

83 Newsline



/ North Okanagan-Shuswap School District No. 83 /

June 20, 2018



Excitement builds as first events take place at South Canoe Elementary outdoor learning

There was a good turnout, and lots of excitement, for both the kindergarten orientation (top photo) on June 12 and the Open House on June 14 (lower photo) at South Canoe Elementary, home to the district's new outdoor learning program.





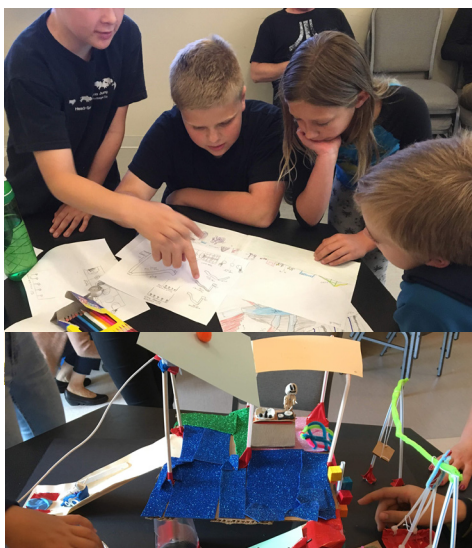
Kindy transition . . .

Early learning co-ordinator Jen Findlay reports in addition to kindergarten orientation sessions at each school, a number of schools have partnered with local preschools and StrongStart programs to set up Kindergarten visits for the future Kindergarten students. This provides an opportunity for the preschoolers to see the Kindergarten classroom in action and the current Kindergarten students love being "big buddies" to the younger children. Seen here are students from Parkview Elementary.

Findlay explains that next year, our school district has been chosen to participate in the Changing Results for Young Children (CR4YC) project. "We will be partnering regionally with the Vernon and Kelowna school districts and appreciate the funding and support from the Ministry of Education and the United Way of the Lower Mainland. CR4YC follows a similar framework to Changing Results for Young Readers however the focus has shifted to include community-based Early Childhood Educators, Strong Start Facilitators, and Kindergarten Teachers."

CR4YReaders focused on reading and CR4YChildren is focusing on social and emotional well-being. One of the CR4YC Project goals is to identify and apply a strengthened understanding of quality practices associated with improving the social and emotional well being of young children. Kim Schonert-Reichl is the lead scholar advising the CR4YC Initiative, including professional learning sessions throughout the year.





Celebrating Wild Schools

A plaque, banner, planting some trees and what may be the world's largest game of "Oh Deer!" will be part of the celebration to mark the completion of the Wild Schools program at Armstrong Elementary School on June 22.

Students and teachers from Armstrong Elementary School have been taking part in Wild Schools, a three year program providing K-8 schools with resources and support for environmental learning, outdoor field experiences and connections to conservation in their communities.

The program is wholly funded by the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation (HCTF) and is available to BC K-8 schools free of charge.

Representatives of HCTF will be on hand to tour the outdoor learning area, see students' work, plant trees, and have a game of "Oh Deer" with Jerry the Moose. The day will wrap up with presentations.

Creating at Maker Day event

Creating an inclusive playground was the challenge for 50 gifted students from across the school district at the first annual Maker Day held at the District Education Support Centre on Friday, June 15.

Students were given the opportunity to design and create a prototype of a playground that was inclusive, safe, fun and engaging. Students had many factors to consider issues of mobility, access, and sensory challenges, as well as the more basic question of what equipment will other kids enjoy the most!

Using the process of design thinking, the students, along with members of the Instructional Learning Team, spent time learning about the needs of an inclusive playground and the background of the children using it. They then put their knowledge towards creating individual, partner and group designs before coming up with a final prototype build. There were many creative ideas constructed and the students were incredibly aware of the problems faced by children with diverse abilities.

Organizers were pleased with the day and comment there was an incredible amount of engagement throughout the entire day and many new friendships were formed. They look forward to offering an equally exciting opportunity next year.

Year End & New Year

There are two more graduation ceremonies to wind up the school year with Pleasant Valley Secondary School (PVSS) on Wednesday, June 20 at NorVal Arena in Armstrong and Salmon Arm Secondary on Thursday, June 28 at 7 p.m. at Shaw Centre in Salmon Arm.

