Comox Valley Schools (SD71) 2488 Idiens Way, Courtenay, B.C. 250-334-5500 www.comoxvalleyschools.ca



For immediate release

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New K-3 Primary Learning Community program coming to Airport Elementary

Comox Valley, B.C. – Comox Valley Schools is excited to announce the launch of an innovative educational program at Airport Elementary School called the **Primary Learning Community (K-3)** for the 2025-2026 school year. This new dynamic program offers a unique blended learning experience that integrates school, place, and home-based environments to foster holistic development in young learners. The program is open to learners from throughout the district and offers several unique features for participating students.

The Primary Learning Community is designed to inspire children through play-based and placebased learning approaches, enabling exploration, creativity, and authentic engagement with their surroundings. Students will build strong, positive relationships with their teacher and peers over multiple years, creating a nurturing environment that supports social, emotional, and cognitive growth.

Program Highlights:

- **Play-Based Learning**: A personalized and hands-on approach to foster critical and creative thinking while prioritizing students' well-being.
- **Place-Based Learning**: Connecting children with the local environment and community for meaningful outdoor learning opportunities.
- **Multi-Age Learning Cohorts**: Promoting enduring relationships and collaborative mentoring among peers.
- Blended Learning Schedule:
 - Mondays: Home-based learning activities.
 - Tuesdays-Thursdays: Indoor and outdoor learning experiences at Airport Elementary.
 - Fridays: Learning at various locations across the Comox Valley.

Additionally, the program includes a **Professional Learning Demonstration component** for educators, providing opportunities to observe and engage with transformative teaching practices.

Information Session & Enrollment Details:

Families interested in this exciting new program are encouraged to join the **Information Zoom Session** on **Wednesday, January 29, from 7:00–8:00 p.m**. To attend, please register using <u>this link</u>. The Zoom link will be emailed the day before the session. The **Expression of Interest** to participate in the program will be open from **Tuesday, February 4th to Friday, February 7**. Families can submit the Expression of Interest form through the <u>Comox Valley Schools website</u>. Please note that program initiation depends on sufficient student interest, and families will be notified of next steps soon.

For more information, please contact: Lisa Pedersen-Skene District Principal, Early Learning and Child Care Email: <u>lisa.pedersen-skene@sd71.bc.ca</u>

Join us in shaping a community of young learners who are inspired by curiosity, connection, and creativity.

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Media Contact Craig Sorochan Manager of Communications Comox Valley Schools (School District 71)

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