

Safe and Connected

In a few pockets of BC there have been angry demonstrations, blaring bullhorns, and hollering protesters. "Leave our kids alone." Signs are held high and banners are marched forward. "Don't mess with our kids!" "Stop SOGI 123!" In Lillooet however, life has remained peaceful and calm. No Bullhorns. No shouting.

Principal of Cayoosh Elementary, Tammy Mountain, speaks compassionately about SOGI. "We need places for kids to feel safe and connected." She has a seasoned professional staff that is accommodating and willing to have open conversations. Ms. Mountain explains how important it is to have a focus on each child as an individual. If, for example, a student's gender identity does not fall under traditional categories, the staff provides support, converses with guardians, and has the option of coordinating with outside agencies.

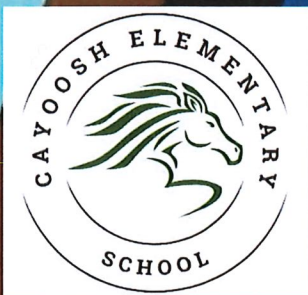
Support can be shown in a variety of ways. In the past the staff has made washroom accommodations for students who are not comfortable with typical male-female arrangements.

Each school has a SOGI representative. In Lillooet the SOGI reps liaise with the District Principal, Susan Schalles. In turn the SOGI rep provides resources and sensitive strategies for their staff members.

Ms. Mountain remembers a time not so long ago when the prescribed curriculum for most subjects left little room for teacher's autonomy and creativity. "We had check lists. We had textbooks that we followed chapter by chapter." Today there is a focus on the individual student, their learning style, their needs, and personal growth. SOGI 123 is part of our contemporary education's holistic approach that gives teachers the ability to support all students. "It allows us to make sure school is a safe place and everyone is connected."



PRINCIPAL of CAYOOSH
ELEMENTARY
TAMMY MOUNTAIN





Lillooet Life Stylz is sponsored by Xaxli'p



Jaime Peters, LSS Secretary, drawing the winners!

GSA TRIVIA CONTEST – TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

The LSS GSA Club held a school wide trivia contest in February. Contestants answered fifteen questions and put their names in a draw. Three lucky winners took home \$50 Amazon gift cards.

Test your knowledge and try these four questions. Answers will be in April's newsletter.

1. When did gay marriage become legal in Canada?
2. What colours are in the Trans flag?
3. What does the S stand for in LGBTQ2S+?
4. What does the L stand for in LGBTQ2S+?

Keep your eyes open for April's newsletter to see how you did!

Xaxli'p Health Craft Sessions

April 12th & 26th – May 24th

Venue – Xaxli'p Hall

Time – 3pm – 8pm

Open to all Xaxli'p Community Members

Dinner provided – All ages welcome

