



Superintendent's Report to the Board

Regular Board Meeting of Feb. 22nd, 2021

STRATEGIC GOAL - HONOUR DIVERSITY

GRADE 8 HONOURING DIVERSITY TEACHERS

Through 2019 and 2020 our school district participated, as one of several districts in the province, in a process called the Equity Scan. The purpose of the scan was to engage students, parents, educators, and communities in examining our own structures, policies, and processes specific to improving educational outcomes for Indigenous students. At the conclusion of the Equity Scan process, three key recommendations emerged:



- I. **Culture and Language**
 - a. Increase the number of language teachers throughout our district.
 - b. Ensure that staff development included Aboriginal worldviews & perspectives.
- II. **Connectedness & Relationships**
 - a. Identified that we need to continue to focus on strengthening relationships between educators, parents, administrators, and First Nations leadership.
- III. **Communication**
 - a. Continue to increase our focus on structures that ensure that our broader communities are being provided opportunities to understand why our commitment to Truth & Reconciliation was essential to improving student outcomes.

One of the first concrete actions from the Equity Scan was the implementation of an Honouring Diversity module, approximately 25 hours, that would be offered to all grade 8 students across the district. As this is the first year of implementing that course, we know that reflections from this year will inform that course going forward. I would like to recognize the hard work, professional learning, and commitment to the goal of Honouring Diversity by the following group of educators who are delivering the big ideas within this course to our grade 8 students.

Thank you and please know that your hard work has not gone unnoticed!

Thank you to:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| • HEATHER DERKSON | Fraser Lake Elementary-Secondary School |
| • KATHY CHMELYK | Fraser Lake Elementary-Secondary School |
| • AMY DASH | Lakes District Secondary School |
| • MIA MOUTRAY | Nechako Valley Secondary School |
| • MERCEDES DUCHARME | Nechako Valley Secondary School |
| • DOUG RASH | Nechako Valley Secondary School |
| • TRAVIS HIMMELRIGHT | Nechako Valley Secondary School |
| • CARLA HOWELL | Fort St. James Secondary School |

Towards the final goal above of communication, the school district is pleased to provide a 2021 Speaker Series focusing on the theme of Diversity. Our first speaker in this series will be **Kevin Lamoureux**, a nationally recognized speaker and faculty member at the University of Winnipeg. Kevin will be joining us virtually on Tuesday, March 2nd at 5 pm.





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STRATEGIC GOAL – ENGAGE OUR WORKFORCE

THANKS COLIN – CREATIVE SOLUTION TO DECKER LAKE ELEMENTARY WATER CHALLENGE

In December, our Facilities Department was challenged with the task of bringing a waterline from the new well into the school. The initial plan involved removing a portion of the concrete floor in a classroom then digging down 4 feet to bring the waterline in below the frostline, a significant undertaking at any point in the year but even more so in December. A member of the problem-solving team, **COLIN SIMMONS**, an SD91 carpenter, suggested bringing in a concrete coring drill that would drill a hole on an angle starting beside the exterior wall and come out below the foundation. This enabled the work to be completed in a few hours, rather than days, over the Christmas break. The finished product was 2 small holes that were hidden behind a bookshelf and some dust to clean up.



Colin's idea saved many hours of labour and provided a unique solution that was less invasive to the school building than was originally planned. Thanks for this creative thinking Colin!

EBUS ACADEMY STAFF MONTAGE

Thank you to EBUS staff for sharing this video that will bring a smile to your faces....click [HERE](#).



SD91 VANCOUVER ISLAND UNIVERSITY GRADUATE COHORT



This year we are fortunate to have Vancouver Island University offering graduate learning for a large cohort of SD91 educators. I wanted to recognize and share a little on the learning that each of these special educators is working on in year one of their two-year program:

EILEEN BENNISON (David Hoy Elem.): Outdoor Education Leadership - currently helping to support the school district's Outdoor Learning Group.

ANNA WADDELL (David Hoy Elem.): Focussing on learner resiliency (grit & perseverance) and social emotional well being.

ANDREW MULROY (David Hoy Elem.): Focussing on increasing student identity incorporating local Indigenous perspectives.

JOHN BENNISON (David Hoy Elem.): Increasing social wellness and interaction through deliberate instruction and across multi-school involvement.

ASHLEY SCHMEISSER (David Hoy Elem.): Examining teacher / peer resilience and the power of mentorship.

MEGAN BONIFACE (Mouse Mountain Elem.): Examining outdoor learning that honours local Indigenous values, beliefs and culture.

TYLER CLARK & ALEX CHAN (EBUS): Co-developing a math inquiry with Dr. Peter Liljedahl (SFU) using his book, *Building Thinking Classrooms in Mathematics*.

JASON KADONAGA (EBUS): Looking at how belonging and connectedness can be built in virtual classrooms.

GINGER MOYAH (Grassy Plains): Working with Youth Leadership of BC to create hands on / service learning opportunities to develop engagement and motivation within students.

