



# BOARD BUSINESS

January 2023

## Kindergarten Registration - spots filling quickly

Kindergarten registration for most programs in SD 71 is now open and uptake for the 2023-2024 school year appears to be significant. French Immersion and Indigenous programs filled early and uptake in Montessori programs has also been strong.

As of January 31, there were 489 students registered for kindergarten next year. Registration for the Fine Arts eCademy and Compass programs opens on February 1.

Registering now helps ensure there is a spot available at your local catchment school.



# NOW OPEN



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT  
[WWW.COMOXVALLEYSCHOOLS.CA/KINDERGARTEN-REGISTRATION](http://WWW.COMOXVALLEYSCHOOLS.CA/KINDERGARTEN-REGISTRATION)

*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

Kindergarten Registration

Update from Board Chair  
Michelle Waite

Update from  
Superintendent/CEO of Schools  
Tom Demeo

District News

**WATCH  
JAN 31  
BOARD  
MEETING**

# BOARD BUSINESS



**Comox Valley Schools**

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## Board Meeting Highlights - January 2023



### Board Chair Update

#### Board of Education Chair, Michelle Waite

As we look toward longer days and everything the short but unpredictable February can bring it is important to take a moment to recognize the new year we are in including the Lunar New Year.

Our Board has participated in several learning opportunities, virtually and in-person, as we continue to gather and refine the tools we need to do our best work together as governors of our District. Each member of our board has a multitude of schools, Board committees, and external committees where we represent the District and foster connections with our community. We will officially resume our seats that may have been vacant or temporarily filled the last few months. Next week is the first opportunity for BC's Board Chairs to get together for a day to connect and learn. Following that, we will also be spending another day together at the Partner Liaison Meeting with our new Minister of Education and Childcare, Rachna Singh and the Superintendents and Secretary Treasurers from across BC. I look forward to continuing this work and much more in the months ahead.

### Superintendent Update

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

With schools back in full swing after the holiday break, there is a lot going on in our district. Over the course of January, several important events and initiatives have occurred that are ongoing.

So far, there have been two Equity in Action Steering Committee meetings. This initiative is focusing on 'equity of opportunity' and a co-constructive approach is driving a review of practices and policies that may be creating obstacles for Indigenous learners in the B.C. public school system. All districts north of Nanaimo took part in a full-day of training. The sub-committee are also now mapping out their work.

SD 71's Leadership Team recently completed session two of the Cultural Learning and Awareness series, led by Hereditary Chief, Wedlidi Speck. This series started in August and two more sessions are planned before the end of the year. These have been valuable learning sessions, and we are extremely fortunate to have Wedlidi share his experience and knowledge.

A new anti-racism plan was released by The Ministry of Education and Child Care on Monday, January 23. The district will be taking a close look at the document to ensure we are in compliance with the Ministry's action plan.

We'll provide updates on these initiatives as we move forward.



JANUARY 2023



# DISTRICT NEWS

## January



### Isfeld Jr. Girls basketball team shines

Congratulations to the Isfeld Ice Junior Girls basketball team for winning the tournament they hosted over the weekend in convincing fashion! After a couple of dominant performances to get to the finals, the ICE cruised to victory in the final winning 58-28 over rivals Claremont!

Elana Russell led all scorers with 17 points. Players of the game for the Ice were Annika Tran for her relentless defense and key steals, and Phoebe Cunningham who played big minutes. Well done Isfeld Jr. Girls and great work hosting this awesome tournament!

It's been a stellar season so far for the team. In the lead-up to the holiday break, the team travelled to the lower mainland and had a strong showing at the Candycane Classic Tournament in Port Coquitlam coming in second place. The squad also won the VIU junior girls basketball tournament earlier in December.



### Great start for Highland Sr. Girls basketball

Congratulations to the Highland Park Senior Girls basketball team for starting the season off with 11 wins and only 2 losses. Recently, the team was third-place at the Mark Isfeld tournament in January and lost a very close game against Wellington in the semi-finals. Highland is hosting a tournament Feb 3-4. Game times will be on the Highland website.



### Strong showing for Vanier at 52nd Townee Invitational

Congratulations to GP Vanier Secondary for successfully hosting the Senior Boys basketball tournament in early January. Vanier ended up coming in second place after falling to John Barsby Secondary in the championship match in front of a packed audience. Vanier reached the finals by defeating Highland 60-50 in one of the semi-finals. Highland finished a strong 3rd place and Mark Isfeld Secondary finished fifth place.





