

Superintendent Report
November 2023
Submitted by: Dr. Christine Perkins





DREAM. BELIEVE. ACHIEVE.

Acknowledgement:

We are proud to live, work, play, and learn on the ancestral, unceded territory of the syilx people.

Mission:

We inspire and nurture students to thrive in their learning, relationships, and community.

Vision:

To become a community where all are respected, and each person is encouraged to develop their potential.

Superintendent Report

November 2023

New Course Content for 2025-2026 school year

Premier David Eby and the B.C. government committed to make Holocaust education mandatory for high school students in British Columbia.

“For our friends and neighbours in the Jewish community, this has been an incredibly frightening time. We have seen a rise in antisemitism in B.C. following the terrorist attacks in Israel, which evokes the history of persecution of Jews,” said Premier Eby. “Combatting this kind of hate begins with learning from the darkest parts of our history, so the same horrors are never repeated. That’s why we are working with the Jewish community to make sure learning about the Holocaust becomes a requirement for all high school students.”

While many students learn about the Holocaust, there is more work to do to ensure all students graduate with an understanding about this topic. According to a study commissioned by the Canadian charity Liberation75 last year, a third of North American students surveyed believe the Holocaust was either exaggerated or fabricated. Incidents of antisemitism have been on the rise across B.C. in recent years, including a surge in violent incidents.

The provincial government is committed to broadening the scope of the required Grade 10 social studies curriculum. This will ensure that when learning about discriminatory policies and injustices in Canada and around the world, all students in B.C. will also learn about the Holocaust.

The changes will take effect in the 2025-26 school year to allow for consultation and development with the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre, the Jewish community and education partners.

Other additions to the Grade 10 social studies curriculum will also be considered to reflect the diversity and history of B.C. clearly. This includes more learning on topics such as the destruction of Hogan’s Alley, Japanese internment and discrimination against other culturally diverse groups such as Muslim, East-Asian, Black and South-Asian communities. Conversations with stakeholders will happen over the next year to ensure the provincial government is moving forward together with partners and communities.

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence is an annual international campaign that begins on November 25, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and goes until December 10, the Human Rights Day. This campaign started in 1991 to call out and speak up on gender-based violence, and to renew our commitment to ending violence against women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ individuals.

The [International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women](#) was designated in 1999 by the United Nations General Assembly. The date of November 25 was chosen to commemorate the lives of the Mirabal sisters from the Dominican Republic who were violently assassinated in 1960. The day pays tribute to them and urges global recognition of gender-based violence.

[Human Rights Day](#) honours the date the United Nations General Assembly's adopted and proclaimed the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) on December 10, 1948. This document sets out fundamental human rights to be universally protected. It is a milestone in the history of human rights, and has been translated in over 500 languages, holding the Guinness World Record as the most translated document.

In Canada, we also observe the [National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women](#) during the 16 Days to remember the women who were murdered during the tragic mass shooting at Polytechnique Montréal on December 6, 1989.

BCPSEA - Trustee Sullivan, the HR Team – Malcom Reid, Erica Schmidt, Lisa Leslie, and the Superintendent attended the annual B.C. Public School Employers' Association *Symposium*. The theme was *Employee well-being: legal and societal expectations for employers*. The keynote and other sessions covered topics ranging from: Human Rights obligations for employers; Duty to Accommodate; Performance Reviews for Exempt staff; Working with People: Labour Relations 101 for Trustees; Culture, Protection, and Productivity; Race-based Harassment and Unconscious Biases; Psychological Safety at Work; Case Law Update; and Governance for Trustees; as well as various updates from Ministry.

Winter Break – Please take note of dates for upcoming Winter Break.

- Our [last day of classes](#) is **Thursday, December 21, 2023**.
 - Our [first day back](#) is **Monday, January 8, 2024**.
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Seaton Family of Schools:



Alexis Park Elementary

Gr. 1/2 students patterning with natural objects in our outdoor garden.

Students also enjoyed a field trip to the pumpkin patch.



Alexis Park is getting a facelift!



