



Superintendent's Report to the Board

Regular Board Meeting of Nov. 16th, 2020

STRATEGIC GOAL - HONOUR DIVERSITY

SINKUT VIEW WELCOMES FAMILY OF ABORIGINAL VETERAN DICK PATRICK

All our schools took time to Remember on the 11th and Sinkut View Elementary was honoured to welcome two very special guests, **Johnny and Arlene John**. Arlene is

Dick Patrick's younger sister and she shared Dick's experiences and his honour at being awarded the Military Medal for Bravery during the Second World War.



DAVID HOY HATCHLINGS

David Hoy Elementary's youngest students, fondly referred to as their 'hatchlings', learn on the land at least twice a week. Both days are supported by David Hoy's amazing Dakelh Culture team of **Jo Anne Leon** and **Crystal Millard** along with classroom teachers **Eileen Bennison** and **Jessica Gooding**.

This last week the students heard a kindness story about how trees lose their leaves. The classroom experience builds on their outside time. The story is retold, language is explored, and curiosity is peaked.



This artwork represents both the deciduous and coniferous trees the hatchlings studied. They learn the Dakelh language out on the land and then build on those experiences in the classroom. You can see a few 'musdzi' peeking out of the trees.

BURNS LAKE SCHOOLS RESTART 'ROUND TABLE' STRUCTURE

Natasha Toth, Principal of William Konkin Elementary, and **Heidi Grant**, Principal of Lakes District Secondary, with help from Aboriginal Education workers **Tansy Benedict** and **Marlene Alec**, have reinitiated the 'Round Table' structure which invites Education Directors from local Indigenous communities to build relationships and discuss ways to better support students.



We're pleased to hear that this structure has restarted and will look forward to sharing news from this important table throughout the year.



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STRATEGIC GOAL – ENGAGE OUR WORKFORCE

THANK YOU TRACEY LUCAS & SD 91 CUSTODIANS



We are all extremely grateful for the hard work and commitment by our custodians to keep our schools and sites safe for students and staff.

One of the people that is instrumental in helping to schedule and manage our 40+ custodians working across all our buildings is **Tracey Lucas**. Here is how Kevin Derksen, our Facilities Manager, describes Tracey's work:

"Tracey has always had a large workload which has magnified within the COVID context. She has developed many, many custodial schedules, juggling over 40 custodians in 24 buildings. Initially the schedule would need to be updated weekly, sometimes every other day. Although this has settled

somewhat now, she continues to work to find replacements for those who are sick as well as helping to train new custodians. We have custodians working from 5:00 am to 11:00 pm, and Tracey will receive calls throughout that 18-hour period. She also makes sure that we have enough cleaning supplies which can be a challenge. With the increase in hand washing and cleaning it is not an exact science when it comes to ordering. On top of all of this, she still finds time to visit all of the custodians as well as fill in as needed when we have no coverage."



Tracey, you and your awesome team have our deepest gratitude. Thank you for all you do!

WANDA NEMETHY – CROSS COUNTRY RUN

Written by Wanda Nemethy and submitted by Libby Hart, W.L. McLeod Principal, in recognizing the contributions of Wanda Nemethy: "Every autumn W.L. McLeod hosts the District Elementary Cross-Country Run out at the NVSA trails.

However, due to the circumstances this year we were unable to,

so I decided that it would be good to still do some of the events we normally do, but only at a school level. I have had students from grade 2 to 6 asking, "When are we doing the cross-country running club?" several times throughout the fall. We have done some preparation during our PE classes and on November 5th we had our school cross-country run through the back fields and the trails adjacent to McLeod. All the

students from grade 2 to grade 6 participated either with their individual classes or with their cohort group and ran between 1 km and 2 km, depending on their grade. Some had friendly competitions with classmates, others jogged with friends, while others chose to walk and jog. It turned out to be a great fall day and all the kids that participated did a fabulous job of completing their run course."

On a side note, our District Elementary Sports Council reps are working within their respective schools to host their own playdays/events that we usually do throughout the year.



Thank you Wanda and Elementary Sports Council representatives for your commitment to student athletics!



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STRATEGIC GOAL — STUDENT LEARNING

GRASSY PLAINS ELEMENTARY – WELCOMES THE APPLIED DESIGN, SKILLS, AND TECHNOLOGIES (ADST) TRAILER

Thank you to Grassy Plains Principal Ginger Moyah for submitting the following:

"Students were literally creating their own success at Grassy Plains Elementary School, as they actively engaged in woodworking through the use of the SD 91 ADST Trailer. The excitement was overflowing as each class was able to try their hand at developing the basics. Some of the projects included wooden tops, hedgehogs, snowmen, trees, serving trays and mountain shelves. "We knew our school was going to love having the trailer to use but we didn't anticipate the impact it would have on our struggling learners. If you want to see 100% of your students fully engaged in an activity for a full hour at a time, give them a chance to get some tools in their hands," said Ginger Moyah. "We felt like the most incredible results with our struggling learners were produced because everyone stepped onto a level playing field. Every student had to learn how to use a clamp, saw and measuring tape, and it allowed every learner to feel like they were finally elbow to elbow with their peers. There were no longer divisions or ability groups within the classroom. Everyone saw each other as equal and it was empowering."



