



Canadian Rockies School Division

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Wim and Nancy Pauw Foundation Investments Surpass \$1 Million Milestone for the 2022/23 School Year

Canadian Rockies Public Schools (CRPS) is celebrating an unprecedented \$1,000,000 total investment from the Wim and Nancy Pauw Foundation for the 2022/23 school year, a gift that will have a major impact on the division's ability to fund student support services, mental health initiatives, and innovative educational programming.

The most recent investment of \$266,000—in addition to the Pauw Foundation's previous donation of \$734,000—will be put toward renovating Canmore Collegiate High School's (CCHS) theatre and adding a new culinary arts kitchen at Banff Community High School (BCHS).

"Words cannot express the gratitude Canadian Rockies Public Schools extends to the Wim and Nancy Pauw Foundation for their incredibly generous investment in learning opportunities and supports for our students. Every day, I am reminded of how fortunate our communities are to have a philanthropic organization that supports public education," said CRPS' Superintendent of Schools Christopher MacPhee. "This additional funding targeted at our theatre renovation and new culinary arts kitchen leaves me speechless. Our staff and students have a million reasons to be thankful today."

2023 marks the 10th year the Pauw Foundation has enhanced student programming and supports in CRPS. Initially funding was directed at student programming for Banff students in outdoor pursuits, school athletics and Nature Explorers. In recent years, funding has expanded and benefited all K to 12 CRPS students, driven by four goals related to athletics, outdoor pursuits, outdoor and experiential education, and student wellness and wrap-around supports.

"After working closely for over 10 years with CRPS, we are thrilled to reach the \$1 million milestone in annual donations. Investing in education is vital for the development and growth of students, their families, and the community as a whole," said Cathy Geisler, executive director of the Wim and Nancy Pauw Foundation. "Along with supporting initiatives that encourage physical activity and outdoor learning, our funding helps CRPS offer programs focused on mental wellness that help create healthier and more engaged youth in the Bow Valley. We look forward to partnering with CRPS for many years."

Pauw's significant financial support continues to enable CRPS to offer programming that ensures each student thrives physically, cognitively, emotionally, socially, and spiritually.

Of the generous million-dollar total investment in 2022/23, \$255,000 has been put towards student wellness and wrap-around supports, enabling the division to hire a new speech and language pathologist and occupational therapist and carry forward the services of a divisional psychologist, a school and family wellness worker, and school counsellors.

Contributing to the health and well-being of all students, \$70,000 of Pauw's donation was put towards outdoor pursuits, allowing each Kindergarten to Gr. 8 class to enjoy four lessons in either swimming, curling, golfing, tennis, hiking, skating, snowshoeing, canoeing, or cross-country/downhill skiing. Another \$415,000 was used to offset participation and transportation fees or engage students in unique outdoor programming like the Outdoor Learning Centre's WimWe (Wim & Nancy Pauw Wilderness Experience) program and Nature Explorers.

“As an integral partner in our system, the Pauw Foundation must be commended for supporting and fueling CRPS' comprehensive approach to learning,” added MacPhee. “It warms my heart to say, “Thanks a million!”

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