



# Superintendent's Report to the Board

Regular Board Meeting of Jan. 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021

## STRATEGIC GOAL — HONOUR DIVERSITY

### TALKING STICKS

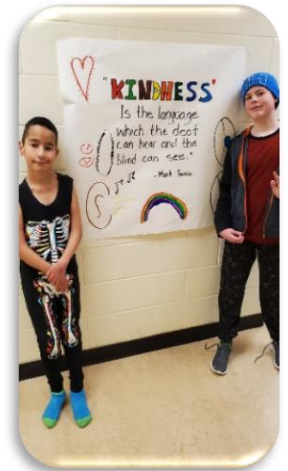
Mrs. Ottesen's classroom at Sinkut View Elementary had an opportunity to work with **Nikki Arnold** and virtually with Trustee **Sarah John** to learn about the historical significance of talking sticks prior to making their own. Principal **Stacey Soffel** shared that students loved both learning about and making their own talking stick.



### LEARNING ABOUT STEREOTYPES

David Hoy Principal, **Suzanne Burck**, shares that **Mr. Jim Holtz's** grade 6 class is learning about similarities and differences in individuals and groups, a key 'Big Idea' in the Physical & Health curriculum. On many winter mornings, Mr. Holtz's class will gather around a fire in David Hoy's outdoor classroom to begin their rich discussions around stereotypes, gender bias, and racism and the impacts that these can have on individuals and communities.

The kids have been duplicating quotes from others specific to kindness, like the one to the right. One of the quotes (not pictured) that rings true is from author Victoria Moran, "*Kindness is just love, with its work boots on!*"



### WILLIAM KONKIN ELEMENTARY KINDNESS PROJECT UPDATE

WKE Vice Principal, **Cordell Ware**, shared that last week students at WKE were able to harvest and deliver their school grown fresh greens to The Link, the Burns Lake food bank. They donated: 8 bunches of spinach, 7 heads of butterhead lettuce, 7 heads of green leaf lettuce, 10 new hats with the WKE kindness logo embroidered on the front and 5 handmade wooden crates.

In addition to this local act of kindness, the students have raised \$360 from selling their handmade wooden crates with those funds being used to support WKE's sponsor child, Biniyam Adane. This money is able to provide one complete year of school for Biniyam.

As per Mr. Ware, "I am so incredibly proud of our students. They have engaged in both local and global acts of kindness. They are truly changing peoples' lives for the better through purposeful and practical acts of kindness. We, here at WKE, are so excited for the rest of the school year and our continued efforts to build, grow, and share kindness."

If you would like to watch a great video showing the kids growing, building and sharing, click [HERE](#).





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## STRATEGIC GOAL — ENGAGE OUR WORKFORCE

### NETWORKS OF INQUIRY AND INDIGENOUS EDUCATION (NOIIE)



[NOIIE](#) is a provincial inquiry-based network of districts in British Columbia. Established in 2000, NOIIE was designed to improve the quality and equity of education in BC through inquiry, teamwork across roles, schools and districts, as well as a focus on applying coaching forms of assessment to assist learners to take greater ownership of their learning. The vision of EVERY learner crossing the stage with dignity, purpose, and options is at the core of inquiries within the group. Schools participate on an annual basis by engaging in the Spiral of Inquiry. School questions, case studies, resources and reflections are shared in a spirit of generosity, curiosity and growth.

We are fortunate to have 18 teams across our school district working on a NOIIE Inquiry project this year. The complete report, submitted with the education update for the Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, can be found [HERE](#). Some of the excellent questions being researched include:

- “Can we improve the social emotional wellness and sense of belonging for our learners through a focus on honouring diversity (in particular cultural learning) and equity?” – **Megan Boniface - Mouse Mountain Elementary**
- “During the pandemic, what can we do to support our learners’ sense of belonging within our schools?” – **John Bennison – David Hoy Elementary**
- “Reframing our Advisory time (which currently functions to communicate the shape of the day and playing fun games) to something more meaningful and responsive for our learners to deepen their understanding of themselves and the world.” – **Mercedes Ducharme, Mia Moutray – Nechako Valley Secondary**
- “How can we use outdoor and place-based learning to create a sense of wonder and curiosity in our students?” – **Tori Silver, Becki Larson – Evelyn Dickson Elementary**
- “How can we transform reporting and assessment to be more effective for learners, families and educators?” – **Nick Meads, Lori Gridley, Dave Lawrence, Kyra Sinclair, Libby Hart, Michelle Miller-Gauthier, Candace Lawrence, Wanda Nemethy – WL McLeod Elementary**

These NOIIE teams are being supported by SD 91 mentors **Mark Gauthier, Deb Koehn, Mia Moutray, Michelle Miller-Gauthier and Roberta Toth.**

### SD 91 WELCOMES STUDENT TEACHERS

Every year Nechako Lakes School District welcomes student teachers from across British Columbia and sometimes from across Canada. We are thankful for the SD 91 master teachers who welcome these future educators into their classrooms and for the hard work of **Mr. Mike Skinner**, our Assistant Superintendent, who is on a first name basis with most BC university education programs, as we try to recruit and retain a few of these folks in our communities. A warm welcome this year to:

- **Sydney** - University of Lethbridge - Vanderhoof
- **Krystal** - UNBC - Colleen West (WKE) & Beckie Watts (Francois Lake)
- **Brett** - UNBC - NVSS
- **Madison** - UBC Kootenay Program - Lena Miller & Heather Cross (NVSS)





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## STRATEGIC GOAL — STUDENT LEARNING

### CURRICULAR SERVICES TEAM

With the addition of Director of Instruction, **Mark Gauthier**, we have coordinated a few district resources into a 'Curricular Services Team' that directly supports the Board's goal of Student Learning.