Painters have been hard at work painting classrooms and electricians are putting in new lights. They are an amazing team!





Will's Jams put on a concert for our students. Their interactive, fun-filled show had our students dancing and singing along.



We had a successful ShakeUp drill. Students and adults took cover under tables.



Students are hard at work developing stories to be turned into a book and then into Claymation.



Beairsto Elementary

Since the beginning of the year our school has been learning a French song, *Le grand rendez-vous* by Fanny Brown. There was musical accompaniment led by our Fine Arts teacher, M Corbett and all the other classes sang the song, which is about protecting the Earth.

To continue our musical theme and show learning in different ways, our primary classes got to enjoy a performance (en francais) from Will's Jams, a BC based performer who promotes learning through physical activity, music and FUN.

It was an awesome show!



Our grade 7 classes got together with their little buddies to do some measurements and full body art projects to decorate the school.

Not only are they working on academic tasks, they are also building positive relationships and school community.



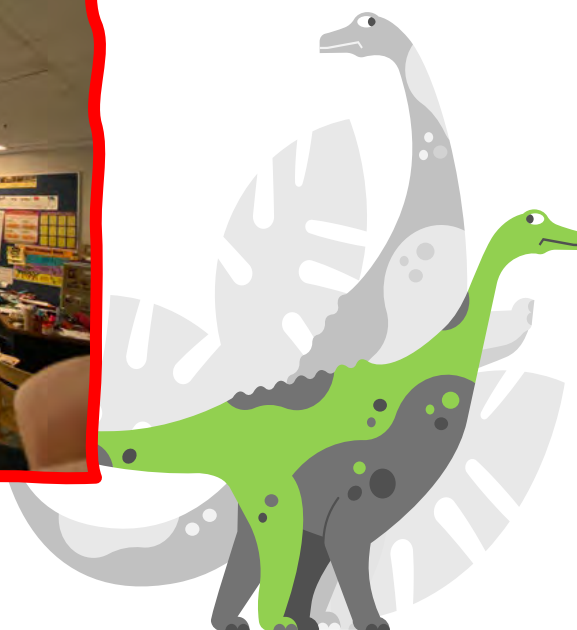
Harwood Elementary

We keep “crankin’ up the heat” here at Harwood heading into November and the chillier months! We made our learning visible throughout the entire month! We brought in all our families to complete our goal setting conferences, brought in a world-renowned Canadian author Sigmund Brouwer to speak to all our aspiring writers, learned on the land through primary visits to the local pumpkin patch, and started teaching staff members how to lead fire drills for everyone’s safety.





Additionally, we had some time to play in the leaves by making words and massive leaf piles for students to jump in! In addition, we had grade 3/4 bake sales that kept our school smelling like a fresh bakery!





To cap it all off, we sent off one of our own, Ms. Augaitis, to the PAN AM Games in Santiago, Chile to compete in the stand-up paddle board competition! We had a HUGE hallway party with everyone dressed in red and white to wish her well on her route to competing in this prestigious event!



W.L. Seaton Secondary

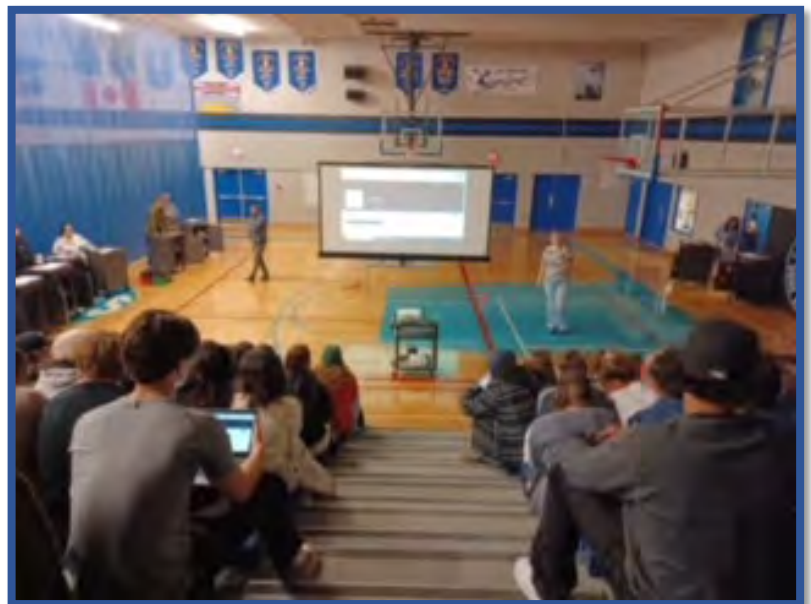
Seaton Band
preparing spooky
songs.



