

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 Khit (winter)



Happy Holidays (for those who are celebrating in this season)!

As winter break nears, I want to share my heartfelt best wishes with our students, staff, families, and community partners. This season arrives with its own rhythm—quiet moments at home, time outdoors, and celebrations that reflect the many traditions in our region. While the holidays can be joyful, I also recognize they can be a challenging time for many. Please know that our care and support for students and families continues, even as schools pause for the break.

Across the district, numerous winter celebrations have brought joy and cultural richness to our schools, showcasing the diversity that strengthens our communities. At the same time, we recently observed December 6, the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women—a solemn reminder of the importance of creating safe, respectful spaces for all.

Looking back on the fall, I'm deeply grateful for the care and determination our staff bring to their work every day. Their focus on student success and well-being shows up in practical, meaningful ways – helping learners attend regularly and feel welcome at school, expanding access to nutritious meals, and strengthening mental health supports. These efforts, taken together, create the conditions for students to thrive and for families to feel supported.

We've also continued to build momentum on the Board's Strategic Plan. Engagement with communities and rights holders this fall has helped us listen carefully, honor local perspectives, and keep our direction aligned with what matters most for learners in School



Mini teepee ornaments
created by EBUS staff.

District 91 (Nechako Lakes). Our commitment to Reconciliation remains an essential thread in this work—centering relationships, language, and the histories of the Nations we serve—so that every student knows who they are and feels confident for the future.

Thank you for the care you show our students and for the collaboration that strengthens our schools. I wish everyone a peaceful, restorative break. We look forward to welcoming students back on January 5.

Respectfully submitted,

Anita McClinton

(she/her)

Superintendent

Strategic Plan Updates: GOAL 1: Honour Diversity

Local Storyteller and Drummer has Weeklong Residency at Decker Lake Elementary School

Mrs. Doris Munger, a local storyteller and drummer, was at DLES for a weeklong residency. Huskies were entertained with wonderful stories about Old Fort and Mrs. Munger's childhood memories of growing up in the area. Mrs. Munger entertained everyone at the end of her residency with a special assembly where she drummed, sang and played guitar for everyone to enjoy.



Strategic Plan Updates: GOAL 2: Engage our Workforce

Improving Student Literacy at Mouse Mountain



framework and resource. This year, we are working on deepening our understanding of which literacy practices



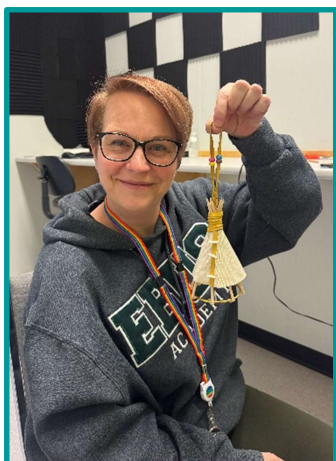
support student learning and joy. Teachers, support staff and Indigenous Advocates are all working together to enable small group teaching and practice across all classes, which enhances relationships and connections between staff and students, as well as ensuring that adults know the student learning gaps and can intervene in a timely manner. During daily literacy, the classrooms at Mouse Mountain are filled with joy and smiles as students build confidence and knowledge in their literacy learning, and the school staff are seeing learner growth through their collaborative efforts.



Indigenous Hands-on V-classes at EBUS

This week, we had our first session. Nikki led the class through building mini teepees. 35 students attended (multiple parents and four staff also) and we spent the afternoon working on this craft. Nikki talked about Indigenous culture, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Only a couple of us singed our fingers on our hot glue guns.

Submitted by: Mr. Brian Cross,
Principal, EBUS
Academy



Engaging Around Athletics at DLES

Mrs. Benoit took her grade 6/7 class to the volleyball tournament at LDSS. When they returned, DLES Huskies gathered in the hallway to cheer them on and to thank them for representing our school.

Strategic Plan Updates: GOAL 3: Create Student Success

Feeding Futures Across Nechako Lakes

Households and staff are now successfully using Meal Manage at LDSS and students are also asking to have access so they can load funds onto their accounts and purchase a lunch. There is excitement about the program.



I was at BESS last week, and I really want to recognize the fabulous truck driver who delivers food to the school on a regular basis. This truck driver takes the time to unload the product at the school, with students excitably helping (see photo at left). The students love being involved - the smiles are gigantic as they help bring food inside the school.