**Roberta Toth** is our 0.6 FTE District Numeracy Support Teacher, and she has submitted a [report](#) for the Board outlining all that she has been busy with since the start of this school year.



**Michelle Miller-Gauthier** is the 0.6 FTE District Literacy Support teacher who has been supporting schools and teachers with Story Studio this year which incorporates story creating and the retelling of stories using material found in nature. Michelle's report to the Board can be found [HERE](#).



**Darren Carpenter**, who runs the SD 91 Careers & Trades program, has also joined this team and shares an exciting project specific to creating outdoor learning spaces...click [HERE](#).

### DECKER LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AMUSEMENT PARK



**Mrs. Adrienne Hiebert's** grade 4/5 worked cooperatively over the last few weeks to create their own Amusement Park, complete with grand ribbon cutting ceremony. Core competencies from across curriculum strands were evident through the designing and building of the park; and, when the grade 4/5s shared it with the K/1s, there were many astonishing smiles.



**Wendy Kelemen**, Decker Lake principal, shared that the grade 4/5s were working on self-assessing their learning, a key assessment strategy. Well done Decker Lake Huskies!

### BUILDING ROBOTS WITH SHAWNESE



Mrs. Shawnese Trottier, the Decker Lake Elementary/WKE Learning Commons teacher, has been teaching coding/robotics to students at Decker Lake Elementary. The pictures show how much students are engaged with this...thank you Shawnese!





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## STRATEGIC GOAL — COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### SINKUT VIEW SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CRAFT FUND RAISER

Seasonal activities like the annual Christmas Concert were impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic. As a team, Sinkut View Staff brainstormed together and arrived upon the idea of a Christmas craft fundraiser instead. This collaborative school focus was a benefit to both the school and outlying communities. Each classroom chose one or two gift projects to make, and order forms went home to families for purchase.



Lumber and decorative items were supplied by donation. The Carpentry Trailer, parked at Sinkut View for three weeks, was used primarily for cutting and sanding.

All students were involved in creating projects. The hands-on learning was engaging, and the study of the economic feasibility provided for rich mathematical classroom calculations and discussions – not to mention the embedded geometry, understanding fractions through reading a tape measure, and problem-solving through calculations of board feet... just how many present gift sets can we make out of one 2 x 8 x 12-foot board?

As an additional fund-raising idea, Mrs. Jensen suggested a silent auction for a fully decorated Christmas tree. From that simple suggestion, the idea exploded to not only a tree, but a tree that included nearly \$2,000 worth of gifts hung upon and placed beneath from local businesses and members of the community.

The Gift of a Christmas Tree Silent Auction was on display in the window of the Vanderhoof Department Store for two weeks while bids were called in to Sinkut View. The successful and highest bid went to **Northern Road Construction**. This collaborative effort by the Sinkut View Elementary School community raised nearly \$7000 which will help to fund new furniture for every classroom. Way to go Sinkut View and a big thank you to the community of Vanderhoof!



### CHANGING RESULTS FOR YOUNG LEARNERS

The [Changing Results for Young Learners](#) is a provincial research project which is a partnership between the Ministry of Education and the United Way of the Lower Mainland. This is our third year in the project, and we work alongside teams from Prince George and Quesnel school districts. Our team is made up of **Rhonda Togyi**, District Principal Learner Services; Kindergarten teacher, **Lori Gridley**; Strong Start facilitator, **Krista Hanson**; and community partners, whose participation this year has been limited by the COVID context.



The research team pulls together data from across the province and looks for patterns from the anonymous data that our teams provide.

In addition to the research, our team has opportunities for networking, learning, and sharing information when all the teams meet. Our team has been diving into the new [Early Learning Framework](#) and using a book called [Really Seeing Children](#).





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## **SD 91 IN THE NEWS AND QUICK FACTS:**

- [William Konkin Kids Growing Kindness](#)
- [Decker Lake Students Prepare Cards for Seniors](#)
- [William Konkin Students Raise Money to Fund a Child's Education](#)

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## **ODDS & ENDS**

### **SD 91 Hybrid Program**

- We currently have just over 60 learners enrolled in our hybrid program. These are students for whom distributed learning and home schooling were not viable options and so are being supported by a small group of part-time educators under the guidance of retired principal, Lauretta Hunter.
- We are currently evaluating if we need to expand this program to accept some additional learners who have not returned to school since the winter break.

### **Foundation Skills Assessment**

- The FSA has been postponed from the scheduled January writing to beginning Feb. 15 and ending March 12.

### **The Learning Bar – Student Belonging**

- To provide data to the Board's Social Emotional Learning goal connected to Student Success, all of our high schools will be using the Learning Bar student engagement survey. Claire McKay has been leading this work and will be sharing updates and data with the Board at upcoming meetings.

### **Virtual Town Hall Event – Jan. 28<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm**

- To view poster click [HERE](#).
- Please see Facebook or the SD 91 website for the meeting link to be published on January 27<sup>th</sup>.

### **BC School Sports**

- Extracurricular activities including sports, arts and special interest clubs can only occur if:
  - Physical distance can be maintained between members of different learning groups
  - Reduced physical contact is practiced by those within the same learning group
- [BC School Sports Memo – August 2020](#).

**FSJSS Principal, Craig Houghton, Shares Video on H&S Protocols – click [HERE](#).**