

# FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

In April, we celebrated innovation!

## INNOVATION

Perhaps imagination is just intelligence having fun.

- George Scialabba

## Teams Meetings

By mid-April, about 400 people had participated in a grade or subject alike collaboration meeting.

## Google Classroom

By mid-April, more than 150 people had taken part in a meeting to learn more about Google Classroom.

## Seesaw

About 50 people took part in two support sessions held on March 19 and April 9

Innovation is thinking before you have to react.

- Lewis Howes

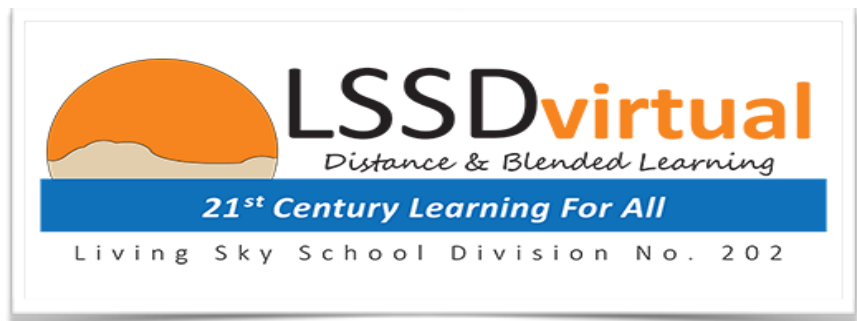


Talk about innovation! What wasn't new in April?

The biggest change for our school division has likely been adjusting to new ways of meeting, collaborating, taking part in professional learning and delivering instruction. Having a good disaster preparation plan in place allowed IT to move to a work from home model for staff and students with relatively few delays. Because technology has played such a big part in our supplementary learning plan, I thought I'd focus on LSSD Virtual.

## LSSD VIRTUAL

Over the past couple of years, LSSD Virtual has really grown. You can see a list of





## CANADA READS

### 2020

Over four days in March, five defenders were about to bring their perspectives to the year's theme: One Book to Bring Canada into Focus. Because of the pandemic, Canada Reads 2020 has been postponed, so we don't yet have a winner. Which book would you like to add to your collection? Tell me about something new you've learned since classes were suspended, and I'll add your name to the draw!

1. Small Game Hunting at the Local Coward Gun Club
  - by Megan Gail Coles (defended by Alayna Fender)
2. Radicalized
  - by Cory Doctorow (defended by Akil Augustine)
3. We Have Always Been Here
  - by Samra Habib (defended by Amanda Brugel)
4. Son of a Trickster
  - by Edén Robinson (defended by Kaniehtio Horn)
5. From the Ashes
  - by Jesse Thistle (defended by George Canyon)

all of the courses offered so far [on our website](#).

The aims of LSSD Virtual are several:

1. Continue to provide high quality and diverse options for credit attainment and recovery to all students, regardless of location;
2. Deliver distance and blended learning opportunities to students throughout Living Sky, based on student interest and the expertise of staff throughout the division;
3. Build and strengthen relationships between schools in the division;
4. Foster inquiry and place-based learning opportunities for high school students through Brilliance Credits;
5. Assist students in building a portfolio of 21st Century skills, including technological certifications through ICTC, and
6. Offer flexible forms of delivery, suited to course content and location of staff expertise:
  - a. Synchronous - Calculus 30 and Physics 30
  - b. Asynchronous - Computer Science 20 and 30
  - c. Blended - Psychology 20 and 30, Career and Workplace
  - d. Self-directed (Brilliance Credits) - Our "Brilliance Project" provides a framework and support for students who would like to earn credits while pursuing their personal passions. Students will work with an on-site mentor to plan a proposal and timeline to research their topic and present their findings using a product of their choice.
  - e. Integrated (Blended PAA Units) - 3D Printing and Design, Robotics & Automation, Communications, Media Streaming and Data Analysis - can be used by schools to enhance PAA survey class offerings and facilitate student choice.

## STRATEGIC PLANNING

We are currently working out a way to continue our strategic planning process. We still need to gather information for the Division's plan post 2020 from staff of several schools, SCC members, students and the general public.

We should have a process in place soon, so stay tuned!





## AN ODE TO COVID-19

It was not long ago we all knew the routine,  
 Each doing our thing – a well-oiled machine!  
 It's starting to get kind of hard to recall,  
 Life before COVID threw us this curve ball.

COVID has become our new ordinary,  
 It's even infected our vocabulary!  
 Face shields and fist bumps and N-95,  
 To "flatten the curve" is for what we all strive.

We've all gotten used to a new COVID-day,  
 Not going to work; it is at home we stay.  
 No going to restaurants so dinner we cook,  
 With new recipes we will write our own book!

Chief medical officers - new COVID friends,  
 All day on TV; they spend setting new trends.  
 John Fluevog made sweet Doctor Henry a shoe,  
 But I won't wear them 'til they come out in blue.

As COVID colleagues it's on TEAMS we meet,  
 "Please mute your mic" (we try to sound upbeat).  
 And then when at once people all start to speak,  
 It's to get a snack and a coffee I sneak.

It's my turn to talk now that I've made it back,  
 And not one beat missed, we are still right on track.  
 In a dressy shirt and my comfy grey sweats,  
 These days I'm afraid that's as good as it gets!

It's nice outside so we can sit in the sun,  
 Alone - distance matters with COVID fun!  
 And having a barbeque out back I've found,  
 Is just not the same when no friends come around.

But it's not all bad as you're no doubt aware,  
 There's no point in trying to comb COVID hair!  
 Sharing ideas and learning new things,  
 These are but some of the good COVID brings.

And while it is lonely, it's good to be well,  
 When can we get back? I guess time will tell.  
 While some of our plans have been put on the shelf,  
 For now that's ok, please take care of yourself!

*Innovation is the ability to see change as an opportunity, not a threat.*  
 - Steve Jobs

### Video Conferencing

Requests for support have risen dramatically over the past 30 days. We currently integrate with a variety of conferencing solutions but Microsoft Teams, Zoom, and Google Meet are the most popular.

### Requests for Technology

On April 6, IT received the most requests since the department started tracking.

During the Easter break, more than 250 devices were deployed to staff and students.

Stay well, everyone!

*Brenda*

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