

# 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.*



## BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

**Adoption of the Regular Public Board Meeting Minutes**  
May 25, 2021

**Old Business: Draft Comox Valley School District Environmental Inventory Report** - Update presented by Caitlin O'Neill, Field Technologist for Current Environmental Ltd.

**Education Committee Meeting Report** - June 8, 2021

### **Board Standing Committee Reports**

- Finance
- Audit
- Policy
- Facilities

**Board Business & Correspondence**

## **In this Issue**

### **ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

- School Fees
- Board Authority Authorized (BAA) Courses

### **SECRETARY-TREASURER REPORT**

- Boundary Adjustments
- K-12 Education Recovery Plan

### **DISTRICT NEWS & SCHOOL STORIES**

### **LONG RANGE FACILITIES PLAN**

### **FAREWELL TO SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM DIRECTORS**

Video recording of meeting  
on YouTube



# STRATEGIC REPORTS

## ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

### SCHOOL FEES

Geoff Manning presented a report on school fees. Under the School Act, a board must publish a schedule of the fees to be charged and deposits required and must make the schedule available to students registered and to the parents of those students before the beginning of the school year. With the report was a recommendation that the Board of Education, School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) approve the attached Fee Schedules for the 2021-2022 school year. The motion to accept fees carried.

Detailed report of fees in **Board Agenda**  
(begins on Pg. 13)

### BOARD/AUTHORITY AUTHORIZED COURSES

A report was presented to the Board regarding five Board/Authority Authorized Courses (BAA) for review. Three of the courses are new and two are currently offered, but have been reformatted to align with the New Ministry Curriculum, and include the Big Ideas, Learning Standards and Curricular Competencies. The motion to accept new courses carried.

Details in the **Board Agenda**  
(begins on Pg. 21)

### RETIRING DIRECTORS

Trustees & senior staff acknowledged three retiring directors from the senior leadership team and gave a warm send off, thanking each for their many years of dedicated service.



**Director Esther Shatz,**  
Student Services



**Director Paul Berry**  
Health & Safety



**Director Allan Douglas**  
Instruction K-12



## Secretary-Treasurer Report

### K-12 EDUCATION RECOVERY PLAN

Brenda Hooker presented to the board a guide developed by the Ministry of Education that provides direction to boards of education on the delivery of educational programs and supports in line with provincial pandemic recovery efforts in the 2021/22 school year. The guide aims to :

- Clarify provincial expectations.
- Provide guidance across a number of key topics
- Include links to additional information and resources that can support local decision-making and communication.

### Boundary Adjustments

Secretary-Treasurer brought forward for information that the Senior Staff will bring to the Board in September recommendations for Boundary Catchment adjustments to identify catchment schools for planned housing construction and subdivisions yet to be developed.

## Long Range Facilities Plan

The Director of Operations, Ian Heselgrave, presented a report to inform the Board on the progress of the Long Range Facilities Plan (LRFP) 2021-2031 update. The LRFP project update is substantially complete with several reviews conducted by the Senior Leadership Team, the Committee of the Whole, the Facilities Committee and one Public Information Session.

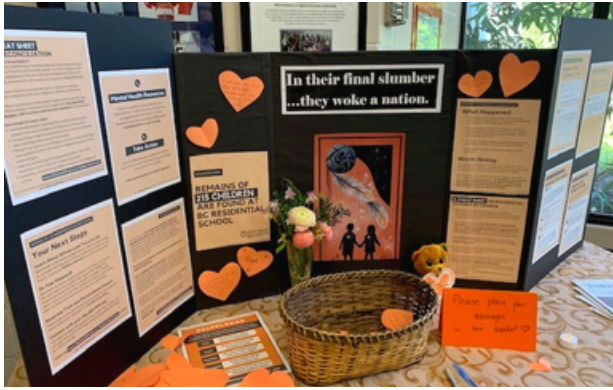
The LRFP indicates the first priority for action is to develop options for balancing enrollment and over-capacity in the Courtenay area, in order to facilitate capital expansion project requests in the South end of the District.

