

# #83 Newsline

North Okanagan-Shuswap School District #83

April 18, 2018



Students were engrossed solving word problems and other numeracy challenges during Math Club at Salmon Arm West

## Developing “grit” at math club

The sun is shining and you can hear the sounds of other kids out on the playground but one group of students at Salmon Arm West are too busy to pay any attention!

With one hand on their pencil and the other occasionally reaching for a handful of popcorn from a big bowl in the middle of the tables, the engaged group of mainly Grade 3-5 students are busy figuring out word problems such as how many combinations of ice cream are possible or how many students at a party have short hair.

“I really like math club,” comments Cher, one of the students taking part. “I think math is my best subject,” she adds.

“I like the popcorn and the puzzles,” adds Madeline.

Principal Val Edgell, who runs the club, says she typically has anywhere from 15 to 30 students attend math club, which is once a week. “I do it because it helps kids develop a love for math and the perseverance skills necessary to work through something that’s really hard. I want them to envision something a little

out of reach and then go after it”

“It helps them develop grit and determination to work through something that is challenging. Persistence is a huge life skill.”

She adds that some of the students have been writing the Caribou International Math Contest (which takes place five times a year and includes math and logic problems) and each time the team results have improved over the previous test. One student, Evany, finished top in the school district and in the top seven per cent internationally. “It’s not as much about the results as the improvement,” comments Edgell. “And the whole team has been improving.”

Student Jace explains about the math contests, saying he likes everything about math club, including taking part in the contests. “You do it online and you have one hour to complete. You get a piece of paper and a pencil but not a calculator. It is hard but it’s fun.”

Evany adds that the calculation acrostic and logic challenges, such as Flood and Sky Scrapers, are her favourites.

# Upcoming

Healthy Schools Coordinator Laura Paiement wants to encourage everyone to get some vitamin "N" (nature) and take part in the G.O. 30:30 challenge.

This challenge encourages everyone to Go Outdoors for thirty minutes for thirty days.

**G.O. 30:30**

GET OUTSIDE FOR 30 MINUTES FOR 30 DAYS!

Challenge other families, classes or schools! **CHALLENGE YOURSELF!**

Bike/Walk to School and take part in Bike to Work and School Week May 28 to June 3, 2018

Play tag, soccer, frisbee

Take a hike! [www.shuswaptrails.com](http://www.shuswaptrails.com)

CHECK OUT! Wild Soles Running Series & Shuswap Wild Wonders

Go to the beach or park!

Get some Vitamin "N" NATURE!

Go for a picnic

Scavenger Hunt

Caution: Nature has been shown to improve mental health, physical health, family and social bonding and overall wellness of individuals, families and communities

Biggest Risk is keeping kids indoors. "Kids with access to unsupervised outdoor play have better-developed motor skills, social behaviour, independence and conflict resolution skills."

2015 ParticAction Report Card

You are also invited to attend a free SD83 workshop offering tips and strategies for raising digitally responsible youth. This workshop takes place on May 2 at the District Education Support Centre (DESC) from 7 - 8:30 p.m.

**Raising Digitally Responsible Youth**

Wednesday May 2nd, 2018  
7:00-8:30pm  
District Education Support Center  
341 Shuswap St. SW Salmon Arm

For Parents of School-Aged Children

With society heading in a direction of being constantly connected to technology, what do we need to know as parents to protect our kids and teach them responsible and appropriate use of technology? The parameters of rules and expectations that you put in place at home will undoubtedly guide their behaviour in the years to come. Please join us for an informative presentation which will cover the following topics and more!

**PARENTS: Do not miss this free event!**

- Social Media Update** – The most current apps & trends in their social media lives
- Pick Your Battles!** – You will have to balance the yin with the yang, promote independence whilst taking a strong stance on certain subjects
- Current Research** – Brain development & technology, violent video games
- Digital Footprint and Reputation** – With their future approaching, recruiters and employers are taking note – what will they find?
- Tips & Tricks to Use at Home**

Logos: DPAC, BCSSA, Ministry of Education

## STUDENT RECEIVES BIKE



Salmon Arm Secondary student Megan Senn received a bike from Cops for Kids in Kelowna over Spring Break. Megan will be riding her new bike with Cops for Kids when they go through Salmon Arm in September. Megan is thrilled with the new speciality bike and wants to thank Eline Den Boer (SD83's student services physiotherapist) for nominating Megan for the bike.