TORI SILVER (Evelyn Dickson Elem.): Working with a colleague to develop an outdoor classroom while exploring place-based pedagogies.

JANA-RAE KADONAGA (NVSS): Examining the role of informal leadership to increase teacher belonging and contentment.

Your commitment to your own professional learning this year will undoubtedly have a positive impact on students. Thank you!



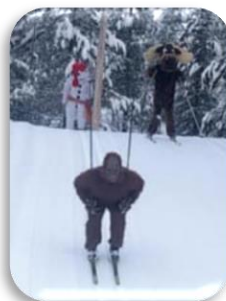
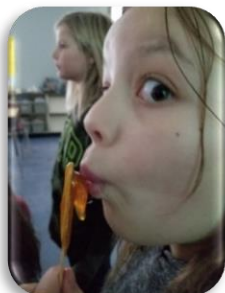
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STRATEGIC GOAL — STUDENT LEARNING

CARNAVAL WEEK AT W.L. MCLEOD & WILLIAM KONKIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Carnaval week just wrapped up at both W.L. McLeod and William Konkin elementary schools this past week. Students enjoyed a variety of outdoor games, maple taffy, French Bingo and Beaver Tails, a search for Bonhomme, and a race between OSC Sasquatch, Bonhomme and Lakey the Moose!



PINK SHIRT DAY — W.L. MCLEOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Pink Shirt Day is on Wednesday, February 24th. It is a day to celebrate kindness, caring, inclusion, tolerance, understanding and honouring differences. It is a very important day in the Vanderhoof and Saik'uz community. It's even more important this year as we are all experiencing the COVID pandemic. More than ever "we're all in this together" and that's the name of this year's Pink Shirt Day song. Forty-four organizations, including all Vanderhoof schools, are part of our "We're All in This Together" music video that will be released on Pink Shirt Day. Many thanks to the Pink Shirt Day team **KIM WORTHINGTON** and **DIONNE ELLIS**! ~ contributed by **LIBBY HART**



SD 91 ONLINE UKELELE PROGRAM — FSJ, FRASER LAKE, BURNS LAKE, GRASSY PLAINS

We are excited to be implementing an online ukelele program for 9 grade 3 – 7 classes at David Hoy, Mouse Mountain, Decker Lake and Grassy Plains schools. Students will participate in 1-hour virtual classes per week with an instructor from DMS Music Education, an organization that has worked extensively with EBUS in the past. A big thank you to **MEGAN BONIFACE**, Mouse Mountain principal, for doing the heavy lifting to get this program off the ground. We are so looking forward to hearing and sharing stories of our young musicians' journeys over the next 4 months.





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STRATEGIC GOAL — COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

KOH-LEARNING KHIT/KHUI (WINTER) FESTIVAL

This coming week is the winter celebration of the incredible learning that is happening within our Koh-Learning project. This project would not be possible without the incredible community collaboration and partnership that is happening between ourselves, UNBC, and community organizations. As our classrooms prepare to participate in the variety of excellent learning opportunities offered this week, we wanted to recognize and immensely thank the following individuals for their hard work on Koh-Learning:

UNBC

- TAVIA MCKINNON
- ELLA PARKER
- JORDAN CRANMER
- DR. DIANA KUTZNER
- BARRY BOOTH
- MALAYLA SKRLAC
- DR. MARGOT PARKES

SD91

- DEB KOEHN
- MIA MOUTRAY
- JACLYN BOYES
- CASEY LITTON
- MARK GAUTHIER
- EILEEN BENNISON
- DARREN CARPENTER

Community Partners

- NECHAKO WATERSHED ROUNDTABLE (NWR)
- UNBC'S INTEGRATED WATERSHED RESEARCH GROUP
- NECHAKO ENVIRONMENT & WATER STEWARDSHIP SOCIETY



FSJSS: IMPROVING OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH STUDENT PROJECTS

JHEN BRIDGEMAN, youth worker at FSJSS, has been working with the Youth Leadership Society of BC to have student council members at FSJSS volunteer on various projects to meaningfully contribute to their community. To date, seven students have completed the following four community projects:

- 20 Backpacks provided to the Community Cold Shelter
- 1,000 Reflective bands provided to all schools in Fort St. James, including Eugene Joseph School in Tl'azt'en Nation
- \$1,500 worth of teen toys donated to Toy & Food drive
- Grant submitted for signage and reflective tape for community trail system

Jhen was also instrumental in obtaining a \$5,000 grant from **Four Rivers Co-op** and a very generous grant of \$13,750 from the **District of Fort St. James** for FSJSS food programs. Great work FSJSS!



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SD91 IN THE NEWS AND QUICK FACTS:

- [WKE Kindergartener Wins Kindness Award](#)
- [SD 91 Town Hall with Northern Health](#)
- [SD 91 Enhanced COVID-19 Measures](#)
- [Burns Lake Students to Participate in Science Fair Despite Pandemic Challenges](#)
- [WKE Annual Book Fair Adds a Virtual Element](#)