SD 91 LEARNER SERVICES INTRODUCES WELLBEING 360

The past several months has created anxiety for our students, their families and of course for our employees. To be able to help our students manage their anxieties and stresses, it is important that our employees practice personal wellness. Although we have created instructional practices that are rooted in trauma informed research and all our schools help students to self-regulate, our Learner Services team wanted to create a program specific to our employees to help them self-regulate their own stresses.

Wellbeing 360 was officially launched with the delivery of the boxes with resources to schools and sites. This in an invitational offer to all staff to access wellbeing activities and supports. The first wellbeing challenge is running until Dec 15th, but there are many different ideas and activities as well.



Thank you to the hard work and dedication of SD 91's counselling team: **Joanna Cardinal, Todd Blattner, Toni Dagenais, Nick Ferguson, Debbie Scott and Shauna Ianson**. They created videos, resources and are offering ongoing support to staff this year. Thanks also to **Kerri Dyck** for all the behind the scenes work.



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STRATEGIC GOAL — COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LAKES DISTRICT SECONDARY – GRADE 8 OUTDOOR PROGRAM

Thank you to LDSS Vice Principal, Tim Fraychineaud, for collecting the following anecdotes and pictures:



LDSS staff and community members, Patti Dubé, Steven Little, Tracey Brown, Jana Epkens-Shaffer, Garrett Shaw, Tim Fraychineaud, Monica Rush, Alicia Vanderkooi, Heidi Grant, Elise Dubé, Chris Paulson, Rachelle Van Zanten, Tansy Benedict, Jordan Williams, Ronnie West, Bonnie West, Sarah DeMerchant, Blaine Hastings, Stacie Gray, Kim Dezamits, RCMP, Laura Stewart, Marlene Alec, and Bryanne White (Wild Roots and Flowers), collaborated to create a grade 8 outdoor program that started in September of this school year. Submitted by Patti Dubé:

"I have thoroughly enjoyed planning and participating in these activities for the grade 8's. It is great to see how the community has come out to support the learning of these students. My hope is that we

have provided an opportunity for the students to have a better understanding of the wonderful activities that they can participate in right in their back door.

Activities: Canoeing, biking, orienteering, hiking, Donald's Landing (war canoes, residential schools and smoke house), flower arranging, cooking, health, art, metal, dance, computers, guitar, Carrier Language & Culture

We started the program in September where students participated in 3 full day activities at Kager Lake where they rotated between hiking, biking and canoeing. They then spent a full day out at Donald's Landing learning about residential schools, smoke house and learning how to paddle a war canoe.

After that, students participated in half day activities involving learning mountain biking, flower arranging, orienteering, fire building, etc.

Students also participated in longer hikes at Red Hills and the Ridler Trail.

Currently, for the next 3 Thursdays, we are offering small rotations for the students in foods, computers, dance, metal, art, guitar, Carrier Language & Culture, health. In the winter we will be offering x-c skiing and snowshoeing, downhill skiing and snowboarding.

It has been an incredible experience. The students and staff have thoroughly enjoyed participating in these activities. Having this continue in the future would be great."





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LDSS grade 8s Share their thoughts on the outdoor program:

- *"My favorite memory of the outdoor education was going canoeing. It was a great day for such an action. And let me do something I wouldn't be able to do in my normal life. I hope it is something other classes get to experience."* –

Tucker, student

- *"I got to know how kind the teachers really are. Since I'm not an outdoor person so they made me feel comfortable. I thought it was fun and I got to know my classmates better."* –**Lina**, student



- *"I had a lot of fun in the giant warrior canoes even though I ended up half drenched. It was super cool. Another of my favorite memories was the fire building competition. My team got second, but still ended up with the biggest fire (in a safe environment of course with water standing by)." –Emma*, student



SD 91 IN THE NEWS AND QUICK FACTS:

- [William Konkin Elementary – Intentional Kindness Project](#)
- [BESS – 30 Laptops for Teacher's Day Contest](#)
- [Burns Lake Walking Track](#)
- [LDSS Students Get Real World Experience](#)

[Video: Thank you to ALL for helping keep our schools safe](#)