



# BOARD BUSINESS

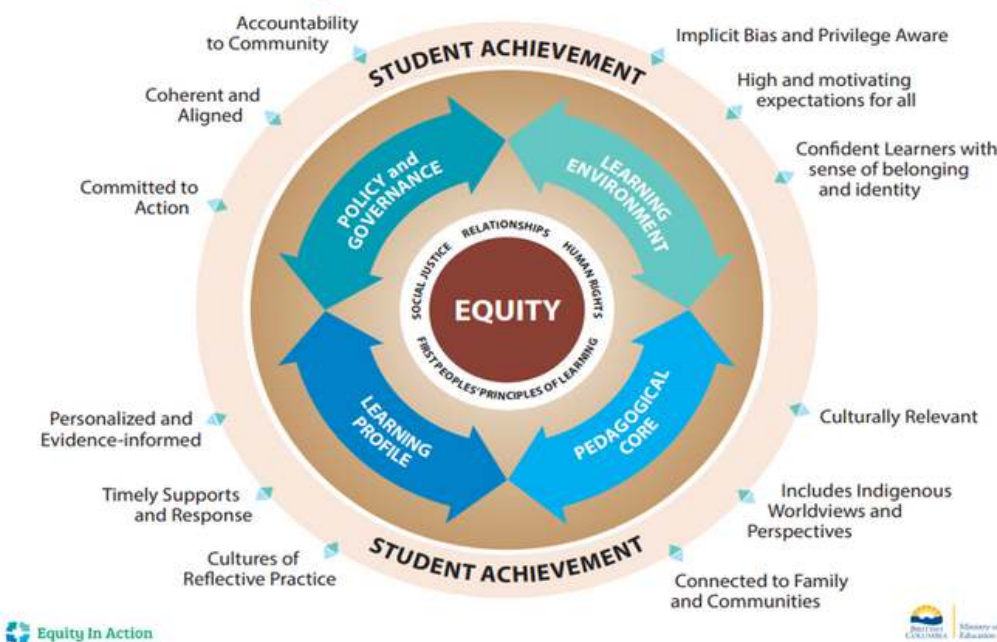
December 2022

## SD 71 SCHOOLS TO CONTINUE EQUITY SCAN JOURNEY

During the 2021-22 school year, Comox Valley Schools began its journey on an Equity Scan project with the purpose of identifying promising practices, as well as barriers that are impacting Indigenous student achievement and success within the our school system. SD 71 is striving to ensure all students are provided with personalized learning, which is achieved through a lens of EQUITY.

*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.*

### Indigenous Student Success



## BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Update from Board Chair  
Michelle Waite

Update from  
Superintendent/CEO of Schools  
Tom Demeo

Equity Scan to continue through  
2023

District News

The Equity Scan and implementation of the findings will be a lengthy process. The actual length of time required to identify the concerns and inequities and then develop strategies can var. Some districts have been on a 4 year journey, while other have been able to meet their desired outcomes in 2 years.

The goal is equity of educational opportunities and success for all Indigenous learners

**WATCH  
DECEMBER  
BOARD  
MEETING**

# BOARD BUSINESS

Board Meeting Highlights December 2022



**Comox Valley Schools**

A Community of Learners

INNOVATIVE • INQUISITIVE • INCLUSIVE



## Board Chair Update

**Board of Education Chair, Michelle Waite**

It's wonderful to be meeting in-person again and engaging with the public at board meetings to discuss the many important matters impacting our school district. Since we recently met, I was joined by my fellow Trustees and members of the senior leadership team as we attended the BC School Trustees Association's Trustee Academy. The theme was "Better Boards and Better Futures" and it was exciting to be joined by my colleagues from throughout B.C. to learn about how we can support and engage with the communities we represent. I would like to thank all of our students, parents, staff and community partners for their hard work, dedication and commitment as we bid farewell to 2022.

## Superintendent Update

**Superintendent/CEO of Schools, Tom Demeo**

This time of year there are a lot of different events and activities taking place in our schools. I always enjoy getting out into schools to take in some of the community concerts or festivities taking place to celebrate the holiday season. It's been wonderful seeing our district come to life during the past few weeks as schools have held their winter concerts and other holiday celebrations. I'm very grateful we've been able to return to more normal learning conditions this year in our schools.

This time of year means different things to people. I hope the next two weeks provide you with the gift of connecting with family, friends and loved ones. Please try to take some time to enjoy the beautiful traditional lands of the K'omoks people that we are fortunate to live upon.

On behalf of the team here at the board office and the Board of Education, we wish you an enjoyable break and look forward to seeing you in 2023!







# BOARD BUSINESS

December News

Students took part in workshops at the North Island Drama Fest

## Highland play takes top spot at drama festival

Highland Secondary recently hosted the north island regional drama festival.

There were over 200 students taking part from nine schools that came from Nanaimo to Port Hardy.

The event featured professional adjudication and workshops for the teams. There was lot of learning and detailed feedback offered for students. This consisted of public feedback during workshops as well as more technical private coaching and advice.

The adjudicator for the event was Fran Gebhard from the University of Victoria who has many years of professional experience in film and theatre.

