

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)

May has been a month of meaningful connection, reflection, and celebration across the Nechako Lakes School District. Our schools and communities embraced *Share the Love Week*, a time to uplift kindness, inclusion, and compassion in ways that reflect our shared values. Through assemblies, book readings, art projects, and classroom discussions, students and staff came together to deepen their sense of belonging and support for one another, especially for those who have historically faced marginalization, including members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.

We also marked *Red Dress Day* on May 5, taking time to honour the lives of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People (MMIWG2S). Many of our schools created thoughtful displays and engaged in meaningful conversations. In some communities, students and staff took part in marches to raise awareness and show solidarity. Across the district, it was powerful to see flags recognizing both *Share the Love* and *Red Dress Day* flying at every district building, a visible reminder of our shared commitment to inclusion, safety, and truth and reconciliation.

As the days grow longer and the warmth of spring settles in, our schools are alive with activity and excitement. Track and field events, outdoor learning, celebrations of student achievement, and preparations for year-end transitions are filling our buildings with energy and pride. A special highlight this month was the unveiling of WL McLeod Elementary's *Stream of Dreams* mural – a vibrant and collaborative art installation now adorning the school's fence. The project reflects students' learning about watershed health, environmental stewardship, and community connection.

With just a few weeks remaining in the school year, we are deeply grateful to our students, families, staff, and community partners for continuing to build strong, inclusive, and caring learning environments. The momentum of this spring reminds us of the incredible things that can happen when we come together to support one another, learn from one another, and "share the love" in all that we do.

Respectfully submitted,

Anita McClinton

(she/her)
Superintendent

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.

Preparing Hides at David Hoy Elementary School

Crystal Millard, Carrier Language and Culture teacher, prepared an elk hide with students from David Hoy Elementary for most of the first full week in May. Incredible learning was had by children and adults alike. Trustee Gratz also participated as a result of an invitation from Principal Suzanne Burck.



Share the Love at Evelyn Dickson Elementary

During Share the Love Week Evelyn Dickson School focused on community building and kindness and cultivating a school where everyone feels safe and valued. Ms. Carpenter's Grade 5/6 made friendship bracelets for the entire school, many students earned house team points by wearing the colour of the day and the EDS PAC supported our entire school to travel down to the movie theater to watch *The Wild Robot*! Our students enjoyed popcorn and a drink while learning about what it means to be part of a community. Students participated in a colour fun run a talent show and we capped off the week learning about instruments from around the world!



Share the Love at Decker Lake Elementary School

At Decker, we created a Quilt of Belonging. Each learner drew a picture of something that made them unique on a quilt block.

Our quilt is proudly displayed in the hallway for our school community to enjoy.



We dressed in our team colours and posed for a picture before spending the afternoon playing outdoor games.



Our morning announcements focused on kindness, acceptance, being a good friend and inclusion.

We read books about inclusion and had wonderful conversations about belonging.

We had the **best** week celebrating our uniqueness.



Share the Love at Grassy Plains School



Grassy Plains School embraced the spirit of community and inclusivity during Share the Love Week by engaging in heartwarming activities centered around the book "All Are Welcome", by Alexandra Penfold. The school leadership students took the initiative to organize group games and activities, transforming lunchtime into a celebration of friendship and acceptance. In addition, every student at Grassy Plains School took part in creating a banner displayed in the gym, reading "All Are Welcome Here." This banner serves as a reminder of the school's commitment to inclusivity and kindness. Within the banner, students shared their creativity through small works of art that illustrated how they make everyone feel welcome. The artwork depicted acts of making friends, sharing, accepting differences, and spreading kindness throughout the school community. Through these collective efforts, Grassy Plains School not only celebrated diversity but also strengthened the bonds among students, ensuring a warm and inviting environment for all. Share the Love Week was a resounding success, highlighting the importance of unity and acceptance in building a caring school community.



