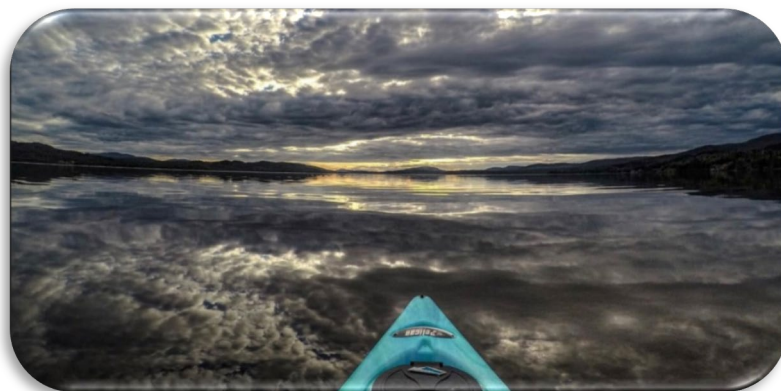


We are grateful to live, work, and play on the unceded, ancestral territories of fourteen First Nations representing the Dakelh, Nedut'en and Wet'suwet'en peoples. We are working diligently towards creating equity for our learners through conscious acts of Reconciliation.

HADIH/HADI/HADEEH AND WELCOME TO DUGOOS OOZA (MAY)

The weather has warmed considerably, the ice is finally off the lakes, and anticipation of year-end is beginning to build as we quickly approach the last few weeks of the 2022-23 school year. Students are turning their attention to finalizing projects and other evidence of learning, while at the same time looking forward to celebrations and graduations! Every adult in the district has contributed in some way to the learning journey that students have taken since school began in September. These contributions are so important as students are

nurtured to accomplish key competencies, develop their sense of self, and are encouraged to allow their gifts to shine. Relationships that are cultivated by caring adults help create the supportive environments that allow this to occur.



This month has been very busy both at the school and district level. Highlights have included some great news for child care, acknowledgement of Red Dress Day, and student led events that contribute to wholistic learning. Within this report you will find continued evidence of the experiences of learners and adults within School District 91 that move us toward the vision of the Board of Education as described in the [2020-2025 SD 91 Strategic Plan](#).

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.

RED DRESS DAY IN SD91

May 5th was the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Women and Girls (MMIW). In Canada, Indigenous women and girls are targeted for violence more than any other group. In 2019, a national inquiry named this crisis in Canada a genocide. In Canada alone, there have been approximately 4,000 or more murdered or missing Indigenous women and girls in the last 30 years.

This is especially relevant given our district's position and context related to Highway 16 – The Highway of Tears.

In schools across SD91, May 5th was an important day to demonstrate respect for the women and girls impacted and to honour the communities from the 14 First Nations whose children we serve. Schools learned from elders and other community members, drummed and sang, participated in marches, and showed up in red to raise awareness and support.



~FLESS



~LDSS

RIBBON SKIRTS EXPLORATION

Students from EBUS Academy, Sinkut View and McLeod were grateful for the opportunity and expertise that many people provided to ensure Ribbon Skirt Making Day was a huge success! Without the generous help of Geraldine Pritchard, Billie Kneen, Dawn Badine, Ashley Howe, Nicole Arnold, April Snow, Anne Wiebe, Nikki VanDolah, Teresa Bennett and Robyn Bennett, this exploration of the importance of Ribbon Skirts to Metis and Indigenous culture would not have been possible. The intense focus and pride demonstrated by the students involved was evident throughout the day. It was a full, 7-hour day of measuring, cutting, ironing, and sewing; capped off with bright smiles and beautiful skirts!



STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATES: GOAL 2: ENGAGE OUR WORKFORCE

RECRUITMENT & RETENTION EFFORTS



New Teachers

As senior staff, we hosted an online opportunity to connect with new teachers who will be joining the SD91 workforce during the 2023-24 school year. We are excited to have new teachers joining us from Ontario, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Nova Scotia! During the session teachers had an opportunity to hear about the innovative work happening in the district as well as learn more about supports, such as mentoring in the classroom and assistance in securing housing. To date recruitment efforts have been successful with 15 new teachers who are excitedly making plans to move to beautiful British Columbia!

Northern Recruitment Pilot

As part of the Northern Recruitment Pilot Project in four BC school districts (SD82, SD87, SD91, SD92), we are pleased to welcome Jessa Chupik as the Talent Acquisition Specialist specifically hired to support this project.

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATES: GOAL 3: CREATE STUDENT SUCCESS



SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING AT EBUS ACADEMY

EBUS Academy continues to support student well-being and therefore, student success. I was able to join staff and students in an opportunity to hear guest speaker, Madelaine McCullum, a gifted dancer, motivational speaker, facilitator, and multi-faceted creative.

