

BOARD BUSINESS

January 2024



Vanier students showcase skills for the Creative Collective

BOARD MEETING IN REVIEW

Kindergarten registration now underway

Lisa Pedersen-Skene, District Principal Early Learning and Child Care provided an overview of Kindergarten programming in SD 71 and gave an update on the registration process now underway. Kindergarten registration was moved to early January last year in order to provide multiple opportunities for learners and their families to build positive connections and foster a sense of belonging with schools. There are five options for families to register their children in for Kindergarten:

1. Neighbourhood School
2. Indigenous K/1 (Ecole Puntledge Park)
3. Early French Immersion (Ecole Puntledge Park and Ecole Robb Road),
4. Montessori (Queneesh and Courtenay Elementary)
5. Fine Arts eCademy and Compass (Navigate)

Registration for all programs except for FAE/Compass is now underway. This year, there is a new district-wide transition form to assist families with getting ready for enrolling their child into school. Schools hold a variety of events and activities to welcome families and students who will be entering into Kindergarten. Check with your school for dates and activities. As of January 30, there are approximately 400 students registered already for kindergarten next school year.

Feeding Futures in Comox Valley Schools

The Board heard from two school leaders Yolanda Leighton, vice-principal of Denman Community School and Kyle Timms, principal of Lake Trail Community School about a District Scan they conducted of Feeding Futures food programming in Comox Valley Schools. SD 71 is being allocated \$1.14 million annually over three years for this programming. The food scan compiled data from past initiatives, information from the Province's Feeding Futures leadership team, and from our school food community. Over 700 students around the district start their day in school with a free breakfast. Each school uses a variety of methods to provide food to students. Some examples are premade sandwiches and wraps, soup programs, salad bars, hot lunches, and catered meals. Schools also provide a significant number of grab and go items such as veggies, fruit, milk, and granola bars to supplement student lunches. There are numerous other ways lunches are served in schools on subscription and fundraising basis. Each day approximately 1400 free meals are served to students in schools.

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.

Kindergarten Registration Update

Feeding Futures Update

WATCH
JAN 30
BOARD
MEETING



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JANUARY 2024

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Board Chairperson Update

Board of Education Chairperson, Michelle Waite - ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ



As we conclude the first month of 2024, our communities have welcomed much-needed precipitation, including several snow accumulations leading to two school closures. With each passing day, we look forward to more daylight, and we appreciate everyone's careful navigation on the roads, especially around school areas where children are present.

In early January, our trustees and senior leadership team spent a productive Friday evening and Saturday with Lisa Bernoties McCullough, laying the groundwork for our strategic planning process. This process will be rooted in the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning, the School Act, the Educated Citizen, the BC Curriculum Core Competencies, and student data, guiding the development of the Comox Valley School District's strategic plan. Additionally, a small working group is drafting terms of reference for the Gender-

Based Violence Committee, which will be presented to the Board at an upcoming meeting. As usual, January saw our trustees actively participating in various committee and parent advisory meetings, as well as local government and community events.

The January Open Committee of the Whole meeting featured presentations from the Lake Park Society, and two from our District: Library Learning Commons in SD71 and Information Technology Sustainability. We extend our gratitude to all the presenters for their engaging and informative contributions.

Congratulations to our grade 12 students who have completed their studies at the end of Semester 1!

Looking ahead to February, it is shaping up to be a month filled with significant events and opportunities. On February 9, the Superintendent, Secretary-Treasurer, and Board Chairperson will attend the annual Partner Liaison Meeting with the Ministry of Education and Childcare. February 16 marks our District Professional Development Day, themed 'Valuing Place, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.' This day will feature a mix of in-person school-based and virtual events, providing an opportunity for us to come together to listen and learn. We thank the Professional Development Committee and everyone involved for their dedication and thoughtful planning of these essential teaching and learning events for our District teams.

We look forward to seeing you at our next Public Board Meeting scheduled for February 27!

DISTRICT NEWS



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Students take in performance by Symphony

Thanks to the Vancouver Island Symphony for their incredible performance of Baba Yaga & the Magic Gallery for our students recently at the Sid Williams Theatre! The 45-min concert is meant for children aged 9–12 and showcased the music of Pictures at an Exhibition in an exciting and delightful musical adventure where musicians tour a magical art gallery. Based on the cheering and participation from the audience that day– it was a hit with the kids!



Robb Road students learn about food security

Recently, Tammy Williamson, SD 71's District Youth Work In Trades Teacher joined Grade 3's in Mr. Douglas's class at Robb Road to learn about different types of jobs in the food sector, farming, and food security.

For example, they talked about how far food often must travel before it gets to our plates, and what can be done with the scraps - such as pickling watermelon rinds or using a juiced lime to freshen a sink etc.

The class then travelled to Isfeld where they made fresh pasta and a creamy tomato sauce while trying to utilize local ingredients when possible.

They learned a few things, had lots of fun (even though they had to wash their own dishes!), and left with full bellies!



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Vanier kicks off Black History month early

This February, Comox Valley Schools will be reflecting on the rich history and achievements of Black Canadians. And what better way to engage and educate our students than through the universal language of music?

GP Vanier was thrilled to host the legendary D.O. Gibson, known for his world-record-breaking longest freestyle rap of 8 hours and 45 minutes. He captivated our Grade 8, 9, and 10 students with his "Black Canadian 365" performance.

The room came alive as students experienced an interactive, educational journey through hip hop, Black history, and character building. The energy was electric, the message powerful, and the inspiration drawn from Gibson's lyrics and stories will resonate throughout our halls long after.



Robotics71 season off to great start

Despite less-than-ideal weather conditions that posed a threat to the recent VEX Robotics tournament at Claremont Secondary in Saanich, the Robotics71 teams successfully executed another remarkable event.

Team 7842P delivered a suspenseful performance, tying with their opponents in the quarterfinals before clinching a victory in the rematch. This triumph secured the second-place Tournament Finalists trophy for them and their Claremont alliance partners.

Furthermore, Team 7842X, in alliance with Shawnigan Lake, captured the first-place Tournament Championship trophy.

In the judged categories, Team 7842A earned the Design Award, Team 7842F received the Amaze Award, and 7842X took home the Build Award. In total, our valiant teams brought back five trophies, capping off a lengthy yet fulfilling day in Victoria.



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