Leadership is ready
for Halloween.



Students learning how to
use myblueprint for their
digital portfolios.



Vernon Family of Schools



VLearn

VLearn

This month vLearn students travelled to St. Anne's pumpkin patch and Marshall Fields. At St. Anne's, students worked collaboratively to identify and document natural patterns including symmetry, trees, spirals, meanders, waves, foams, tessellations, cracks, and stripes. While at Marshall Fields, students took part in lessons on how to be a good friend and played cooperative games.





PLAY IS THE WORK OF THE

Child

~ M. MONTESSORI



ALP/Open Door/CrossRoads



To celebrate Thanksgiving, the staff at ALP put on a full Turkey dinner with all the trimmings for the students.





ALP students in their art and foods elective blocks learning healthy recipes and prepping Halloween decorations for the Haunted House competition.





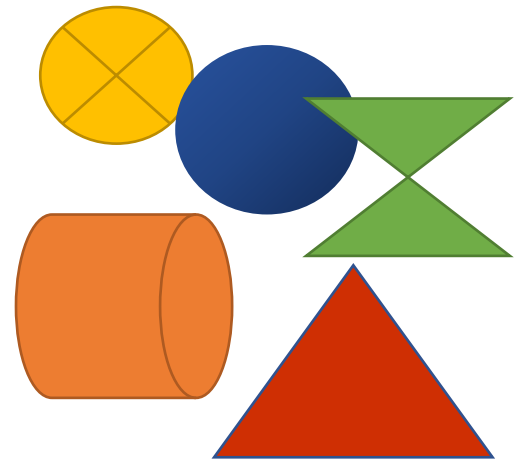
BX Elementary



The last month has been full of great hands-on learning here at BX Elementary! Our learners have been out on the land and experiencing new learning in the classroom. They have become scientist, biologists, mathematicians, artists, storytellers, and creators!



Learners in all classes are working hard to make their learning visible and reflect on their learning journey.





Hillview Elementary

Hillview students and teachers learn to use braille to decode and create messages.



Our whole school enjoyed working with author, Sigmund Brouer, to become 'Story Ninjas'. They participated in some fun and engaging writing activities.

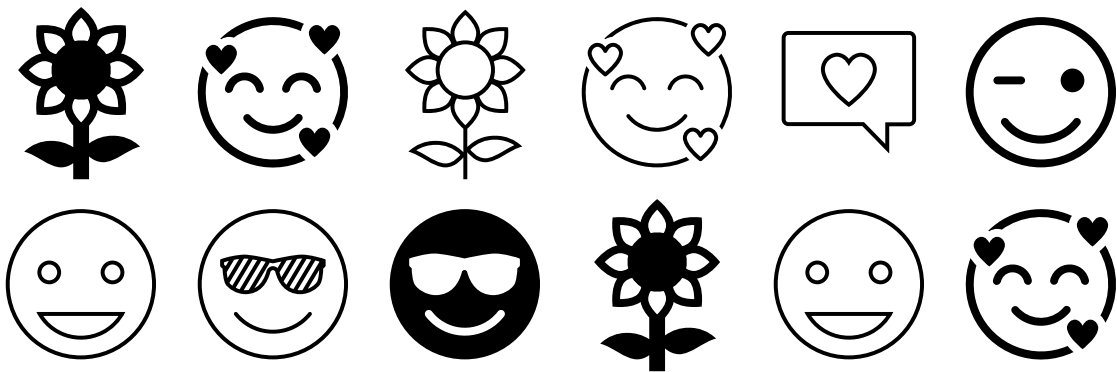


Silverstar Elementary



We have had school-wide events (for students and families!) over the last month to show our learning and celebrate growth!

