

Canadian Rockies Public Schools

**Highlights From
 November 24, 2021**

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School Council Meeting Dates

- Alpenglow—Jan 4
- LGMS—Jan 13
- BCHS—Jan 17
- CCHS—Jan 18
- ERS—Jan 19
- BES—Jan 19
- Exshaw—TBD

Next Public School Board Meeting

**January 26, 2022
 7:00 p.m.**

The meeting will be available to the public via Google meet to ensure that we are in no way contributing to the spread of COVID-19 in the communities we serve.

The November 24th CRPS Public School Board meeting was closed for in-person public attendance to help prevent the community spread of the COVID-19 virus. The meeting was available to the public through a Google Meet link. The meeting was recorded and the recording is posted on the division website.

Kindergarten Registration 2021-2022

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, Kindergarten Open Houses for the 2022-2023 school year are not able to take place. Nevertheless, we are excited to welcome kindergarten students to Canadian Rockies Public Schools to begin their exciting learning experience.

Kindergarten is a time for children to expand their love of learning, their general knowledge, their ability to get along with others and their interest in reaching out to the world. Our educational programs provide a caring, nurturing learning environment.

Kindergarten online registration for the 2022-2023 school year is now open. Visit the CRPS website at www.crps.ca for more information and to register your child at Elizabeth Rummel School, Banff Elementary School, Exshaw School or Alpenglow School.

Kindergarten is a significant milestone in a child's life. Our priority is to ensure that all children have a positive experience as they learn and grow in safe, inclusive and caring classrooms.

Canadian Rockies Outdoor Learning Centre

The Canadian Rockies Outdoor Learning Centre (CROLC) has experienced its seventh full year of successful programming. Three full-time coordinators/teachers continue to facilitate all programming, course delivery, facility management, and work with our community partners.

The Outdoor Learning Centre facilitated Distance Education courses in 2020/2021. Blended courses (a combination of online learning and face-to-face instruction) as well as online courses were created and taught throughout the school year. These courses were available to all Alberta students.

Despite the immense challenges that the pandemic

posed, 2021 summer programming was very successful, including a new partnership with Tim Hortons Children's Ranch in 2021.

CROLC has seen an increase in support of international student programs and events at the Centre and in surrounding wilderness areas.

For the past six years, CRSD has offered the Wilderness Inspiring Leadership Development (WILD) program to students at Canmore Collegiate High School and Banff Community High School. The WILD program is a combination of outdoor learning and leadership courses. It is a highly valuable learning opportunity and the demand for the course has continued to be high from both international students and Bow Valley students in Grades 10-12.

The Grade 10 Wim and Nancy Pauw Wilderness Experience Program was new for all CRPS Grade 10 students. This 5-credit program opportunity was made available to all Grade 10 students at CCHS and BCBS with generous funding from the Wim and Nancy Pauw Foundation. Six experiential learning opportunities, including AST1 certification, have been woven into the schedule throughout the school year.

CROLC was very excited to continue outdoor experiential elementary programming at Elizabeth Rummel School, Exshaw School, and Banff Elementary School, as well as working with classes from Lawrence Grassi Middle School and Alpenglow School. CROLC also supports many of the outdoor education initiatives at all Canadian Rockies Public Schools.

The staff at CROLC is excited to continue to provide quality outdoor learning opportunities to support the Board's mission of Inspiring the Hearts and Minds of Every Student.



Arlene Rheaume
 Chair



Brian Callaghan
 Vice-Chair



Carol Picard



Luke Sunderland



Dale Craig

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International Student Program—Update

When COVID-19 hit in the spring of 2020, approximately half of the international students returned home. The other half stayed until the end of the semester. In the spring and summer of 2020, much work went into creating a COVID-19 readiness plan, in order for CRSD to receive approval for international students to arrive in our division and our province during the pandemic. This plan was initially worked on with CAPS-I (Canadian Association of Public Schools - International), then submitted to our provincial government and then ultimately, to the federal government. This placed our division, and also all other international High School Programs in Alberta, on the "Approved" Designated Learning Institutions list. The plan allowed us to eventually be able to start receiving international students when the Canadian borders opened up for students with study permits and proper documentation.

The first handful of students were able to arrive in late October/early November, 2020 and another batch of students arrived for the second semester, making the total international student count 25 - about 50% of the typical headcount. These brave adventurers arrived to us from Japan, Finland, Spain, The Czech Republic, Germany, Switzerland, Chile and Italy and had to go through rigorous testing. Some students also had to do a full 14-day quarantine before they were able to start integrating into our schools and communities.

Within this group, there were 2 participants (from Germany and Switzerland) who participated in the Ski Academy. [Click here](#) to see a glimpse of the exciting Ski Academy program featuring these two students. We also had one competitive cross-country skier and biathlete from Finland. Watch her amazing testimonial video [here](#).

Despite the uncertainty and challenges surrounding COVID-19, these students had a fantastic experience!

With the opening up of international travel, CRPS has

now welcomed a new group of international students for the 2021-2022 school year. There were challenges to overcome with a year of marketing and recruiting only virtually. Some international agencies were not able to survive the pandemic, which caused CRPS to create new connections as well as re-establish existing partnerships. Nevertheless CRPS was able to build the most diverse program to date, with students representing 11 nationalities (Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Spain, Switzerland, and Ukraine.)

With the help of our wonderful host families, the CRPS International Student Program continues to grow and be an important part of our school division, both culturally and fiscally.

Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA)

Alberta School Councils' Association is offering a Division Service Package that is structured to provide support to school councils. This Package provides any three (3) workshops/presentations at a one-time cost of \$1000 (regular \$1500 - \$3000). If needed, modifications can be made to adapt any ASCA workshop to meet specific needs of a school community, or division.

At the November 24th Public School Board Meeting, the Board of Trustees approved purchasing a Division Service Package from ASCA in the amount of \$1000 to provide support to school councils in the form of workshops/presentations to help school councils understand their legislated role, and enhance parent engagement in the school community.

In addition, the Alberta government has introduced an Alberta School Council Engagement Grant of \$500 that each school council will receive to better support individual councils and strengthen engagement with parents.



Arlene Rheume
 Chair



Brian Callaghan
 Vice-Chair



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