There are some important dates to remember for the upcoming school year. New student registration is set for Tuesday, August 28 at all schools. Tuesday, September 4 is the first day back to school!

Questions over the summer? Call (250) 832-2157.



Numeracy assessment tests if students can use various skills to solve real life problems

Students' numeracy is going to be assessed differently at the provincial level starting this year.

With the Ministry introducing renewed curriculum over the past several years, how student learning is being assessed is changing as well.

The Graduation Numeracy Assessment (GNA) has been implemented this year. A similar assessment for literacy is slated to be implemented in the next several years.

"This is a game-changer," comments School District No. 83 (North Okanagan-Shuswap) numeracy coordinator Val Edgell, who is also a member of the Ministry of Education's Graduation Numeracy Assessment Development Team, and who has been going to the school district's high schools talking to

students and parents about the new assessment.

"It is very different from the old provincial exams."

"The previous provincial exam assessed math. There was a math question and students answered it."

"The new assessment is an every day problem, say quotes from a contractor, that students will have to figure out which 'tool' they need to determine the answers they need to know," explained Edgell.

The GNA is based on mathematical concepts learned across multiple subjects from kindergarten to Grade 10. It is not tied to a specific math course. Rather, it evaluates a student's numeracy skills developed over the course of their education.

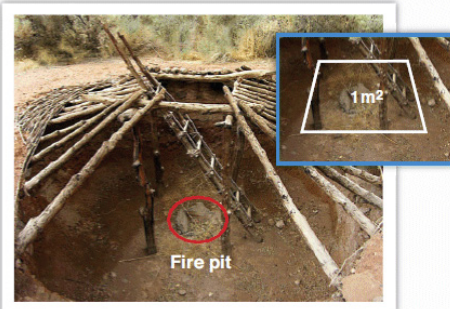
Students will be able to take the assessment during one of three time slots (January, June and November) in Grades 10–12.

They will also have the ability to retake the assessment, with the best mark to be counted as the final achievement, which Edgell feels they should take advantage of. "My advice is to write at the end of Grade 10 so that you can rewrite if you need to," she said.

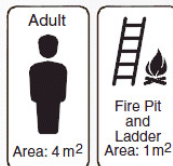
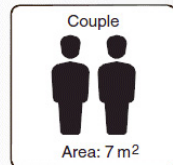
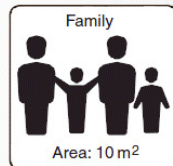
Numeracy is embedded in everything we do, comments Edgell, from understanding your phone-bill to buying a new vehicle. The GNA uses B.C. content and real life scenarios. "What international research has shown us is that kids can do math really well, but they aren't necessarily as good at selecting what the most appropriate tool

Understanding Our Past: Pit Houses

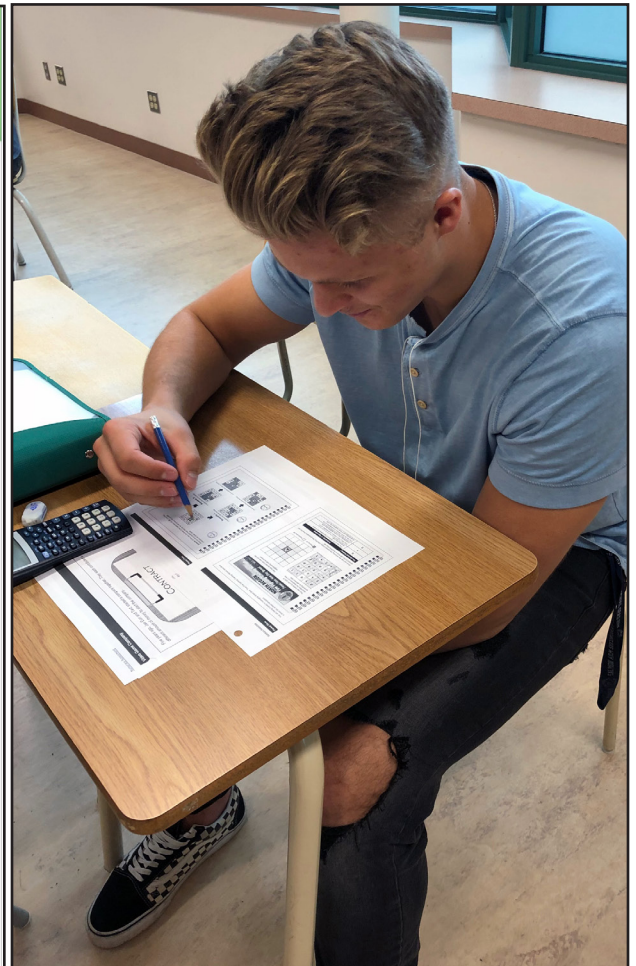
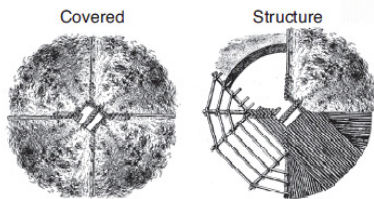
Archaeologists study artifacts and monuments to understand past cultures. In the interior of British Columbia, First Peoples lived in circular homes, called pit houses. Pit houses varied in size, depending on how many people lived in the home.