We are always celebrating student success in many different ways! We have a grade one student who wrote his first story about his “Happy Places,” and our Grade 7 students always enjoy putting their twist on Morning announcements (key “Dad” jokes)!





Vernon Secondary School

Teachers and students participating in Shake out BC.



VSS students have been busy participating in a chess tournament at lunch. 50 students signed up for this and we are currently in the semifinals. Thank you Mr. Eggert for organizing this great club!

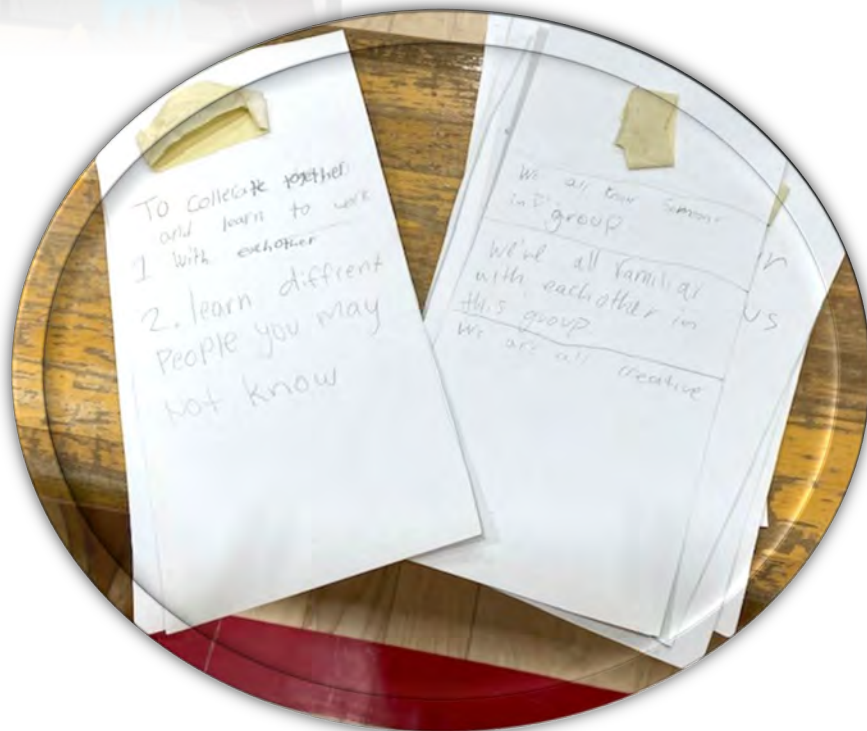
Fulton Family of Schools



Ellison Elementary



Grade 5/6 students spend time with our ISW learning about the syilx story of how we receive our name. What a great way to celebrate our differences and to connect with who we are as unique individuals.



Our grade 6/7 students are working together to build community and belonging.



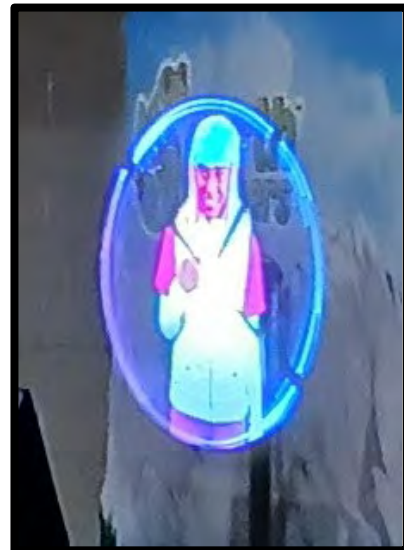
Celebrating Fall in our grade 3/4 class.





Mission Hill Elementary

Students learning from the Earth Rangers about being good stewards of our environment and lands.





