

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.

HADIH/HADI/HADEEH AND WELCOME TO DUKAI OOZA (JUNE)

The final few days of the school year are upon us! Heartfelt congratulations are extended to all learners graduating from secondary schools this month throughout the district. Graduation is a time of celebration and recognition of all that

students have accomplished during their school experience, and it was a pleasure to join many of you during this significant milestone event. Graduation is also a special time for family members, friends and other essential allies who have supported the graduates up to this point in their lives. Thank you to each of you who have contributed to the graduates' success in immeasurable ways.



As I reflect on my first year as Superintendent in Nechako Lakes School District, it has been such an enriching experience, both personally and professionally. The traditional territories of the Dakelh, Nedut'en and Wet'suwet'en peoples are both visually stunning and culturally diverse. I consider myself fortunate to have this opportunity to live in such a beautiful place. This has also been a year of learning about our organization within the provincial educational context, but certainly there is more learning to come! I have much gratitude to all those who have supported my growth thus far and to those who are working diligently in the service of learners. School District 91, together with its many partners, is focused on children and committed to meeting the ever-evolving academic needs and well-being of all learners as described in the Elected Board's [2020-2025 SD 91 Strategic Plan](#).

It is my hope that all members of the school community have an enjoyable and safe summer, with many opportunities to rest and recharge, but also to stay curious and find new opportunities to grow.

Mesi and I look forward to continuing our collective learning journey again in September.

Respectfully submitted,

(she/her)

Superintendent, SD91

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATES: GOAL 1: HONOUR DIVERSITY

**HONOUR
DIVERSITY**

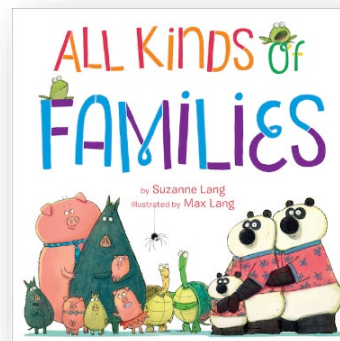
Respect the strength of
all diversities within our
communities.

Support the transformation
of an education system that
recognizes, celebrates, and
includes Indigenous
history, worldviews and
perspectives.

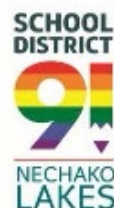
SHARE THE LOVE DAY 2023!

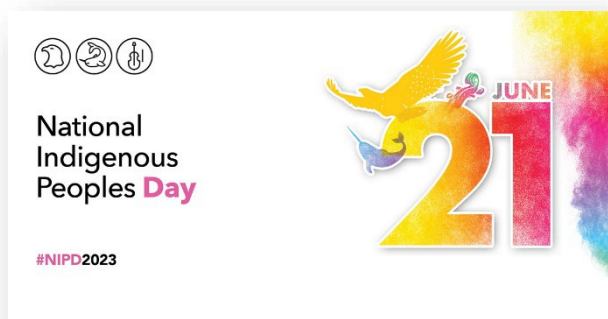
SD91 held its annual Share the Love Day on May 17th to mark the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia. The day is part of the work of educators and students to make schools inclusive and safe for learners of all sexual orientations and gender identities. It is important for each member of the school community to feel welcomed, seen, and valued at school. Thank you to the secondary SOGI Leads who worked diligently to create all the great

Share the Love moments which included a Goosechase, Kahoot and Mario Cart tournament. Thank you to all elementary SOGI Leads for all the activities, assemblies, and story sharing that took place in elementary schools. I was excited to be invited by Claire McKay and her planning team to share a message with all staff and students to open the day! [Superintendent's Message - \(Elementary\) Share the Love Day 2023.](#)



The Ministry of Education & Child Care and School District 91 are committed to inclusion, diversity, and human rights. Share the Love Day is one more way that we affirm learners and create warm, welcoming, inclusive school communities.





NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY – JUNE 21ST

Wednesday, June 21st was National Indigenous Peoples Day, a time to celebrate the diverse cultures, histories, experiences, voices and accomplishments of First Nations, Metis and Inuit peoples. Previously referred to as National Aboriginal Day, the name shifted to include the term 'Indigenous' in 2017 to better reflect peoples' connection to the traditional territories and their collective experience of colonization.

