

WILLIAM KONKIN'S NEW SCHOOL HOODIES



When we ordered new hoodies this year, we consulted **Jordan Williams**, our Carrier Language and Culture teacher, so that we could

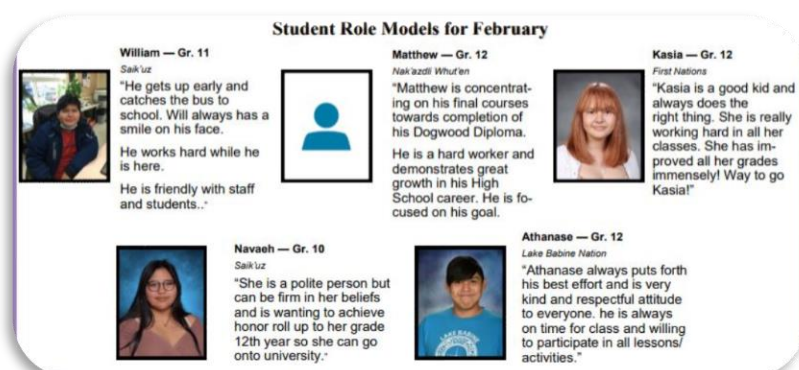
proudly include the Nedut'en word for Eagles on them, 'Ts'eelhben'.

We will also be working on our Carrier knowledge as a staff by taking a mini-lesson in Carrier at each staff meeting with a goal of having key phrases consistently spoken in Carrier throughout the building daily.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST SD91 INDIGENOUS STUDENT ROLE MODELS

The latest edition of the [Aboriginal Education Newsletter](#) is out. This month the newsletter helps celebrate Indigenous Languages throughout British Columbia and the world. Here is a quick snippet of our newest role models! Congratulations, **William, Matthew, Navaeh, Kasla, & Athanase!**



FSJSS STUDENT ACCEPTED TO SHAD

Congratulations to **Corbyn Gauthier**, an FSJSS grade 10 student who has been accepted into SHAD this summer. SHAD provides students with the opportunity to "participate in hands-on learning, collaborate in design teams, explore post-secondary institutions, engage with academic and entrepreneurial mentors and meet some of the most passionate dreamers in Gen Z." Way to go, Corbyn and best wishes on what promises to be a great experience!

DAVID HOY'S VIOLET EXEMPLIFIES DIVERSITY IN OUR WORKFORCE!



Violet joined David Hoy in January of 2021. Violet is our official school greeter and enthusiastically welcomes students and staff to the building every morning. She has a busy schedule and spends part of each day listening to stories, playing catch, and getting snuggles. We are thankful for the unconditional love and joy she brings to our building each day.



Strategic Education Plan 2020-2025

GOAL #2 ENGAGE OUR WORKFORCE

Foster school and district cultures that inspire and support passion-based teaching, learning, and leading.
Create opportunities for every member of our organization to contribute to student success.

Honouring People, Land and History



WINTER CARNIVAL AT WILLIAM KONKIN SCHOOL

We hosted Winter Carnival on Friday, March 4th. Teachers, staff, parents, guardians, and students chose to attend a variety of activities in the surrounding



community and at school, including swimming in Vanderhoof, skiing at the Omineca trails, skating and curling at the Burns Lake arena, building a wood fire, sliding, snow painting, snowshoeing, indoor climbing, navigating an obstacle course, and winter arts and crafts. Volunteers from PAC cooked a delicious pancake and fresh fruit breakfast, and we had a visit from the local Fire Department. Bonhomme even made an appearance to show support by lifting our winter spirits.

Thank you to the staff and parents who made this such a great day for all of us!

