

Sun Peaks Education Society

2015

Annual Report

The Sun Peaks Education Society (SPES) was incorporated in June of 2010 to establish and support a community based education facility for local community children. During those 5 years of operations, the SPES has raised approximately **\$486,965.00** to fund **100% of the operational costs**.

Student numbers attending school at Sun Peaks have shown continued growth in the first 4 years, with a small decline in year 5. However, the current year is showing promising numbers with new growth in the Elementary grades. The Secondary grades of 7-12 are in a slight decline, but remain relatively stable. (Numbers shown are approximate due to some movement of students in and out throughout the school year)

- 19 students in year one
- 36 students in year two
- Combined total of 53 students in year three
- Combined total of 69 students for year four
- 39 students in K-6 and 16 in grades 7-12 - combined total of 55 students
- **Current year 54 K-6 and 14 grade 7-12 – combined total of approx. 68 students**

Since August of 2012, School District 73 (SD73) has been in agreement with the Sun Peaks Mountain Resort Municipality (SPMRM) to provide full time teaching staff for grades K-6. At the end of June 2015, SD73 was in a position to reduce the Elementary teachers from a three-teacher position to two for the current 2015-16 year. Fortunately the growth of families to the area over the summer months enabled the re-positioning of the third teacher, along with various support staff. As part of their commitment to community growth, the classroom space is generously provided by the SPMRM with the SPES Board adding support to building improvements, maintenance and expansions whenever possible.

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. There are no catchment restrictions currently in place for Sun Peaks Secondary Academy. Application is made in conjunction with @kool Distance Learning and the SPES.

During the summer months of 2015 the SPES made some 'renovations' to the classroom and upgrades to our facility name - 'Discovery Centre for Balanced Education (DCBE)' which we felt we had outgrown. Our new and improved **Sun Peaks Secondary Academy (SPSA)** is aimed at promoting where we are, who we service and that we are a bit different to a traditional Secondary School. The new paint, desks/furniture and computers help to support our new 'look'.

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. Ms. Kirsten Flinn and Mr. Keith Massey who are job sharing one full time position, are back for another year to work on site with the grade 7-12 students. Ms. Flinn remains in the lead teacher position with some additional hours allotted for classroom organization and administration.

SD73's @kool Distance Learning program has seen some changes this year and we are very fortunate to have the support of two @kool teachers. David Comrie is our new @kool teacher providing support specifically for our Grade 7-9 students in Sun Peaks once a week as well as in his new resident school – Rayleigh Elementary. Mrs. Laurel Seafoot is not ready to leave the success of her time in Sun Peaks and remains as additional support to our SPSA classroom. She has taken on the new position of overall @kool co-ordinator and specifically oversees the progress of our Grade 10-12 students.

Fundraising will be the 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. Although the numbers in the SPSA currently remain stable, we are anticipating a rise by the 2017/18 school year at the latest and need to ensure there is enough classroom space for elementary students to move up if they so wish. Additionally the SPES looks at providing opportunities for enhanced education programs and sporting programs for all students in the Community through the application of Grant Funding.

Although the SPES fell short on major planning this past year, it will also be a key focus for the coming year and will include working with Mayor Al Raine and the SPMRM to ensure the sustainability of a successful long term education program for all school age children in the community. Continued discussions with SD73 for grade levels under their umbrellas and review of future space due to climbing enrolment are ongoing.

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 will focus on 100% participation from SPSA Parents to help promote and ensure the sustainability of this amazing Blended Learning opportunity.

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. Listed below are some of our fundraising events and approximate amount of funds they provide to our non-profit organization.

If you are interested in being a part of the organizing committees for Fundraising Events please contact the SPES.

Fundraising Events / Donation Breakdown

- Fireman's Gala – applied for November 2016
- Big Little Golf Tournament \$4750.00
- Serenade in the Snow \$17360.00
- SPES Lottery \$ 2300.00
- Acorn Cards – detail not available part of \$7657.15
- Top to Bottoms Race – detail not available part of \$7657.15
- Magazines – not active for 2013/14
- Spartan Race approx. \$1620.00
- Personal Donations \$15434.50
- Corporate Contributions \$3628.00
- Business Donations \$1050.00
- Returnable bottles \$6069.00
- Membership \$ 450.00
- Summer Concert tent – detail not available part of \$7657.15

Students are very involved in educational activities and sports in the Community. They are able to attend special conferences such as WE day in Vancouver and participate locally and globally to fundraise and support their Community and the Communities of those less fortunate. Some of the activities promoted and/or attended by our students are listed below.

- WE day (inspirational student conference)
- WE are silent (fundraising for those who have no 'voice')
- WE scare hunger (collecting none perishable foods for the local Food Bank)
- Volunteering at local events ie. Spartan Race
- Our new Summer Concert Fundraising Tent - including promotion
- Golf, Tennis, Stand-Up Paddleboard, x-country mountain biking, ultimate Frisbee, street hockey
- Alpine skiing, snowboarding, Nordic skiing, snowshoeing, ice skating

These are activities and initiatives that all of our Secondary Academy students school are participating in; experiences that are making their education a whole lot more than just book learning.

The last five years of educating our kids at Sun Peaks has shown that what we've started is important, and valued, and necessary to the Sun Peaks community. Our number one job is to educate the kids we have here, but at the same time we're bringing new families into Sun Peaks, and working toward building the infrastructure that makes a community. The SPES has had many successes since 2010 the biggest of which is the successes of our students.

We're looking forward to a very bright future with many more successes to come.

– THANKS FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT!