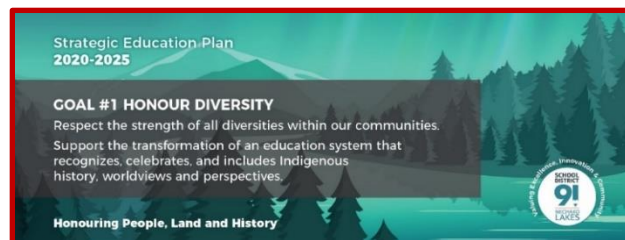


SD91 SCHOOLS ACKNOWLEDGE NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION



W.L. McLeod Elementary School (WLM) Truth and Reconciliation Honouring lasted about 2 weeks. I think it was powerful that the kids all used their own hands and their creativity to connect to the message of Every Child Matters. They created their orange shirt and moccasins, but they also worked with their buddy classes to hang them. I believe our kids understand why we honour this day and connect to it, each in their own way.



William Konkin Elementary School (WKE) acknowledged Truth and Reconciliation this year over the course of Orange Shirt Week. Students, teachers, staff, and parents wore orange shirts, skirts, scarves, and ribbons to raise awareness throughout our community that Every Child Matters and to honour residential school victims, survivors, and families. Students created a cultural mural in their Carrier classroom, designed and displayed their own orange shirts in the school foyer, and tied orange feathers with loving, personal messages of empathy and commitment to creating a better future.



At **Babine Elementary-Secondary School (BESS)** there was lots of work around Orange Shirt Day as we upgraded our fence display and had many discussions in our various classrooms.

GROWING INNOVATION IN RURAL SITES OF LEARNING

Growing Innovation in Rural Sites of Learning was conceptualized in 2011 by the Rural Education Advisory and is founded on the assumption that rural schools and communities are both the sites of, and benefit greatly, from innovation. Participation and sharing amongst schools in this initiative is intended to shine a light on innovative practices in rural schools, districts, and communities. Nechako Valley Secondary School (NVSS) has most recently participated in this project and to see a short PowerPoint outlining the work of the NVSS team, click [HERE](#).



This year, **Grassy Plains School**, has been selected to participate in the Growing Innovation Program...CONGRATULATIONS!

The school will be focused on the concept of how story contributes to our understanding of ourselves, our identity, our culture, our community, and the lands on which we live. Principal

Ginger Moyah and her team were inspired by the passion of author **Richard Van Camp's** presentation during our School District Planning Day on Sept. 24th. Look for more updates on this exciting way of engaging students through story in helping them understand themselves, their place, and their understanding of each other.

DECKER LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (DLES) WELCOMES JORDAN WILLIAMS

Friday, October 15th is a special day at **DLES**. **Mr. Jordan Williams** began his new 0.2 FTE teaching assignment at our school. He will be sharing his knowledge and wisdom of the Carrier language and culture with every division on Fridays. The DLES school community wishes to thank the **SD91 Aboriginal Education Department** and **Wet'suwet'en First Nation** for working together to make this position possible! Welcome, Jordan!



Strategic Education Plan 2020-2025

GOAL #2 ENGAGE OUR WORKFORCE

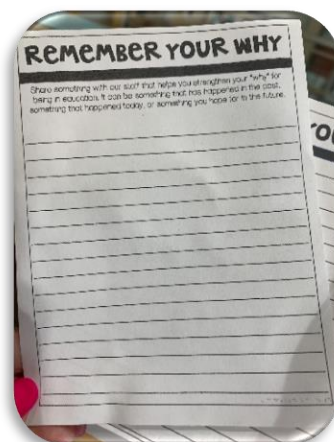
Foster school and district cultures that inspire and support passion-based teaching, learning, and leading.
Create opportunities for every member of our organization to contribute to student success.

Honouring People, Land and History

WILLIAM KONKIN ELEMENTARY (WKE) CUSTODIANS RECOGNIZE 'RESPECT OF PLACE'

WKE custodians **Janet Thorburn** and **Brenda Lee Cripps** awarded prizes for the classes who demonstrated respect for this place by

keeping their classrooms clean. Teachers expressed a need to publicly acknowledge the contributions of CUPE staff and created a SOAR board for a place for employees to openly demonstrated appreciation for each other. Ongoing conversations about the purpose of teaching and learning led to the development of the "Remember Your Why" board where all educators share stories publicly about what brought them to education and what keeps them here.



EXTRA CURRICULAR RETURNS TO LAKES DISTRICT SECONDARY SCHOOL (LDSS)— THANK YOU COACHES!

We are delighted to see the return of extra-curricular sport and are thankful to all our volunteer coaches for volleyball including: **Chris Backhouse**, **Steven Little**, **Naomi Hanson**, and **Ami Moore** (student coach).



RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING OUR 'LETTER OF PERMISSION' TEACHERS

Like many northern school districts, we are facing considerable challenges in recruiting an adequate number of teachers for our vacant positions. This year we have ten individuals teaching on a 'Letter of Permission.' These folks are typically people that have worked in our system as support staff for many years and have agreed this year to take on a classroom of their own. This year, our LOP teachers are being supported by **Deborah Koehn**, a district vice principal, who has extensive experience working with student teachers at the Faculties of Education at both UNBC and Vancouver Island University, our Curriculum Services team, and members of our SD91 Inclusive Education department. In addition to this support, we are thankful to our school principals/vice-principals and teachers, who are assisting our new staff each day. We are thankful to these individuals for taking on these roles this year!

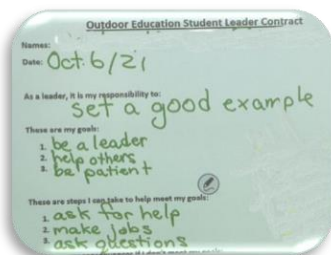
LEARNING OUTDOORS AT REDMOND WETLANDS – THANK YOU SD91 FACILITIES

A BIG THANKS to our Facilities crew for helping to set up our Minerals North Legacy tent at the Redmond Wetlands where 18 classes will arrive to participate in some ecological learning over the coming week! Great work guys!



OUTDOOR EDUCATION LEADERSHIP AT EVELYN DICKSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Grade 1 – 3 teachers are developing a leadership program specifically for students who struggle with indoor routines and traditional classroom structures. Teachers hope to engage these students with unique outdoor skills that will help strengthen a love of learning while at the same time developing leadership & role modelling skills. We will be meeting monthly with our junior leaders to provide specific feedback on observed strengths, using explicit examples. These meetings will also identify goals or 'stretches' that will be identified in a collaborative conversation with each student. Each junior leader will receive their own outdoor backpack including a mini first aid kit. Progression through the program will allow students to receive additional tools to assist with outdoor leadership.



PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES BEGIN AT WILLIAM KONKIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

WKE Professional Learning Communities began on October 13th, with each PLC group developed through a combination of teacher-driven professional learning, school goals, and district strategic plan. During this time students engaged in Indigenous learning immersive experiences. This will be repeated regularly throughout the school year.



JEWELLERY COURSE A BIG HIT AS LDSS

Our Jewellery course, in its second year, has doubled in enrollment and is engaging students in a variety of ways. They are combining skills from various curricular areas, including metalwork, fine arts, and design. This is a very student-centered option for learners of all abilities.

LEARNING ASSESSMENTS AND HALLWAY POETRY AT DECKER LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



For your viewing pleasure, listen to this group of primary students in Ms. Giesbrecht's classroom joyfully sharing a poem performance. Thank you for sharing! Click [HERE](#). Thank you for sharing!

Here are some photos of Decker Lake classrooms working on classroom, district, and provincial learning assessments this fall. Our fall learning assessments are important for schools and teachers to get an understanding of where their students are at and to plan instruction specific to student needs.

A very big thanks to teachers and students for this work that helps to ensure that all our students succeed!



W.L. McLEOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CELEBRATES TERRY FOX DAY AND HARVESTS FOOD FROM PARTNERSHIP WITH THE VANDERHOOF COMMUNITY GARDEN



Each year we do a challenge for Terry Fox. This year we had a challenge to make a big donation and to run as many laps as possible for Terry during morning DPA over the month of September. We will be saying thank you to 3 classes (biggest donation, and primary and intermediate most lappers) with an ice-cream treat. We raised just short of \$1,000 for the Terry Fox Foundation for Cancer Research. Our school goal was \$800 so we're very happy.

The garden is almost harvested for the fall. Lots of work by lots of classes as shown by this hard-working group of students bringing food back to the school!



DECKER LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL THANK THE RCMP



On Wednesday, Oct. 13th, the DLES school successfully completed a lock down drill with RCMP involvement. **Constables McDonald** and **Scott** assisted us with the procedures which the students followed closely. Our RCMP school liaison officers were very impressed by how well the Huskies performed the drill so they treated the students to a treat!



WKE INVITES PARENTS TO PARENT / TEACHER NIGHT



WKE's Head Teacher, **Miriah Donnelly** contacted every WKE family or home by phone this month to make sure that parents and guardians were aware of and booked in for our upcoming parent-teacher conferences on October 20th. As a result of Ms. Donnelly's commitment to contact our families, we have most booked to connect with classroom teachers this week in-person, by Teams, or by phone. **Great work Miriah...Thank You!**



NVSS WELCOMES INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

NVSS is pleased to welcome international students, **Berina, Franziska, Louis, Nina, Lilly, Finn, Felix, Gina,** and **Johanna** this school year. All of these students are from Germany and **Principal Ken Young** shared that they are really enjoying their host families, the school, and the community! WELCOME!

FALL HARVEST AT [BABINE ELEMENTARY-SECONDARY SCHOOL](#)



Harvesting our garden produce has been a fun activity for our junior and senior classes.



THANK YOU TO ALL OUR [FIRE PREVENTION WEEK](#) PARTNERS



[William Konkin Elementary School](#). students participated in **Fire Prevention Week**, learning how to build a campfire, roasting marshmallows for S'mores, discussing wildfire prevention, and making videos to submit to the BC Fire Safety Campaign.



SD 91 IN THE NEWS AND QUICK FACTS:

- [McLeod's CARES Leaders Welcome Students to School](#)
- [Bus Route Cancellations - Vanderhoof](#)
- [WL McLeod Honours National Day of Truth & Reconciliation](#)

STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVES UPDATE

As per the [Strategic Plan Workplan](#) for 2021/2022, the following objectives will be updated at our October Board of Education meeting. The following are a summary of updates that will be noted to by comments from the school district's leadership team during the meeting.

HONORING DIVERSITY

❖ INCLUSIVE CURRICULUM

- Over \$12,000, specifically from the Ministry of Education's mental health grant, of SOGI resources were purchased and delivered to schools in August 2021. These resources are being added to school libraries and we anticipate adding additional resources as recommended and reviewed.
- We are collecting information from schools around how these resources specific to marginalized groups are displayed regularly over the school year. A summary of this information will be shared with schools to highlight some best practices.
- Initial meeting with high school principals in early October to discuss first steps in looking at issues specific to secondary physical education. This work will involve physical education teachers, parents and students and will continue over the coming year.

❖ SPEAKER SERIES

- In planning for the coming year, we believe that having four speakers per year would allow us to create a plan for the next two years moving forward. We have brainstormed an exciting group of speakers but are awaiting some feedback from both the District Parent Advisory (DPAC) and Student Voice on speakers of interest to them.
- Currently contacting [Shelley Moore](#) to see if she can kick off our 2021/2022 Speaker Series, as she was a scheduled speaker for 2020/2021 but wasn't able to join us last year.
- These events will be in the evenings to allow access for our parents and will be hosted by a parent / student panel. The specifics of this panel will be determined through consultation with SD91's DPAC and Student Voice.
- Speakers being considered for 2021/2022 include: [Monique Gray-Smith](#), [Faye Brownlie](#), [Jo Chrona](#), [Sarah Ward](#), [Chief Terry Teegee](#), [Peter Liljedahl](#), [Shane Safir](#)

❖ COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS

- The first meeting of the **Aboriginal Education Council (AEC)** occurred on Sept. 14th...click [HERE](#) to see the agenda.
- Our **District Parent Advisory Committee** met for their first meeting of this year on Thursday, Oct. 7th and were joined by Trustee Pooley, Board Representative for DPAC.
- Student Voice** had their first meeting of this school year on Wednesday, Oct. 13th.

ENGAGE OUR WORKFORCE

❖ STAFF DEVELOPMENT

- [Peter Liljedahl](#) has completed two learning sessions this school year with just under 50 SD91 educators. The focus of the work is understanding and practicing the 14 research-based strategies to '[Build a Thinking Classroom](#).' Peter has two more sessions, one virtual and one in-person, booked this year and we are considering how to continue this work into the 2022/2023 school year.



- [Faye Brownlie](#) is working with 40+ SD91 educators on school teams looking at supporting literacy. Faye's reputation created much interest and excitement for our educators and this work will continue through this year with planning for 2022/2023 occurring in the new year.
- [Jo Chrona](#) was in our school district on Sept. 29th to work with 25+ secondary educators to look specifically at the rationale and strategies specific to the [9th Teacher Professional Standard](#). Jo is a recognized expert on adding indigenous content to ensure an inclusive experience for all our learners.

❖ NEW EMPLOYEE ORIENTATION

- New Staff Orientation developed to welcome and support new staff, those within their first few years with the school district, through a series of sessions spread out over the school year. The focus of these sessions is to introduce new employees to our Strategic Plan and the role that they play in ensuring student success.
- This school year we have completed two sessions for new staff: **Sep. 1st** Initial Orientation and Welcome for new CUPE and Teaching staff & **Sep. 14th** Learning Resources specific to literacy / numeracy supports.
- A 3rd session is currently under planning for Oct. 21st.

CREATE STUDENT SUCCESS

❖ SD91 ALTERNATE SCHOOLS REVIEW

- SD91 has three Alternate Schools: Fort St James Alternate School – FSJSS, Valhalla – NVSS, Lakes Learning Centre - LDSS
- A questionnaire specific to Alternate Schools was developed by the District team and sent to Alternate School principals at beginning of October with an expectation for this to be completed by end of October.
- District staff will follow up with a deeper in-person interview with school administration teams in November.
- Interviews with students, parents, staff, Parent Advisory Councils, and First Nation leaders will follow in the new year with the goal of a final report and recommendations being presented to the Board in May 2022.

❖ INCREASE SCHOOL CONNECTNESS / BELONGING

- Initial look at [data](#) and conversation with principals in early October. Summary of strategies and thoughts recorded and distributed back to schools on Oct. 11th.
- Continue to collect and review data including the fall 2021 'Our School Survey' being completed at each of our high schools.
- Continuing conversation with schools to reach consensus on strategies specific to elementary and secondary schools to help increase student belonging.