



Superintendent's Report to the Board

Regular Board Meeting of Oct. 19th, 2020

WELCOME TO OCTOBER - A TIME OF THANKS!

Although this school year continues to be far from normal, **the fact that our schools are open and we are welcoming students daily is something that I am thankful for.** The anxiety and stress involved for every member of our school communities has been, and continues to be, immense as we navigate operating schools within the context of a global pandemic.

Although British Columbia continues to do relatively well specific to our COVID strategy when compared to jurisdictions across Canada and the world, the impact on the mental health of ourselves and the students whom we serve continues to be on my mind. I know that for learning to occur, we need to have taken care of the anxiety and worry that exist for many of our students and so **I'm especially thankful for the careful, thoughtful approaches of our educators and schools in helping students to navigate the current reality.**

As our schools return to our learning agenda, our Board has returned to considering our Strategic Plan and next steps. The Board spent two days reviewing feedback from their Strategic Plan presentations earlier this year which helped to inform some edits to the plan and some next steps regarding communication and reporting on the plan. Our Board asked me to adjust my monthly report to the Board to provide a greater alignment to our strategic goals. **I am thankful that we have a Board that is focussed on setting a direction for our school district and communicating regularly with stakeholders on our progress.**

As we took the time to celebrate Thanksgiving with our families, I wanted to share this poem of 'Thanks' shared with me by one of our FLESS students and this bulletin board from William Konkin School:

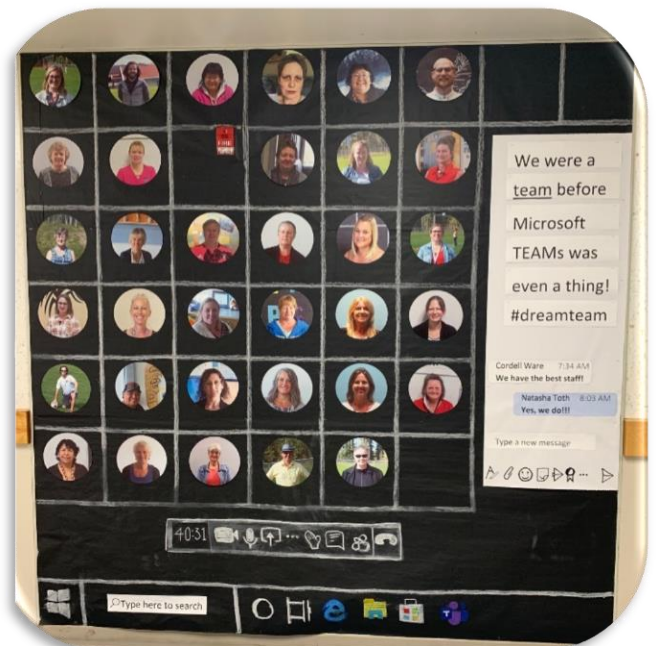
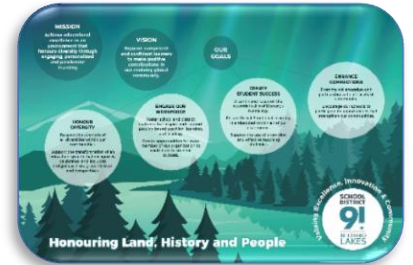
*I am thankful for the noise in the hallway
that reminds me that the people are here
and this place is alive.*

*I am thankful for the board outside
that tells you the day and the temperature
and that this is our home.*

*I am thankful for the smell of the old hallways and
rooms that have listened to so many stories
and are waiting for us to tell more of them.*

*I am thankful for the energy that everyone brings
on days where it's not so easy to get out of bed
on days where my feet drag in the halls
and a smile to cheer me up is just a corner away.*

*I am thankful for thankful's sake
at times where it's hard to remember what to be thankful
for and for those toughest days when i'm not even sure
if there's anything to be thankful for
and in those times, and in these times, i'm thankful i'm
here*





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STRATEGIC GOAL - HONOUR DIVERSITY

Teachers and students across Nechako Lakes School District donned orange shirts on Sept. 30th to recognize that 'Every Child Matters.' Within the sea of orange across our schools, teachers reminded students about why the day exists by sharing Phyllis' story and the impact that the residential school system had on our Indigenous people.



