



BOARD BUSINESS

March 2024

District Bee at Brooklyn Elementary

BOARD MEETING IN REVIEW

GP Vanier Playfields - impacts of changes on rugby discussed

Following the installation of a cricket pad on the playfields at GP Vanier, concerns about its location began to surface. A parent represented the GP Vanier rugby community with a presentation to the board, highlighting the recent growth of the sport and the need for suitable playing fields. Later in the meeting, Comox Valley Schools Director of Operations, Molly Proudfoot, outlined the timeline and sequence of events that led to the installation of the cricket pad and its connection to the new artificial turf playfield that will be installed at GP Vanier in the near future. Superintendent Jeremy Morrow assured the GP Vanier rugby group that the district will work to ensure there is a suitable 38-meter-wide field for rugby this season and beyond. More details on the changes to the playfields will be provided. soon.

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.



WATCH
MARCH 11
BOARD
MEETING

District Incident Response Team outlines work underway

The District Incident Response Team (DIRT) presentation highlighted the district's comprehensive approach to emergency preparedness. DIRT includes representatives from Operations, Health & Safety, IT, Communications, and Education, who meet monthly to proactively plan and refine emergency response systems using the Hour Zero framework. Revised and rebranded emergency information will be promoted through updated tools to improve awareness and accessibility. Also, emergency supplies are stored in sea cans at schools, containing first aid kits, food, water, and equipment. School administrators and Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committees (JOHSC) are responsible for regular inspections of the seacans. Communication pathways are being strengthened through SchoolMessenger alerts, emergency radio testing, upgraded satellite phones, and exploration of backup internet solutions. The presentation covered operational response strategies that focus on mitigation, remediation, and restoration, with rapid assessments guiding priorities. This approach was evident at Ecole Puntledge Park this winter when a tree fell on the roof. Ongoing training and preparedness efforts will include emergency drills, scenario-based exercises, and situational debriefs. DIRT also collaborates with community partners. The district's approach is layered for students, staff and parents/caregivers, so that we are well-prepared and supported in the event of an emergency.



Comox Valley Schools

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Gender Based Violence Survey Underway

The Gender-Based Violence Committee is highlighting the launch of a district-wide anonymous survey aimed at gathering input from students, staff, caregivers, and the broader community. The survey is designed to better understand awareness, experiences, and perceptions related to gender-based violence within schools. Its purpose is to identify gaps in knowledge, access to resources, and areas where the district can improve education, prevention, and response efforts. The committee emphasizes the importance of broad participation to ensure diverse voices are heard and meaningful data is collected. The feedback will guide future actions to create safer, more inclusive school environments across the district. The survey is on the main page of the Comox Valley Schools website or you can [click here](#).

**ANONYMOUS SURVEY
FOR ALL STUDENTS, STAFF,
PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS**

Comox Valley Schools Gender Based Violence Committee needs to hear from as many people as possible!

ONLINE SURVEY

How can our schools better deal with:

- Sexual harassment
- Sexual assault
- & other forms of GBV

DEFINITIONS: Gender-based Violence (GBV):

- Describes any unwanted behaviour against someone based on their gender. It can be verbal, physical, emotional, psychological, or sexual.
- GBV disproportionately impacts women and girls, Indigenous peoples, 2SLGBTQIA+ people, racialized people, and people with disabilities or diverse abilities.

If you or someone you know is in need of Support.

QR CODE

RAINBOW HEART

Board Members

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



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Hornby Students “twinning” with school from Quebec City

Hornby Island Community School’s Grade 7 and 8 students recently wrapped up an incredible week hosting students from Quebec City Community High School as part of a cultural exchange through the YMCA Youth Exchange Canada program, supported by Heritage Canada. From the moment their Quebec peers arrived, the week was filled with meaningful connection, cultural sharing, outdoor adventure, and environmental stewardship. The visiting students enjoyed hands-on experiences that showcased the natural beauty and community spirit of Hornby Island. Highlights included an unforgettable moonlit cook fire, a fun Kwakwaka'wakw language game, collaborative drumming, and creating art banners inspired by the island’s rich marine life and the herring spawn. A truly unforgettable moment of the visit came while on the water, as students witnessed six orcas hunting sea lions. They also gave back by participating in a beach cleanup at Heron Rocks, showing their gratitude by picking up every speck of garbage they could find. Hornby Island students are now preparing for the second leg of the exchange. From May 1–9, they’ll travel to Quebec City to immerse themselves in the culture, language, and history of their twin community.

Comox Valley Students Excel at Regional Skills Canada Competition

Students from Comox Valley Schools achieved outstanding results at the 2025 Skills Canada Vancouver Island North Regional Competitions, held February 28 at North Island College in Campbell River. Competing in a wide range of skilled trades and technology categories, students from GP Vanier, Highland Secondary, and Mark R. Isfeld earned multiple gold, silver, and bronze medals in events such as Animation, Carpentry, Cabinetmaking, Culinary Arts, Digital Art, Electronics, Photography, and Welding. Elementary students also impressed in the Jr. Skills competitions, with strong performances from Aspen Park, Brooklyn, Cumberland Community, and Enter2, particularly in Lego Mindstorm, Gravity Cars, Spaghetti Bridge, and Wind Turbine events. These competitions provide valuable hands-on learning experiences, and the results speak to the incredible talent, hard work, and mentorship happening in our schools. Congratulations to all participants and medalists for representing Comox Valley Schools with pride!

