

HADIH/HADI/HADEEH AND WELCOME TO THE 22 - 23 SCHOOL YEAR!

On September 6th our schools opened their doors and welcomed students to the first day of the 2022-2023 school year. Not only did that day mark a fresh new start for students, but it was also a new beginning for a number of staff, including myself. I excitedly join School District 91 on the journey to support the students and families of our communities. On our opening day, and every day that follows, all of us will have opportunities to inspire and support the students we serve to achieve educational excellence!



This school year, School District 91 will continue to focus on the value of **Honouring People, Land and History**. This value has strong representation in our SD91 Strategic Plan, which we are proud to be entering the half-way point of the five-year plan. Its purpose is to strategically support work at the school level to increase student success and well-being. It is also intended to complement the School Growth Plans that each school is already focused on. To view the School District 91 Strategic Plan, please visit the following link [2020-2025 SD91 Strategic Plan](#)

Throughout this school year as we consider the importance of relationships, I prompt us all to be intentional in how we welcome, connect with, and respond to the needs of each and every learner in our District. These efforts will support our commitment to being inclusive, particularly when we are mindful of forging deeper relationships with those students and individuals who may not share a similar worldview or lived experience.

Each one of us plays a role in student achievement and well-being. From the moment a student steps onto a bus, and throughout the school day until they arrive home, our staff are essential in creating and supporting safe learning environments where students feel valued and a sense of belonging. I would like to recognize the collective efforts of all staff in ensuring the school year started off in a student-centred manner. In addition, I want to acknowledge our employees who may not work directly with students - it is their dedication to learners and our District that allows everything to run smoothly, which in turn, contributes greatly to engaging and inclusive learning environments for children. Some staff within these employee groups worked throughout the summer to ensure that schools and their resources were ready to welcome students. We sincerely appreciate these efforts.

I am thankful for the opportunity to join SD91 as we collectively commit to making a positive difference in the lives of learners this school year.

Welcome back!

Respectfully submitted,

K. Mitchell

(she/her)

Superintendent, SD91

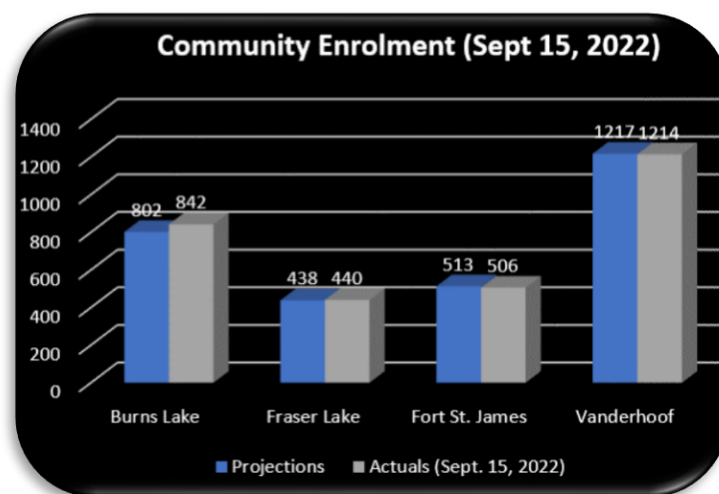
NEW TO THE ROLE

I would like to extend congratulations and a very warm welcome to numerous leadership staff who are taking on new roles in the 2022-23 school year:

LEADER	ROLE	LOCATION
Erin Baker	Vice-Principal	Nechako Valley Secondary School
Miriah Donnelly	Vice-Principal	William Konkin Elementary School
Jason Kadonaga	Principal	Sinkutview Elementary School
Wendy Keleman	District Principal of Early Learning	Burns Lake Office
Mia Moutray	Vice-Principal	EBUS Academy
Leona Prince	Director of Instruction – Indigenous Ed	Vanderhoof Office
Kim Repo	Vice-Principal	David Hoy Elementary
Heather Silver	Executive Asst. to the Superintendent	Vanderhoof Office

ENROLMENT ACROSS OUR COMMUNITIES

Every spring, staff develop student enrolment projections to submit to the Ministry of Education for the upcoming September. This projection is used to support staffing at the school level. This year, September enrolment across the district is almost identical to the Spring projection with some community-by-community variances. Current overall enrolment across the four communities is 1214. Please refer to the table which outlines Projections versus Actual Enrolment as of Sept. 15, 2022.



STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATES: GOAL 1: HONOR DIVERSITY



SD 91 LEARNS WITH JO CHRONA

We are very excited to once again welcome and work alongside renowned BC educator **Jo Chrona** this school year!

Jo will continue to join teams of educators online and in-person to focus their work within Indigenous Education on actions, learning opportunities and impact for students. All participants will receive Jo's new book *Wayi Wah! Indigenous Pedagogies*.



4TH ANNUAL SD91 ABORIGINAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE – SEPT 23RD

September 23rd marked our District Planning Day which was set aside for all staff to learn more about 'Reflection & Renewal.' We were both excited and grateful to virtually host [The Honourable Murray Sinclair](#), Chief Commissioner of *Canada's Indian Residential Schools Truth and Reconciliation Commission*, as well as [Dr. Sara Davidson](#), from the Faculty of Education at UBC and author of *Potlatch as Pedagogy: Learning through Ceremony*. Mesiy to Director of Instruction for Indigenous Education, [Leona Prince](#) and her staff for organizing such an impactful day of reflection & renewal.



Honorable Murray Sinclair



Dr. Sarah Davidson

WILLIAM KONKIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Students, parents, staff, and community members met bright and early at WKE on Saturday September 10th to paint the rainbow crosswalk in front of the school. This collaborative effort signifies to the whole school community that *each and every* Eagle is welcome, cared for, and safe at WKE.



STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATES: GOAL 2: ENGAGE OUR WORKFORCE



RELATIONAL APPROACHES PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Principals, VPs, and District Leadership engaged in Relational Approach professional learning as part of our 2-day August Leadership Meetings. Strategies and philosophies introduced and employed throughout the session have since been used as part of other collaborative meetings within the district. Lakes District Secondary, Fort St. James Secondary, William Konklin Elementary, as well as the District's Inclusive Education Department have since used the community circle approach as a meeting structure to enhance engagement/learning, create space, and ensure all voices have an opportunity to be heard. Relational theory will continue to be embedded in the way that we come together as a District Team.

NEW STAFF ORIENTATION: ENAGAING OUR NEWEST EMPLOYEES

Thank you to our District Leadership Team as well as the BLNTU and CUPE for supporting our New Staff Orientation Session which was held on September 1st. New staff, who were welcomed by Board Chair, David Christie, were able to receive valuable information about supports, programs and student services through Union Presidents, Curriculum Support, Inclusive Education, and Indigenous Education Teams.



STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATES: GOAL 3: CREATE STUDENT SUCCESS



'THINKING CLASSROOMS' WITH DR. PETER LIJEDAH

We are so excited to continue our work with Dr. Peter Liljedahl for the 2022-23 school year. This year we have teams joining us from 9 schools (3 high school and 6 elementary teams). As we embark on our second year of learning with Dr. Liljedahl, we have some new team members beginning their journey in Thinking Classrooms strategies, as well as many returning educators. Our focus throughout the year will be on integrating the strategies, building numeracy tasks with our local content,



and moving toward authentic assessment of thinking tasks. New team members will leave with the materials to start using Thinking Classrooms in their own classes, as well as the book resource "Building Thinking Classrooms". Returning educators will receive a copy of the book "5 Practices for Orchestrating Productive Mathematics Discussions". More information regarding Dr. Liljedahl's work can be found at the following link [Thinking Classrooms](#).

FAYE BROWNLIE INCLUSIVE LITERACY STRATEGIES LEARNING SERIES

Beginning on Monday Sept. 26th, school teams will be working with internationally renowned BC educational literacy expert Faye Brownlie. In a mostly virtual learning series, Faye will support educators as they delve into strengthening nonfiction learning skills across 3 learning sessions and two sessions focused on co-teaching. Then after the winter break, she will lead the learning about fostering voracious reading through literature circles. To encourage exploration of this approach to reading, each participating school will be gifted the 10 copies of two books by Indigenous authors to add to their literature circle collections ("The Barren Grounds" by David A Roberston; "Aggie & Mudgy" by Wendy Proverb). Each participant will also be gifted a copy of the new edition of the professional resource, "Grand Conversations" by Faye Brownlie.



We are grateful to live, work, and play on the unceded, ancestral territories of fourteen First Nations representing the Dakelh, Nedut'en and Wet'suwet'en peoples. We are working diligently towards creating equity for our learners through conscious acts of Reconciliation.

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATES: GOAL 4: ENHANCE CONNECTIONS

ENHANCE CONNECTIONS

Create opportunities
and assist schools to
engage in valuable
learning activities with
community partners.

