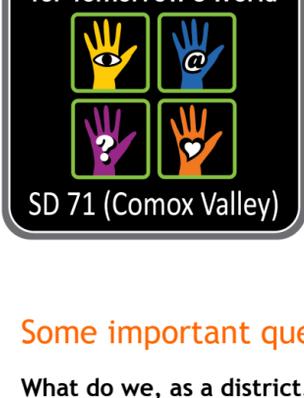


# INNOVATIVE INKLINGS

Comox Valley School District Newsletter for Innovation

January 15, 2016



## Teamwork

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## Some important questions to ponder

What do we, as a district, stand for?

Where do I fit into this?

What am I doing about where I fit in?



## Growth Mindset

Demos, Britain's leading cross-party think-tank, has produced a significant report that explores the concepts, behind, evidence supporting and application of [growth mindset](#).

How to help every child fulfill their potential—an RSA Animate of [Carol Dweck's work](#) on mindset.

The way a team plays as a whole determines its success. You may have the greatest bunch of individual stars in the world, but if they don't play together, the club won't be worth a dime.

Babe Ruth

## Around the District

Innovative events and efforts from around our district

### Student Roundtable

Trustee [Peter Coleman](#) has initiated a process to elicit feedback from students in our district. The Student Roundtable is constituted with diverse students from each of our five Secondary Schools. Before each meeting they receive a series of questions and are asked to discuss these questions with people at their school. Then, the group comes together with Trustee Coleman to discuss the responses they heard and their own views on the questions.

At the first Roundtable, held at Isfeld in November, students were asked to describe their school, to explore why people might transfer schools, to give suggestions about how schools can help students plan for a good life after school, and to provide feedback about what they would like to see and not see in the new Graduation Program.

At the second Roundtable, held last week at Highland, students were asked to give three words to describe an ideal school, to identify the strengths of their school, to identify ways in which their school reflects their community, to indicate if two adults in their school believe they will be successful in life, to examine their fears and hopes for post secondary school life, and to explore what changes have happened at their school since it started.

The conversations have been far reaching and broad in their scope. The students quickly overcame their discomfort and became eager to share their views. Several themes have emerged including the need for schools to be inclusive and welcoming places for all students and dissatisfaction with their preparation for life after high school. Another concern repeated is in the area of supporting mental health. However, the most gratifying and prevalent theme has been the connection our students feel towards their teachers and their schools. The value of positive relationships with their teachers has come up repeatedly and appreciatively.

The next meeting is scheduled to be in March at Glacier View Learning Centre.

### Footloose

Last week four of our secondary schools produced the musical [Footloose](#) to five sold out shows and standing ovations. Audiences were thrilled to be thoroughly entertained and to revisit the 80's. At one point in the show, 61 students were on the stage performing a challenging score. For some, it was their first time on stage; for others, it was another opportunity to be part of an intricate team. Each child in the cast had a unique story and many of them were particularly touching when hearing from their elementary teachers.

In order to do this takes an incredible support team and I hesitate to mention any fear of offending those I don't. Teachers from our schools were involved in all aspects of the production as were parents and community members. The hours of work, the incredible skills, and the passion to support the actors, helped produce a truly memorable event in our district. The work done behind the scenes allows our students to shine on the stage, much like the work we do with our students daily has a cumulative effect for their future successes. Another part of this production that was particularly special was the involvement of alumni in different parts of production.

One of the theme songs, [Somebody's Eyes](#), reminds us that we are always being watched and in this case I hope this courageous undertaking was watched for ways to replicate it. Thank you very much to all of you involved in helping our kids shine in so many different ways.

### Board of Education Strategic Plan

Our Board of Education - Trustees [Cliff Boldt](#), [Vickey Brown](#), [Janice Caton](#), [Peter Coleman](#), [Ian Hargreaves](#), [Sheila McDonnell](#), and [Tom Weber](#) (Board Chair) - worked very hard with Senior Management to develop their [strategic plan](#) for our district.

They began with our Vision Statement: "A learning community that embraces diversity, honours relationship and prepares all learners for a changing world"; and their Mission Statement: "To work with our educational partners to develop responsible, compassionate citizens and successful, lifelong learners."

In the plan there is a statement of values and beliefs (p.7) and the Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement (pp. 14-15). The plan is broken into three areas of strategic priority: Education Evolution (to strive for educational excellence for all), Community Engagement (cultivate community engagement in public education), and Organizational Sustainability (to ensure that our financial, human, physical resources support student success). A key part of this document is outlining how we can all work together to achieve student success.

For a full copy of this document, with all of their goals and actions go to our [district web-site](#) and click on 'District Info' or [click here](#).



*"We like to bring together people from radically different fields and wait for the friction to produce heat, light and magic. Sometimes it takes a while."*

Thank you for taking the time to read this and please direct any suggestions, questions, or inquiries to me directly: [Gerald.Fussell@sd71.bc.ca](mailto:Gerald.Fussell@sd71.bc.ca)