Approximate Floor Area Required



Overhead Views



Pictured above is a page from online practice assessment, which this Sullivan student is actually working on. Seen below are a few of the corresponding questions for this section of the assessment. More info at: <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/provincial-assessment/graduation/numeracy#pre>

Q. You want to estimate the number of people who might have lived in a pit house. Which of the following is required to determine the floor area needed?

- ladder length
- pit house height
- area required for living space
- dimensions of the top opening

Q. Which strategies could you use to estimate how many people lived in 12 pit houses of similar size? Select all that apply.

- Estimate the number of people who lived in one pit house and divide by 12.
- Estimate the number of people who lived in one pit house and multiply by 12.
- Estimate the total area of 12 pit houses and divide by the area required for one person.
- Estimate the total area of 12 pit houses and multiply by the area required for one person.

Q. An archeologist calculated how many people lived in a pit house with a floor area of 63 m². He divided 63 m² by 4 and said 15.75 people. This is incorrect. What mistakes did the archeologist make? Select all that apply.

- diameter of pit house not used
- number of people not rounded
- age of occupants not considered
- gender of occupants not considered
- assumed only single adults lived there
- fire pit and ladder space not considered

is in a particular situation. We want to make sure they can choose the right tool for the job, solve the problem, make sure it makes sense and be able to communicate their process and answer."

"The assessment requires students to solve problems by using the five numeracy processes: interpret, apply, solve, analyze and communicate."

The assessment is delivered online and has 24 computer-scored questions, a student choice component of two written-response questions completed on paper (these are deeper questions that require students to present their solutions in context, and provide detailed explanations to justify their thinking), and a self reflection component to guide the Ministry in further assessments.

Feedback after the pilots has been positive from students. "After one presentation I gave at a high school I had a Dad tell me that the students that do well on these assessments are the type of employees he wants to hire."



There was good competition, turnout and weather for the District Track & Field Meet at Little Mountain Park on June 5.

Exploring!

Ranchero students (Kindergarten and grade 3) had a great day exploring nature, viewing art and listening to stories of Secwepemc culture at the Salmon Arm Art Gallery, and painting at Meikle Studio during a field trip on June 14.



PUBLIC SPEAKING FINALS



Students at South Broadview Elementary enjoyed putting together and performing Rumpelstiltskin on May 1 and 2. Lois Towgood and Carl Cooper directed the play.

OUTDOOR AWESOME



Students at M.V. Beattie Elementary had the opportunity to take part in an outdoor learning experience, Outdoor Awesome, in May.



The annual Falkland Stampede started in 1919, just after the war, as a picnic and has grown over the years to a three day rodeo held on the May long weekend and the largest annual event in Falkland. Seen here are a group of students taking part in the annual parade and proudly representing their school.



Natalie Wilkie (third from left in front row), a student from Salmon Arm Secondary won a gold, silver and bronze in cross country skiing at the recent Paralympics. She, along with other members of the Canadian Olympic and Paralympic team, was invited to a celebration on Parliament Hill in Ottawa on May 9 to celebrate the success. Canada sent its largest Olympic delegation in history to Pyeongchang of 225 athletes, who won 29 medals. It was also the largest-ever Paralympic team, with 55 athletes winning 28 medals.



Over the last several months a session for incoming kindergarten students and their parents was held in each elementary school in the district. Photos are from the session at M.V. Beattie in Enderby.