Honouring Diversity at EBUS

We'd like to spotlight one facet of the work of our Indigenous Education Advocate, Nikki Arnold. For the past five years, EBUS Academy has hosted *Inspiring Pathways* -- an online series of Indigenous speakers discussing their roots, their accomplishments, and helping drive engagement with students. This year's speaker was Taylor McPherson from *The Amazing Race*. Our online V-class [which was also open to all SD91 schools] in January was very well attended by EBUS students, and Taylor's message about the power of believing in yourself & the power of goal setting was well received. In May, EBUS held an in-person field trip in Vancouver with our Lower Mainland families and Taylor joined the trip. Students participated in the EBUS Amazing Race &, with Taylor's help, created dream boards about their goals. We even had a family from Terrace fly down to join the trip!



EBUS Academy Indigenous Education presents:
INSPIRING PATHWAYS SPEAKER SERIES
2024-25

Taylor McPherson
The Amazing Race Season 10 Winner

THE POWER OF SPORT
Virtual session
Tuesday, January 28 2025
1-2 pm

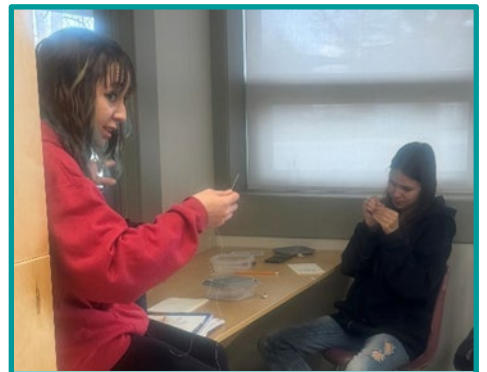
Taylor is a driven and accomplished individual, who has recently received her Master of Science in Kinesiology from the University of Alberta. Taylor is a passion for sports and has been an athlete since she was a child. She is also a member of the University of Alberta's Indigenous Student Union and is currently working on her Bachelor's degree in Education. Taylor is a role model for many young people and is committed to promoting physical activity, healthy lifestyles, and community engagement among Indigenous populations.

IF YOU WANT TO JOIN THIS VIRTUAL SESSION BY YOURSELF OR WITH YOUR CLASS, [SIGN UP HERE](mailto:signup@ebus.ca).
Email: nikki.arnold@sd91.bc.ca for more information.



NVSS Indigenous Girls Group - Moccasin Making

The NVSS Indigenous Girls Group are developing their skills and learning through an Indigenous lens thanks to their moccasin making with Haley Jospeh. It is fantastic to watch the learning in progress!



Strategic Plan Updates: GOAL 2: Engage our Workforce



EBUS at The Digital Learning Conference

The BC Educators for Digital Learning Provincial Specialist Association held their 22nd Annual DL conference in Vancouver this month. EBUS Academy is very fortunate to have a number of staff on the executive and we are very proud of the work they do to push digital learning forward. With the support of the BLNTU, we were able to send a small number of staff to the conference. Over the two-day conference, our teachers were able to engage in sessions on student engagement, the emergence of AI in education, & building authentic relationships in an asynchronous online world [among other things]. Our very own Sean

Margison & Maria Devauld presented sessions on Making Educational Music & Personalizing Learning Paths. It was awesome to see our teachers showcase their passions and share with their colleagues from across the province. Another benefit of attending the conference was the chance to connect with some of our EBUS colleagues who live in the Lower Mainland. It was so nice to get to meet in person and share a coffee!



Networks of Inquiry and Indigenous Education (NOIIE)

EBUS Vice Principal, Mia Moutray, & Indigenous Education Advocate, Nikki Arnold, enhanced their learning at the NOIIE Symposium, networking and learning with a team from SD91, including Director of Instruction, Mark Gauthier as well as colleagues from the province and the world!



