

For immediate release

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Dream Big in Minecraft Challenge winners announced

COMOX VALLEY, B.C. – From underwater libraries and floating classrooms to Mars-bound science labs, Comox Valley Schools’ students showcased boundless imagination and innovation in this year’s Minecraft Challenge: *The Epic School Build-Off*. It’s exciting to announce the winners across primary, intermediate, and secondary categories, recognizing students who brought their dream schools to life.

This year’s challenge encouraged students to build schools that could exist *anywhere*, and feature *anything*. Along the way, students integrated accessibility features such as elevators and wider doorways, sustainable infrastructure like rooftop gardens and wind turbines, and futuristic designs that included minecart transportation and solar-powered science labs.

“The creativity and care that students put into this year’s builds was truly inspiring,” said Brian Carmichael, one of the competition judges. “These aren’t just fun designs—they’re thoughtful, inclusive, and forward-thinking visions of what learning spaces could be.”

The Minecraft Challenge wouldn’t have been possible without the support of dedicated educators across the district, including District Information Technology Support Teacher Kara Dawson and the expertise of judges Brian Carmichael and Tracy Richards. Special thanks also go to teachers who supported class participation and pizza party celebrations.

2024–2025 Minecraft Challenge Winners

Primary Division

- **1st Place**
Trinidad Hartman, Cali Morris, Georgia Adams, Hannah Davis – *Aspen Park Elementary* (Teacher: Katherine Roberts)
- **2nd Place**
Myah Moore – *Aspen Park Elementary* (Teacher: Kirsten Rhenby)
- **3rd Place**
Pheonix Krueger-Dalrymple, Georgia Berikoff, Aila Hermkens, Kyah Wilson, Gwen Webber, Samantha Reynold – *Arden Elementary* (Teachers: Melanie Smith & Sarah Coull)
- **Class Pizza Party:** *Arden Elementary – Sarah Coull’s Class*

Intermediate Division

- **1st Place**
Malina Hazeldine, Rowen Epp – *Aspen Park Elementary* (Teachers: Marissa & Kari Mathews)

- **2nd Place**
Jack Zacharias – *Aspen Park Elementary* (Teacher: Ria Volkers)
- **3rd Place**
Kristina Dimitriou, Emily Woodason, Grace Lafleur, Sophie Lafleur – *Lake Trail Community School* (Teachers: Jennifer McDonald & Jennifer Yager)
- **Class Pizza Party:** *Lake Trail – Jennifers Yager & McDonald's Class*

High School Division

- **1st Place**
Simon Roberge, Barrett Sears – *Highland Secondary* (Teacher: Tami Jerome)
- **2nd Place**
Dakota Bowles – *Lake Trail* (Teacher: Kevin Flesher)
Brendan Cashman, Marshall Clark, Hawkeye Gillespie, Jordyn Goldsby, Christopher Martin, Brooke Sundstrom, Jonah Szilvassy – *Lake Trail* (Teacher: Kevin Flesher)
- **3rd Place**
Jacob Williams – *Highland Secondary* (Teacher: Chris Hazeldine)
- **Class Pizza Party:** *Lake Trail – Kevin Flesher's Class*

This competition offers some great examples of several design principles in action from Comox Valley Schools Strategic Plan including personalized and experiential learning, as well as flexible & digitally enhanced learning environments.

Congratulations to all our amazing builders and thank you to our amazing parents/guardians and teachers who helped students with their projects along the way.

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Media Contact

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Picture below for use courtesy of Comox Valley Schools:

