

BOARD BUSINESS

March 2022

SD 71 students shine at Skills Canada Regional Event

Despite the masks there were smiles everywhere, as the event returned to being held in-school for first time in two years



Comox Valley Schools

A Community of Learners

INNOVATIVE • INCLUSIVE • INCLUSIVE

BOARD PASSES CLIMATE EMERGENCY MOTION

The Board for SD 71 has passed a motion recognizing a climate crisis. The motion states THAT the Board of Education SD71 recognizes that there is global climate crisis and that we have a shared responsibility to reduce our GHG emissions and mitigate the impacts of climate change. To that end, we refer the matter to the Superintendent to consider next steps for consideration at our June Board meeting.

SD 71's strategic plan lists environmental stewardship as a top priority and we are already taking action in many different ways. Currently, SD 71 is aligning outdoor and environment learning opportunities for long-term sustainability. We've been working to reduce our carbon emissions and environmental footprint. We are creating a long-term food strategy. Schools are making efforts to reduce single use plastics and are implementing zero waste strategies. Several schools also have active travel programs. These are some of our current actions, but there is lots more to do in the months and years ahead.



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

Update from Vice Board Chair
Michelle Waite

Update from
Superintendent/CEO of Schools
Tom Demeo

Board advances climate crisis
resolution

Grad 2022 planning for SD 71

Preliminary Operating Grants
2022-2023

**WATCH
MARCH 15
BOARD
MEETING**

BOARD BUSINESS



Comox Valley Schools

A Community of Learners

INNOVATIVE • INQUISITIVE • INCLUSIVE

Board Meeting Highlights - March 2022

Vice Board Chair Update

Board of Education Vice Chair, Michelle Waite

I find myself with a great opportunity to tell everyone how pleased I was to attend the district musical at Highland Secondary recently.

It was great to see all SD 71 schools come together to perform, engage, learn, grow and laugh. I'm so grateful the our district is supportive of this amazing initiative, especially this year with the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic that we've all felt over the past couple of years.

You could feel the joy coming from the students and crowd. At least two of the shows were sold out and there were people there from the community who do not have children in our schools. There were former students who used to attend school here and were in past musicals. Some families brought their younger children who were there for their first ever musical or live performance. It was very heartwarming to be there.

I would like to thank the many district staff for the hundreds of hours they put into making the event happen. Most importantly, bravo to our students! Let's hope we can all gather again in the months ahead.

Please have a great spring break.



Superintendent Update

Superintendent/CEO of Schools, Tom Demeo

It has been a long couple of years, and I would like to thank everyone's commitment and dedication in doing whatever we needed to do to keep our schools open, safe, and welcoming for our students. As we transition to spring and to a lifting of the COVID-19 restrictions it is our hope that we continue to work together and treat each other with respect and kindness. There have been some incredible examples of the generosity and community spirit in our schools of recent. Congratulations are in order for students from Mark Isfeld Secondary for their fundraising efforts at this year's Terry Fox Run. Isfeld was 2nd in all of BC for secondary schools for funds raised (\$9014.67) with their Terry Fox Run, second only to St Georges in Vancouver. The Mark R Isfeld grad class of 2022 jumped in on the Coldest Night of the Year walks to fundraise for Dawn to Dawn and the Comox Transition Society. In total, the grad class raised \$10,395 at last count.

Students in Myra Wilson's Grade 4/5 class at Huband Elementary raised \$1,254.00 towards housing through their "Candy Gram" Valentine's Day fundraiser. And students at Cumberland Community school raised over \$1000 during their Coldest Day of the Year activities. It's truly inspiring to see our students make such an impact in our communities.

Please have a healthy, relaxing, and well deserved Spring Break.