To the right is a piece of writing from **Summer**, a grade 5 student at Fraser Lake Elementary Secondary. Here is what Summer wrote:



Dear Residential School Survivor,

I feel very bad for you and what you had to experience. People all matter and you felt exactly the opposite. The world is a very harsh place sometimes. I wish it was not but sadly that the way it is. We have been learning about the residential schools you and many other people had to go to. We have read countless stories and did countless activities. I really can't describe how sorry I feel for you. If that happened to me I would be broken. I have learned many ways to prevent this from happening ever in the future. Me and many others are making sure that no other child has to feel the wretched pain you had to go through. I really am just speechless at how they treated you. I will always support you and the many others by participating in Orange Shirt Day. We will always make sure that all children know that Every Child Matters.

RECONCILIATION & RELATIONSHIPS

Keynote Speakers



Dr. Niigaan Sinclair



Annita McPhee

We held our 2nd Annual Aboriginal Education Conference virtually on Sept. 25th and were joined by Dr. Niigaan Sinclair and Anita McPhee along by many of our own educators who have been participating in the Indigenous Teacher Lead program. This was an excellent day of learning and there were many positive comments from this day.

Thank you to Leona and her team for their hard work in making this day happen and I know that we all look forward to the 3rd annual event next school year.

NADLEH WHUT'EN ELDER VIRTUALLY VISITS MOUSE MOUNTAIN CLASSROOMS

Elder Connie Sutherland spoke to all Mouse Mountain Elementary classes virtually on Orange Shirt Day. Pictured are Mouse Mountain staff, Elder Connie Sutherland, Trustee Dave Christie and they are holding books donated to the school by an anonymous Stellat'en First Nation donor.





STRATEGIC GOAL — ENGAGE OUR WORKFORCE

PROJECT TRAILS - LDSS



Through the passion of many of our Burns Lake educators, Project Trails continues to be a very popular choice for students at LDSS. Through the leadership of **Patti and Pat Dube**, LDSS students have contributed extensively to the mountain biking trails at the Boer Mountain Recreation Site.

This year's project was on the Slaughterhouse Trail that involved building a 30 m boardwalk. Students had to carry in 26 4x4s, 200 pieces of ½ m decking and 13 large treated rounds.

Way to go LDSS!



Although I don't have any pictures to share, I also understand that LDSS teacher **Jeremy Gooding** spent two days with his Employment and Life Skills students learning how to process a moose leg. Hunting and sustainable living are a passion of Jeremy's that he loves to share with his students on a regular basis. Thank you Jeremy!

BESS- BEST BUY BEST TEACHER CONTEST

Congratulations to **Jonathan Morry** for being recognized for his contributions to Babine Elementary Secondary School and winning 30 Chromebooks from Best Buy. Watch [this video](#) of Jonathan and Adrienne Morry sharing their excitement with Breakfast Television.

Thank you for all that you do for BESS students and for getting this great gift for your school.

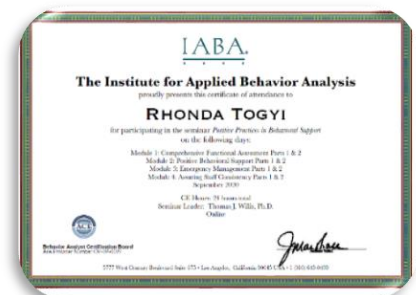


BEHAVIOUR INTERVENTION GRADUATES

Six of our educators, teachers **Cathy Tassie, Kim Repko, Stephanie Lindstrom and Kari Ephrom** were joined by principals **Rhonda Togyi** and **Wade Fitzpatrick** in completing a 24-hour Behaviour Intervention Course. These folks committed to attending this course from 4 – 7:30 pm for 8 days and look forward to using their new learning to working with our students. Thanks to all of you for this commitment to our students!