Students at EDS are involved in delivering snacks to classrooms (photo at right).



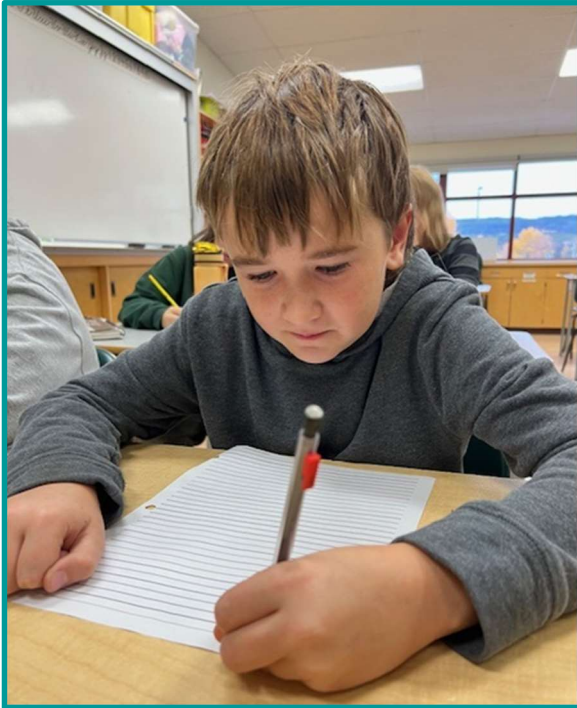
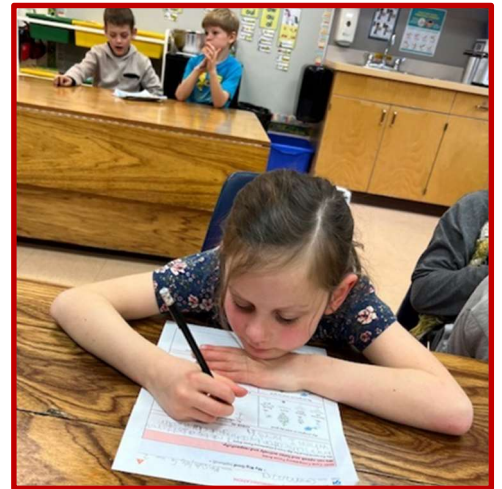
Francois Lake and Mapes Elementary Schools have started all-access snack fridge.

Schools love sharing various photos of the meals being served. Below from left to right is chicken soup served at WLM and SKV, vegetable soup and fajitas at FSJSS. Lots of tasty food throughout the district! Submitted by: Robyn Turner-Klopper, Nechako Lakes Food Program Manager



Huskies Core Competencies, School Wide Writes and Structured Literacy

DLES Huskies wrote goals in September for the three core competencies - communication, thinking, social and personal. Learners recently reflected on each of their goals. They will continue to work on these goals throughout the school year.



DLES Huskies also participated in a *school wide write*. Learners wrote about a common topic. Teachers used a writing rubric to assess each child's writing. Huskies will complete a *school wide write* again in the spring to measure their growth.



Huskies in grades 2-7 participate in Structured Literacy 5 days a week. Learners work on improving reading techniques with trained staff members. Staff are seeing an improvement in both reading levels and confidence.

Strategic Plan Updates: GOAL 4: Enhance Connections

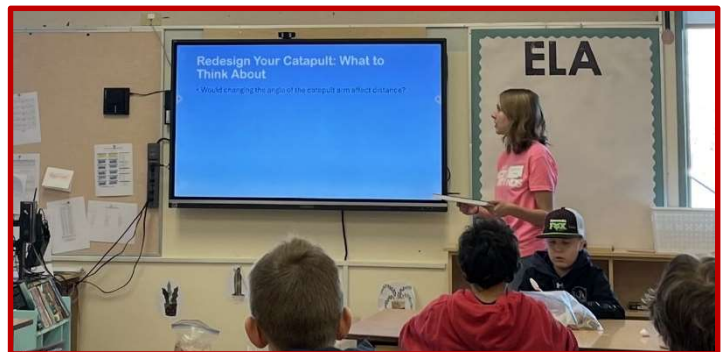
Active Minds at Evelyn Dickson



UNBC Active Minds Program visited Miss Quintal's Class. During this fun, hands-on STEM workshop, grade 5/6 students learned about Forces and Motion designing, creating and testing out catapults!

