



Superintendent's Report to the Board

Regular Board Meeting of April 20th, 2020

WOW... OUR WORLD LOOKS DRASTICALLY DIFFERENT IN A MONTH!



Our last Board of Education meeting was on Monday, March 16th and two days later, the government suspended all in-class instruction across British Columbia due to COVID-19 and a focus on flattening the curve of BC's pandemic.

Our regularly scheduled Spring Break, March 23rd – April 3rd, saw our students and families join all British Columbians in practicing social distancing and dealing with the associated anxieties. There were also many, many questions of what school would like for the remainder of this year.

WE USED THE TWO-WEEK BREAK TO:

- Conduct a 'deep cleaning' of all our buildings, and so a **big round of applause to our Custodians and Facilities Department** that helped to coordinate all of this work.
- Begin the planning process for what post-Spring Break would look like in our schools. We appreciated the guidance from the **Ministry of Education** in providing the following four guidelines that helped to focus our work.
 1. Ensure the health and safety of our students, families and employees.
 2. Provide services to support the children of essential workers in our communities.
 3. Support vulnerable students who may need special assistance.
 4. Provide continuity of educational opportunities for all students.
- I want to also recognize our **District Leadership Team and our Principals / Vice Principals** who have worked tirelessly over the last four weeks to plan for the return of school.
- I would also like to extend appreciation and gratitude to the leadership of CUPE, **Florence Robertson & Rick Rushton**, as well as to BLNTU Presidents, **Jennifer Kostiuk & Kathryn Warren**, for their commitment to regular communication and timely feedback and suggestions as we planned together.
- Finally, a **very big THANK YOU to our employees** who have jumped into the post-Spring Break work with professionalism, energy, humour and a genuine caring for the students they serve.

I have always said that we are very lucky to live and work where we do, and once again I was reminded of the why!



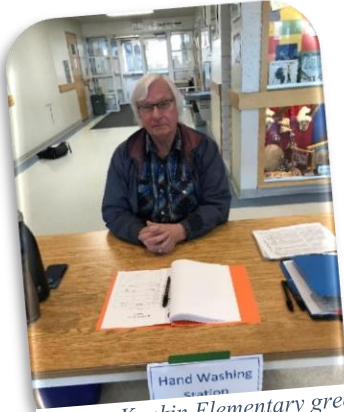


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ENSURE THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF OUR STUDENTS, FAMILIES AND EMPLOYEES

As our schools reopened following the break, our focus was on ensuring that we had processes in place to protect the health and safety of our employees, students and families. A district-wide health and safety protocol was shared with principals and managers who worked with their health and safety committees to apply the protocols to their buildings.



William Konkin Elementary greeter, Bryce McGinnis, who drives in from Topley daily to be at WKE with a smile. Thanks Bryce!

This included having daytime custodians and a greeter at the front door of each of our schools. These greeters are usually our bus drivers, but they have taken on this work of welcoming staff to our buildings with great energy and commitment.

Our focus in the first week was to ensure that we oriented all our employees to health and safety protocols. This has helped to communicate that our buildings are safe, and we have many of our

employees working from our buildings while following all of the safety protocols.



Mouse Mountain Principal, Laretta Hunter, having some fun with greeter Kristy Thompson

PROVIDE SERVICES TO SUPPORT THE CHILDREN OF ESSENTIAL WORKERS IN OUR COMMUNITIES

The second priority for the Ministry of Education was for school districts to provide on-going service to the children of Essential Service Workers with a priority on Tier 1 workers, defined as those "employed as front-line workers in direct to public health and health services, social services, law enforcement, first responders and emergency response." More information on essential service workers and priorities for government can be found [HERE](#).

We chose to designate the following schools to provide Tier 1 essential service workers support for their children:

- David Hoy Elementary - Fort St. James - **No current need**
- WL McLeod Elementary - Vanderhoof - **20 – 26 children**
- Mouse Mountain Elementary - Fraser Lake - **Less than 5 children**
- William Konkin Elementary - Burns Lake - **20 – 26 children**

A very **big Thank You** to the principals / vice principals of these schools; Wendy, Cordell, Laretta, Libby, Candace and Suzanne for being able to prepare and staff adequately to begin these programs with such short notice.