JOYFUL JOURNEY

During the Pandemic we were not able to engage our future and new learners in the way we had in the past through community and school Ready Set Learn events. Last school year we decided to find a way to offer these events in some way, in an online format. Thus, began *Joyful Journey* with a focus on reading as well as a partnership with Dr. Janet Mort who supported the creation of videos on literacy development through play-

based learning. In looking at the data from our kindergarten learners we realized gross motor skills was an area of concern similar to literacy. Therefore, we created the Summer Joyful journey Contest 2022 and asked families to support more than just literacy with their children. They shared a picture with us about the variety of play-based activities they were engaged in with their children over the summer in order to foster an interaction between home and school even prior to starting school. The contest was open to families with children aged 0 to 8, with submissions from across communities, as well as from EBUS. Each child who participated received a book, a toy to promote gross motor skills, and a crafty game to promote fine motor skills.



with

STUDENT & FAMILY AFFORDABILITY FUND

As announced on August 29, 2022, the Province is helping to make back-to-school more affordable for students and their families who are struggling with rising costs of living due to global inflation. Through the Student and Family Affordability Fund, our District has received funding (\$515 000) to ensure students are fed and have the school supplies they need to be successful this year. This one-time funding will help our schools to expand food/school meal programs, make sure students have the school supplies they need, and cover any additional fees so that students in need can take part in activities, such as field trips and sports. Planning around this fund has been a collaboration among school/District staff, the Aboriginal Education Council, District/School Parent Advisory Councils, as well as other partner groups.



For more information about the fund please visit [Making back-to-school more affordable | BC Gov News](#)

W.L. McLEOD'S CARES LEADERS



W.L. McLeod Elementary is committed to making the transition to school as easy as possible for its newest students each year. The McLeod Cares program is celebrating 15 years of students helping students! This program pairs grade 6 student leaders with incoming kindergarten students and their families. The leaders, trained by principal **Libby Hart** just prior to the start of the school year, contact the families of in-coming kindergarten students to introduce themselves and answer questions. Student leaders in the McLeod Cares program welcome the new kids on their first day, but the welcoming doesn't stop there. During the first week of school, they are out on the playground, helping and answering questions and looking after the young learners. Pictured are McLeod Cares leaders enjoying a meal together after their service to kindergarten students.

TEAM FEATURE: THE INCLUSIVE EDUCATION TEAM!

SD 91's Inclusive Education department continues to employ a full complement of professionals, to support the students we serve. We have increased our FTE for Speech and Language by 0.4 FTE (2 additional days of service) to meet the increased needs of our learners. This summer Uli Roessler, Behaviour interventionist, held a workshop for school teams which included Learning Support Workers Personal Attendants Teachers and Principals. The workshop engaged school teams in learning how to support children experiencing behaviour needs in the classroom. A summer session regarding the development of competency-based goals for learners with behaviour needs was also held. Fifteen Case Managers attended the session.

FRAMEWORK FOR ENHANCING STUDENT LEARNING (FESL)

British Columbia's Ministry of Education initiated a reporting process in the 2021-22 school year titled 'Framework for Enhancing Student Learning' ([FESL](#)). FESL *"brings a formalized approach to the planning and reporting expectations for schools with a focus on enhancing student learning and success. It combines accountability with evidence-informed decision making and system-wide continuous improvement to support equity of outcomes for all students in the provincial K-12 public system. The Framework also reflects a public commitment by Indigenous peoples, Indigenous rightsholders, education partners and communities to work together to improve student learning and enhance the intellectual, social and career development of all learners."*

For those interested in reading SD91's FESL report, please navigate to the 'Board' section of our website or click [HERE](#).



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



This year FSJSS and NVSS are excited to host 13 International Students from Spain, Japan, Mexico, and Germany. Students enjoyed an orientation session on September 10th with International Student staff members at Echo Lake. The weather could not have been better to engage in some learning activities, as well as a BBQ lunch, climbing, archery and waterfront fun. Welcome to all of the visiting students and thank you to our Host Families for engaging in this rich and unique experience!

SD 91 IN THE NEWS AND QUICK FACTS:

[Burns Lake principal reelected to board of BC Principals' and Vice Principals' Association](#)

[Decker Lake Elementary School](#)

SD 91 PARENT RESOURCE:

[SD91 DPAC Parent Resources - Steps to Resolving Concerns](#)

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