

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 LHOOH OoZA (November)

I am pleased to present this month's report, reflecting on the events and acknowledgments of Remembrance Day within our school communities. As we commemorated this day, it was fundamental to recognize the profound significance it holds for both our students and our wider communities. Remembrance Day stands as a poignant reminder of those who dedicated their lives to safeguarding our freedoms and securing peace. For our students, acknowledging this day is a solemn yet important part of their educational journey – a moment to consider the virtues of unity, gratitude, and resilience.

I wish to extend my gratitude to the school communities at WKE and LDSS for graciously welcoming me as they led their students in Remembrance Day ceremonies.



~Decker Lake proudly showing me their poppy artwork

November is also Adoption Awareness Month, recognized by the Ministry of Children and Family Development. This month is about raising awareness for adoption and permanency in British Columbia and celebrating the families that provide children and youth with love and support as permanent members of their family. Adoptive families make a difference in the lives of children and youth by providing care, guidance, and a sense of belonging. They offer a welcoming stability, ensuring children and youth have the foundation they need to build the lives they dream of, while recognizing the importance of staying connected to their community and culture. We recognize the SD91 families who support children through adoption.

Respectfully submitted,

Handwritten signature of K. Mitchell in black ink.

(she/her)
Superintendent

Strategic Plan Updates: GOAL 1: Honour Diversity

November PVP Meeting on the Traditional Territory of Lake Babine Nation



Our November monthly PVP meeting was held at the Margaret Patrick Memorial Community Centre on the traditional territory of the Lake Babine Nation. This gathering brought together our principals, vice-principals and district staff in a significant moment for our educational community. We were privileged to be welcomed by Chief Murphy Abraham during what was the first PVP meeting held on reserve land. I wish to express my gratitude to Chief Abraham for his warm welcome and

for sharing the Nation's vision for the children we serve in district schools. We look forward to further opportunities for relationship building and collaboration.



Strategic Plan Updates: GOAL 2: Engage our Workforce



Northern Recruitment and Retention Pilot: Northern Teacher Virtual Professional Learning Series

New and experienced teachers have had the opportunity to engage in the Northern Teacher Virtual Professional Learning Series this fall. These online sessions, provided through the Northern Recruitment and Retention Pilot, are free for teachers in Northern BC. We have had the privilege of hosting notable speakers such as Kathleen Lane, Program Director of Well at Work, who discussed Wellbeing 101 on October 3rd. In November, Leona Prince, Director of Instruction for Indigenous Education, shared insights about the provincial context of Indigenous Education within British Columbia. In December, Shawna Lothrop, District

Literacy Resource Teacher from School District 28 in Quesnel, will present on developing comprehensive literacy instruction in the classroom. These sessions have been enriching opportunities for educators to gain insights and strategies from experts in the field.

New Teacher/LOP Gathering

As part of our commitment to embracing new educators, the district has initiated a series of optional casual gatherings aimed at fostering connections among new teachers, community members, district staff and BLNTU. These gatherings, so far held in Fraser Lake and Vanderhoof, have received positive feedback from attendees. They have served as an informal platform for new teachers to bond, share their experiences thus far in education, and learn from one another. These sessions not only offer an opportunity for professional growth but also include a shared meal to enhance the experience among our new teaching cohort. Thank you to the Curriculum Services Team for the support of this endeavor.



Strategic Plan Updates: GOAL 3: Create Student Success

Focus on Numeracy and Literacy



Last year, Teacher Leaders Michelle Miller-Gauthier and Roberta Toth started working with 10 school teams across BC to focus on numeracy and literacy practices to improve outcomes, particularly for Indigenous learners. School teams met virtually throughout the year to engage in new learning as well as to share experiences. A number of the schools presented their work at the Network of Inquiry and Indigenous Education (NOIEE) Symposium last May. We are pleased to announce that this project will continue for a second year, allowing school teams to go deeper with their inquiries. Thank you to Michelle and Roberta for supporting the work in SD91 as well as igniting inquiry across the province.



Strategic Plan Updates: GOAL 4: Enhance Connections



Simon Fraser University - Collaborative Opportunity

A recent collaboration between SD91 and Simon Fraser University provided an enriching experience to both our team and aspiring teacher candidates. We were excited to offer a comprehensive online session tailored to provide insights into Nechako Lake's vibrant educational landscape. The session engaged approximately 30 participants currently enrolled at SFU in EDUC 400 as they explored the real workings of our school district. The session offered an invaluable glimpse into the fulfilling experiences inherent in a career within our educational community.

This presentation was designed to align with our board's strategic goals, giving the teacher candidates a nuanced understanding of ongoing initiatives within the Strategic Workplan.

WL McLeod Walk-in Cooler

The official unveiling of a walk-in-cooler was recently held at WLM in Vanderhoof. The new cold storage facility will greatly enhance food connections between students, the local community garden and the broader community. As always, a heartfelt thanks to our 'Partners in Education' from Farm to School BC, the Vanderhoof Community Foundation, WLM PAC, Rio-Tinto Alcan, Centerra Gold, Vanderhoof Community Garden and the Nechako Valley Food Network. The hope is that this project creates spin-off for other similar projects within the district.

EBUS Academy

This fall EBUS Academy staff hosted a Meet & Greet event for staff, students and families by the Stellako River in Stellat'en Territory. EBUS Indigenous Education Advocate, Nikki Arnold, made Bannock; Marty Floris engaged students in a salmon dissection; and VP, Mia Moutray, guided families on a nature walk.

A second EBUS Meet & Greet took place at the Exploration Place in Prince George, Lheidli T'enneh territory. A highlight of the day was when Shirley Babcock, Indigenous artist, painted paddles with staff and families using a pattern she created.



Thank you to our partners

Telus Backpack Initiative
United Way



Because of this donation, we were able to provide backpacks to schools in Vanderhoof, Fraser Lake and Fort St. James



Telus School Backpacks

Thank you to our partners at Telus and the United Way of Northern BC for providing school backpacks this fall. Telus generously donated 160 backpacks to distribute to SD91 schools in the Connexus service area. The United Way of Northern BC provided a grant that allowed Connexus to purchase additional school supplies to supplement 54 backpacks for high school youth.

Employee Recognition

I would like to recognize all those who supported the Trustee By-election earlier this month to fill the vacancy in Area 6 (Fort St. James). A great deal of organization and attention to detail is necessary to ensure that everything comes together for the advance polls as well as general voting day. Thank you to Chief Elections Officer, Darlene Turner, as well as the staff who supported the election: Brittany Simrose, Angela Sterling, Eva Jenkins, Tyrell Miller, and Debbie Simrose.

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