



# THE BRIEF

Canadian Rockies Public Schools' Board Meeting Digest  
March 15, 2023

## Wim and Nancy Pauw Foundation Nominated to Receive Provincial Awards

In recognition of ten years of financial support by the Wim and Nancy Pauw (WNP) Foundation, CRPS' Board of Trustees nominated the foundation to receive the Alberta School Boards Association's Friend of Education Award and the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta's Special Contribution to Public Education Award. The WNP Foundation's generous support of almost \$3 million dollars over the past decade has allowed CRPS to dream big and use the monies to support a multitude of mental health initiatives, school sports, and outdoor learning programs - ultimately impacting every student in the division. Although recipients of both awards will not be announced until the fall 2023, in the eyes of the division, CRPS' partnership with the WNP Foundation will forever illustrate how public education has been deemed a priority in the Bow Valley. ■

## CCHS & BCHS Open Houses

CRPS' new STEAM/STEM and WILD/WIM We courses will be showcased at Canmore Collegiate High School's

(CCHS) Open House March 21 and Banff Community High School's (BCHS) Open House March 22. Serving to inform families with Grade 8 students about their transition to high school, the open houses will provide all attendees with the opportunity to see Environmental Sustainability, Synthetic Biology, Cosmetology, Fashion Studies, Culinary Arts and other experiential programs in action. Guests will also learn more about high school programming and graduation pathways. Both high schools will use the evening to assist students begin their 2023/24 course selection. The open houses will run from 6 to 7 p.m., with course selection meeting times set for:

### CCHS - March 21

5:30 - 6:00 p.m. - Gr. 10 (Gym) and Gr. 11 (Cafeteria)

7:00 - 7:30 p.m. - Gr. 9 (Gym) and Gr. 12 (Cafeteria)

### BCHS - March 22

5:30 - 6:00 p.m. - Gr. 10 (Gym) and Gr. 12 (Room 115)

7:00 - 7:30 p.m. - Gr. 9 (Gym) and Gr. 11 (Room 115)

As a community event, parents are encouraged to bring along other family members or friends interested

*CRPS' Board of Trustees (left to right): Dale Craig, Brian Callaghan, Carol Picard, Arlene Rheume, Luke Sunderland*

in celebrating student learning! Across all subject areas, teachers are expanding learning beyond the classroom with real-world applications, helping students to understand why their learning matters and how it can make a difference. ■

## Learning Resources to Fuel Literacy Skills

The literacy skills of CRPS' early learners are expected to climb with the addition of "decodable books" to each school's learning commons. Based on [research](#) by the University of Alberta, decodable books, combined with phonological awareness (the ability to perceive and manipulate speech sounds) and phonics (the ability to map letters to sounds), have proven to improve the reading levels of elementary students. Encouraging  
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students to sound out words using decoding strategies rather than guessing from pictures or predicting from other cues, English and French decodable books were identified

by reading specialists and learning support teachers for Grades K - 8 students at Banff Elementary, Alpenglow, Exshaw, Lawrence Grassi, and Elizabeth Rummel. The collection

covers a range of diverse subjects and characters - including Indigenous Peoples - in both fiction and non-fiction books. ■

## CRPS Tidbits

### Important Calendar Dates

**April School Board Meeting** - The Board of Trustees' next regular meeting is set for April 19, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Board Office in Canmore.

### School Council Meeting Dates -

School Council meeting dates for the month of April are:

Alpenglow - April 4

Banff Elementary - April 19

Banff Community - April 17

Canmore Collegiate - April 18

Elizabeth Rummel School - April 18

Lawrence Grassi Middle School - No Meeting in April

### Getting Ready for Kindergarten

In partnership with the Family Connection Centres in Banff and Canmore, CRPS will help host "Getting Ready For Kindergarten" in April and May. The program

supports a child's smooth transition to kindergarten and helps mitigate any anxiety families feel about starting school! The four-week program will be offered in

- ◆ Banff - April 25 and May 2, 9, and 16, from 5:15 to 6:45 p.m., at Banff Elementary
- ◆ Canmore - April 27 and May 4, 11, and 18 from 5:15 to 6:45 p.m., at Elizabeth Rummel School

### Creating School Council Plans

Over the month of March, Canmore Collegiate High School's (CCHS) School Council will work alongside the Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) to build a School Council Plan. Through the ASCA's three-part workshop series, "Creating School Council Plans," parents, trustees, and CCHS staff are exploring how the council can engage parents, assist the school in implementing its education plan, and partake in school

council progressive learning. By the end of the series, the school council will have developed a year plan, specifying actions, resources, outcomes, and evaluation methods. As a member of the ASCA, all CRPS school councils can engage in the [ASCA's workshops](#) for a small fee!

### Good Day in Stoney Nakoda

How can we make Indigenous students feel more welcomed in our communities? Greet them with "Aba wathtech," which means "good day" in their Stoney Nakoda language. Made possible by the Stoney Nakoda First Nation, the Stoney Education Authority, and the contributions of numerous language consultants, advisors, linguists, and technical staff from the Stoney Nakoda community, "[The Stoney Dictionary](#)" was created to help preserve the beautiful language. Bookmark the site!

### ERS' Learning Journey

Over 40 families attending Elizabeth Rummel School (ERS) March 1 Kindergarten Open House were welcomed with a visual representation of students' learning journey through four bulletin boards showcasing what students are learning at each grade level. Featuring student artifacts, pictures of each grade's teachers, and specific learning outcomes, the bulletin boards helped set the tone for the learning ahead and depicted the welcoming, fun, and engaging lessons that await CRPS' newest students. Be sure to seek out the boards at this week's parent/teacher interviews! The Kindergarten bulletin board, right.



### "Inspiring Hearts and Minds" - CRPS' Board of Trustees

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