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SUPPORT VULNERABLE STUDENTS WHO MAY NEED SPECIAL ASSISTANCE

Our Learner Services Department, under the leadership of Claire McKay and Rhonda Togyi, have taken on the responsibility for connecting with our schools to help guide the important work of supporting our most vulnerable students. We anticipate that in the coming weeks some of this support will be remote, while other supports may be in person in our buildings while respecting our safety protocols.



Molly Harper helping to prepare and distribute food hampers from WL McLeod

Students who had been receiving Learner Service supports (counselling, Speech / Occupational Therapy, etc.) and would like to continue remotely will be referred by their teachers to the Learner Services team.

Many of our schools have started the work of providing food hampers to students and families that were supported by our in-school meal programs.

PROVIDE CONTINUITY OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL STUDENTS



David Peterson @DavidPeterson_ · Apr 7
I had a great first regularish day at work in @sd91bc. Reconnecting with kids & families by phone to check-in and see how they are doing. Lots of support from administration @PrincipalViking and a real sense of putting the needs of people first. #maslowbeforebloom #InItTogether



Mia Moutray (she/her) @MiaMoutray · Apr 16
Oh my! First meeting in Teams with my grade eight crew! So good to chat 🙌🌟 Connection is everything!

- ❖ Principal **Brian Cross** has been calling students on their birthdays because it is no longer on the daily announcements. He shares that grade 12 students seem to be more excited to get those calls than his grade 4 students!
- ❖ In addition to checking in on his own students, **Travis Himmelright**, took some time to check in on each of the athletes on his wrestling team, as he often does during regular school, to see how they were doing and to ensure that they had connected with their teachers.



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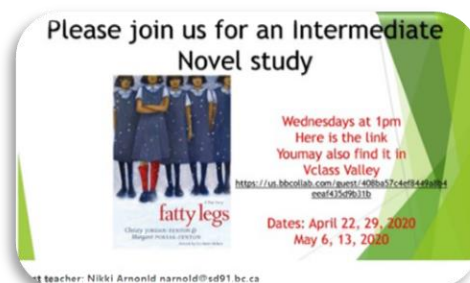
- ❖ This video of one of our elementary students sharing his home physical education time and developing jump rope skills with his teacher, **John Bennison**, is worth a watch - click [HERE](#).
- ❖ NVSS Middle Years teacher, **Mia Moutray**, gathered her middle years 'CREW' for a check-in using Microsoft TEAMS. During regular school, the students enjoy a hot beverage and a baked treat during this CREW time, and so 22 of her students, with snack and drink in hand, connected virtually to check in on each other. She even pulled the popsicle sticks for your turn to share or ask a question which the students thought was pretty hilarious. One Grade 8 boy was very proud he had prepared his own tea!

❖ From **David Hoy Principal, Suzanne Burck**:

- Homemade birthday cards being mailed out to students whose birthdays we are missing.
- 2m spirit challenge... what does this distance look like? Measuring string and challenge sent home in packages this week.
- Skipping ropes being packaged up with songs and games so kids can be active... coming out in 2 weeks.
- Wood hearts being cut by high school for us so kids can paint and hang outside in trees... also ready in a couple weeks.
- First wave of gift cards for Save-On Foods went out last week, next set will go out this week.
- Custodians are working super hard. Unbelievable effort being put in to keep our schools safe!
- Revised the David Hoy Dragons newsletter specific to remote learning...click [HERE](#).

- ❖ **Nikki Arnold** has started a virtual novel study of *Fatty Legs* inviting intermediate students from Mapes Elementary, Sinkut View Elementary and EBUS Academy. Starting next week, students can join in online from home and read together with Nikki and their teachers.