CUPE Professional Learning Day

On May 9th, CUPE held an in person Pro D Day for all regular and casual members. Most sessions took place at Fraser Lake Elementary Secondary with the keynote being provided by Jen Kelly. The Pro D committee was excited to have twelve different workshops open for CUPE staff, as well as a specific structured literacy workshop that is specific to teaching/CUPE partners from a few sites in the district. The CUPE pro d committee that plans and organizes this event included district staff – Tyrell Miller and Claire McKay, as well as CUPE representatives – Devon Gardner, Judith Loranger, Asheena Hilman, Bev Stanga, and Yvonne Klapper. Planning was also a collaborative process with the District Numeracy and Literacy leads – Lena Miller and Michelle Miller Gauthier as well as the BCTF pro d chair – Shawn Lank. Thank you to Wendy Kelemen for sharing networking resources for presenters. Both external individuals and SD91 employees presented on this day, to support a variety of learning for our different job classifications while staying in alignment with the District's strategic plan.

We are providing this information to principals at this time to ensure you have communication for this CUPE pro d day and be included for what is being offered for members.

Jen Kelly is our keynote speaker and has provided several workshops this year for SD 91 and will have a reading and writing workshop, geared to CUPE from a range of grades.

A big thank you to Jason K. at FLESS for accommodating this in person event – the school was certainly bustling with activity all day long!



Learning from the Land



This will be a landbased, indigenous content workshop at the Chuntoh Society's outdoor living classroom on the Nyan Wheti trail (Leon family Keyoh). It consists of a sheltered firepit, outhouse, trails, forest and creek. (a pit house is in development).

- Connect with Elders and Knowledge Holders
- Nature Journaling
- Medicinal Plant Walk
- Story telling
- Nature walk

This workshop will have an alternate schedule and depending on your location, will include travel from Fraser Lake to Fort St. James by bus. If you reside in Fort St. James, your participation will start from Fort St. James.

Participants should dress for changing weather conditions. A lunch will be provided along with bannock and tea.

Mussi cho to the Chuntoh Society for providing us with the opportunity to offer this workshop.

(In dëksh language)
"Anditizin uk'uyahduk bunde no tso tiyalh."
"Today a reader, tomorrow a leader."



Project "CUPE"

Throughout the year, the SD 91 careers program provides a trailer with hand and power tools for learners to create projects. At high school sites, members are often in the woodworking and metal working classes supporting their designated learners.

This workshop might be for you, if you are a CUPE member that:

- Has an interest in learning how to use the hand and power tools
- Would like to build on your hands on skills
- Enjoys wood working projects
- Is assigned to woodworking blocks in a semester
- Helps classes with the project trailer when it is at your school

During this workshop, you will make a small project, that is similar to what the learners would make and meet up with other members from around the district. Materials will be provided.

This workshop will be led by our Facilities Assistant Manager- Carl Larson with the help of our CUPE carpenters.

Strategic Plan Updates: GOAL 3: Create Student Success

FSJSS Boat Inauguration

The Science & Selective Fishing Platform (SSFP) has been a multi-year development partnership between School District 91, the Nak'azdli Whut'en, and RiverTrap Systems. Students from FSJSS participated

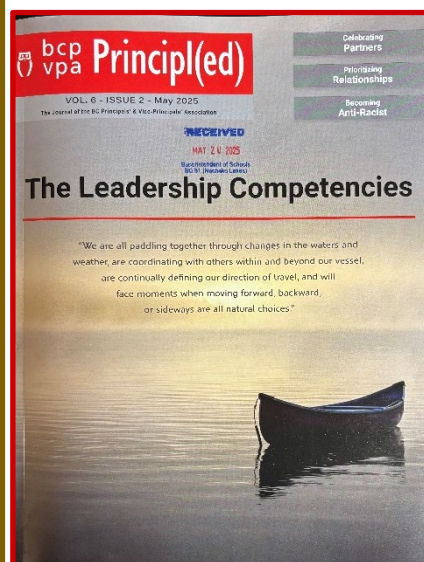
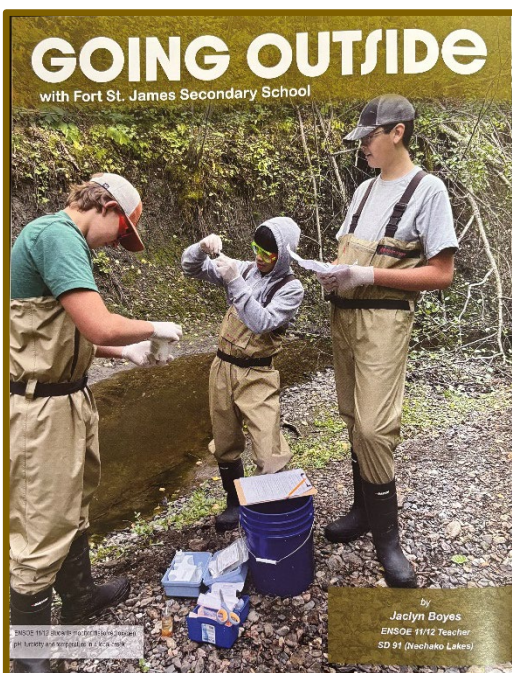


