

Working with you toward a healthy & vibrant community

2017-2018 Year at a Glance

The Cumberland Community Schools Society (CCSS) is a registered charity that has been working in the Village of Cumberland since 2000. Operating out of Cumberland Community School, CCSS works to address the needs of all age groups, by providing free after-school programming, a healthy food program, adult education as well as youth programs and services.

The Society operates on the belief that learning is a life-long process and that schools should exist not in isolation, but as part of the local community. With the philosophy 'it takes a village' to raise a child, we aim to identify and encourage the sharing of skills and expertise with those who will benefit from them.

We hope to encourage a sense of community in our school and a sense of safety in knowing each other in the community.

Governance

CCSS is run by an 11 member volunteer Board of Directors, and staffed with an Executive Director, Lunch Coordinator, Program Coordinator, Events Coordinator, Youth Support Workers, part time Bookkeeper, and dedicated paid and volunteer program instructors.

Volunteers

We are privileged to have an amazing team of dedicated volunteers. Over the past year volunteers have contributed over 2200 hours of their time to help organize and run our programs, services and community events!

Healthy Food Program

Our **Healthy Food Program** provides breakfast, lunch and snacks to grades K to 9 students at Cumberland Community School throughout the academic year. This valuable program ensures that all students have access to the nutrition they need to succeed in school. A healthy diet helps children be more settled, attentive and ready to learn.

The **Breakfast Club** runs five mornings a week, offering breakfast and a safe space to any student needing support. This past year, 25 students regularly participated in this program.

The **Lunch Program** provides nutritious, locally sourced lunches to students and staff four days a week. In the 2017-2018 school year 375 students participated in this program. We served an astonishing 22,641 meals and 22% of these were provided free of charge to students needing support. We introduced a monthly salad bar, continued to support local vendors and worked hard to reduce waste through reusable dishes, composting and feeding our food scraps to a family of pigs in Royston.

Many thanks to School District #71, Hinterland Studio, Cumberland Dental Centre, the Cumberland Legion, the Rotary Club of Cumberland Centennial, the Province of BC and the Comox Valley Community Foundation for their financial contributions to this program; the BC School Fruit and Vegetable Nutritional Program for bi-monthly deliveries of fresh fruit, vegetables and



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milk; Seeds Food Market for local ordering, and our local food vendors for providing delicious, low cost meals throughout the school year- Plates Eatery & Catering Company, Custom Gourmet Catering, Cumberland Village Bakery, Riders Pizza, Quality Foods, Scoops & Slices and Kama Bento.

Over the summer months, CCSS continues to work in partnership with the Comox Valley Farmers' Market to offer the **Cumberland Farmers' Market Nutritional Coupon Program (CFMNCP)**. Individuals and families in need receive weekly coupons which can be spent at the Cumberland Farmers' Market to purchase local food. This initiative supports farmers and strengthens food security in Cumberland, while providing support to local residents.

After-School Programs

At Cumberland Community School we deliver after-school programming in 3 sessions throughout the school year. These high-quality programs engage all members of the student population by removing common barriers to recreation. Programs are offered at no cost in a safe and familiar environment; sports equipment is made available to students who don't have their own; relationships are developed with vulnerable students who are encouraged to participate; education assistants are provided to support full participation of special needs students; and healthy snacks are included to ensure participants receive the nutrition they need to learn, play and grow.

During the 2017-18 school year, an average of 15 different programs were offered each session with 248 students participating. Programs included **Mountain Bike Club, Trail Building, Short-Story Writing, Art Classes, Soccer, Gardening, Dragon Boating, Lego Club and more!**

Youth Centre

The **CCSS Youth Centre** is now in its fourth year of operation. It provides a safe space for youth aged 11-15 to spend time; offering programming, support services and opportunities for leadership. Open 3 days a week, all year round, the Centre is a popular spot, with an average of 15 youth attending each day and up to 40 youth on special event nights.

Regular meetings are held where staff engage youth and solicit input on activities offered. Youth are encouraged to get involved with their community and take on leadership roles. Over the past year, under the direction of CCSS, 38 youth volunteered at community events.

Community Programs & Events

CCSS continues to service the community at large by offering a variety of programs and events for all ages. This past year, we

provided 9 different community programs including **Paint Nights, Boot Camp** and a weekly **Bingo** night. **Santa's Breakfast, the Reel Youth Film Festival, and Thunderballs 2018** brought the community together, while raising funds to help run our programs.

Healthy Mother, Healthy Child

We continue to offer our **Mamacentric** program with support from *Success by 6*. This weekly support group for moms with newborn to toddler aged children provides women with the opportunity to build friendships and support within their community. Thanks to *Tarbell's Deli* for their weekly donation of fresh baking!

Changing Demographics

Over the past 5 years our local community has undergone a considerable change in demographics. The Village of Cumberland has experienced a 10.4% increase in population and enrollment at Cumberland Community School has risen by 25%. As a result, we've experienced a higher demand for programming along with the associated costs. The Society's annual operating expenses increased from \$88,264 in 2014 to \$217,412 in the 2018.

To accommodate this growth, we've been working hard to diversify revenues. Core funding from SD # 71 allows CCSS to leverage additional funding through a variety of sources. Current funding sources include SD # 71 (13%), Grants (18%), Programming Income (34%), Fundraising Events (18%) and Donations (17%).

Last spring, CCSS initiated a Strategic Planning process to proactively position the organization to be responsive to changes within the community. The resulting action plan will help to ensure that we continue to meet the needs of children, youth and families, including our most vulnerable.

Community Partners

We are grateful to have the support of, and the ability to collaborate with, numerous community organizations and local businesses. Our programs would not be possible without these relationships. Special thanks to *Cumberland Community School* administration, teachers and support staff for their ongoing support and encouragement.

Thank You

A heartfelt thank you to *School District No. 71, the Village of Cumberland, the Province of British Columbia, Hinterland Studio, Cumberland Dental Centre, United Way Central & Northern Vancouver Island, Comox Valley Community Foundation, Riders Pizza, Cloutier Matthews Chartered Professional Accountants, Sitka Silviculture, Gray Box Solutions Inc., First Credit Union & Insurance, the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 28, the Rotary Club of Cumberland Centennial, CIBC Children's Foundation, Success by 6* and the numerous local businesses and individuals who provide support.

Get Involved

Would you like to volunteer, donate or find out more about CCSS? Visit our website at www.cumberlandcommunityschools.com or contact ccss.coordinator@gmail.com



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