

BOARD BUSINESS

December 2024

Comox Valley Schools holds action packed Careers Week

BOARD MEETING IN REVIEW

Indigenous Education Teacher Liaison Committee members provide overview of their important work

Members of the Indigenous Education Teacher Liaison Committee delivered an inspiring presentation, showcasing their ongoing efforts to enrich our educational community. The presentation was led by Joe Heslip, Associate Superintendent, alongside Lelaina Jules, District Vice Principal of Indigenous Education, Jeannine Walker, Indigenous Support Teacher, and Lynn Swift, District Indigenous Curriculum Support Teacher.

History and Vision: The committee, established to facilitate the sharing of vital information between schools and the district, has been a cornerstone of our educational framework for the past several years. Their request for district funding has enabled them to expand their reach and impact. Lynn Swift eloquently outlined the committee's vision, emphasizing its alignment with our new Strategic Plan, ensuring that Indigenous perspectives and knowledge are integral to our educational goals.

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.

Vision

- Place-based focus
- Communication, relationship building, resource sharing and supporting one another towards rich and meaningful learning for our students
- Provide an ongoing connection between the Indigenous Education department and school based staffs
- Teachers will share the information from their learning experience at the liaison committee meeting, with their school staff
- Share rich authentic resources/opportunities/supports/events that are available for teaching staff and students
- Connection to District Strategic Plan – Decolonizing and Indigenizing and Professional Teaching Standards, specifically #9



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A key highlight of the presentation was the overview of Land-Based Focused Learning initiatives. These include immersive experiences such as the Pentlach Village site tour, exploration of traditional fish traps, plant walks, and intergenerational learning sessions. These activities not only connect students with the land but also foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of Indigenous cultures and traditions.

The Indigenous Education Teacher Liaison Committee meets four times a year, providing a consistent platform for collaboration and progress. Their work is pivotal in bridging gaps and fostering a more inclusive and equitable educational environment.

Joe Heslip also discussed the committee's work and the many linkages of the Committee's work to the upcoming Equity Scan.

This presentation underscored the importance of the committee's work and its profound impact on our district. We are grateful for their dedication and look forward to continuing this journey of learning and growth together.

**WATCH
DECEMBER 17
BOARD
MEETING**

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BOARD MEETING IN REVIEW CONTINUES

Food Advisory Committee Update

Secretary Treasurer Carrie McVeigh provided an update on the Food Advisory Committee, which now includes 18 members, among them three students. At their first meeting, representatives from three school societies, members of CUPE, P/VPs, DPAC, and a trustee engaged in extensive discussions. The committee delved into our current in-school food systems and the Feeding Futures Funding programming throughout the district. There is a strong interest in developing a comprehensive 5-year plan to enhance our food initiatives and ensure sustainability.

Transition of Funding for Indigenous Principal and Elders in Residence Program

Secretary Treasurer McVeigh also discussed the transition of costs for the District Principal of Indigenous Education and Elders in Residence Program from Targeted Indigenous Funds to the General Operation Grant Funds. This transition will occur over the next three years. This strategic move aims to ensure the longevity and stability of these essential programs. The Board voted to receive the Briefing Note, marking a significant step forward in our funding strategy.

Staff Survey being reviewed by HR team

In Briefing Note, HR Director Sheila Powell presented a summary of the recent staffing survey results. The survey feedback gathered is being carefully considered by the HR team to inform future decisions and improvements as part of ongoing work towards continual improvement. The Board voted to receive the survey Briefing Note.

Board Members

Michelle Waite, Chair (Lazo North)
Susan L Leslie, Vice Chair (Town of Comox)
Janice Caton, Trustee (City of Courtenay)
Shannon Aldinger, Trustee (City of Courtenay)
Sarah Jane Howe, Trustee (Village of Cumberland)
Chelsea McCannel-Keene, Trustee (Baynes Sound, Hornby & Denman Islands)
Cristi December Sacht – Trustee, Trustee (Puntledge, Black Creek)



DISTRICT NEWS



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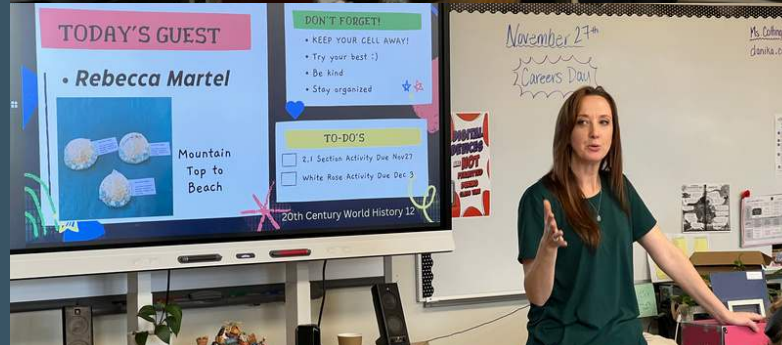
Careers Week highlights pathways for students

Comox Valley Schools recently celebrated Careers Week from November 25-29, and it was a resounding success thanks to the incredible support from our local businesses and organizations. Events were held at Mark R. Isfeld Secondary, Highland Secondary, and GP Vanier Secondary, providing students with a unique opportunity to explore various career paths and gain valuable insights from industry professionals. Throughout the week, students engaged in a variety of activities designed to broaden their understanding of potential careers. From hands-on demonstrations to interactive workshops, the experiences were both educational and inspiring. The participation of local organizations such as BC Emergency Health Services, Courtenay Fire Department, North Island College, Island Health, and the RCMP, among others, was instrumental in making this event impactful.

The enthusiasm and dedication of our community partners have left a lasting impression on our students. By sharing their expertise and experiences, these professionals have helped to ignite a passion for learning and career exploration among our youth. The positive feedback from students and staff alike highlights the importance of such collaborative efforts in shaping the future leaders of our community.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the businesses and organizations that contributed to Careers Week. Your support and involvement have made a significant difference in the lives of our students, and we look forward to continuing this partnership in the future.

Thank you for helping us inspire the next generation of professionals!



"The Returner" - Hornby Island Community School #cbcmusicclass



Click on the picture above to view the video.

Grade 7/8 Hornby celebrate video's success

We are delighted to share some wonderful news from Hornby Island Community School's Gr. 7/8 students who have recently achieved remarkable success in two prestigious challenges.

In the CBC Music Challenge, their performance of "The Returner" secured a spot in the Top 10, earning the school \$3000 in musical instruments. You can watch their incredible performance on the district Facebook channel. Additionally, the students' creativity and commitment to outdoor education shone through in the Take Me Outside Challenge, where they earned 2nd place and a \$250 prize from MEC for their outstanding video.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all the students, teacher Heather Royal-Brant, and everyone involved in these fantastic accomplishments.

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Wrestlers Shine at Christmas Classic

The Comox Valley wrestlers made a strong start to their season at the Christmas Classic tournament held on Saturday, December 10th in Duncan. Representing Comox Valley Schools, 26 wrestlers from six schools brought home an impressive haul of medals: three gold, seven silver, and nine bronze.

The standout performances came from Inga Hollmayer and Jacob Price of Vanier Secondary, who both claimed championships in their respective weight classes in the High School Division. Matthew Martin from Huband Elementary also secured a championship in the Elementary Division. The Vanier High School Girls team had a notable performance, finishing third overall in the team standings.

In addition to the champions, several wrestlers achieved second-place finishes: Aiden Skea (Highland), Simon Roberge (Highland), Oscar Stehura (Isfeld), Quinn Hoar (Isfeld), Tristen Beaudrey (Self-Design), Lexi Acton (Vanier), and Jolina Healey (Vanier).

Nine more wrestlers earned third-place medals: Jake Stuve (Highland), Sam Cliff-Chounard (Highland), Daniel Ingrey (Highland), Nathan Malouin (Isfeld), Rhiannan Macdonnell (Vanier), Lily Martin (Vanier), Thea Spragg (Vanier), Piper Eastman (Vanier), and Noah Tarabawka (Vanier).

The team will next compete at the Island Novice Tournament on Sunday, January 8th at NDSS in Nanaimo.



EDAS delivers over 1600+ care packages

The Everybody Deserves A Smile (EDAS) initiative recently delivered thousands of care packages to those in need across several districts, including Comox Valley, Campbell River, Port Alberni, Nanaimo, Qathet, and Red Deer.

This year, 21 schools participated, contributing to the preparation and distribution of these packages.

The initiative led by Chantal Stefan and the team from Ecole Puntledge Park, successfully brought warmth and support to many individuals experiencing homelessness.

The community's generous donations of woolen socks, toques, and scarves played a crucial role in this year's success.

Over 1600+ care packages were delivered to people in need. EDAS supported 28 soup kitchens, shelters, and support agencies, including 19 within the Comox Valley. Great work by everyone involved!