Madelaine offered students her perspectives, shared inspirational stories, and offered tools towards releasing what no longer serves you in healing to move your life forward. She shared her life journey and how she has dealt with adversity and self-doubt growing up. Her main message to learners was *"As I am is enough, as you are is enough."*



ACCESSIBLE BC

The Government of British Columbia is working towards being an inclusive province. In June 2021, the Accessible B.C. Act became law and it provides a framework to identify, remove, and prevent barriers to accessibility.

Under the law, Public Services, including the Education sector, must meet three requirements by September 1, 2023:

1. Establish an accessibility committee;
2. Develop an accessibility plan; and
3. Establish a process for receiving public feedback

On behalf of SD91, Claire McKay (Director of Instruction) and I serve on a working committee with other Northern School Districts to ensure these important requirements are met. Members from the disability community or those who support members of the disability community will be an important voice to advise this work. Anyone interested in learning more or possibly participating in the process, please contact the School Board Office in Vanderhoof. For more information on Accessible BC please visit:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/.../accessib.../accessiblebc-plan.pdf>
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/.../abou.../accessibility/legislation>



CHILD CARE SPACES ANNOUNCEMENT

Grassy Plains School

I am pleased to share that Grassy Plains School has been awarded \$1.8 million in funding from the Province's ChildCareBC New Spaces Fund for a childcare space creation project! Over the coming months, there will be an extensive renovation completed in the unused wing of the school. Upon successful completion of this renovation, SD91 will work with Cheslatta Carrier Nation to open a licensed child care facility with **36 new group child care spaces**! Please stay tuned in the coming months for updates regarding this project and the anticipated grand opening. Construction is expected to begin over the summer months so please bear with us as sections of the school may be off-limits for short time frames.

William Konkin Elementary School

I am also excited to share that WKE has been awarded more than \$78,000 in funding from the Province's New Spaces Fund for a childcare space creation project! Over the summer, we will have a single-occupancy washroom installed in the StrongStart classroom. Upon completion of the washroom, we will apply to open **10 new group child care spaces**. Please stay tuned in the coming months for this grand opening!

Sincere gratitude to the Ministry of Education and Child Care and the federal Ministry of Families, Children and Social Development for this funding award so we can build these new child care spaces in the Grassy Plains and Burns Lake communities!

SHREK AT McLEOD!

I would have to say that an absolute highlight this month was attending the fabulous student performance of SHREK at WLM. A huge round of applause to the staff, students and volunteers of WLM for their countless hours of prep and obvious practice! Wow!

This year's performance capped off fourteen years of top-notch elementary theatre and was a real treat for school and public audiences alike.

Bravo McLeod – well done!



STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATES: **GOAL 4: ENHANCE CONNECTIONS**

**ENHANCE
CONNECTIONS**

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

WILLIAM KONKIN ELEMENTARY – EARTH DAY UPCYCLING!

WKE recently hosted a community swap meet. People dropped off gently used items and took new-to-them treasures home, all for free. During the school day, learners who attended the swap meet got to explore concepts about reusing, upcycling, and caring for the environment just in time for Earth Day.

Families and members of the community came to swap treasures from 3:00-8:00 pm. Everyone who attended the event had a wonderful time and it was delightful to open the doors to the school community neighbourhood.



SINKUT VIEW ELEMENTARY COLLABORATIVE LOGO PROJECT



Hot of the press, Sinkut View's new logo, designed by Terra-Lyn Culberson using the eagle that was painted for the school by Indigenous artist Shirly Babcock. SKV staff, students and PAC also had lots of input into the design. In the background of the logo, Sinkut Mountain can be seen from the perspective of the school. The river and trees in the design illustrate the school's ties to the Nechako Valley and a sense of place. Well done SKV school community!

THE SD91 SPEAKER SERIES CONTINUES

Several Speaker Series sessions were held this month to continue to enhance connections and provide relevant information to families and staff.

The first session held on May 4th was *Social Media Awareness, Digital Citizenship, and Cyber-bullying*. This session was in response to a request from the Indigenous Education Committee and was hosted by Safer Schools Together, an organization with a proven record of helping schools throughout North America in violence and bullying behaviour prevention and intervention strategies.

The second session was a webinar by Out in Schools, and was hosted on May 9th. Out In Schools is BC's award-winning 2SLGBTQIA+ education program designed to build safer, more inclusive communities.



TEAM FEATURE:

I would be remiss if I did not highlight the work of SD91 Administrative Professionals. Their work to support schools and staff at work sites each and every day is so critically important. Their roles and responsibilities are broad and all-encompassing – everything from planning and finance to band-aids and an empathetic ear. Administrative professionals set the calm and welcoming tone for our district and their work goes far beyond what is seen by the outside eye. Sincere gratitude to our administrative professionals who make SD91 a wonderful and effective place to work and learn.

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



We're on Facebook!
@SD91BC

You can also find us on Twitter!
@sd91bc

