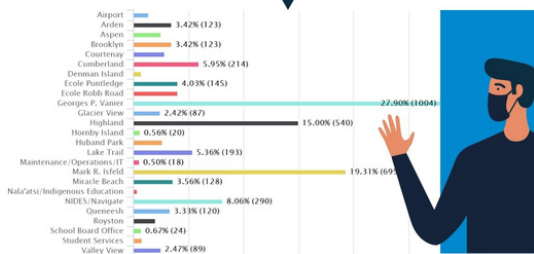
STUDENTS



*PARENTS/GUARDIANS



*STAFF



*Some participants responded twice (< 5%) as staff & as a parent / guardian.

Huband Park Elementary Catchment Update

A report was presented to the Board with the recommendation to rescind a motion passed in February 2020. The situation with COVID has allowed room for the current population to remain because of an increase of students leaving for NIDES. There is now enough space without having to move those students that are out of their catchment back to their neighbourhood school.

The Board voted in favour of the motion that all current cross boundary students enrolled at Huband be allowed to remain there until they complete their elementary education, as well, to keep Huband closed to all new cross boundary transfer requests (including siblings).

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT SCHOOL YEAR SURVEY

Results from the School Year Survey launched in February asking parents/guardians, students and staff about the education experience since September 2020 reveal an impressive level of participation from all three respondent groups. In total, 3,599 participants responded. The largest participant group was students at 55.4 % followed by parents/guardians, 32.6 %, and 17% for staff. Some the respondents (less than 5 %) replied twice as both a parent and as staff.

The survey was divided into five focus areas: health and safety; secondary school experience; elementary schools experience; academic support; and the school structure such as quarterly system and cohorts. A high level of support was given by all three respondent groups with **75 to 83 %** responding positively that their school /worksite is safe.

Detailed report online at

www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/school-year-survey-results/

Assistant Superintendent Report

School Calendars

Draft school year calendars for 2021 through to 2024 are available for review for 30 days before approved. Due to the date of the next regular monthly Board meeting falling outside 30 days, a special meeting has been scheduled for April 6th, to allow the Board to give final approval. Calendars and feedback can be submitted at this link here: <https://www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/4751-2/>

Secretary Treasurer Report

Preliminary Ministry Funding Announcement

On March 12, the Ministry of Education released the 2021/22 estimated operating grants, which included an increase to the per student allocation. The Secretary Treasurer outlined that while this early information indicates an increase in operating funding when compared to the recent amended budget, a review of all revenue sources and cost pressures needs to be completed to determine the draft budget position for the upcoming school year. This information will be shared at the April 13 budget committee meeting as part of the District's annual budget process.



Cumberland Forest Society creates guide for educators

A new K-9 Educator Resource Guide has been developed by the Cumberland Community Forest Society (CCFS) to support teachers and education program partners to share the story of the Cumberland Forest with students in our District. Tina Willard-Stepan, Facilitator and Environmental Educator for Cumberland Community Forest Society and Comox Strathcona Waste Management, was involved creating the new teacher resource package along with Meaghan Cursons, CCFS Executive Director.

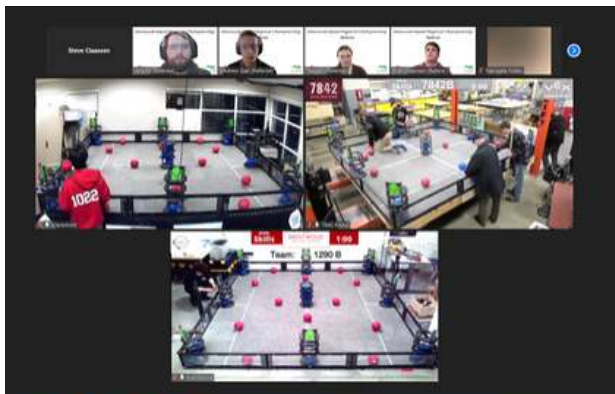
The goal is to encourage curiosity and connect more deeply to the land while learning about stewardship of natural spaces.

Read more about the resource guide at
www.cumberlandforest.com/cumberland-forest-educator-resource-now-online/



Vex Vancouver Island Championship

The District hosted the Vancouver Island Vex Robotics Regional Championship held virtually via Zoom March 6th. Among 20 teams, 7842 NIDES teams won three (3) of the four spots in the Robot Skills Challenge, as well as four additional judged awards. Winners advance to the Virtual Vex Worlds, May 17 to 22 (usually held in Louisville, Kentucky in April).