actively in the design, fabrication, and the installation of the various pieces of science equipment on the platform. Now complete and ready for use; area students, in collaboration with SD91's many 'Partner in Education' experts will utilize the platform to conduct water-based science activities in area lake and/or river-based watershed systems. The platform has also been designed to have a selective fishing capability that will further enhance its functionality for students and community partners. The

SSFP will increase students' hands-on access to conduct a broad range of educational activities that will facilitate career paths, make deeper connections with local knowledge holders, and connect with area experts.

Fort St. James Secondary, the SSFP and the Environmental Science and Outdoor Education 11/12 class were featured in an article written by FSJSS teacher, Jaclyn Boyes this month in the BC Principals and Vice-Principals publication Principl(ed)! The article is a celebration of the rich plethora of outdoor learning opportunities available around Fort St. James as well as the many partnerships that have been cultured to create the deep learning experiences for students.

For more information on the Science and Selective Fishing Platform project, visit the QR code below.



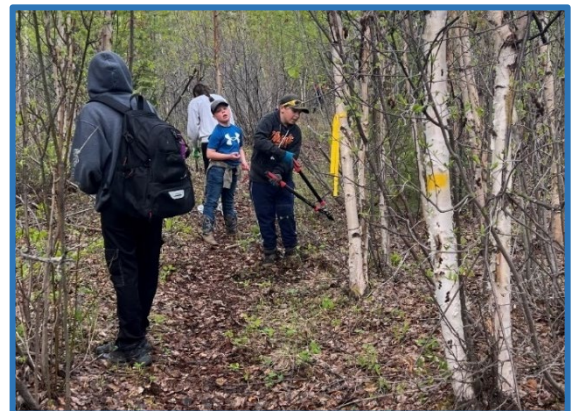
Mapes Elementary School Forest Trail Building

As part of the NOIE inquiry project on self-regulation and outdoor learning, the staff at Mapes Elementary have added trail building to their forest activities. As a rural school, Mapes is located next to a 160-acre forest that showcases the biodiversity of our local region. For many years, Mapes has enjoyed the use of a single trail relatively close to the edge of the school grounds. In fall 2024, Mapes teachers and support staff mapped out new trails extending deeper into the forest.



This spring, grade 8 students from Nechako Valley

Secondary School have joined Mapes students in the work of clearing the trails. This collaborative project has not only brought the two schools together but has also offered opportunities for students to strengthen their problem solving and collaboration skills through hands-on learning. During their work on the trails, students have noticed and wondered about the plant and animal life of the forest - learning in real time how living things change with the seasons and about the resilience of nature. Moving forward, the plan is to continue to develop these trails in partnership with NVSS and SD91's Career & Trades Program. We look forward to sharing this space with schools across our community and district.



NVSS Indigenous Girls Group – Gathering Our Voices

The NVSS Indigenous Girls Group attended The Gathering Our Voices Youth Conference in Kamloops March 17-21, 2025, which was attended by 1100 delegates and their chaperones.

We travelled to Kamloops from NVSS Monday March 17, 2025 – got to the hotel and had pizza delivered and enjoyed the hotel swimming pool. Tuesday GOV registration was not until 2:30 so some of the group went to the mall with Mrs. Young while the others decided to take a trip to the Wildlife Park and Western store.



Opening ceremonies were amazing with drumming, singing, and dancing by local First Nations performers as well as an amazing welcome to GOV 2025.

