

JVH PAC AGM report, June 2021

Victoria McAllister, principal.

Some highlights from the 2020-2021 school year:

- We started the year with 191 FTE students, and ended the year with 199. (September, at this point, we have 209 enrolled - good news for us!)
- Covid protocols shaped our year. We had 3 learning groups, no outside volunteers or parents or in person community connections over the year
- We had two incidents of Covid exposures in our school, both resolved very quickly, due, I believe, to our incredibly conscientious families, custodians, bus drivers, teachers and support staff.
- Though we had to remain in Covid restrictions all year, we still did many full school activities, such as:
 - K-12 Green Team -
 - including an amazing Earth Day celebration with K-12 participation and our Drama programme presenting a series of informational skits
 - full composting all year
 - movie nights and info afternoons
 - fundraisers etc.
 - Student Parliament and Leadership class:
 - theme months, such as Mental Health, Anti-racism, Environmental Stewardship etc. Monthly presentations at our secondary assemblies on topics such as Poverty, Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation, Residential School legacy etc
 - Breakfast Club - run by students! They made healthy, from scratch breakfasts three mornings per week and funded it with the money they would have used to go to Costa Rica
 - K-12 STEAM Fair! <https://vimeo.com/561905654> Please have a look please have a look at the video we made of the day!
 - Leadership overnights
 - Outdoor Ed- continued with Rock Climbing, Avalanche Safety courses, Back country and Whitewater skiing and a 5 day canoe trip!
 - Field trips to explore our local recreation, heritage sites.
 - SQ Dance was a multi-disciplinary 5 week dance class focusing on Equity, Anti-racism and Inclusion for our students in grades K-8
 - Lots of gardening and tree planting
 - Chicks hatched, lots of school pets

- Increase in Special Needs children over the year and another big increase next year. It shows our reputation for deeply including all children in the most meaningful and enriching ways, for all kids, is spreading.
- 16% of our students have Indigenous Ancestry.
- We had a Tipi up for the first time and lots of learning happened there
- Our GSA (Gay Straight Alliance) painted the Progress Pride Flag on our front steps and held a Pride celebration, with youth speeches and treats made by our Foods class.
- And our Foods class! They made a special menu for over 16 events this year, plus delicious lunches every Friday that students could buy. That money went into funding our foods program.
- The Health Hub ran all year, with three dedicated physicians taking turns to staff it. The clinic was always full, and they were able to serve whole families, in addition to secondary students.
- Our counselling centre saw approximately 38% of our students over the year. We had individual and group supports available every day
- Many of our staff took Trauma Informed Schools training and Mental Health First Aid courses
- 17 of our students took in Activate Courses - self-directed, with community mentors, to dive into passion projects. They were amazing and our school benefited enormously. As one example, when we open up again, I hope parents can see the new photography exhibit hung in our secondary wing.
- We spent \$17 087 feeding kids this year. That's about \$100 per day.
 - We have almost 12% of our kids that we provide breakfast and lunch to every day. In addition, we provide lunches on some days for between 6-18 students, as well as having snacks always available for any child who has eaten their packed lunches. And Breakfast Club ran three mornings per week. We know it was higher than usual, as we had a closed campus for most students. This meant students could not go to town to buy lunch or extra food when needed, but we also saw a higher than expected number of students with inadequate or no lunches, who arrived hungry.
- Spending:
 - in addition to the money we spent on Food, we spent our district allocation for transportation, supplies and services. This is always expected as we want to spend this year's money on this year's kids.
 - We were able to purchase 12 iPads for our elementary class's learning stations.
 - We are working with the district on getting our Learning Commons up and running with a full computer lab. This may take 2 years due to funding limitations.

- We received just under \$20 000 in grants from PAC, RDCK and CBT for such things as a class set of primary sized snowshoes, huge boost in new library books, arts, new Kokanee tank, Outdoor Ed, Winter activities, STEAM fair, composters, etc.
- Looking forward to next year:
 - Outdoor Classroom! We are partnering with KORTS and the Village of Kaslo to build an outdoor classroom by the bike pump track. This will take a bit, we know, but we have all kinds of staff, students and community already involved and ready to help.
 - Learning Commons - this will be linking our newly updated library, our amazing shop, and updated digital space to focus on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) and design challenges.
 - Most of our staff will be returning, though we say goodbye to Deb Ellard as a brilliant and dedicated classroom teacher. She will return to be a TTOC next year and continue to support early literacy and numeracy - her passions!
 - We hope to have community volunteers work with a few students to run our breakfast club next year. We will not have staffing to cover this deeply appreciated service. This would involve probably 6 dedicated volunteers to come and guide students in buying, preparing and cleaning up healthy breakfasts

Our community was amazing! We had so much help from so many individuals and organizations - some examples are Community Garden connections, Outdoor Ed equipment loans, Leadership mentors, Youth Centre, Heather and Claire with the bottles, Village, KORTS, local businesses, PAC, all contributing in a myriad of ways.

Let me know if you have any questions or there are areas you'd like to know more about.

Thank you PAC!

Victoria