
For immediate release

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Cycling program teaches students how to ride safely

COMOX VALLEY B.C. – With spring now in full swing, Comox Valley Schools would like to ask drivers in our communities to watch out and keep safe distance from groups of students cycling on local roads. You may notice students venturing around the Comox Valley while taking part in School Cycling Program training sessions or while out for a tour with their class.

Students are very focused on learning the rules of the road while riding in groups. School Cycling Program organizers take great time in planning the safest routes utilizing bike lanes and on quieter streets.

“Public should be aware there will be large school groups biking around the community,” said Serina Allison, SD 71 district teacher in environmental and outdoor learning. “A very special thank you to local drivers for sharing the roads with our students and for all the positive feedback we’ve heard from pedestrians.”

Comox Valley School’s bicycle trailer has a variety of bikes, helmets, lights, safety equipment and lots of gear for supportive lessons. There are also two adaptive bikes with “fat wheels” for supportive riding for youth.

The district bike program has two parts to it:

- 1- District bikes are available for all teachers. Any teacher can book out bikes for their classes. Teachers can tie biking to teaching lessons all while exploring the community. This can be part of Physical Health Education programs and encouraging active transport to schools.
- 2- SD 71’s School Cycling Program is for students in grades 4 and 5. The district partners with the Comox Valley Cycling Coalition on co-running bike and road safety training sessions. SD 71 brings district bikes, and other equipment for skills handling sessions. SD 71’s cycling coordinator works with staff on grade/age-appropriate lessons.

This spring, hundreds of students took part in SD 71’s School Cycling Program. A total of seven schools participated this year. Students typically go through a day of bike handling skills training. This is followed by an intro to road riding cycling lesson.

Comox Valley Schools would like to send out a huge thank you to the volunteers from the Comox Valley Cycling Coalition for their dedication to the school cycling program and for going above and beyond to support teachers with their class cycling experiences.

Comox Valley has some Olympic and world champion cyclists and SD 71's School Cycling Program offers students equitable access to learn this important lifelong skill.

Learn More:

SD 71 District Bikes Website: <https://learn71.ca/environmental-outdoor-learning-eol/outdoor-recreation-activities/school-district-bikes/>

Comox Valley Cycling Coalition: <https://cyclecv.com/>

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Pictures attached and below for publication are courtesy of Comox Valley Schools.



Info: Students learning to ride on Denman Island. Courtesy of SD 71 Outdoor Learning



Info: Students learning to ride at Airport Elementary



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