BOARD BUSINESS

Board Meeting Highlights - March 2022



Comox Valley Schools

A Community of Learners

INNOVATIVE • INQUISITIVE • INCLUSIVE



**Cumberland raised over \$1000
for Coldest Day of the Year**



**Huband raised over \$1200
for Habitat for Humanity**



**Isfeld raised over \$9000 for the Terry Fox Run (2nd most in BC)
+ \$10,000 for the Coldest Day of the Year**



BOARD BUSINESS

Board Meeting Highlights - March 2022

Secretary treasurer update - Preliminary Operating Grants (Provincial)

The Ministry of Education released their funding projections for 2022-2023. There are no changes to the operating grant rates or formulae for 2022/23. Per student funding rates remain unchanged from 2021/2022. School districts are estimating they will enrol 559,779 school-age FTE in September 2022, an increase of 2,274 FTE (or 0.4%) over the September 2021 total. 35 districts are estimating they will have increased enrolment in September 2022. This includes SD 71.

Enrolments will be counted in late September 2022 and funding is confirmed later in fall 2022.

Grad 2022 - a return to more normal activities

Its looking as though SD 71 graduates will be able take part in celebrations with their families and peers in what appears to be a return to more normal graduation celebrations.

Highland Secondary

- May 28th at the Filberg (weather permitting)

Vanier Secondary

- June 25th at the Fairgrounds (weather permitting)
- June 24th at the Sports Centre if weather conflicts with an outdoor setting.

Isfeld Secondary

- June 18th Isfeld field between Valley View and Isfeld. Held indoors if weather inclement

Glacier View

- June 23rd @ 1:00 pm in Simms Park (Cake and drinks for families)



Indigenous Education launched an update of the Indigenous Education website www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/indigenous-education/

Cumberland Community School installed a new Gaga Ball court. This was a gift from a previous industrial ed teacher, Mr. Dave Munro.



BOARD BUSINESS

March News



Comox Valley Schools

A Community of Learners

INNOVATIVE • INQUISITIVE • INCLUSIVE

SD 71 students off to All-Star Game

A trio of graduating basketball players in the Comox Valley have been selected to the North Island girls Grade 12 all-star team. They include Emma Warren of Highland, Meghan Linegar of Isfeld and Reese Douglas of Vanier.

Emma — the only Grade 12 on Highland's squad — led her team in scoring throughout the season. In her final match at the Island playoffs, she scored 35 points and earned player-of-the-game honours.

Douglas, who plays guard, was team captain who also led her team in scoring. Vanier coaches describe her as a hard-working and competitive player.

Linegar is a multi-sport athlete who has earned all-star acclaim in volleyball basketball and soccer.



Skills Canada returns to in-person competitions at Vanier

Students from Comox Valley and surrounding districts showcased their talents in the skilled trades and technologies at the Skills Canada Competition held at G.P. Vanier Secondary School on March 2. The event was held in person for the first time in two years.

There were 250 competitors in 16 different events, from 19 schools in four school districts (SD 71 – Comox Valley, SD47 – Powell River, SD72 – Campbell River, SD69 – Parksville-Qualicum).

Skills Canada offers experiential learning opportunities including skilled trade and technology competitions for hundreds of thousands of young Canadians through regional, provincial/territorial, national and international events, as well as skilled trade awareness programs.

Senior event gold medal winners from SD 71 this year were Caleb Elsasser (Vanier) in the automotive event and Austin Harris (Highland) in the electronics event. Both senior event winners are going to the Skills Canada provincials.

MARCH 2022



BOARD BUSINESS

March News



Comox Valley Schools

A Community of Learners

INNOVATIVE • INQUISITIVE • INCLUSIVE

Youth apprentices receive \$1000 awards

A number of youth in the Comox Valley have recently received a \$1000 award from the Ministry of Education (MOE) for being part of the Youth Work In Trades program offered through the Ministry of Education, Industry Training Authority (ITA) and Comox Valley Schools Youth Programs for Trades.

Many of these students started their trades paths in Comox Valley Schools by taking shop classes or being part of an ITA Youth Trades Sampler program in Grade 11. During their Grade 12 year, students typically take a Trades Foundation Program at North Island College where the ITA, MOE and School district sponsor their tuition.

Some students also take the direct apprenticeship route going straight out to industry after taking the district Trades Samplers programs.

More than 150 Youth Work In Trades awards have been given out by Murray Shold, Youth Work In Trades Coordinator for Comox Valley Schools.