Zoom screen capture of Robot Courts from Claremont Secondary in Victoria, Brentwood College in Mill Bay and Highland Secondary (NIDES 7842)

Full details of winning teams in our District News story online
www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/valley-students-continue-their-excellence-in-robotics-in-virtual-tournament/

Sharing with Sheila Episode 4

In this episode, Sheila Powell, HR Manager, sits down virtually with Carrie Dumont, Youth and Family Program Worker who has been with the District since 1998.

Each video in this new podcast series shines the spotlight on a staff member from various employee groups to highlight their unique contributions to the District that helps in supporting student success.



EVEN MORE DISTRICT NEWS



North Island Regional Skills Canada competition

The North Island Regional competition for Skills Canada B.C. was held remotely with many Valley students participating March 8 to 12.

The event drew more than 450 competitors in Grades 6 to 12 from more than a dozen schools competing in 12 different events ranging from carpentry, culinary, electronics, and welding to media animation and TV/video production. Junior events for students competing in grades 6 to 8 included Gravity Cars, Spaghetti Bridge Design, Wind Turbine and VexIQ Robotics.

District students captured impressive finishes in many of the categories taking gold medal placement in 10 of the 12 events.

Full details of results in our District News story online www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/district-students-shine-in-regional-skills-canada-competition/

ADST District Bird Feeder Project

Our **Careers Department** has created helpful workbooks to assist teachers with exploring a variety of engaging, hands-on, safe, and flexible Applied Design, Skills & Technologies (ADST) projects. One project is the construction of bird feeders, a construction assignment that encourages students to work collaboratively. Careers supplied all materials and, this year, went above and beyond to liaise with the community with the help of the Lake Trail Community Education Society to find homes for the feeders created by a cohort of Lake Trail Grade 6 - 9 students.

On March 17, Dawn Anderson, Careers Coordinator, delivered student-designed feeders to various senior residents throughout the Valley. William Bakker Lake Trail teacher, suggested a community outreach idea after hearing from Corinna Wainwrights, EA, about a story in another region of students constructing feeders for seniors. Students in Bakker and & Dawnn Thorson's class involved in the project said the hands-on experience was fulfilling and are pleased their bird feeders are being given to seniors who have been isolated. Each of the 50 feeders (approximately) came with a supply of bird seed also provided by the Careers Department.



Stevenson Place was among one of 7 care homes to receive a bird feeder constructed by Lake Trail Community Grade 6-7 students.



G.P. VANIER RESURRECTS THE CINDERELLA PROJECT

A team of students and staff at G.P. Vanier Secondary School have picked up the torch to continue an important donation project to outfit graduates in style.

Known as the Cinderella/Prince Charming Project, the former community-run program is designed to ensure every graduating student in the District has access to special attire to make their graduation ceremony stylish, memorable and affordable.



The project aims to tackle the stigma attached to underprivileged students by giving everyone the opportunity to wear a gown or suit on graduation day without the financial challenges associated with purchasing a brand new outfit or having one special made for their milestone event.

Although Vanier will oversee the project, all graduating students in the District will be able to benefit.

"Anyone who wants to pick out a gown or a suit can and will be given the choice to keep it or return it," explained Kelley Giorgianni, Work Experience Coordinator and project volunteer. "Everyone deserves to feel the magic of this special day and we want to make that happen for all our graduates."

Read more about the project and how to donate or volunteer, visit the District news article online at

www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/latest-news/

ISFELD SENIOR WINS SCHOLARSHIP



James is one of three Vancouver Island recipients of a **Horatio Alger** scholarship. Learn more about the organization and the award online [here](#).

James Fazeli-Sinaki, Mark R. Isfeld Grade 12, has won a \$5,000 scholarship from the Horatio Alger Association of Canada, a charitable organization that recognizes secondary students who have overcome adversity and are pursuing a university education upon graduation.

When not studying to maintain his straight-A grades, James volunteers at the Habitat for Humanity ReStore in Courtenay. Last year, he was selected as a Rotary Youth Exchange Ambassador to travel to Italy, but unfortunately the trip was cancelled due to COVID. Read more details about James in the [Comox Valley Record article online here](#).