



THE BRIEF

Canadian Rockies Public Schools' Board Meeting Digest
January 24, 2024

New Four Year Plan to Drive CRPS' Budget Process

Canadian Rockies Public Schools (CRPS) Board of Trustees approved Year 4 of the division's 2021 - 2025 Four-Year Education Plan on Jan. 24, 2024. This plan was sculpted by performance insights from the division's 2022/23 Annual Education Results Report and extensive internal consultations since September 2023. CRPS' Education Leadership Team (ELT) was instrumental, first by identifying 15 priority actions last November to enhance divisional performance in health and wellness, engaged learning, and student supports. Subsequently, in a December workshop, the ELT refined the plan's strategies, opting for consolidation and elimination of actions now intrinsic to the division's operations or mandated by educational standards like the Teaching Effectiveness Framework and Teaching Quality Standard. The approved plan will drive CRPS' 2024 budget process, which will commence following the release of the province's funding framework manual this winter. Watch for the plan to be posted to CRPS' website under "About Us / Plans & Reports." ■

CRPS Enables Culinary Chef to Earn Teaching Degree

CRPS recently received approval for their application to the Career and Technology Studies (CTS) Bridge-to-Teacher Certification Program. This innovative program, a collaborative effort by the government, the Alberta Teachers' Association, and post-secondary institutions, enables journey-certificated tradespeople to transition into teaching roles, particularly in CTS. It aims to enhance CTS opportunities for students by bringing industry expertise into classrooms.

CRPS' entry into this program is marked by the involvement of a dedicated candidate, currently employed as a cafeteria chef in Edmonton. Driven by her passion for Culinary Arts education, she is set to embark on a journey to complete her Bachelor of Education at the University of Alberta while teaching at a CRPS high school. This opportunity not only aligns with her aspirations but also enriches CRPS' curriculum with practical industry experience. Upon completing her year with CRPS, she will be fully certified to teach the Culinary Arts curriculum, marking

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

a significant contribution to the educational landscape. ■

CCHS Students Headed for Marine Experience in April

Canmore Collegiate High School (CCHS) students are on the brink of an exciting educational adventure. Approved in principle, a group of students are headed to Bamfield Marine Science Centre, Apr. 22 to 28, 2024, to engage in hands-on marine science experiences, inspiring young minds since 1975. Located in the picturesque Bamfield, British Columbia, the Centre offers a unique blend of activities on the water, in labs, and along the beautiful coastline. Experienced CCHS teacher supervisors, familiar with both the Centre and outdoor experiential education, will lead the trip, ensuring a rich and safe learning experience. ■

(continued page 2)



Preparations for the trip include detailed parent meetings and in-school sessions, gearing students up for an inspiring week at one of Canada's premier research stations. ■

Leaders & Learners Edition Not to be Missed!

Featured in the national "Leaders and

Learners" magazine by the Canadian Association of School System Administrators, CRPS' four Knowledge Keepers are credited for being at the forefront of a cultural revival in the division. The article, starting on page 21, is co-authored by Superintendent Christopher MacPhee, Deputy Superintendent Debbie McKibbin,

and Indigenous Services Coordinator Nadine Dack-Doi. It highlights the journey from a small initiative at Exshaw School to a robust partnership with Knowledge Keepers Virgile Stephens, Ollie Benjamin, Tracey Stevens, and Philomene Stevens. Read the article [here](#). ■

CRPS Tidbits

Important Calendar Date

The Board of Trustees' next regular meeting is set for Feb. 21, 2024, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Central Board Office in Canmore.

Kindergarten Open Houses

Join CRPS schools for a season of discovery at their Kindergarten Open Houses! From Alpenglow's nature-integrated learning on Feb. 28 to the play-based educational foundation at Banff Elementary on Feb. 29, each school offers a unique, enriching start to your child's educational journey.

Dive into dual-track programs at Elizabeth Rummel School on Feb. 13, and explore Exshaw School's vibrant classrooms on March 7. Meet our passionate educators, experience our dynamic classrooms, and see how CRPS nurtures the head, hands, and heart of every young learner. Don't miss these windows into a world of growth, connection, and lifelong learning joy. Learn more at [crps.ca](https://www.crps.ca)

Student Voice to be Elevated

Seven "Student Diaries Workshop" will be held from Jan. 29 to Feb.

2, 2024, to gather insights into CRPS' student experience. The workshops are designed to capture a snapshot of daily student life at each school in the division. Through an engaging agenda, students will reflect on and record their school days, discussing their best and toughest moments and their favorite subjects. This initiative is a key part of CRPS' commitment to understanding and enhancing students' educational journeys, ensuring their voices are at the heart of the upcoming 2025-2029 Four Year Education Plan.

Winter Safety Day

After a three-year hiatus, "Winter Safety Day" made a welcome return on January 20, thanks to a collaborative effort by Alberta Parks and the Friends of Kananaskis. CRPS' Outdoor Learning Centre Coordinator, Peter Prescesky, along with his team, played a key role in this event, conducting an engaging session on essential winter skills. They educated attendees on starting fires in winter conditions, choosing appropriate clothing, and the fun art of making s'mores. The team also highlighted the ten essential pieces of equipment for backcountry adventures. Throughout the day, they

interacted with hundreds of visitors, sharing insights about CRPS' unique courses like Winter Travel, Water Experience, and Summer CALM, underscoring the importance of outdoor education and safety.

Grade 9 Students Explore Potential Careers

CRPS Gr. 9 students are fully engaged in CRPS' Career Exploration Program. Running during the week of Jan. 22, this innovative initiative bridges classroom learning with real-world experiences, offering students a unique glimpse into various professions across the Bow Valley. Throughout the week, students are immersed in diverse work environments, ranging from job shadowing to mentorship projects, through partnerships with local businesses, governments, and non-profits, offering students a unique glimpse into various professions. Carefully supervised by CRPS teachers and employer representatives, students gain invaluable insights into the working world, helping them make informed decisions about their post-secondary journeys. It's an opportunity to explore, discover, and connect their learning to potential career paths, fostering a deeper understanding of the relevance and importance of their learning and educational journey.

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

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