Nechako Lakes' school communities celebrated on this day, many with the support of Elders, Knowledge Holders, Matriarchs, and others from local Nations. It was my pleasure to attend the parade and celebration at Spirit Square in Burns Lake. Mesiy to all those involved in making this a joyful day of learning and cultural appreciation for learners and communities!

FIRST ANNUAL HUNDIYIN REMATRIATION GALA

The First Annual Hundiyyin Rematriation Gala was held at the Margaret Patrick Memorial Centre on June 14th. The cultural event allowed a full house of family and friends to experience a live auction, traditional meal, and music. The highlight of the evening was a ribbon skirt fashion show which featured fabric art created and modelled by students who participated in the Hundiyyin Girls' Group this year. Mesiy to Director of Instruction, Leona Prince, and her Indigenous Education department for pouring so much love into this important endeavour!



STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATES: GOAL 2: ENGAGE OUR WORKFORCE

ALTERNATE EDUCATION TEACHER COLLABORATION

Teachers from alternate education programs collaborated with the Inclusive Education Department in response to the district's review of Alt Ed programs in 22/23. Several members of the group were also able to attend the provincial Alternative Education Conference in Vancouver in February, further expanding the professional toolkits of those who attended. The group continues to work on creating a common vision for the programs, creating a district intake form and planning the work for the next few years.



CELEBRATION OF LEARNING! NETWORK OF INQUIRY AND INDIGENOUS EDUCATION (NOIIE)

"Innovation floats on a sea of inquiry and curiosity propels change." (Kaser & Halbert, 2017)

That statement came to life during a recent celebration of learning as teachers and district staff involved in the Network of Inquiry and Indigenous Education shared the stories that emerged from the inquiry questions explored this year. Ten inquiry groups from WKE, FLESS, FSJSS, WLM, EDS, EBUS Academy, LDSS, and BESS shared their findings, as well as essential resources that they would

recommend to other educators. I

appreciated the opportunity to celebrate with you and learn from each of your projects. Thank you to Mark Gauthier, Roberta Toth, Michelle Miller-Gauthier, Deb Koehn, and Mia Moutray for the leadership alongside the school-based inquiry groups this year.



STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATES: GOAL 3: CREATE STUDENT SUCCESS



PRESCHOOL AT WL McLEOD

SD91 has opened a licensed preschool program at WL McLeod Elementary in Vanderhoof! The WL McLeod Just B4 Preschool opened on May 30th and provides a positive and nurturing early learning experience while supporting children as they learn, grow, and prepare to transition to kindergarten. The Early Childhood

Educator, Mrs. Sarah Meads, shares her warm smile and big heart with the preschool children two afternoons a week. Currently, the preschool program is full with ten registrations. Fall registration will open soon. A big thank you to Libby Hart, Lindsay Swanson, and Sarah Meads for all their support with the preschool program!



STURGEON RELEASE



Thank you to the Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative (NWSRI) for a day of rich learning opportunities focused on watershed health, conservation, and environmental stewardship. The annual sturgeon release is organized through a partnership among the Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative, School District 91 and Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC and generously supported by the District of Vanderhoof and Integrus Credit Union.



Much appreciation to the many staff who organized travel plans and supervised to ensure this day was a fun and engaging day of learning for students. Thank you as well to SD91 Careers Coordinator, Darren Carpenter, for his organizational support of the day. Along with the over 850 students who were able to attend the event, I had the pleasure of participating in a fish release as well, releasing our School District 91 sturgeon, "Rainbow Betsie 91" into her new home – the beautiful Nechako River. I just know she's going to live to be 100!

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATES: GOAL 4: ENHANCE CONNECTIONS



KOH LEARNING WITH UNBC ON THE STELLAQUO RIVER: ELEVATING STUDENT VOICE

Students from across the district spent a day of learning at Stellaquo Community Hall and Stellaquo Lodge. Over 90 people assembled to hear a panel discussion by Chief Robert Michell, members of Council, Elders, and partners. During the day students were able to learn more about traditional knowledge as well as biodiversity values, and also explore

the interconnectedness of human behaviour, environment, and health. Students learned about being action-oriented around sustainability practices to stop climate change while at the same time focussing on economic prosperity. It was moving to hear numerous youths speaking their traditional language and expressing their gratitude for the chance to be heard by adults, as partners.



READY, SET, LEARN WITH STRONGSTART!

StrongStart and Kindergarten educators from across the school district participated in community-based Ready, Set, Learn events this spring. The events took place in all four of the main communities nestled within the school district boundaries and helped to foster positive connections between families, the schools, and local community agencies. StrongStart and Kindergarten educators organized and led a variety of play-based stations while parents learned about early learning programs and services, their local elementary schools, and their communities. The events were a great way to build connections and foster relationships!



DUAL CREDITS WITH THE COLLEGE OF NEW CALEDONIA

SD91 has been selected to participate in the Early Childhood Dual Credit Project with the Ministry of Education and Child Care. Through this dual credit project, the school district will work with the College of New Caledonia (CNC) to offer a dual credit Early Childhood Educator (ECE) course to secondary students in January 2024. This on-line course, (ECCL 156 – Care and Guidance), examines principles and techniques which support children's optimal development. Emphasis is placed on responding to the needs of the individual, promoting positive self-concept, fostering pro-social behaviour, and addressing the factors that may impact behaviours. Upon successful completion of this course, students will have completed the province's ECE Assistant (ECEA) academic requirement and could apply to the ECE Registry to become an ECEA. As ECEAs, students will be able to gain employment at a licensed childcare facility. SD91 will work closely with SD28 (Quesnel) and SD57 (Prince George) in a formal partnership to offer the required number of course enrolments through this dual credit project. Currently, we are in the process of updating the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between SD91 and CNC with a targeted completion date of June 30th, 2023. SD91 looks forward to working with partners and the Ministry of Education and Child Care to increase dual credit course offerings to secondary students.

THE SD91 SPEAKER SERIES CONTINUES

School District 91 partnered with representatives from the Ministry of Education and Child Care to provide our last Speaker Series session of the year. Caregivers, PAC members, school staff and community joined online to learn more about Communicating Student Learning.

Parent/caregiver materials related to the Reporting Order are now available and are on the Ministry of Education website (links following).



RESOURCES

- [Introduction to the Parent and Caregiver Information Package for K-12 Student Reporting \(PDF\)](#)
- [English Communicating Student Learning: Information for Parents and Caregivers Package \(2.3MB, PDF\)](#)
 - [Parent and Caregiver Information Sheet - How will I know how my child is doing \(PDF\)](#)
 - [Parent and Caregiver Information Sheet - What is my child learning \(PDF\)](#)
 - [Parent and Caregiver Information Sheet - Why is my child not getting letter grades \(PDF\)](#)
 - [Parent and Caregiver Information Sheet - What is descriptive feedback \(PDF\)](#)
 - [Parent and Caregiver Information Sheet - Why is my child self-assessing and setting goals \(PDF\)](#)
 - [Parent and Caregiver Information Sheet - How will I know my child is on track to graduate \(PDF\)](#)

EMPLOYEE FEATURE: RETIREES



My final employee feature of the year focuses on the retirees! It is time for retirees to begin the next exciting chapter of their journeys knowing that what they have accomplished in service to SD91 is reflected upon by all of us with deep gratitude. Please know that the positive influence you have had on learners and staff alike in the district cannot be measured. And the commitment demonstrated by each of you over your careers in service to children and their families indeed has a ripple effect that will carry forward over the lifetime of learners. Your impact has been great, and you will be missed by many. I wish each of you a long, happy, healthy retirement – one that is filled with only the things you prioritize are important to do each day – and I wish you fulfillment and the gift of time. You deserve it all. Congratulations and enjoy everything that lies ahead!

SD91 IN THE NEWS

<https://www.mybulkleylakesnow.com/57140/nechako-kitamaat-development-fund-distributing-grants-to-six-local-projects/>
<https://www.burnslakelakesdistrictnews.com/news/governor-generals-academic-award-given-out-to-burns-lake-students/>
<https://www.burnslakelakesdistrictnews.com/news/talented-kids-in-burns-lake/>
<https://www.ominecaexpress.com/news/nechako-white-sturgeon-release-at-riverside-park/>
<https://www.burnslakelakesdistrictnews.com/news/soccer-camp-in-burns-lake/>

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