## MATH OLYMPICS ON MAY 16

It will be country versus country at the first ever SD83 Math Olympics for students in grades 6-8 starting at 9 a.m. on May 16 at Shuswap Middle School.

Val Edgell, one of the organizers, says they are hoping for 30 teams (three students to a team) from SD83 schools. School teams will be randomly assigned to represent "countries" and gold, silver and bronze medals will be given out to the winning countries at the end of the day.

Participants will take part in five events, two collaborative problem solving, one SkyScraper game, one Design Challenge and one individual written test!

## NEW DIRECTOR OF INSTRUCTION

Superintendent of Schools Peter Jory is pleased to announce that Director of Instruction (Human Resources) Ryan Brennan has now joined School District No. 83 (North Okanagan-Shuswap).

Brennan was Director of Human Resources in Palliser Regional Schools Public School Division in Lethbridge, Alberta, before joining SD83. Prior to that, he held both Principal and Vice-Principal positions at the publicly-funded Heritage Christian Academy in Calgary, Alberta, and taught at schools in Manitoba and Saskatchewan from 1999 to 2006.



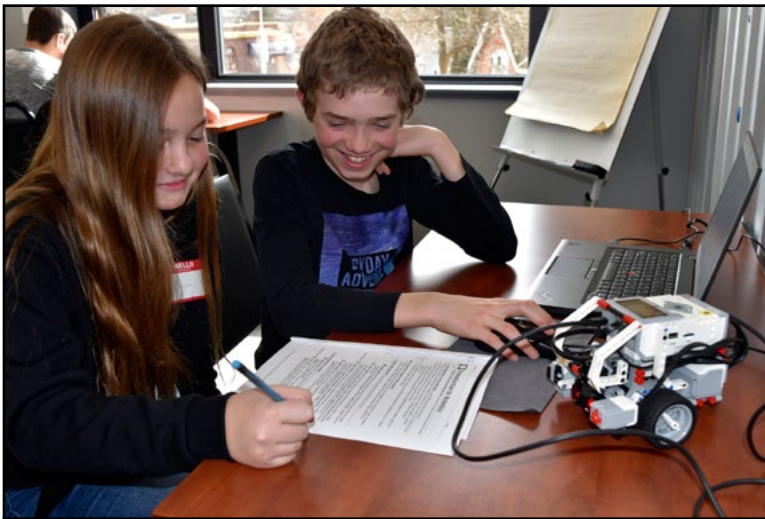
Ryan Brennan

"Ryan's background in educational leadership combined with his knowledge in human resources management will make him a valuable addition to our senior leadership team," adds Jory.

Joining Brennan in his move to SD83 are his wife, Deanna, who is also a teacher, and their two children, Emma and Jaden.

Brennan replaces former Director of Human Resources Kyle Cormier, who accepted a position with Kelowna School District.





## Gearbots MakerSpace workshop a hit

In just a few hours the four introduction to coding robotics workshops held over Spring Break were filled! Seen here (top left and clockwise) are Milana and Memphis, Tomi, instructor Dereck Dirom and Shea, and (bottom left) Kia and Will. The workshops were held at Salmon Arm's new Innovation Centre.



# Upcoming

*You are invited to attend . . .*



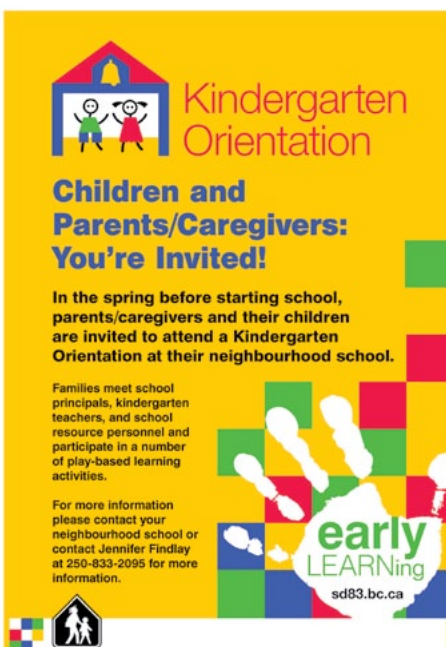
School District No. 83 (North Okanagan-Shuswap) parents and PAC members, hot lunch coordinators, breakfast/lunch program coordinators, & SD83 staff are invited to:

## Working together to support healthy food in our schools

Tuesday April 24th, 2018 from 6:30 - 8 p.m.  
Armstrong Elementary School Library

hosted by Laura Paiement, SD83 Healthy Schools Co-ordinator  
& Serena Caner, Registered Dietician

Please join us for an informal discussion where we all can share ideas and brainstorm on ways to support healthy food in our schools, including how to use the Guidelines for Food & Beverage Sales in B.C. Schools and other resources, healthy school fundraisers, healthy options for hot lunch, breakfast programs and lunch programs, and discussion around the S83 nutrition policy (which is currently being revised).



