

Student Services Newsletter

School District #8

Visual Experiences

by Sofeya Devji
Teacher of Students with Vision Impairments

May has been a busy month for SD 8 students with visual impairments. On May 11th, two students, Courtland Northcott and Jessica Rideout presented to a group of Trustees at a monthly Board meeting. The girls created a Power-Point presentation and spoke about previous and future activities housed under the name "Project Adventure."

On May 12th and 13th, SD 8 hosted a vision clinic put on by the Children's Low Vision Clinic of BC. The clinic took place in the board office meeting room and students from all over the east and west Kootenay region traveled

to Nelson for a full clinical, educational, functional vision, technology and mobility evaluation.

Some of the students from SD 8 also participated in a classic cooking experience at the Culinary Conspiracy in downtown Nelson. Students made pizza and ice cream right from scratch! The best part was eating the wonderfully tasty creations. All students who attended felt that a cooking class should become an annual event for all Kootenay kids who are blind or visually impaired.



The dough is being spread in the pans.



Student Services Website has Paraeducator Information



Maybe you've noticed already. We've added a new tab to our Student Services website. To keep it simple & easy to find, it's labelled 'Paraeducator'. It is full of information for TAs – both experienced and new employees. We're hoping it will be a good place to go to look up needed information.

It has our SD #8 Paraeducator Handbook; The joint BCTF / CUPE booklet "Roles and Responsibilities of Teachers and Teacher Assistants / Education Assistants", job descriptions of both Paraeducators and Youth and Family Workers, Ethical Guidelines for Paraeducators, our own Student Services Brochure

and Violence in the Workplace Procedures.

Please check it out & let us know what other information you would like to see in this area.

May is Speech and Hearing Month

Here is some information about creating an environment to encourage communication

- Be a model for correct pronunciation but don't make your child repeat after you when he/she has said something wrong.
- Read with your child.
- Talk about things as they happen.
- Listen carefully and give your child enough time to speak.
- Don't interrupt.
- Use a slow, natural rate of speech yourself when speaking to your child.
- Give your child the opportunity to make verbal choices, such as "do you want an apple or an orange?"
- Play guessing games like "I spy" and other word games.
- Imaginative play using dolls or action figures can help your child model social interactions. Include greetings, comments, questions or small talk.

School District 8 Speech Language Pathologists (SLPs) will usually be asked to assess/work with a student if he/she:

- Is not understood by others
- Speaks using incomplete sentences
- Seems unable to follow oral directions
- Avoids, stumbles, or gets stuck on certain words and sounds
- Has difficulty playing or communicating with friends
- Has problems swallowing or chewing
- Has frequent or long-term hoarseness
- Is unable to control the volume of his/her speech appropriately
- Has a history of chronic ear infections



Speech and Language services in the Nelson area:

Preschool aged children are seen by Interior Health Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs). Interior Health Speech & Language Program: 250-505-7200 (Nelson Health Unit 2nd Floor 333 Victoria St.)

School aged children are seen by School District #8 SLPs. Please speak with your child's classroom teacher if you have concerns about his/her speech and language. They will help you get in touch with your school's SLP. Or, see contact info below:

School District # 8 SLPs: Julie Smith: jsmith@sd8.bc.ca (Crawford Bay, South Nelson)

Lianne Johnson: liannejohnson@sd8.bc.ca (Salmo, Kaslo, Brent Kennedy, Blewett, Rosemont, Winlaw, WE Graham,)

Lisa Tremblay: lisatremblay@sd8.bc.ca (Hume, Redfish, Brent Kennedy, Central Ed. Centre)

Do you have a preschool age child in your family? We recommend visiting the Speech-Language Pathologist if:

- Your 6 month old does not smile at you, or 'play' with sounds
- Your 12 months old is quiet, and does not 'talk' in 'baby language
- Your 18 month old does not use 18 single words
- Your 2 year old is not saying 2 words together
- Your 3 year old is not starting to talk in sentences
- Your 4 year old is not understood by everyone
- You've wondered if your child is slow to talk
- You've been told, 'wait, he'll talk sooner or later'

Please contact the Interior Health SLPs for more information about preschool speech & language development.

It's never too early to check out speech and language!