



**Acknowledgement of Aboriginal Territory - We acknowledge, respect and honor the First Nations in whose traditional territories the Kootenay Lake School District operates and all Aboriginal people residing within the boundaries of School District No. 8.**

**Monday, March 3, 2025**

**Strategic Priority: Lifelong Learners**

*We improve student learning through interest-based, competency-based, flexible and innovative approaches.*

**Course Selection for 2025 | 26**

- parent night, Monday March 10 for current Grade 9, 10, 11 parents/families
- the purpose of the meeting is to review the Grad Program requirements for each grade level, review course selection and the school scheduling process based on student course selection
- our counsellor will be visiting WEG the week before spring break and following spring break, we will be scheduling time with our Grade 9 to 11's
- our goal is to have course selection completed by April 30 or sooner

**Strategic Priority: Connected Learners**

*We inspire learners to become curious, critical, and creative stewards of the natural world and the local and global community.*

**April - Environment Focused Theme**

- to coincide with Earth Day in April; staff will be exploring the possibility of incorporating a collaborative teaching plan school wide support environmental focused learning
- our work and learning will be aligned with [POLICY 173: Climate Action and Sustainability](#)

**Strategic Priority: Caring and Inclusive Learning Culture**

*We promote physical and mental well-being through social-emotional learning to foster compassionate learners.*

**February ROAR Assembly Highlights**

- we used this opportunity to highlight learning in our school aligned with the theme of Black History Month
- MYP Band Students learned about and celebrated Black musicians. The marching band at Southern University in Louisiana has a very fun and engaging piece of music that the students have seen performed. This piece of music is being transcribed and re-written for our MYP students to learn and play.
- The Music department commissioned our Art department to make portraits of Black musicians + composers. These pieces of art are ready to be installed in the band room. Work order is needed to have this done.
- The student council shared information about Pink Shirt Day and tied this to the whole school focus on ROAR - responsibility, opportunity, attitude and respect.
- Our MYP students participated in Interior Health's Beyond the Buzz: Youth Voices on Tobacco, Cannabis, Vaping and Alcohol awareness campaign. One of our students was recognized for their original poster artwork that shared a message about the impacts of tobacco, cannabis, vaping or alcohol on youth.
- The office received 103 ROAR Cards in the month of February; we recognized 29 students for responsibility, 32 for opportunity, 18 for attitude, 21 for respect and 3 were unknown.

- We drew 6 prizes that included popcorn, water bottles and a bluetooth speaker

### **Student Leadership Video 2024 - 25**

- during the February Board Meeting, Director Ben Eaton shared the video completed by Academy PM
- the video captures the district's focus on student leadership in SD8 and identifying what it means to be future ready
- Video Link >> [HERE](#)

### **Strategic Priority: Cultural and Identity Development**

*We promote a positive sense of identity in culturally safe and responsive communities of learning.*

#### **Middle Year Development Instrument (MDI) Student Surveys**

- Middle childhood and early adolescence – ages 6 to 13 – is an important phase of life that includes physical, emotional and cognitive changes as well as shifts in peer and adult relationships. It is a window of opportunity in which positive development can be supported to set the stage for successful development in adolescence and adulthood.
- Learning from children directly— in their own voices—provides actionable data to support the design and implementation of programs, practices and policies that promote children's social and emotional health and well-being.
- Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI) data are used by school systems and broader community partners, along with families and the children themselves, to work collectively toward positive change during this important transitional time in children's lives.
- The MDI is for Grade 6 - 8 learners.
- Parents are invited to review the **MDI Grade 6-8 Survey Questions**.
- Parents were informed in December; 1 student was waived from participating. A total of 49 students will participate in this survey

#### **Student Learning Survey**

- The SLS provides feedback on the implementation of the curriculum changes, learning environment, student wellness and satisfaction, student belonging and engagement, and career preparation.
- The SLS is the only source of province-wide information about students' learning experiences through the perspectives of students, parents, guardians/caregivers, and school staff.
- Schools and districts use the SLS to make informed decisions around long-term planning and goal-setting, and in providing individual students personalized support.
- The student learning survey is conducted with learners in Grade 7, 10, 11, and 12. Grade 11 is new this year.
- We encourage parents/guardians/caregivers to participate in this survey, as the results are important in identifying and celebrating current strengths, as well as determining where the school needs to focus improvement. The surveys contain standard questions for the Province – in addition, questions from the school and/or district that focus on local conditions or issues are also included.
- Parents of students in Grade 7 , 10, 11, and 12 will be asked to participate in the survey.

### **Strategic Priority: Career Development**

*We prepare students to graduate with options for their future life and career goals.*

#### **Skills BC - Cranbrook, Nelson, and Mt. Sentinel (Mr. Shaw, Mr. Leeming, Mr. Schindel)**

- On March 7<sup>th</sup> numerous SD8 students will compete in the SkillsCanada Regional Competition. This competition will be held concurrently between Selkirk College in Nelson and College of the Rockies in Cranbrook.
- In Nelson, students will be competing in 2D Animation, Graphic Design, 3D Animation, Photography, and Video Production. This event will take place solely on March 7<sup>th</sup>.
- In Cranbrook, students will be competing in Cabinet Making, Carpentry, Welding and Electrical. This event will be held on March 7<sup>th</sup>, but teachers and students will travel to the competition on the afternoon of March 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Goodwill Shakespeare Festival - Vernon (Ms. Avis, Mr. Nasel)**

- all events will take place at the Powerhouse Theatre and other local venues within walking distance of the theatre
- students will participating in workshops that re led by theatre professional and teachers from other schools

**Academy PM Vancouver Trip - (Mr. Leeming and Ms. Avis)**

- Academy PM will travel to Vancouver the week of April 13 to April 19
- this is an annual trip provides a focus on transitions, industry expert education, cultural experience, and post-secondary institute exposure

**Superintendent Presentation of Bravo Award Presentation - Academy PM**

- The Academy PM team at Mount Sentinel Secondary has earned a Bravo! Coup de Coeur Award from the Canadian Association for Communicators in Education / L'association canadienne des agents de communication en éducation (CACE/ACACÉ) for their Student Leadership Conference 2023-2024 video.
- The Coup de Coeur is a noteworthy standalone communications product.
- On February 26, calendars finally aligned for presenting the award in person to teachers Mr. Leeming and Mr. Schindel and all the students involved in creating the video. Everyone was excited to see their work celebrated by a national level communications organization.
- Academy PM has been instrumental in supporting SD8 to showcase great work across the district by producing videos including shooting b-roll, videoing interviews, editing footage and adding audio to create excellent video stories about SD8.

## Monday, November 4, 2024

### Strategic Priority: Lifelong Learners

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#### District Student Leadership Conference, Tuesday, November 5

- 15 students have signed up to participate in Student Voice this year
- Student Voice meets three times per year as part of the District Student Voice group; in addition to district involvement we hope to engage our student voice in school culture and engagement conversations, along with student council.
- Student Voice members will participate in the Student Leadership Conference happening at Mt. Sentinel for students in grade 8, 9, 11, and 12 from across the district
- Student Trustees participated in helping shape the day and will also help provide leadership throughout the day of the conference
- The theme of this year's conference is "Future Ready."
- Academy PM will be doing videography again with the goal of producing a video that is used to help capture the learning and themes from the conference

#### End of Quarter 1, November 8 - First Communication of Student Learning Through the Portal

- MYP students will complete their first elective option this week and will be starting their Quarter 2 elective options on Tuesday, November 12
- this is the halfway point for semester courses and the completion of the first quarter for linear courses
- reminder to families that the parent teacher night in October was an opportunity to meet with teachers; there will be no scheduled parent teacher conferences in November as was originally published on our school calendar
- parents always have the option to connect with their child's teacher(s) to discuss progress

### Strategic Priority: Connected Learners

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#### Sequoia - Learning and Working In Community

- students had the opportunity to work with a welder in our school neighborhood; this experience provided them with an opportunity to learn new skills, be engaged in learning in our community, make connections with potential future mentors and/or employers
- Sequoia students along with staff are headed out to Whitewater on Thursday and Friday this week
- they participate in a "work exchange" program where they work with the staff at Whitewater to clean and prepare the lodge for the ski season ahead; in exchange they receive passes to ski throughout the winter as part of the school ski program that aligns with their Career Education and Physical Education learning goals

### Strategic Priority: Caring and Inclusive Learning Culture

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#### Personal Digital Device Policy Progress Update

- thank you to our students, staff and families for embracing the changes regarding the use of personal digital devices (PDDs) in school
- for some students this has been a challenging time; while for others, a welcomed opportunity to have a break from the distractions that the devices create
- we will continue to work with our staff and students to remind them of the progress we have made and the importance of maintaining the boundaries we have put in place to support student learning and engagement by minimizing the distractions caused by technology
- we continue to capitalize on opportunities to teach the responsible use of technology in our daily interactions with students

### Strategic Priority: Cultural and Identity Development

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### **Extra-Curricular Updates**

- **Volleyball:** - two Senior Girls teams, one Senior Boys team, grade 7/8 girls and grade 7/8 boys. Last few weeks of the season are approaching and soon to be transitioning to the Basketball season.
- **Extra-Curricular Drama:** for Grade 7/8 's. Scene night scheduled for November 13.
- **Band:** not extra curricular but outside the timetable and an additional course that students sign up for in addition to their full-time schedules
- **Swordplay:** continues every Tuesday at lunch (approximately 15 students participating)
- **Yearbook Club:** we are excited to be working on a yearbook for this year. We have a student taking on the role of editor and designer; they will work with a team of people for input, photography, etc. The idea is that we will have something in place that is sustainable as a multi-year opportunity for our school
- **Student Leadership:** Student Council and Student Voice

### **Strategic Priority: Career Development**

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#### **Grade 12 Post-Secondary Planning Tours**

- CLC 12 class has completed three week of post-secondary touring during the month of October
- Selkirk College in Castlegar and Nelson (10th Street Campus) on two separate weeks
- toured Kamloops TRU, Kelowna UBC-O, and Okanagan College as part of an overnight trip
- students expressed appreciation for the opportunity tour a variety of different campuses and programs; it gives them a sense of how programs are organized, what application looks like and what supports are available to students attending post-secondary institutions

#### **Strengthening Connections; Post Secondary Indigenous Recruitment**

- Mini post-secondary education fair in the **Library, Wednesday 1:00 to 3:00**
- This is an opportunity to gather information about the supports different institutions are able to offer students
- Future student advisors will be here from TRU, UBC, SFU, Justice Institute of BC, UVic, UNBC, Douglas College, and UBC Okanagan: Southern Medical Program

**Monday, September 9, 2024****Strategic Priority: Lifelong Learners**

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**Strategic Priority: Connected Learners**

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**Strategic Priority: Caring and Inclusive Learning Culture**

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