Highland Secondary's play Concord Floral came first place, and was chosen as the outstanding production. They will be heading to the national drama festival at Douglas College in May. The National Theatre School Provincial Drama Festival is in May at Douglas College.

GP Vanier's play Yellow Boat was chosen as alternate production (runner-up).

Both plays also won a number of technical awards. Congrats to all and great work by the organizers of this event!



Above: Highland performs Concord Floral. Below: Vanier performs Yellow Boat (pics by Lisa Williams and Lori Mazey)



## Arden students learn about salmon through an Indigenous lens

Arden Elementary staff Shawna Lyle, Sandi Phye and Sarah Coull planned out some school-wide special events with Indigenous learning opportunities focused on the importance of salmon. On Day 1, special guest Corey Frank helped with showing students how to clean, fillet and brine salmon. On Day 2, there were tours in the inner courtyard where there was a smoke house set up and more salmon dissection. Lynn Swift, Alex Jules (Story Teller), and Ms. Phye ran the smokehouse all day. Sarah Coull dissected and displayed salmon in the foyer for the "scientific" exploration. There were discussions around preserving salmon to keep, and about being wise with harvesting

to preserve future salmon stocks. On Day 3, everyone was able to enjoy some of salmon that was divided up and shared amongst classes.





# BOARD BUSINESS

## December News

### Chantal Stefan wins BC Medal of Good Citizenship just as EDAS is in full swing!!

The Province of BC is honouring one of SD 71's finest teachers. Chantal Stefan from Ecole Puntledge has been selected to receive a Medal of Good Citizenship! We are very grateful for Chantal's dedication and leadership. Chantal has leads the Everyone Deserves A Smile campaign in our schools for 15 years! The award was announced just as the Everyone Deserves a Smile bag packaging day was in full swing, when thousands of bags were packaged up by students. Each bag has student drawn art with a personal message of encouragement. The bags contain some cold weather essentials, such as toques, scarves, mitts and socks, and a few toiletry items. This year the EDAS team planned on handing out over 1,300 bags to people in need. Students from throughout the valley spent Dec. 8-9 putting together packages at Ecole Puntledge, which were delivered to locations throughout the Comox Valley over the weekend of December 10th. Chantal and a team of adults also go to Victoria and Vancouver each year to deliver packages. Congratulations Chantal and thank you for making such a difference in our community and schools.



### Chief Wedlidi discusses oral traditions

Kumugwe Big House welcomed English First Peoples 11 students for the morning of December 6 where hereditary Chief Wedlidi Speck shared the power of oral traditions and story. Some themes of the morning were telling the stories of the ancestors, legends of transformers and traditions vs. modernity. Many thanks to Lelaina Jules, Indigenous Education Curriculum Support Teacher for organizing the event in collaboration with Highland Secondary teacher librarian Tami Jerome, to Wedlidi Speck for sharing teachings and to Clyde Dawson the fire keeper of the day.

### SD 71 Robotics teams thrive at North Island Robotics Championships

Highland was filled with excitement at the North Island Robotics Championships Dec 10. Congratulations to Robotics 71 and GP Vanier's Nicholas Horel and Reese Schroeder for placing 1st with their alliance partners 1022E from Claremont Secondary. The second place winners 7842f and 7842p are mostly in grade 9 here in SD 71 at NIDES and Highland! They held their own against their older opposition. Teams will now be fine tuning their robots for the Island Championships on March 5. This is such a great event, many thanks to all the staff and volunteers who make it happen!







# BOARD BUSINESS

## December News

### Huge turnout for Hackergirl Day at Isfeld

Girls from seven different Comox Valley Schools gathered together to celebrate Hackergirl Day on December 7 at Isfeld Secondary. It was the largest turnout for Hackergirl day ever in SD 71! Over 80 students in Grades 6 to 9 came to do some STEAM and Coding activities -- and listen to stories from inspiring women working in tech. This special event connected hundreds of learners, educators, and parents across Canada. This year, Hackergirl aimed to host a virtual celebration of girls and non-binary learners and to champion the inclusion of women and girls in tech! This year's theme was Coding Together for Our Planet. Hackergirl's mission is to inspire girls to change and close the gender gap in tech across Canada. Many thanks to District Information Technology Support Teacher Kara Dawson for organizing this great day for our students!



### Lacrosse coming to SD 71 schools

SD 71's District Lead Physical Literacy Teacher Jina Taylor has teamed up with the Comox Valley Lacrosse Association to get the sport of Lacrosse into schools. Coaches and some senior students from the Comox Valley Wild will be teaching kids about some of the skills associated with the sport. Recently, they visited Cumberland Community School. It's always interesting for younger learners to see their older peers and how talented they they can become at sports.

### Isfeld Grade 8's plant trees for legacy project

Students in Grade 8 took part in the "Grow where you are planted" legacy tree project. The idea is to give each Grade 8 a sense of belonging at the school -- and they will be able to watch the trees grow as they progress through school. The trees we planted included 2 Ginkgo, 2 Japanese Maple, 1 Red Oak, 1 Amur Maple and 1 Yew. Many thanks to the SD 71 maintenance crew for digging holes and providing some good soil. Also thanks to Outback Nursery for the discount on trees and supplies. It will be fun to see how big the trees get before grad!