SOUNDS OF MUSIC RETURN TO NVSS

It has been a long two years since our theatre has hosted an NVSS produced play. **Cynthia Hornbeck** (NVSS Drama and Humanities Teacher) decided that it would be a major production that would announce NVSS was back on stage – as she chose the world-renown favourite – “The Sound of Music.” Partnering with members of the Vanderhoof Community Theatre would be necessary as the scope of the musical would be so large. An orchestra was also needed and was put together by NVSS Band Teacher **Russell Larden**. He merged our students with talented local musicians from the community to create a beautiful sounding accompaniment for the talent performing on the stage.

Ms. Hornbeck was able to find a fill-in for the Director's role as she had to bow out due to the early arrival of her family's first child. **Lisa Striegler**, a Vanderhoof Community Theatre veteran, and Director and NVSS Grad, was approached by Ms. Hornbeck to take the reins, and the show continued! With literally dozens of community members and dozens of students, this has been one of the larger productions NVSS has produced, and the first week reviews have been great. The community not only worked with the school and students to help ensure the production's success but have also snapped up every available ticket each night. For a community starving for the fine arts to come back, this

production has been a feast of a performance! Congratulations and a huge thank you to all for ensuring that this has been an outstanding return for theatre back on our stage!



CONGRATULATIONS TO [FSJSS TEAM](#)



As shared previously, **Gary Soles, Andrew Vogelsang, and Deirdre Houghton** completed their graduate degrees while leading their school community through an inquiry project focused on Truth and Reconciliation. This trio recently submitted a proposal to present at the upcoming Open Technology in Education Society and Scholarship Association (OTESSA) Conference and have been accepted for both presenting and publication.

They shared, *"This will be a great opportunity to showcase our school community and the work our staff is doing in implementing the significance of the process of Truth and Reconciliation into our teaching methods. We have been working closely with Dr. Valerie Irvine and have received feedback from another UVic professor, Dr. Jean-Paul Restoule, on our project. We have also had knowledge shared regarding the significance of teaching Truth and Reconciliation, included*

in our video work, from local knowledge holder Guy Prince and our district's Leona Prince. We are grateful for this opportunity and for those who have helped to make our work possible and for the opportunity to share and continue our learning journey."

Congratulations and thank you to these outstanding educators for leading this important work!



SD91 SCIENCE FAIR 2022 - OUTSTANDING

Although virtual again for the 2nd year in a row, this year's Science Fair is a wrap. Mouse Mountain principal **Megan Boniface** leads our District Science Fair, and she is supported by an excellent team consisting of **Tyler Clark, Amit Dhak, and Jason Kadonaga**. A very big thank you to this year's judges: **Lisa Zukewich, David Mills, Steve Davis, Joseph Bottoms, Josh Elke, Jeff Bennett, Lorn Kennedy, Nyree Hazelton, Rhonda Togyi, Mark Gauthier, Valerie Crowley, Cherie Cochran, Donna Benson**, myself and we lead by head judge **Tyler Clark**.

Behind the scenes at the virtual fair were school principals, teachers and support staff helping to move projects and students to rooms with cameras to speak directly to judging teams.

Before the District Fair, we know that there were countless parents, grandparents, and SD91 staff behind the scenes supporting our emerging scientists as they experimented, updated logbooks, and prepared display boards. Thank you to ALL involved.

Congratulations also to this year's District Science Fair [finalists](#).



SKILLS FOR LIFE – [WL McLEOD](#)

At McLeod, we have a "Skills for Life" Program. Students learn to be great citizens while learning other skills like carpentry, sewing, cooking and more. Many thanks to the SD91 Career Programs Department for supporting us with sewing machines and a great storage cart and to **Andy Penner** at our Facilities Department for making the cart. Our kids are making some pretty cool pyjamas!

Strategic Education Plan 2020-2025

GOAL #3 CREATE STUDENT SUCCESS

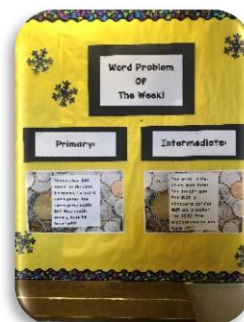
A continued focus on the essential skills of Literacy / Numeracy.
Ensure Social Emotional Learning is embedded within all of our classrooms.
Support the use of promising and effective teaching strategies.

