

Sun Peaks Education Society

2018

Annual Report

The Sun Peaks Education Society (SPES) is in its ninth year of successful community funded school operations in Sun Peaks. Growing from an initial classroom of 19 students, we now have about 130 students attending schools here in our community. This has only been possible through the dedication and generous support of parents, volunteers, area residents, local businesses, Sun Peaks Resort LLP, and the Sun Peaks Mountain Resort Municipality.

The SPES operated Sun Peaks Secondary Academy (SPSA) continues to provide excellent academic programming through our teaching staff and partnership with the SD73 @KOOL program. Our SPSA students are heavily involved in educational activities, volunteering, and sports in the community. They have been able to participate in many events and initiatives to enhance their educational experience and give back to the community. Some of the activities and events attended over the past year are listed below.

- Christmas Concert with Sun Peaks Elementary
- Art at 4 Cats Studio
- Spring Vancouver Field Trip
- Maker Day –Applied Design Skills and Technology
- Volunteering at Sun Peaks Elementary
- Food Safe Course
- X-country biking, hiking, rock climbing, snowshoeing, ice skating
- Alpine skiing, snowboarding, Nordic skiing.

This year we are operating two classrooms, the double-wide portable we moved into in the fall of 2017 (adjacent to the Sun Peaks Alpine Club) and the old health centre building. The latter is a single wide portable and was renovated this summer by the Municipality for the SPES. The students are generally split between the two buildings with the smaller group of senior students primarily using the single wide health centre building.

New for this year, SD73 has agreed to staff a part time @Kool position at the SPES. Based on enrollment this is currently enabling the SD73 teacher to be on site approximately 3.5 days per week. The SPES has hired one teacher as our principle classroom teacher and a second teacher is also providing additional support on a part time basis. In total between the SPES and SD73 teachers most of the school week is now covered by two teachers on site. This new SD73 support is critical, enabling the SPES to operate two classrooms without a drastic increase in fundraising.

There are now approximately 27 students enrolled in the SPSA with a large grade 8 cohort of approximately 13 students moving up from Sun Peaks Elementary. Enrollment is projected to continue growing with a smaller Grade 8 cohort entering in the fall of 2019 followed by a much larger one in 2020.

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Planning to accommodate growth has been a major focus for the SPES Directors and will continue to be a priority. Through continued engagement with the Municipality and SD73 we will be looking for the support necessary to accommodate growth and offer quality schooling to the secondary students in our community.

As always, fundraising is a critical underlying priority for the SPES and since our incorporation in 2010 over \$650,000 has been raised to support our educational mandate. With the support of our community and efforts of many volunteers our fundraising efforts have continued to be successful. The financial position of the Society remains healthy as detailed in the financial statements. These funds are used to cover the operational costs of the SPSA classroom, including the salary of our teachers and other classroom operational expenses. Although our cash position is sufficient, continuing efforts are needed to ensure our revenues meet our increasing operating costs. Major fundraising events/sources over the last year are noted below.

Major Funding Sources and Approximate amounts raised (Aug 2017-Jul 2018)

- 2017 (Fall) and 2018 (Spring) Nancy Green Big Little Golf Tournaments \$22k
- 2017 Firefighters Society Gala \$16k (rotates away from the SPES for 2018)
- 2017 Sotheby's Art Auction \$13.5k
- 2018 Symphony in the Snow \$8k
- Returnable Bottle/Can Depot \$6k
- Personal Donations \$10k
- Student fees \$10k

Fortunately through the support of Nancy Greene, the SPES will now be a primary recipient of the funds raised through the Telus Nancy Greene Alpine Classic starting this winter. Nancy has also agreed to coordinate additional fundraising that should, combined with the race, be sufficient to take the place of the Firefighters Gala and Student fees and also begin to build a fund that can be used toward enhancing an eventual K-12 school building. This major commitment is greatly appreciated, thank you Nancy!

Volunteers continue to be essential to the success of the Sun Peaks Secondary Academy. Without the strong support of all volunteers, including all parents and community members, our operation would not be possible. The SPES will continue to require and encourage 100% participation from SPSA Parents to help ensure the sustainability of the SPSA.

The SPES looks forward to a bright future for the students of our community, thank you for your ongoing support!

Respectfully,

Ross Blakeney,
President, Sun Peaks Education Society

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