- ❖ BESS principal, **Dylan Watt**, has shared that **Heather Horsefield**, BESS concession worker, prepared snack bags for students to grab as they picked up or dropped off homework from outside the building. Staff are also preparing larger hampers to go home to some of our families.



- ❖ William Konkin Elementary teachers, **Judy & Richard Thompson**, shared this message with principal, **Wendy Kelemen**: "Yesterday Richard and I made Hearts to display in our classroom windows. The idea is to let the kids know that we are thinking about them during this time of self-isolation and physical distancing. I realized as I was putting them up, however, that most or even all of our kids will not see them because they are all at home. We decided to face the name in to the classroom space so that we are reminded of our kids and why we are still here. I have, also, posted this picture to my class blog so the kids can view them from the safety of home."

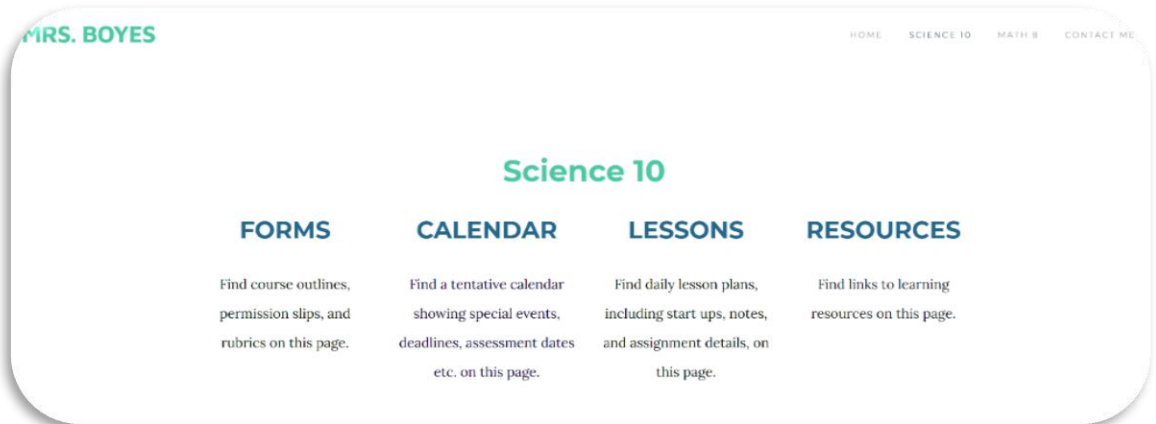
- ❖ **Shaylene Marks** held a Microsoft TEAMS meeting with some of NVSS's 7/8 French students. This was shared with me by a parent, "Not sure what they talked about because it was mostly in French...but it was nice to hear the kids' voices and some social engagement (important for my son because he has no siblings at home to have normal teen interactions with)."



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- ❖ FSJSS teacher, **Kelly Inden**, shared her 'Choose Your Adventure' assignment for her English 9 students....click [HERE](#).
- ❖ FSJSS teacher, **Jaclyn Boyes**, is using Microsoft Class Notebook to connect with her Geography / Environmental Studies 11 / 12 classes while using a self-created website to connect with her Science 10 and Math 8 students.



These are just a few of the stories that are emerging since our return from Spring Break, April 6th. Hats off to our educators and learning support staff for being so committed to connecting with their students and creating authentic learning opportunities from a distance!

SUPERINTENDENT LETTERS TO PARENTS / GUARDIANS:

- ❖ [April 3rd Letter](#)
- ❖ [April 9th Letter](#)
- ❖ [April 18th Letter](#)

SD 91 IN THE NEWS:

- ❖ March 15th: [CNC AND SCHOOL DISTRICT 91 TAKING PROACTIVE MEASURES AMIDST COVID-19](#)
- ❖ March 23rd: [TEACHERS TO RETURN FOLLOWING SPRING BREAK](#)
- ❖ April 15th: [INSTRUCTION WILL LOOK DIFFERENT](#)