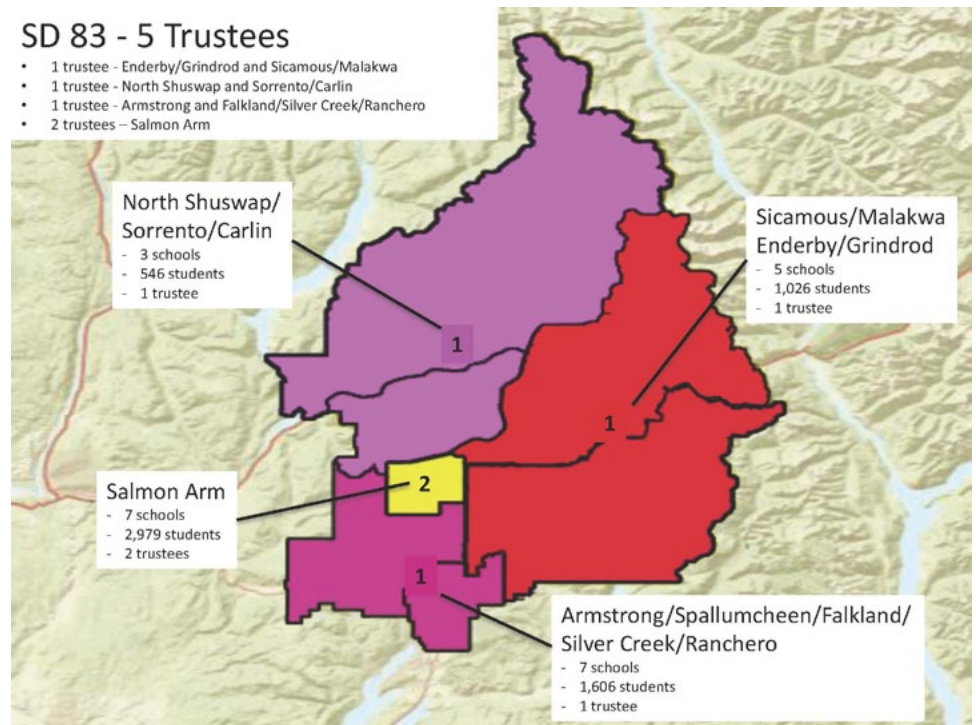
*A complete schedule of kindergarten orientation events is on the SD83 website at [www.sd83.bc.ca](http://www.sd83.bc.ca) under Parents & Students and then click on Early Learners in the drop down menu.*

*Interior Health is also offering immunization fairs on Wednesday, April 25 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. and on Monday, May 14 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.*

*For further information about these fairs, or to book an appointment, please call Public Health at (250) 833-4101.*

## SD 83 - 5 Trustees

- 1 trustee - Enderby/Grindrod and Sicamous/Malakwa
- 1 trustee - North Shuswap and Sorrento/Carlin
- 1 trustee - Armstrong and Falkland/Silver Creek/Ranchero
- 2 trustees - Salmon Arm



# Interested in running for school trustee?

An information session looking at the roles and responsibilities of being a school board trustee has been slated for Monday, May 7 at 6 p.m. at the District Education Support Centre at 341 Shuswap St., Salmon Arm.

The session will be facilitated by senior staff and Official Trustee Mike McKay who will be sharing some basic information about the duties and responsibilities of trustees and providing an update on action taken since the Watson Report.

McKay notes the effective governance work of trustees is an essential part of a school district's success. "Hearing from senior staff and from the Official Trustee regarding the scope of the role may support some potential trustee candidates in making an informed decision to stand for office," he adds.

Earlier this year it was announced by the Minister of Education that School District No. 83 (North Okanagan-Shuswap) will be represented by a five member board.

This breaks down to one trustee for the North Shuswap/Sorrento/Carlin area, one trustee for the Sicamous/Malakwa/Enderby/Grindrod area, one trustee for the Armstrong/Spallumcheen/Falkland/Silver Creek/Ranchero area, and two trustees for the Salmon Arm area.