

Sun Peaks Education Society

2019

Annual Report

The Sun Peaks Education Society (SPES) is in its tenth year of successful community funded school operations in Sun Peaks. Growing from an initial classroom of 19 students, we now have 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 our chosen education provider 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. Ensuring a balance of time for students to focus on academic courses along with additional programs, many of which are also curricular, is a focus for the education team and SPES Board when planning the year's programming and schedule. Some of the activities and events attended over the past year are listed below.

- Art at 4 Cats Studio
- Science Labs at TRU for grade 11 & 12 students
- Science field trip to the Big Little Science Centre for grades 8/9
- Junior Achievement BC at TRU for grade 10
- Applied Design Skills and Technology
- Volunteering at Sun Peaks Elementary
- Yoga
- X-country biking, hiking, climbing, tennis
- Alpine skiing, snowboarding, Nordic skiing, ice skating
- AST 1 Course (Avalanche Skills Training 1)
- Skytrek Adventure Park High Ropes Course
- Recycle my Cell
- Volunteering at fund raising events
- Rotary Interac Club

Some of these programs will take place again for the 2019/2020 year along with additional programs included as Outdoor Education credits. Students will be attending WE Day in Vancouver on November 19th. This is an amazing experience for students, and everyone needs to work on the WE Day initiatives in order to attend. In previous years this has been funded by SD73. Last year funding was not available and this year's trip which will be an overnight in Vancouver, is being funded by a municipal grant, SPES fund raising and some funding from SD73 @Kool. A big thank you to Jenny for organising and leading this initiative along with the teachers.

November 12, 2019

This year we are again 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 which was renovated in 2018 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.

Based on enrollment @Kool provides an SD73 teacher to be on site approximately 3.5 days per week. The SPES has one part time teacher and one part time teaching administrator, plus one teacher providing additional support one afternoon a week. In total between the SPES and SD73 teachers the school week is now covered by two teachers on site daily. The SD73 support is critical, enabling the SPES to operate two classrooms without a significant increase in fundraising.

There are now approximately 30 students enrolled in the SPSA with a large grade 9 cohort of approximately 14. Enrollment is projected to continue growing with a large Grade 8 cohort entering in the fall of 2020. 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. The SD73 Steering Committee is working on both short- and long-term plans for the Sun Peaks School.

As always, fundraising is a critical underlying priority for the SPES and since our incorporation in 2010 over \$750,000 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 2018-Jul 2019)

- 2019 (Spring) Nancy Green Big Little Golf Tournaments \$8k
- 2018 Sotheby's Art Auction \$20k
- 2019 Symphony in the Snow \$8k
- 2019 Telus Nancy Greene Alpine Classic \$30k
- Returnable Bottle/Can Depot \$6k
- Personal Donations \$10k
- Student fees \$7k

Fortunately, through the support of Nancy Greene, the SPES is now a primary recipient of the funds raised through the Telus Nancy Greene Alpine Classic. In 2019 the event raised \$30,000.00 for the SPES which provided funds for a significant reduction in student fees from \$750.00 to a \$250.00 activity fee for 2019-20. Nancy has also agreed to coordinate additional fundraising that should, combined with the race, 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!

New for 2019/2020 a regular meeting for all parents to attend will be held by the SPES. A schedule has not been set and the proposal is to hold the meeting quarterly.

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,

Maria Cannon,
President, Sun Peaks Education Society

November 12, 2019