Carpentry apprentice Owen Teichroeb on the jobsite with Cameron Contracting receiving \$1000 award.



Cole Barker, Heavy Duty apprentice at North Island Tractor receiving his \$1000 award from Murray Shold, Youth Work In Trades coordinator.



Cale Hart, Murray Shold, Koosha Habibi. Both started their level 2 plumbing apprenticeship Monday, March 14th at North Island College Comox Campus.

MARCH 2022

BOARD BUSINESS



Comox Valley Schools

A Community of Learners

INNOVATIVE • INQUISITIVE • INCLUSIVE

March News



Isfeld grad and Explore student wins coldest race

An SD 71 graduate from Isfeld and Explore program participant won the Arctic Ultra endurance test earlier this month, a contest that dubs itself the "toughest, windiest, and coldest ultra foot race in the world." Rio Crystal was the youngest competitor in the race. The race spans 400 kilometres and more than 3,600 metres of elevation change. It runs through some of the most extreme landscapes on Earth, with temperatures dropping as low as -40 C. Taking place entirely in the Yukon, the race begins outside Dawson City and ends at the Arctic Circle .

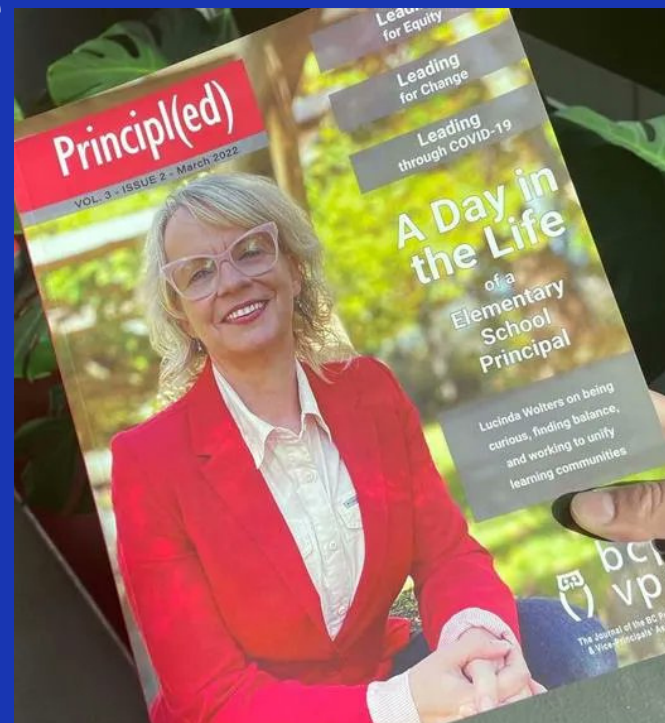
Racers are given seven days to complete the race that began at noon on Feb. 26, but Crystal crossed the finish line on March 3 after four days, 15 hours, and 11 minutes. Only six out of ten competitors finished, with the others withdrawing.

The GP Vanier Explore Program is an integrated outdoor education program that incorporates leadership, learning and outdoor skills.

Like the race, Explore requires students to push themselves in many areas in which they may not feel entirely comfortable, but through this experience they will grow. Explore is a team that relies upon each other. The Explore program offers 18 credits towards graduation.

Arden's leader on the Cover of Principled Magazine

One of SD 71's very own is being featured on the cover of Principled Magazine - the BCVPPA's magazine. Arden Elementary School principal Lucinda Wolters is the feature member in this month's *Day in the Life* article. Lucinda is in her second year as Principal of Arden Elementary and is gratified by the staff's ongoing commitment to students and to collaboration. "I'm proud of the shared ownership and the collective leadership that I've helped support at our school, around everyone having a voice and contributing, and having those collective decisions." said Principal Wolters. "It's something I really value, and when it starts to have an impact on how people engage in the school to specifically address what kids need, it's very satisfying. People are willing to say what they think and how they feel. Things happen here: people constantly step up to do things. It's a definite team approach. I cannot say enough about this school." You can find the article on SD 71's twitter and Facebook pages.



MARCH 2022