



Superintendent's Report to the Board

Regular Board Meeting of February 24th, 2020

British Columbia School Trustees Association – Northern Interior Branch Meeting



Along with the majority of our trustees, I attended the Northern Interior Branch AGM to work alongside other northern Boards of Education to develop motions for the upcoming [BCSTA](#) AGM in April. Motions specific to the Shoulder Tapper Program, Teacher Recruitment / Retention, and Child Poverty Reduction were worked on over the two days. Trustees also had the opportunity to hear from local MLAs and Joel McKay, CEO of Northern Development Initiative Trust.

Thank You to District Parent Advisory Committee

Thank you to our DPAC for helping to organize presentations by John Gaipman, CEO of [British Columbia's Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils](#), in Burns Lake and Vanderhoof on January 27th & 28th.

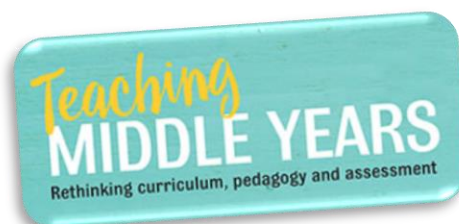


SNAP = Stop Now and Plan

Toni Dagenais our [SNAP](#) lead held a training for 22 staff from across the district on January 29th. This year we have trained more than 40 staff in SNAP and given out many SNAP the Dragons. Every elementary school has one trained staff and many have multiple staff starting to use the language to support learners in making better plans to make their problems smaller.

Middle Years Collegial Network

On January 30th, 12 teachers from the MY (Middle Years) network met with each other to collaborate and share. The teams met with [Dr. Nancy Doda](#) through Skype to check in on progress with their plans, ask questions and plan the next step. It was a great day of collaboration.





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FOUNDRY Opportunity in Burns Lake



Upon invitation by Carrier Sekani Family Services, Claire McKay represented the School District at a meeting to discuss and support the application for a [FOUNDRY](#) centre in Burns Lake. This is part of the '[A Pathway to Hope](#)' strategy from the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions.

UNBC - Early Acceptance Exploration

A very big THANK YOU to Dr. Dan Ryan, UNBC Provost and Vice President Academic, and Dennis Stark, Director of Recruitment, for working alongside SD 91 to explore the concept of Grade 10 Early Acceptance to UNBC, which will allow schools to support students for a much longer period of time in transitioning to post-secondary. The school district is committed to ensuring that post-secondary opportunities are offered to all of our students, and we appreciate UNBC's commitment to working alongside us to increase post-secondary transition rates across our communities.

SD 91 students, secondary principals, parents, First Nation Community Representatives and counsellors were invited to a brainstorming session on February 6th and there was lots of support for this idea. Watch for more news in the coming months.



Shout Out to FSJSS Principal Craig Houghton



I had a chance to watch many parts of the [Caledonia Classic Dog Sled Races](#) in Fort St. James from February 7th – 9th. This year the race is celebrating 25 years, and although there is a large group of volunteers that make this race an outstanding event year to year, Craig Houghton has been the driving force behind this event from the very beginning. We have SD 91 employees that continually contribute to the wellness of our communities and for that we are all thankful.

Way to go Craig, an excellent three days of a world class event!



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UNBC Teacher Candidate Practicum Students



Thank you to **Dr. Christine Ho Younghusband, Deb Koehn** and our own **Gretchen Vogelsang** for helping to invite and support UNBC teacher candidate students in our schools and communities. We hope you are enjoying SD 91 and we look forward to having you consider our schools to teach in.



Chuntoh Education Society

I attended the [Chuntoh Education](#) Board Meeting on February 14th and was again so impressed with the opportunities that this organization is creating for SD 91 students living primarily in Fort St. James and surrounding communities. The opportunities for local elders to work alongside our students and educators in authentic science and ecology projects is outstanding, and I wanted to ensure that their hard work is recognized.



SD 91 French Immersion Review



Anne Cooper, the consultant contracted by our Board to conduct the review, was in both Burns Lake and Vanderhoof from February 10th – 14th, to meet with school and community stakeholders, including students. To see Phase 1 of Anne's report that was presented to the Board at their January meeting, please click [HERE](#).

