The Highlighter
April 4, 2023

Education

Principal/Vice-Principal Transfer Process: The transfer process for 2023/24 is being worked through, and announcements regarding assignments will be made the last week of April.

National Day of Mourning: Flags at schools across the District and at the School Board Office will fly at half staff on April 28 in recognition of the National Day of Mourning, which honours those who are injured or killed in workplace accidents and collectively renews our commitment to improve health and safety in schools and workplaces.

Earth Day: April 22, 2023 is Earth Day. The School District continues to work on our journey to environmental sustainability. In recent years the Board declared a climate emergency, established the Climate Change Committee, and has added three electric buses to its fleet. The new Quw'utsun Secondary School is being designed with space for an electric vehicle charge station.

Grant from Vancouver Island Health Authority: The School District has received a $50,000 grant from Vancouver Island Health Authority with the outcome to help build resilience in youth. Hannah Morales, Coordinator of Indigenous Student Success, will work with local Indigenous youth to create student-focused culturally relevant resources and opportunities including creation of 2-4 videos on resilience, self-compassion and well-being which will be shared with Grade 3-5 students across the District. A Youth Leadership Summit will bring together 150 of the District's Indigenous students from Grades 8-12 with workshops rooted in culture and well-being. We will also partner with the Hiiye'yu Lelum Society who assist with facilitation and provide land-based learning spaces including an outdoor learning space along the Cowichan River.

Superintendent's Update:

Acknowledgments/Appreciation:

- Administrative Professionals' Day on April 26 is a day to acknowledge the contribution of the District's administrative support which keeps the learning community operating smoothly.
- Thank you to the staff who worked during spring break including Payroll, Finance, Human Resources, Operations, Technology and the Secretary-Treasurer.

Provincial Assessments: To meet graduation requirements, students must take literacy and numeracy assessments in Grade 10 and literacy assessments in Grade 12. Upcoming dates for completing assessments are April 24-28 and June 19-23, 2023.

COWICHAN VALLEY
School District

Ready, Set, Learn and Ready, Set, Go:

- **Ready, Set, Learn** is an early-learning initiative sponsored by the Ministry of Education and Child Care to foster positive connections with families in a fun, family-oriented atmosphere. These events, which are designed for children ages 2-5 and their caregivers, will be held:
  - April 6 at Chemainus Elementary 12:30-4:00 p.m.
  - April 13 at Palsson Elementary 12:30-4:00 p.m.
  - April 20 at Shawnigan Lake Community Center 12:30-4:00 p.m.
  - April 27 at Khowhemun Elementary 12:30-4:00 p.m.
- **Ready, Set, Go** school-based events are developed by a team of Kindergarten teachers who work collaboratively to design events for incoming Kindergarten students that are developmentally appropriate and help create an atmosphere of welcome to our schools. The planning team has designed ocean-themed activities with a focus on social/emotional well-being.

Catalyst Update: The District Chess Tournament on March 8 at George Bonner Elementary was a great success. The kids loved it and the energy was infectious. The 18th biannual Young Authors' Conference will be held at Vancouver Island University on May 3. Students are crafting their writing samples for submission and many local authors have been secured to host writing workshops.

Invisible Disabilities Showcase: Crofton Elementary students in Grades 4 and 5 summarized their learning about invisible disabilities at a showcase held on March 8, and welcomed their school community, families and friends to join them in learning more. Invisible disabilities are hidden disabilities, which is an umbrella term that captures a whole spectrum of hidden disabilities or challenges, primarily neurological.

Palsson Elementary - Voices of Nature School Concert: The March 9th Voices of Nature whole-school concert was organized by Holly Arntzen and Kevin Wright of the Wilds Band, and featured all the school's students, from Kindergarten through Grade 3, singing songs about protecting the environment.

Visit from Yellowknife Education District # 1: A five-member team of educators and Principals from Indigenous independent schools were in the District on April 3 and 4. They engaged with the Senior Leadership Team, and visited Khowhemun Elementary, Mill Bay Nature School, Cowichan Secondary and George Bonner Elementary. Thanks to the schools who hosted them!

Non-Instruction Day: The April 17, 2023 Non-Instructional Day will include morning sessions on our literary framework and the identity, belonging and mental health framework. CUPE members will have the opportunity to attend a morning session on adaptive technology in the classrooms. During the afternoon staff will be at their school sites working on their school's Framework for Enhancing Student Learning (FESL).