Okanagan Landing



Grade 1's and 2's learning about seasonal changes with a tree on our school grounds.

Many of our students learn from our school garden.





Clarence Fulton Secondary



Making Learning Visible
all around Fulton.



Kalamalka Family of Schools



Coldstream Elementary





Kidston Elementary

Students wrote about themselves in a riddle format. Students then had to read the riddles and try to guess who belonged to each riddle.



UBCO came and provided STEM lessons to our primary students.





In this STEM challenge students had to create a structure that could survive an earthquake.

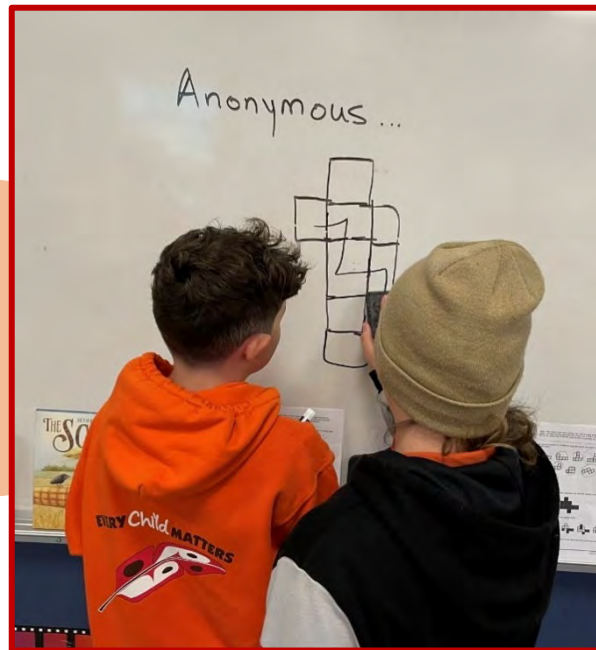
Our Kindergarten classes took a trip to the pumpkin patch. Our students have been learning about pumpkins, Fall and seasonal cycles. They also have been reading stories and doing story workshop around pumpkin stories.





Lavington Elementary

Lavington students made learning visible in the classroom with vertical surfaces, but also on the land.



Here, grade 6/7 students gathered around orange marigolds planted in the shape of a heart in memory of indigenous students who lost their lives while attending residential schools."



Kalamalka Secondary

Mr. Garlick's students are studying physics and understanding velocity. Mr. Britton and his Science 9 class are learning about chemical reactions.





Mr. Hunter's Band 9 students were working on rhythm and breathing.



Mr. Korb's Yearbook class is applying their understanding of page layout and design.



Bloom Family of Schools



Charles Bloom Secondary

Grad Retreat 2024, students working together to solve complex problems.





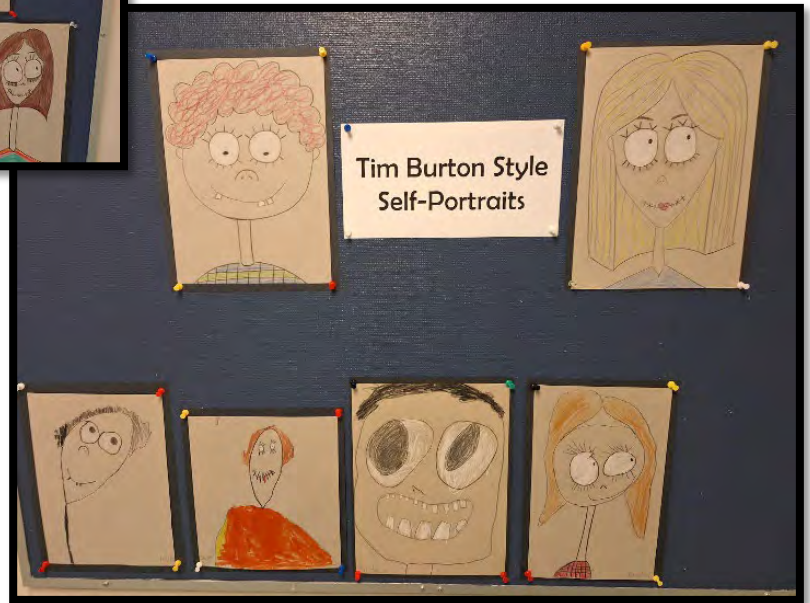
Cherryville Elementary

Grade 5/6 students presenting at an assembly reader's theatre scripts (written by them) on our "Play is the Way" poster focus "Be Brave – Participate to Progress".