Honouring People, Land and History



WEEKLY WORD CHALLENGE AT [FRANCOIS LAKE](#)

The FLES teachers post a weekly word problem in the foyer for all students to see. Students work on the problem and submit their names and response to a draw box throughout the week. On Fridays, a random draw is made for a primary and intermediate student to win a small prize to thank them for their participation and effort. Following this, classroom teachers lead the class through collaborative solving and discussion of the word problem.



SHARING OUR CONNECTIONS THROUGH STORY – GRASSY PLAINS

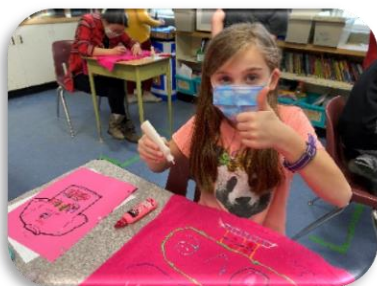
This year we have a school-wide inquiry project looking at how stories can help us develop our identity connect to one another and to the place in which we live. During February, students were asked to interview someone in their household and collect an artifact that holds a story for them. We celebrated our collection of stories with an assembly where students proudly and voluntarily shared their artifact and the story that it held. We then took the time to reflect on what the stories shared during the assembly brought to us. Many of our students relayed that they felt much more connected to each other, and they felt joy, excitement, respect and discovered that some stories carry meaning.



WL McLEOD'S PINK SHIRT DAY ACTIVITIES

COMMUNITY INCLUSION

Each class created three giant hearts for community partners. The hearts were displayed in the windows of local businesses/services, etc., the week leading up to Pink Shirt Day, with the goal of making the Pink Shirt Day message of kindness, caring, and inclusion visible.



PINK SHIRTS

Thank you to our PAC, who bought a Pink Shirt for every child and adult in our building to paint and design their own.

ADULTS WHO BELIEVE IN ME

This is a double whammy! Research tells us that having adults who believe in you at school (and knowing it) positively and dramatically impacts student success. One of the 4 Key Questions for Inquiry Projects across BC is, "Can you name TWO adults in this school who believe you will be a success in life?" The middle heart is the child. The other hearts are the adults in the school who they know believe in them.



PINK SHIRT DAYS FROM THE PAST

We put together a history of our many Pink Shirt Day videos/pictures for classes to watch. We also wore our new pink shirts to go on an entire school walk around Vanderhoof to show them off and see all our community partner hearts displayed proudly in windows and doors!

100 DAYS CELEBRATION AT FRANCOIS LAKE INCLUDES FOOD BANK



Mrs. Watts, K/1/2 class, celebrated the 100th day of school by collecting over 100 non-perishable food items for the local food bank.



DECKER LAKE AND FRANCOIS LAKE SCHOOLS RELIEVE PARENT LUNCH DUTY

Our two schools provided a free lunch to ALL students during the week of February 22. We wanted to show parents how much we appreciate them and understand that it can't be easy being a parent these

days! We send home lice letters, call home when we need them to pick up their child who is feeling ill, deliver news about bus route cancellations, and prepare for the possibility of a functional school closure.



All of this stress and uncertainty takes a toll on families, so Decker and Francois Lake's parents were given a break from making lunches for a day. Every child received an apple, juice box, bannock dog, and glazed doughnut. The students loved their lunch!

MOUSE MOUNTAIN GIFTS SENIORS



Grade three students at Mouse Mountain School created a handmade gift and card for every resident (and the staff) of Silver Birch Lodge, Fraser Lake's senior home. The project was a way to spread kindness and show members of our greater community that we care. We look forward to keeping this connection going!