# DISTRICT NEWS

January



## Two SD 71 wrestlers take home gold

Two first-time champions Nathan Gaudet of Isfeld Secondary and Ethan Anderson of Vanier Secondary went undefeated en route to gold medals at the Nanaimo Opener tournament on January 8th. 25 programs were competing at the tournament and Comox Valley Schools students more than held their own. Keidis Wynd of Vanier powered his way to a second-place finish with a hard fought record of 3-1 on the day. He was followed by a host of third-place finishers in Ryan Nasdyk (Highland), Ava L'Arrivee (Isfeld), Coral Rushton (Isfeld), Bruce Rushton (Lake Trail), Lexi Acton (Vanier) and Jacob Price (Vanier). Several other wrestlers finished the day strong with fourth- and fifth-place finishes. There are several events left this season all culminating with the Provincial Championship being held February 23-25 at the Pacific Coliseum in Vancouver, BC. Good luck to all competitors!



## Robotics71 teams continue strong performances

On January 21st, fourteen of our Robotics71 teams travelled to Victoria to compete at the regional VEX Robotics tournament hosted by Claremont Secondary School. As usual, Comox Valley Schools teams were dominant at the event. Team 7842-X, consisting of Reese Schroeder and Nicholas Horel along with their alliance partners, team 1022-X from Claremont, won the "Tournament Champions" trophy, while also setting an amazing new high-score record of 22 disks in their high goal. Team 7842-X also won the top judge's "Design Award" trophy for their outstanding robotic design, development process, excellent engineering journal and presentation skills. Fledgling team 7842-F, comprised of junior members Timmothy Sterk, Franklin Warren, Zane Radawiec and Eric Wunderlich, won the "Robot Skills Champion" trophy with an impressive high score of 168 points. Unfortunately, a slight timing miscalculation inadvertently disqualified them from the finals in their very first elimination match. And to put the icing on the cake at this competition, 7842-P team members Zander Hole and Elliott Patterson, won the "Judges Award" trophy for demonstrating the best overall sportsmanship, teamwork and unique design concepts. The last tournament to qualify for this year's Provincials will be held February 25th at Highland Secondary. Congrats to all!







## Family Literacy Week is a hit with the kids!

Each January, families, schools, libraries and communities across BC celebrate Family Literacy Week. This year it was celebrated from January 22nd to 29th in SD 71. The goal of the event is to raise awareness of the importance of reading and engaging in other literacy-related activities as a family.

Schools throughout SD 71 held reading related events and contests. In celebration of this event, there were few special initiatives at Huband Park. Classes participated in a school-wide buddy read, and then finished the week with a family reading challenge. Families were encouraged to snap a picture of their child reading with a family member and send it in to enter a contest for gift certificates to a local book store.

At Miracle Beach Elementary there was a week of fun events for students that included daily lunchtime storytelling in the library where special guests read students stories. PAC chair Joanne Barr was one of the special guests and had the kids demanding encores -- so she pleased the crowd by reading an extra story, much to her enthralled audiences delight.

To top things off, several members of the Oyster River Fire Department joined the fun and came to school dressed in their fire kits to read a story in-class and field some questions. Based on how captivated the audiences were, it's safe to say this event was a huge success. On Friday to end the week, the entire school held a "Drop Everything and Read" day and all students and staff took part by reading for 20 minutes.

Many thanks to all the organizers at schools throughout the district for organizing such a great week of reading activities for families.



## Lunar New Year celebrations

Last week Aspen, Valley View, Queneesh and Courtenay Elementary held celebrations for the Lunar New Year in unique fashion.

During the week, students dressed as Lions and a Dragon passed through classes, and Chinese food was offered for a hot lunch. The dragon requires at least 9 people to carry it around.

Here are some proud Valley View students getting ready to show their version of the Lion to classes in celebration of the Year of the Rabbit!





# DISTRICT NEWS

## January



### Trades programs in full swing

31 Grade 12 students will be going off to Trades programs in Semester 2 (Culinary, Hairdressing, Auto Service Tech, Carpentry, Electrical, Plumbing, Heavy Duty, Welding) and will finish over the summer or early fall. Good luck to all!

### New record for Youth Work In Trades

This Spring, more Comox Valley Students than ever before will be working as apprentices in the community and earning while learning! There are 60 students taking part in the 480 hour work based training program that allows students to begin the process of apprenticeship while in school.

### Schools learning lacrosse skills

The Comox Valley Lacrosse Association have volunteered with their coaches and players at 7 of our elementary schools so far this year. They have been coming in for a full day teaching students from Kindergarten to Grade 5 the basic skills of lacrosse. Students across the district are loving learning some new skills and are very excited to talk to the players and coaches. They have gone to Valley View, Queneesh, Cumberland, Robb Road, Airport, Brooklyn and Royston so far.



### Medal of Good Citizenship for EDAS leader

Chantal Stefan, Grade 1 French Immersion teacher, at Ecole Puntledge Park was the recipient of a Medal of Good Citizenship presented at the legislature on Jan 25. She was honored for her community activism through her leadership of the Everyone Deserves A Smile (EDAS) club. Our school and community is proud of the work she and her team have done to make a difference in the lives of so many who struggle with homelessness and addiction and humanizing their struggles.



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