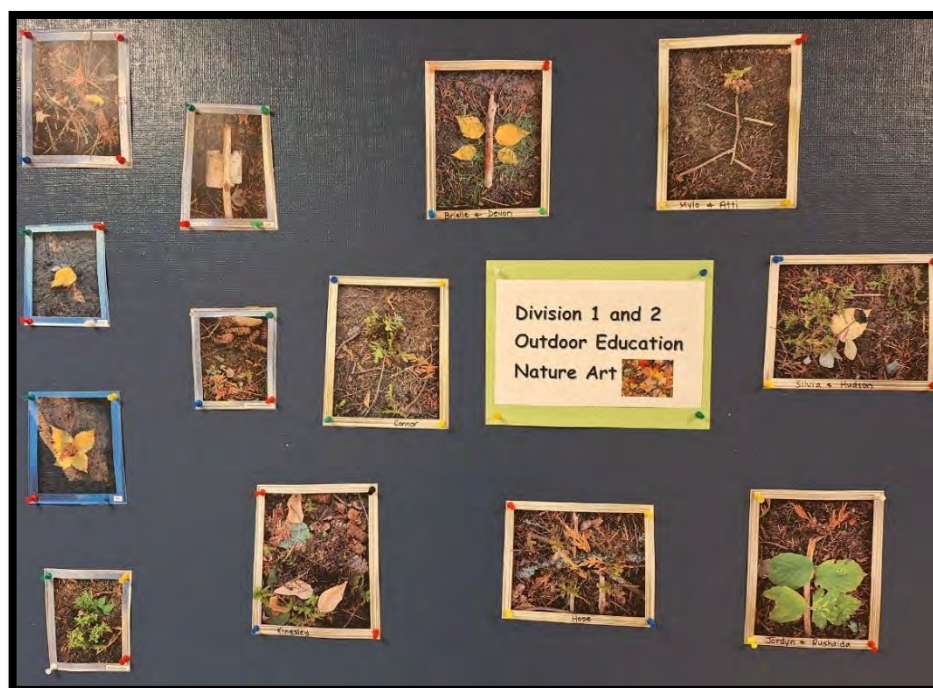




Grade 1/2/3 Self Portraits –Tim Burton Style



Kindergarten – Gr. 3 students Nature Art while exploring Hanson Park





J.W. Inglis Elementary

Out at JWI, we were fortunate to have the Lumby Fire department come and make a presentation to our school our about fire safety. We also had a parking lot party to celebrate surpassing our goal for funds raised for Terry Fox!



Indigenous Programs



Students proudly wear their orange shirts and share the Four Food Chiefs self-evaluation forms.

Seth Spotted-Eagle, graduate of Seaton, taught Powwow dancing to all 27 classes at Beairsto over the course of a week.



Human Resources

A big thank you to Rob Bacon, Manager of Health and Safety, for leading fall OHS trainings this month on safety inspections and hazard identification.

Human Resources recognized the **“Leadership Excellence”** of the Charles Bloom Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Committee for their outstanding safety focused leadership! Congratulations to Chad Romain, Sherry Kineshanko, Sam Moore, Josh Gutknecht, and Damon Johnson.