A recommendation was made that the Board of Education approve the Long Range Facilities Plan 2021-2031. The motion to accept the plan was carried.

Full details in the Board Agenda (begins on Pg. 113)

[www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Agenda-Regular-Board-Meeting-June-22-2021-2.pdf](http://www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Agenda-Regular-Board-Meeting-June-22-2021-2.pdf)





## RESPONSE TO KAMLOOPS RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL DISCOVERY

In response to the discovery of the remains of 215 Indigenous children at the site of the former Kamloops Residential School, School District 71 has embarked on a number of actions to share our grief and demonstrate our commitment to reconciliation.

In our schools, this commitment was amplified as we responded to the news coming out of Kamloops by taking part in many acts of support for the Indigenous families and communities affected.

Among the many activities, we have seen schools tying 215 orange ribbons to school fences, sending "Love Bombs" of hearts on I-HOS Gallery lawn amid the growing collection of Teddy Bears and displaying them prominently in the schools, painting 215 orange rocks and placing them in school gardens, holding space at Nala'atsi provided by InEd staff, conducting age-appropriate discussions with students regarding residential schools and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action.

The District has also welcomed our Ni'noxola (Elders in Residence) back into many of our schools to provide their calming presence with students and staff.

Full details on our District newsfeed online at [www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/district-responds-to-news-of-kamloops-residential-school/](http://www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/district-responds-to-news-of-kamloops-residential-school/)

More images available on Flickr <https://www.flickr.com/photos/comoxvalleyschoolssd71/>

## SCHULICH LEADER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Theodore Lemay, G.P. Vanier is now part of an esteemed network of national STEM scholars at one of Canada's leading universities. The 2021 Schulich Leader Nominees' selection was announced early June that Theodore will receive **\$100,000** in scholarship funding to advance his STEM studies at Queen's University. These entrance scholarships are awarded to only 100 high school graduates across Canada based on academic excellence in STEM and entrepreneurial leadership. Lemay was also one of the VEX Robotics teams to compete at the 2021 World Championships (see next page).

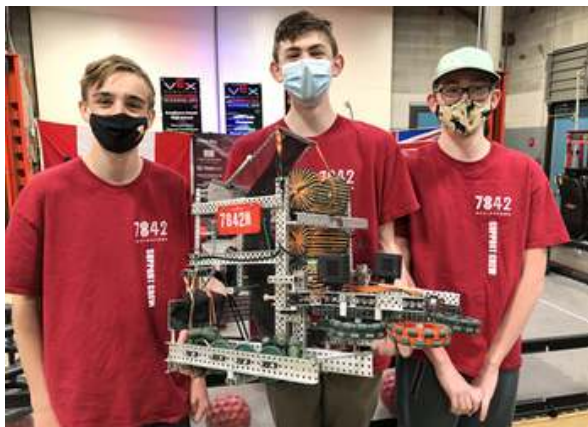
More information online at <https://schulichleaders.com/nominees>

# MORE DISTRICT NEWS



## 2021 VEX Competitive Robotics Worlds

Valley students continue their distinction of achieving excellence in robotics and have proven once again to be among the best on the world stage. Three SD71 teams competed at the virtual 2021 VEX Competitive Robotics World Championships May 16 to 22.



Navigators team 7842B comprised of Theo Lemay and Sawyer McLellan finished 6th overall. Team 7842A comprised of members Joel Saunders and Zane Henderson, finished 49th in the world rankings. First time competitors in the middle-school division was Team 7842M consisting of members Nicholas Horel, Andrew Phillips and Logan McCoy, earned 50th place over all.

Full details of results in our District News story online [www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/comox-valley-and-canada-dominate-at-the-2021-vex-competitive-robotics-world-championships/](http://www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/comox-valley-and-canada-dominate-at-the-2021-vex-competitive-robotics-world-championships/)



## BEEDIE LUMINARIES SCHOLARSHIP

Two secondary students are the proud recipients of a Beedie Luminaries Scholarship worth \$40,000 each. Congratulations to Hailey Brears, Highland Secondary, and James Fazeli-Sinaki, Mark R. Isfeld. The scholarships will help students pursue their post-secondary education at the university, college or trade school of their choice in B.C. The scholarships, created by Ryan Beedie, are intended for students who have demonstrated grit and resilience but are constrained by financial circumstance.

Highland's Hailey Brears earns \$40,000. Read more online at [mycomoxvalleynow.com](http://mycomoxvalleynow.com)

More information about the scholarship online at <https://beedieluminaries.ca/>



## 2021 LORAN FINALISTS

Tristan Rendell, G.P. Vanier, is a successful recipient among only 72 finalist from across Canada for the Loran Award. Tristan will receive a one-time award valued at \$5,000.

In November, Tristan helped organize the discussion on COVID-19 for young people in conjunction with Community Health Network (CVCHN).

More information about the scholarship online at <https://loranscholar.ca/2021-loran-finalists/>





## Culinary Teacher Recognized

Tammy Williamson, Mark R. Isfeld Secondary, HomeEc Teacher and Train in Trades Instructor – Professional Cooking Level 1, was recently honoured by the North Vancouver Island Chef's Association for all her work in the culinary arts. Association president Lesley Stav (left) gifted Tammy with a complete "F. Dick Knife" roll, each personalized in her name.

## Seedling Planting Project

Several elementary and secondary students & teachers were gifted the opportunity to plant tree seedlings by

**7 Generations Steward Society**. With the help of Indigenous Education and Environment and Outdoor Learning (EOL), 2,500 tree seedlings were planted throughout the Comox Valley.

At Isfeld, the Life Skills teamed up with the Environmental Club to plant their share of the seedlings in and around the school area in east Courtenay! During this special planting project, called *A Breath of Fresh Air*, classes were encouraged to reflect and have conversation around reciprocity and environmental sustainability.



## District Bike & School Cycling Program

Serina Allison, EOL Lead Teacher, has successfully secured longevity for a popular program that has been running in the District thanks to Comox Valley Cycling Coalition (CVCC). The program will be offered this fall and is in two parts:

**Part 1:** The District now owns 25 bicycles of various sizes to support grades 3 – 12 for students who may not own their own bike. Booking details and delivery methods will be announced in September 2021.

**Part 2:** Following the model of the Bike Rodeos and I-ride program, the District is now supporting a 2-day district wide School Cycling Program for ALL grade 4/5 students in partnership with the CVCC. Schools will be contacted by CVCC to secure dates for 21/22 and 22/23 school years.



The success of the program is also due to the collaborative efforts of Vanier's Transportation for Trades students who are providing maintenance and TLC, as well as the Maintenance & Facilities Department that will transport a trailer containing the bikes to various sites for classes to engage in learning and excursions. Details of this and other EOL initiatives offered can be found online at [learn71.ca/environmental-outdoor-learning-eol/](https://learn71.ca/environmental-outdoor-learning-eol/).



# MORE SCHOOL STORIES



## Provincial Virtual Archery Tournament

Fifteen grade 7 French Immersion students from Ecole Puntledge Park participated in the NASP BC Virtual Provincial Archery Competition in May 2021, placing 2nd overall among all the participating schools. Lake Trail earned 1st in the province in the Secondary School (grade 8/9) category.

The District aims to grow the sport of archery in the coming years in our school district.

## Colour Run for Fun



Huband Park Elementary held its first Colour Run as a way to celebrate, have some fun and let go of the demands of a pandemic school year. Teacher, Leslie Culley Nielsen brought this colourful idea to her school from a friend doing the same in Calgary. The school aims to make it an annual event. Colour powder was made of corn starch and is environmentally safe but eye protection came in very handy!

## Aspen Park Outdoor Learning Experience



Ninety Aspen Park grade 6 & 7 students embarked on a 2-day outdoor education field trip to Cumberland Lake Park, the Comox Lake dam and Kye Bay. Students participated in protist and macroinvertebrate studies, tick, fire-building and survival workshops, dragon boating, biking, hiking, and marine ecology activities. Many thanks to Cumberland Lake Wilderness Society, Courtenay & District Fish & Game Protective Association, Gravity MTB, Vancouver Island Paddling, and Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation for helping make this experience happen!