10,000 Gifts: The community premiere of the Telus Storyhive documentary exploring Truth and Reconciliation at Q'shintul/Mill Bay Nature School will be held on Sunday, April 16 at 1:00 p.m. at the Cowichan Valley Performing Arts Centre. Viewing is by donation.

Reporting and Assessment Ed Camp: Cowichan Valley School District and Vancouver Island University (VIU) will co-host this camp on May 1 at VIU's Cowichan Campus. This multi-district full-day event for lead educators, district staff, Ministry guests, and faculty from VIU and UBC will focus on the new reporting order and assessments.

Mental Health Week: May 1-7, 2023 is the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) Mental Health Week.

Secretary-Treasurer

2023-2024 Capital Announcement: The capital announcement for the 2023-24 school year was reviewed. Projects are to be completed by March 31, 2024. The demolition of the old Stanley Gordon School in Lake Cowichan, which has been empty for close to twenty years, was the only major capital project awarded. Minor capital projects awarded include HVAC upgrades for Lake Cowichan Secondary and Bench Elementary, and an accessible playground for Lake Cowichan School.

Schedule of Upcoming Meetings and Events

MEETING	DATE/TIME	LOCATION
Early Learning and Child Care Committee	April 6, 1:00 p.m.	Yuxwule' Eagle Room
Board Planning	April 11, 4:00 p.m.	Yuxwule' Eagle Room
DSAC Meeting (Trustee Sousa)	April 13, 10:00 a.m.	CVOLC
Special BEBC Meeting	April 13, 4:00 p.m.	Yuxwule' Eagle Room
Climate Change Committee	April 14, 12:00 p.m.	Yuxwule' Eagle Room
Advisory Committee	April 18, 4:30 p.m.	Inspire Room
Special BEBC Meeting	April 20, 4:00 p.m.	Yuxwule' Eagle Room
DPAC Meeting (Trustee Schmidt)	April 20, 7:00 p.m.	Yuxwule' Eagle Room/Zoom
BCPSEA Regional Meeting	April 24, 10:00 a.m.	Coast Bastion Inn, Nanaimo
BEBC Meeting	April 25, 4:00 p.m.	Yuxwule' Eagle Room
BCSTA Annual General Meeting	April 27 – 30	Westin Bayshore, Vancouver
Closed/Open Board Meetings	May 2, 3:30/4:30 p.m.	Yuxwule' Eagle Room
Board Planning	May 9, 4:00 p.m.	Yuxwule' Eagle Room
DSAC (Trustee Croft)	May 11, 10:00 a.m.	Chemainus Secondary School
Advisory Committee	May 16, 4:30 p.m.	Inspire Room
DPAC Meeting (Trustee Strachan)	May 18, 7:00 p.m.	Yuxwule' Eagle Room/Zoom
BEBC Meeting	May 23, 4:00 p.m.	Yuxwule' Eagle Room

Graduation and Year-End Events

MEETING	DATE/TIME	LOCATION
Cowichan Secondary Scholarship/ Bursaries	June 6, 6:00 p.m.	Cowichan Secondary
Frances Kelsey Awards Ceremony	June 7, 10:00 a.m.	Frances Kelsey Secondary
Frances Kelsey Scholarship/Bursaries	June 7, 7:00 p.m.	Frances Kelsey Secondary
Indigenous Grad Ceremony	June 8, 4:00 p.m.	Tl'upalus (Cowichan Bay Canoe Shed and Beach)
School District Retirement Reception	June 12, 5:00 p.m.	Arbutus Ridge
International Program Year-End Celebration	June 16 (during the day)	Camp Imadene
Open Learning Graduation	June 22, 3:00 p.m.: Satellite sites; 5:30 p.m.: CVOLC grads	CVOLC Gym
Frances Kelsey Graduation Ceremony	June 23, 6:30 p.m.	Frances Kelsey Gym
Chemainus Secondary Graduation, Scholarship/Bursaries	June 23, 7:00 p.m.	Chemainus Secondary Gym
Lake Cowichan School Graduation	June 24, 12:30 p.m. (doors open 11:30)	Lake Cowichan School Gym
Cowichan Secondary Graduation	June 29, 6:00 p.m.	Cowichan Secondary

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