Student Learning

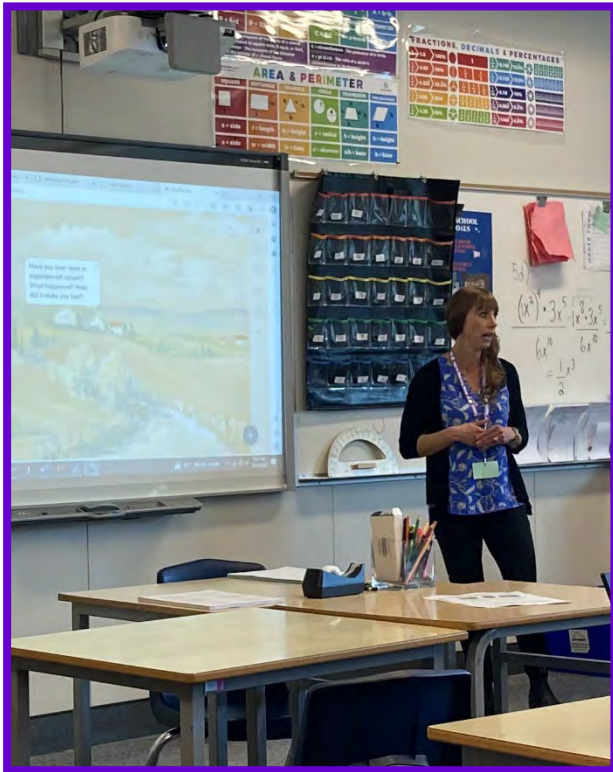
Learning Department

SD22 participated in the Climate Action Ripple Effect Pitch Party & Fundraiser. Rhiannon Johnson provided a display of the many different ways schools, and the district are finding ways to raise awareness and take action on climate change.

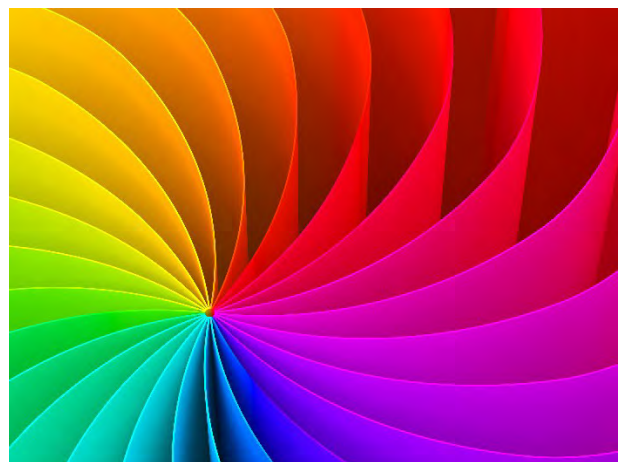


Cal Johnson is the newest member of the learning support team and will be working closely with the Bloom family of schools. Cal is excited to create partnerships with teachers to support student learning and engagement. Cal is grateful for the opportunity to work with the staff and students of SD22.

The Learning Department is learning about the Pedagogy of Voice and student agency through a Street Data series with Dr. Shane Safir and Abby Benedetto. At the latest session, special guest Dr. Jamila Dugan engaged the group in conversations around radical dreaming.



Kim Tyssen presented at the Innovate Ed conference on Oct. 20th to teachers across the province on ways to work with students and approach learning on anti-racism. She demonstrated practical ideas using technology to engage students in this learning.



Career Programs

Nate Friesen working hard in his Dual Credit Welding Course at Okanagan College Vernon Trades Centre.



Inclusive Education Department



Tomiak, Mission Hill's meal coordinator, adds a hot item every day of the week. Taco cups and egg scramble croissants are some of the students' favorites!

Here is Johie (meals coordinator) with Marshall and his mom Michelle. The breakfast buffet is welcome to all students.





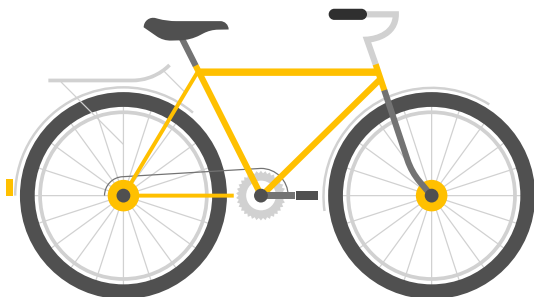
The community farm at the BX Ranchlands is in the planning stages. Land to Table, OKIB, and SD22 were asked to contribute to the needs assessment to make the community farm accessible to everyone.