SD 91 District Science Fair 2020

The annual [District Science Fair](#) was held February 19th in Fraser Lake with over 100 students from across the district attending. Behind every student science experiment and display is a support team including parents, educators, principals, etc., and so a big THANK YOU to all that helped get our young scientists to this day!

Megan Boniface, Vice Principal at EBUS, is the organizer of the District Science Fair and I know that she works with a small, excellent team that supports this day happening without a hitch. Thank you Megan and team!

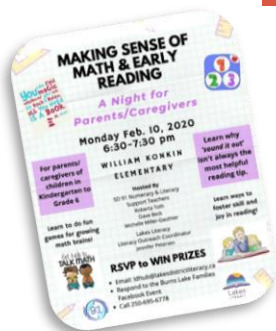
The [Regional Science Fair](#) will be held at UNBC on April 4th. Best of luck to all our students who will be representing SD 91!





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Making Sense of Math & Early Reading – Parent/Caregiver Presentations

Thank you to our fabulous teacher team of **Michelle Miller-Gauthier, Roberta Toth and Dave Beck** for organizing and presenting to parents/caregivers in both Vanderhoof and Burns Lake. I understand that these sessions were really well received by participating parents/caregivers, and I would love to hear directly from parents/caregivers if they would like to see more of these types of presentatoin.

Augustus John's Educational Haircutting Potlatch

A very big THANK YOU to Nicole Arnold, staff at EBUS, Sinkut View and Mapes, Trustee Sarah John and of course Augustus for creating this unique opportunity for our students and families to watch Augustus's Haircutting Potlatch on February 12th. I have heard from educators and participants what a great learning opportunity this was.









**Augustus John's
Educational
Haircutting Potlatch**

EBUS Academy, Mapes Elementary and
Sinkut View Elementary
Wednesday
February 12, 2020
10 am at
The Vanderhoof Friendship Centre
219 Victoria St. East

Please note this is an educational potlatch and will be live streamed for EBUS Academy students and families. The link will be posted and shared.

Please RSVP to narnold@sd91.bc.ca
By February 6, 2020






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SCHOOL NEWS *(contributed)*

WL McLeod



♦ Pink Shirt Day is always a big day for us. This year we have worked together to create a “All You Need is Love McLeod Pink Shirt Day 2020” book. The book includes our interpretation of The Beatles classic song, with each class taking on a section of the lyrics. On February 26th, each class will be visiting a community partners such as The Manor, the School District Office, Carrier Sekani Family Services, etc., to sing the song and deliver a copy of our book. We hope a copy of the book will remain in their waiting rooms for years to come as a reminder of kindness and caring. When we return to school, we will be having Pink Shirt Day cookies courtesy of our PAC; and, we have a little surprise for all our students.

- ♦ March 5th to 7th is our 12th Annual Proud to be McLeod Production. This year it is “Alice in Wonderland.” We can’t wait for you to see it. Tickets are already on sale at the Vanderhoof Department Store, Wallace Studios or at the school. They are \$5.00 each or \$20.00 for a family of 4 or more. Please mark your calendars and don’t miss over 80 super amazing kids on stage. We are also performing on March 3rd and 4th for over 1,000 local students.



Fort St. James Secondary – Wiser Together Painting Party

- ♦ FSJSS was successful in receiving a First Nation Health Authority grant for Winter Wellness, and on February 19th connected generations through painting and eating lunch together at the Fort St. James Community Centre. A huge thank you to Erin Stagg Fine Arts for the guided step-by-step teaching to successfully paint a canvas of Sowchea Bay.





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School District 91 in the News

- [Sinkut View - Parks Canada Contest](#)
- [Trades Trailer - CKPG News](#)
- [Third Annual Lego Robotics Challenge Held in Vanderhoof](#)
- [School Bus Cancellations Due to Cold](#)
- [WKE Celebrates positive Work](#)
- [Code of Conduct Coming for BC Trustees](#)
- [Clive, the Therapy Dog, Visits WKE](#)

