



# Early Learning Ed-ventures

StrongStart | Kindergarten | Community Collaborative

## What's up?

In addition to the wonderful things happening in individual classrooms, there are district initiatives, both in partnership with the Ministry of Education and community agencies, that are helping us think reflectively about our work with young children and their families.

## CR4YC

This is our third year participating in Changing Results for Young Children. CR4YC is an inquiry research project being conducted for the Ministry of Education. The focus is on the Social and Emotional Wellbeing of young children. By bringing Kindergarten, StrongStart and community childcare ECEs together to share their skills and insights with each other, they wonder together about how learning environments can shape and grow social and emotional wellbeing in children.



## Our first newsletter...

This is our first newsletter to keep SD71 staff, families and community partners in the loop about what is happening with Early Learning in our district. This is a very exciting time to be working in the field of Early Learning and interesting initiatives are underway in our schools.

Every September is full of many preparations and excitement as we welcome our newest learners. However, this year had a whole new layer of preparations and anticipation added to it!

This fall has seen the flexibility, resilience and creativity of our educators highlighted as they have adjusted their learning spaces and their instructional time in order to accommodate the protocols that COVID 19 has made necessary in our classrooms. They are amazing professionals and dedicated to making their work with children joyful, meaningful and safe. We appreciate that





## SEY<sub>2</sub>KT

The Strengthening Early Years to Kindergarten Transitions project is all about making the transition to Kindergarten as smooth and successful as possible for children and parents. This is an initiative from the Ministry of Education that brings together community partners, childcare providers and school staff to contribute their collective wisdom in making connections with families both before and during the transition to Kindergarten. This project is currently underway at Courtenay Elementary and Cumberland Community School.

## Connections Project

As part of the Comox Valley Early Years Collaborative, the school district is participating in this project, generously funded by the Comox Valley Foundation and Healthy Communities Grant. The goal is to ensure that parents are connected and supported in the Comox Valley and that children are provided opportunities to thrive. ([cveyc.ca/initiatives](http://cveyc.ca/initiatives))

**For more information** about any of these projects please contact:  
**Jacquie Anderson**  
**Early Years Lead Teacher**

parents have been patient with the extensive protocols, and we understand that it has been difficult to not be able to get into the schools. Thank you for your continued support and respect for the parameters we are working within.

### *“Welcome to Kindergarten” bags: the gift keeps on giving!*

In the Spring, new Kindergarten students receive a bag of goodies at the school’s Welcome to Kindergarten event. This bag is intended to support families in **“Singing, Talking, Reading and Playing”** everyday. When the child arrives in kindergarten many of the items in their bag will also be available in the classroom making some activities familiar to them. But the WTK bag is not just for spring and summer! Click [here](https://www.thelearningpartnership.ca/programs/welcome-to-kindergarten) to see the many ways the materials can continue to be used at home to connect with school experiences.

<https://www.thelearningpartnership.ca/programs/welcome-to-kindergarten>

### *StrongStart Update*



You might have seen these signs out and about in the community. For the month of October, our StrongStart educators were busy meeting families out in parks, school gardens, beaches and forest trails.

**As of November**, our school facilities are open to small numbers of families through our

booking app at [www.comoxvalleyschools/strongstart](http://www.comoxvalleyschools/strongstart)

On “Fresh Air Fridays” StrongStarts will continue to meet outside to allow for larger groups—and to enjoy the beautiful outdoors!

### **SD71 Mission Statement:**

***To inspire engaged, compassionate, resilient lifelong learners and cultivate a collaborative community together.***

As a 0 to Grade 12 district, we understand that learning begins in the earliest weeks and months of life, and continues for life. We are pleased to collaborate with families, provincial educator networks and community agencies to help all our learners experience connection and success.