The Vocations team had their first field trip to O'Keefe's Corn Maze! Students worked in small groups to successfully navigate the maze and find their way out. Fun was had by all!

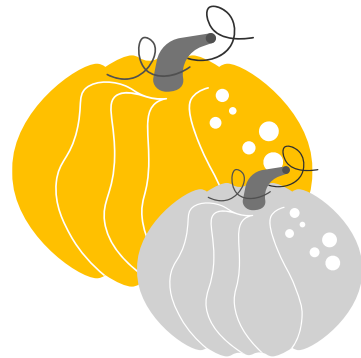


Adapted biking in partnership with CRIS ran for the second time this year and got off to great start. Students had the opportunity to ride a number of trikes, tandem recumbents, and upright two wheeled bikes on the Okanagan Rail Trail.



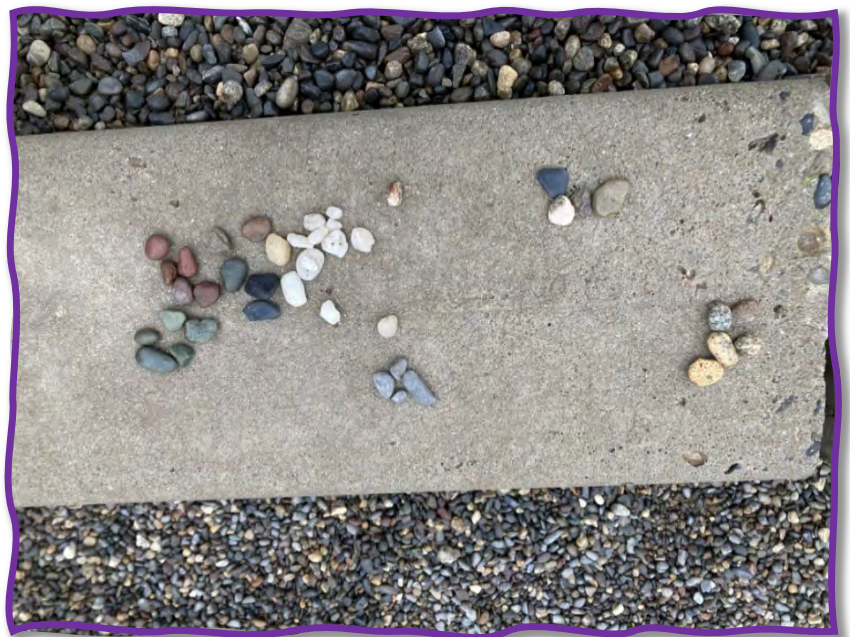
Early Learning & Child Care

All four of our StrongStart programs visited the Pumpkin Patch this month to search for the perfect pumpkin.



Building creations with playdoh and Halloween loose parts in preschool programs! Invitations to play allow children to explore and create.

Children in the Lavington Preschool program are counting collections outdoors and taking advantage of the beautiful weather.



International



Fabulous fun in
Vancouver.

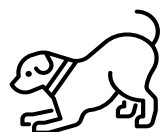
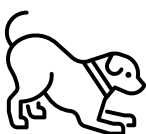
Finance Department

The finance team continues to keep wellness at top of mind and this month we found some puppies to provide a little lunchtime distraction from our busy day. We were treated to a lovely lunch and 5 super cuddly puppies 😊



Please stay tuned for an update on more Finance related Training opportunities, we will be looking for feedback shortly and then planning another training session in the near future.

As always, please feel free to contact the finance team for any support you may need, and we will do our best to assist you!



IT

The Innovation and Technology Department hosted the 2023 Innovate-ED Conference at VSS, and it was an inspiring day of learning with “students at the centre”.



Maintenance

Okanagan Landing new playground:

SD22 second 100% accessible playground.



Enjoy the lovely fall as we get ready for the cooler months of winter. As always, take good care and always practice kindness.

