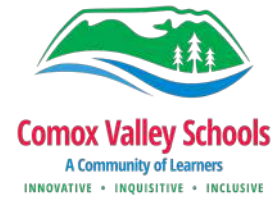


Comox Valley Schools (SD71)  
607 Cumberland Rd., Courtenay, B.C. V9N 7G5  
250-334-5500  
www.comoxvalleyschools.ca



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## **Comox Valley Schools shine at North Island Regional Drama Festival**

**Comox Valley, B.C.** – Students from Comox Valley Schools recently had outstanding performances at the North Island Regional Drama Festival in Campbell River.

Comox Valley Schools will be represented at the National Theatre ABCDE Provincial Drama Festival for the second consecutive year, following G.P. Vanier's phenomenal performance at the North Island Regional Drama Festival. The school's production of "Trap" by Stephen Gregg, directed by Lori Mazey, was selected as the outstanding production, with Nanaimo's NDSS finishing as runner-up.

G.P. Vanier also earned accolades in several categories including acting, ensemble work, stage management, directing, costume coordination, and lighting design. While awards are not the sole motivation for students, the recognition was an honor, reflecting their commitment to excellence in theatre arts.

Highland Secondary School's "Scent of Honeysuckle," directed by Lisa Williams, was another highlight, bringing the audience to tears with its powerful narrative and performances. The school won awards for directing and other theatrical aspects, with actors Ava Bayers, Gisella Parsons, and Olivia Parsons recognized for outstanding achievement in acting.

Mark R. Isfeld Secondary, under the guidance of teacher Peter Spencer, participated as delegates this year, marking their return to the festival after several years. Their involvement this year has sparked enthusiasm for a more active role in future festivals.

The festival, hosted by Carihi and Timberline in Campbell River, featured workshops, a fringe festival, and evening competitive plays. It attracted nearly 200 students from Campbell River to Nanaimo, offering an enriching experience in theatre education.

Students from the participating schools shared their experiences, with Vanier's Grayson Collins describing the event as an inspiring weekend of learning and sharing. Imogen Ignatiuk called it "unbelievably fun and inspiring," while Jasmin Rosner described it as "terrifyingly beautiful."

G.P. Vanier will present “Trap” in the multi-purpose room of the school on January 13 and 14 at 7 p.m. Tickets will be available at the door, with proceeds aiding the cast and crew’s trip to the Provincial Festival in New Westminster in May.

The North Island Regional Drama Festival serves as a platform for theatre programs to display their creative work and learn from peers and professionals. It features a professional adjudication process, providing valuable feedback for artistic, performance, and technical development.

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### **Media Contact**

Craig Sorochan  
Manager of Communications  
Comox Valley Schools (School District 71)

### **Pictures for use courtesy of Comox Valley Schools:**

Pic 1: GP Vanier’s team performing “Trap”



Pic 2: Highland's team performing "Scent of Honeysuckle"