## School Garden Blooms



Lumber that had been stolen from the Brooklyn Elementary school grounds in Comox last fall has been recovered in donations, as well as financial contributions from the PAC and put to good use. The school was able to complete two key projects – a gaga Ball Pit and garden boxes for its school garden, just as intended before the theft occurred.

Read story details online at

<https://www.comoxvalleyrecord.com/community/comox-valley-school-garden-in-full-bloom-after-setback/>



# MORE SCHOOL STORIES



## National prize winner for French language speaking contest

Sasha Woldnik, Ecole Puntledge Park student, won first place among grade 6 students across Canada in the *Concours D'art oratoire*, a French oral language competition. Sasha began learning French for the first time upon enrolling in the Late French Immersion program at the start of his grade 6 year. Sasha credits his teacher, Mme. Thea Black, for reencouraging him to enter Concours and his mom, Luba for inspiring him to learn a third language. Sasha already has a second language in Ukrainian.

Read more in our District news at:

[www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/NR\\_ConcoursDartOratoire\\_Nationals.June21.pdf](http://www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/NR_ConcoursDartOratoire_Nationals.June21.pdf)



## National Indigenous Peoples Day

June 21 was the 25th anniversary of nationally celebrating the heritage, diverse cultures and outstanding achievements of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.

At Arden Elementary, the school served up Bannock, a fried bread originating from Scotland and eventually adopted by the Indigenous peoples, particularly the Métis of western Canada. In our District, we embrace Indigenous cultures like this and in many other ways with our robust Indigenous Education program and the guidance of Elders in Residence and Indigenous Support Workers.



Learn more at: [indigenouseducation.comoxvalleyschools.ca/](http://indigenouseducation.comoxvalleyschools.ca/)

## Mark R. Isfeld Improv Teams Take on a nation at CIG

Three Mark R. Isfeld Secondary Improv teams competed back in April in the Canadian Improv Games (CIG) virtually and captured stellar results. Two junior teams and one senior team competed to earn three medals in the national competition. Team Swag, a junior team, earned **Gold** with a first place overall. The senior team captured 2nd in their category earning **Silver** and the other junior team, Team Baguettes, earned **Bronze** with the 3rd place finish overall in their category.

Read story details online at:

[www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/NR\\_CIGNationals.June2021.pdf](http://www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/NR_CIGNationals.June2021.pdf)





# STILL MORE SCHOOL STORIES



## Reading Challenge earns Robb Road a First Place

Ecole Robb Road grade 4 and 5 students participated in a Reading Link Challenge (RLC) – a province-wide program that promotes the "sport of reading." The program is run as a series of quiz/trivia challenges with winning teams advancing to higher levels of competition. Ecole Robb Road claimed first place in the virtual battle by answering trivia questions on six different novels provided by our Public Library and organized by Natalie Catto. The team claimed their championship win by a single point over the team from Sidney.

## CLASS OF 2021

The District proudly graduated 540 students in the Class of 2021. In five distinct ceremonies, graduating classes from Nala'asti, Glacier View, Mark R. Isfeld, Highland, and G.P. Vanier Secondary held COVID-friendly celebration events to send off students with the completion of their final year of schooling.

Each school hosted a unique event with a drive up, walk up or Zoom ceremony to allow students to still enjoy a public and personalized moment with classmates, family and friends. We have compiled several images from across the district and will share them as the pictures continue to be posted throughout the summer month.

To view a collection of graduation ceremony images, visit our Flickr account online at <https://flic.kr/s/aHsmW6L8CN>



## Farewell to our Retirees

The second annual care-a-van retirement drive-by toured the Valley June 24. Senior leaders and trustees took to the streets in two separate vehicles to hand-deliver retirement gift baskets to each of our retirees in a COVID-safe celebration.

Read story details online at:

<https://www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/congratulations-to-our-retirees-class-of-2021/>