Wednesday workshops were held all day at TRU and were a mix of the arts, math, science, and sport. Wednesday evening, we bussed to a local theatre and enjoyed the talent show.



Thursday, we bussed to a local high school for morning workshops followed up by an amazing and powerful pow wow in the gymnasium. That evening the group attended the dance at TRU and they had so much fun.

Friday morning the group attended the closing ceremonies before getting on the bus for home.

A huge shout out thanks to our bus driver Brenda, and all who made this trip happen 😊 It was an amazing week for our girls.

Nikki Arnold and Monica Young



Strategic Plan Updates: GOAL 4: Enhance Connections



Red Dress Day

It was great to see NVSS students participating in this march for Red Dress day. A big thank you to all who walked. Thank you as well to Tina Mummery and Monica Young for making the banner, it turned out amazing. It was also nice to see the girls from our NVSS Indigenous Girls group wearing the ribbon skirts they made themselves.



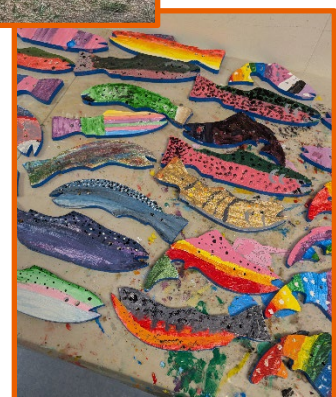
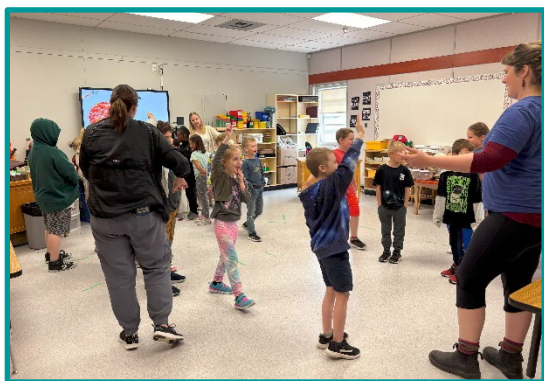
Students and staff at W.L. McLeod Elementary also took part in recognizing the important day by sharing messages of acknowledgement and kindness along their street-side fence.



WL McLeod Stream of Dreams and Jump Rope for



Our students spent three days with the Stream of Dreams people learning about caring for our waterways and our fish. Our front fence is now decorated with our fish painted by each of our students. Fish on our Fence was sponsored by the Pacific Salmon Foundation and the McLeod PAC.





McLeod participated in Jump Rope for Heart a program to raise awareness and money for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. We also learned how to keep our hearts and bodies healthy and active while getting much better at skipping too.



EBUS Field Trips

Living in a virtual world, EBUS Academy makes a point of sponsoring a number of in-person field trips over the year. In September and October, we met EBUS families in the Stellat'en First Nation territory as well as Lheidli T'enneh territory. For the day at Stellat'en, we were joined by Mrs. Plowman's grade 5/6 class from FLESS. Our day at Exploration Place was attended by over 30 of our families. Later in the year, we sponsored EBUS Ski Day across the province and were met by a number of families at Mt. Seymour. This month, in conjunction with the BCEDL Symposium, we held an elementary field trip, attending a play on Granville Island, and a secondary trip at the adventure park at Grouse Mountain. Our families' feedback shows the value of these in-person trips and the connections that they allow us to form.





EBUS @ Exploration Place in PG - Oct. 2024





Employee Recognition:

As we approach the end of the school year, I want to take a moment to recognize and express heartfelt appreciation for the incredible support staff across School District 91. From the custodians who keep our spaces clean and welcoming, to the maintenance teams who ensure everything runs smoothly, to the dedicated bus drivers who safely transport our students each day, and the school-based support staff who are essential partners in learning—your contributions are the backbone of our schools. Our learning environments simply wouldn't be as bright, safe, or functional without your hard work, care, and commitment. Thank you for all that you do.

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You can also find us on Twitter!
[@sd91bc](#)