SPIRIT NORTH VISITS BABINE ELEMENTARY SECONDARY



Chris Paulson of Spirit North brought his engaging message of staying physically active to BESS this week. All students enjoyed a presentation in the gym, followed by another 'snow day' on our field to try out our new cross-country ski equipment.



SEAMLESS KINDERGARTEN DAY PILOT OPENS AT MOUSE MOUNTAIN

As per Mouse Mountain principal Megan Boniface,

"We have been very pleased to be able to offer before and after school care within the school. The transition for students before and after school is smooth and provides care in a familiar environment with trusted staff members who they know. We have had a positive response from our community regarding interest and enrollment in the first month of operation. I feel that the Before and After School Care Program is serving a need in our community, and it has been exciting to see the program get off the ground." A complete report on this program is in the March 14th public package.



SD 91 IN THE NEWS AND QUICK FACTS:

- [SD91 Welcomes Karla Mitchell](#)
- [LDSS Qualifies for Ski & Snowboard Provincials](#)
- [Valentines Day at William Konkin Elementary](#)
- [Burns Lake Restaurant Serves up Lunch](#)
- [WL McLeod Celebrates Pink Shirt Day](#)
- [Rapid Tests Arrive in SD91](#)
- [Students Take a Stand Against Bullying](#)
- [Community Honours Pioneer Bill McLeod](#)

HELPING STUDENTS UNDERSTAND THE CONFLICT IN UKRAINE

As this flag displayed at WL McLeod shows, our students are trying to understand the world around them, and events like the attack on Ukraine are complex and can produce anxiety.

The following resources provide tips for teachers and parents that we hope are helpful for your schools.

- [How to Talk with Students about the Russia-Ukraine War:](#) Includes 5 tips to help teachers and principals talk to students thoughtfully and appropriately about what is going on in Ukraine.
- [How to Talk to Kids About Violence, Crime, and War:](#) Common Sense Media gathers tips and conversation starters to help you talk to kids of different ages about the most challenging topics.
- [Resilience in a time of war: Tips for parents and teachers of elementary school children:](#) This article from the American Psychological Association can help adults guide their young children beyond fear and to resilience.
- [Resilience in a time of war: Tips for parents and teachers of middle school children:](#) The American Psychological Association breaks out tips and strategies for parents and teachers of middle school-aged children.
- [National Child Traumatic Stress Network:](#) Provides resources that can be filtered by topic or keyword and by audience with a focus on how adults can identify traumatic responses in young people and how to support them



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES UPDATE

As per the [Strategic Workplan](#) and goal updates for 2021 – 22, here is a summary of two goals that will be expanded upon by district staff during the March. 14th Board meeting.

HONOURING DIVERSITY

❖ INCLUSIVE CURRICULUM

- We continue to add resources to schools specific to inclusive education. Over the last few months, district staff have engaged with SD91's Student Voice group to gather some student perspectives and purchase resources that were explicitly asked for by students including resources on sexual health.
- Each of our schools has a SOGI lead who is supported by Claire McKay. This group meets monthly to both share what is happening in schools and do some professional learning.



ENGAGE OUR WORKFORCE

❖ STAFF DEVELOPMENT

- Over the 21 – 22 school year, we have had school teams from across our district work with:
 - **Jo Chrona:** *Teachers learned how to address the 9th professional standard by learning more about adding the 'HOW' and 'WHY' of adding Indigenous content and knowledge to high school courses.*
 - **Faye Brownlie:** *SD91 educators have participated in an inquiry learning model with Faye to learn, implement, and reflect on a variety of literacy strategies to engage learners.*
 - **Peter Liljedahl:** *Teachers have worked with Peter on the key concepts contained in his work on 'Building Thinking Classrooms.'*
- We are pleased to confirm that all 3 of these world-class experts will continue their relationship with SD91 educators for the 22 – 23 school year.
- Director of Instruction, Mark Gauthier, will expand on this update at the March 14th Board of Education meeting.