ENHANCE CONNECTIONS

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



NVSS Indigenous Girls Group giving back

What an incredible achievement by the NVSS Indigenous Girls group kiddos, who created 42 gift bags filled with freshly baked bannock, jars of homemade raspberry and huckleberry jam the girls crafted a few weeks ago, sweet treats, and a heartfelt Christmas card in each for 42 deserving Saik'uz Elders. Special gratitude to Krista John for generously picking up the bags and delivering them for us.

We are super proud of this group of girls 😊

Submitted by Nikki Arnold and Monica Young





Board Chair Meets with Ministers

Board Chair Christie attended the BC School Trustees Association Trustee Academy in November along with most of our trustees. The Minister of Education and Child Care, Lisa Beare and the Minister of Infrastructure, Bowinn Ma also attended the event and Chair Christie was able to meet with each of them personally to speak about the needs of Nechako Lakes and the North. Thank you for representing us, Chair Christie!

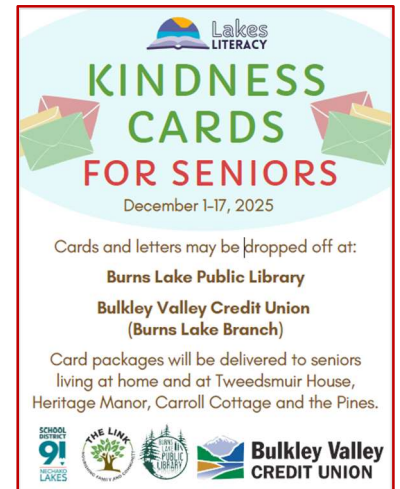
Board Chair Christie during his meeting with our Minister of Infrastructure, Bowinn Ma.

Kindness Cards for Seniors in Burns Lake

On Dec. 1, Lakes Literacy launched their 6th Annual Kindness Cards for Seniors campaign!

Many teachers and their classes took part in this meaningful writing project that spreads kindness during the holiday season.

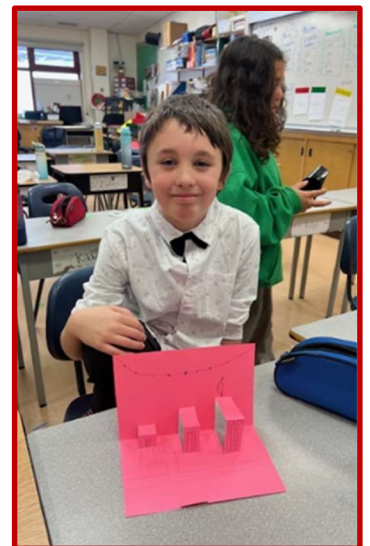
Since 2020, community members of all ages have created Christmas cards, letters, and artwork for seniors and elders at Tweedsmuir House, Heritage Manor, Carroll Cottage, and The Pines. Lakes Literacy collects these items, organizes them into packages, and delivers them in time for Christmas.



This year, with support from *The Link*, Lakes Literacy is also able to provide card packages to seniors and elders living independently and connected to their programs.

The goal this year was to collect 500-600 community-made cards, which will allow Lakes Literacy to create 3-4 card bundles for about 150 seniors. Students around Burns Lake excitedly contributed their creations!

Students at Decker Lake Elementary are pictured below making Christmas cards for the seniors this month. They look forward to the cards being distributed throughout the village at Christmas Time.



Staff Holiday Countdown Connections at Decker Lake Elementary

DLES staff were treated to a hot chocolate bar this week. Staff came together at recess to enjoy a hot drink and some sweets.



Employee Recognition

I want to take a moment to acknowledge the incredible efforts of our Principals and Vice-Principals across the district. Despite the ongoing challenges of staff shortages and the limited availability of TTOCs and casual support staff, you continue to lead with resilience and dedication. Your commitment to keeping schools engaging, positive, and focused on learning does not go unnoticed. Thank you for going above and beyond to support students, staff, and families during this demanding time. Your leadership truly makes a difference.

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