

Sun Peaks Education Society

2016

Annual Report

Incorporated in June of 2010, the Sun Peaks Education Society (SPES) was established to support a community based education facility for local community children. Now in our 7th year of operations, the SPES has raised more than **\$486,752.00** through donations and fundraising efforts. These funds have supported 100% of our operations costs of not only our in class facilitator / teacher salaries, but also a few of our Portables needed for the expansion of classrooms. We are fortunate to have the current support of the Sun Peaks Mountain Resort Municipality (SPMRM) to further those needs of expansion.

Throughout our inception, the SPES has secured various Grant funding totalling more than **\$ 75,560.00** These funds have been tagged to specifically support Sun Peaks Secondary Academy (SPSA) classroom upgrades as well as mountain safety and sports programs for all Sun Peaks students including the Sun Peaks Elementary.

September 2016 has been our most successful year to date with student numbers rising to an incredible growth of 73 Sun Peaks Elementary students and 21 Sun Peaks Secondary Academy students. We are so close to the 100 student mark and it is exciting to see so many new families moving to Sun Peaks and the surrounding area. The hard work of the past years has made it very attractive for families to embrace the healthy outdoor lifestyle that the Sun Peaks area offers and paired with our unique education model, we are seeing an influx of families and new full time residents.

- 19 students in year 1
- 36 students in year 2
- Combined total of 53 students in year 3
- Combined total of 69 students for year 4
- Combined total of 55 students in year 5
- Combined total of approx. 72 students in year 6
- Current year 73 K-6 and 21 grade 7-12 – **combined total of approx. 94 students**

School District 73 (SD73) continues their agreement with SPMRM that was implemented in August of 2012, to provide full time teaching staff for grades K-6. With the 2016-17 school year starting with it's highest numbers, SD73 will soon be in a position to increase the Elementary teachers and classroom space as enrolment continues to rise. In order for the space to be available, the SPMRM has started the process of acquiring an additional classroom for the SPSA to move into as early as this coming spring. The SPES Board continues to support the SPMRM in any way possible as they continue with their commitment to community growth and providing the additional space needed.

The current Sun Peaks Elementary catchment area remains as Sun Peaks only, due to walk limits and SD73's catchment policy. Students outside of the catchment can apply for a transfer to Sun Peaks Elementary, provided that they provide their own transportation to and from the school, and there is capacity at the school. Although there are no catchment restrictions currently in place for SPSA, the SPES Board did implement a new Policy to assist with priority for new applicants as we experienced a full classroom for the first time in the history of the school.

The Sun Peaks Secondary Academy name has received good feedback since it's inception last year and we have had inquires from out of Province students to attend as space permits. This is an area that we feel we will be able to grow in the future and as we address space issues

The SPSA classroom is still offering the same excellent educational components with daily operations being a combination of the SPES staffed teachers in partnership with @kool 's Distance Learning program. Mr. Keith Massey and the newly hired Mr. Jacob Hanson, continue job sharing one full time position, working with the SPSA grade 7-12 students. The lead teacher position has changed to an additional crossover day with both facilitators every two weeks to accommodate for classroom organization and administration.

David Comrie continues as the @kool teacher providing support specifically for our Grade 7-9 students in Sun Peaks once a week as well as his resident school – Rayleigh Elementary. Mrs. Laurel Seafoot continues her position of overall @kool co-ordinator and specifically oversees the progress of our Grade 10-12 students.

Fundraising continues as a key focus for the coming year and remains important as ever for the SPES as they continue to move ahead with the Grade 7-12 program. These funds are needed to cover **100% of operational costs of the SPSA classroom**. This includes the cost of one full time on site educator, and potentially another if numbers are to grow. With the numbers in the SPSA currently at a maximum, we are anticipating a rise by the 2017/18 school year and need to ensure there is enough classroom space as new families continue to move to the area. There will be a need for discussions moving forward on the status of Grade 6 Elementary students moving up to the SPSA for Grade 7. Continued discussions with SD73 for grade levels under their umbrellas and review of future space due to climbing enrolment are ongoing.

Additionally the SPES continues to provide opportunities for enhanced education programs and sporting programs for all students in the Community through existing Grant Funding. Plans for additional local educational programs with Community partners are scheduled to begin in the new year with a food and nutrition's program that will include student credits.

Volunteers continue to play an essential role in the success of the Sun Peaks Secondary Academy and Sun Peaks Elementary School. Without the strong support of all volunteers, including all parents and community members, many of the services provided may not continue to be possible. The SPES continues to focus on 100% participation from SPSA Parents to help promote and ensure the sustainability of this amazing Blended Learning opportunity. Failing the support and increased fundraising, the SPES may need to look at alternate methods of incorporating fees in lieu of volunteering.

The community, including Sun Peaks Resort LP and the Sun Peaks Mountain Resort Municipality has been fully supportive in helping us to achieve our goals so far. Fundraising is essential to the success of the education program in our community, and there will be numerous fundraising events again this year in order to support the goals of the SPES

Your continued support of the SPES is essential to the continued success of this amazing educational opportunity. Please contact the SPES to volunteer, donate or participate at all of our Fundraising Events.

It has been a pleasure working together towards our common goals and sharing in the successes that have been such a benefit to the students and families.

The 2015-16 SPES Board