Behavior Analyst Certification Board
Ace Provider Number OP-02-0027





STRATEGIC GOAL — STUDENT LEARNING

BUILD – GROW – SHARE KINDNESS PROJECT – WILLIAM KONKIN ELEMENTARY

William Konkin Elementary is embarking on a new and exciting project focused on kindness, a key component of Social Emotional Learning. The school hopes to build, grow, and share kindness within their school community, their local community and the global community. In these unprecedented times kindness should guide our practice and learning.



This project is being led by vice principal, **Cordell Ware**, who has the opportunity to work with every class in the school for 40 minutes per week. Some of the essential questions guiding this project include:

- ✓ *What does it mean to be kind?*
 - ✓ *What does true authentic kindness look and feel like in our local and global communities?*
 - ✓ *How can we foster practical and purposeful kindness?*
- ✓ *If students have a central focus of practical and purposeful kindness, are they then able to speak to their learning through that lens? Addressing the why behind the what.*

This year all the students will take part in the BUILD-GROW-SHARE KINDNESS project. This project involves the students building wooden crates, growing fresh produce, and packaging that produce in the crates to be shared with those who serve the local community and those in need within our community.

William Konkin's teacher librarian, **Shawnese Trottier**, will partner with individual classes and their teachers to explore the important work of documenting the student narrative and perspective of the kindness project. Students will engage in different forms of media and text to best capture their story and share the meaning behind their work within the kindness project.



GREEN JOB HIGHLIGHTS NICOLE BOYDE OF FSJSS



FSJSS student **Nicole Boyde** has had the opportunity to work for the Chuntoh Education Society for the last two summers and her reflections on that work are featured in a youth spotlight article on the Project Learning Tree Canada website. This is a great read and can be found [HERE](#).

Nicole's summer work has directly benefitted local schools as she has been involved in producing a [Guideline to working with Dakelh Edlers and Knowledge Holders in Education](#).

Here she is banding a hummingbird!



STRATEGIC GOAL – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

CUSTOM MOUNTS FOR COASTAL GASLINK CONTRACTOR - LDSS

Blaine Hastings, a shop teacher at LDSS, was approached by a local Burns Lake company to take on the challenge of creating and manufacturing buggy whip window mounts, a fastener that allows workers to attach safety flags to their vehicle's window, for Pacific Atlantic Pipeline Construction. Mr. Hastings and his students jumped into the project and were able to hone their skills, including cutting, bending, drilling, grinding and painting while creating a custom, quality product that's now proudly installed on hundreds of PAPC contractor vehicles.



An excellent partnership that provided our students with some authentic learning opportunities.

KOH LEARNING – ACROSS THE DISTRICT

Through September and October, we have seen students across our district participate in a variety of outdoor learning communities. The pictures I am sharing show NVSS students benefitting from the hard work of teachers in creating partnerships and relationships with local landowners, post-secondary partners and community organizations. These relationships are paying dividends as our students have had an opportunity to be in these outdoor classrooms participating in local water monitoring activities. The pictures below show our students actively engaged in water and fish monitoring on a variety of local wetlands.



Thank you to a variety of SD 91 educators involved in the KOH Learning project (**Garrett, Duncan, Jaclyn, Kelly, Casey, David, Heather, Travis, Doug**) for providing these excellent learning opportunities for our students.





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SD 91 IN THE NEWS AND QUICK FACTS:

- [SD 91 Develops Course to Explore Student Identity and Diversity](#)
- [BESS Back to School Close to a Normal Year](#)
- [How Did Burns Lake Observe Orange Shirt Day](#)
- [Vanderhoof Teen Designs Orange Shirt Day T-Shirts to Spread Awareness](#)



NVSS Student, Niki MacKinlay, designed a beautiful Orange Day t-shirt logo for Orange Day.

