

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)

In this monthly report, I am pleased to highlight the work that is being done in schools and the District to advance the goals of the [Board's Strategic Plan](#).

The weather has warmed considerably, and spring finally feels like it is here! Staff and students are now anticipating year-end activities as we quickly approach the last few weeks of the 2023-24 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 exciting news for child care, student-planned Share the Love Day events, Moose Hide Campaign, and the 2nd annual Hundiyn Rematriation Gala. It has been a month full of learning opportunities and rich cultural experiences!

Respectfully submitted,

Handwritten signature of K. Mitchell

(she/her)
Superintendent

Strategic Plan Updates: GOAL 1: Honour Diversity

Share the Love Day



Students, teachers, and District staff collaborated to plan and host the 4th Annual Share the Love Day which was held across School District 91 on May 17th. Featured literacy resources, "Be a Bridge" and "Dictionary for a Better World", were used by school staff to promote action-orientation as it relates to inclusion at the school and community level.



Students were also able to participate in a Goosechase Activity, an online Kahoot (planned by EBUS students), a Mario Tournament, as well as other school-based activities.



Hundiyyin 2nd Annual Rematriation Gala

In early May the 2nd Annual Hundiyyin Rematriation Gala was held in Burns Lake. The evening featured a live auction, traditional meal, and musical entertainment. Student members of the Hundiyyin Group also participated in a fashion show featuring many traditional garments made by designer Gladys Michell from Stellat'en First Nation.

The community center event drew an even larger gathering than last year with several hundred attendees, including several local Chiefs, many elders, families, Trustees and school district staff who came to show their support for the young women.

This endeavour was a huge success and raised over \$13,000 to support the girls' learning opportunities next year. Thank you to Leona Prince and Chrystal Vanderwijk for their hard work and

organization in support of the group over the last two years.

Strategic Plan Updates: GOAL 2: Engage our Workforce



Communicating Student Learning

With provincial changes to reporting processes (formerly report cards and parent-teacher meetings), Curriculum Services has spent the year working to support the shift to "Communicating Student Learning". As we learn forward, spring marks an important time to do a status check on how the changes went, so in May teachers were invited to provide feedback through an online survey. The initial data was reviewed by PVP, and the next step will be to discuss the results in our next meeting with our partners in BLNTU.

Provincial Outreach Program for the Early Years (POPEY)

This month, SD91 hosted our final rural residency literacy visit with Jen Kelly, POPEY consultant. During this visit, Jen demonstrated a writing lesson in primary classrooms at FLES, GPESS, WKE, and DLES. The visit culminated with a Writing Workshop during the May 10th Professional Development Day. This workshop provided a day of rich learning, collaboration, and inspiration! POPEY will be offering their rural residency literacy project to other school districts for the 2024-2025 school year.

Strategic Plan Updates: GOAL 3: Create Student Success

Jointly Convened Annual Meeting

On May 9th Superintendents, Chairs of Indigenous Education Councils and Directors of Education for Indigenous Education met in Vancouver with the Ministry and FNEESC to discuss changes accompanying Bill 40. We took a deeper dive into the newly released Model LEA, Indigenous Education Councils (upcoming terms of reference, roles and



Jointly Convened Annual Meeting

BC Tripartite Education Agreement (BCTEA)

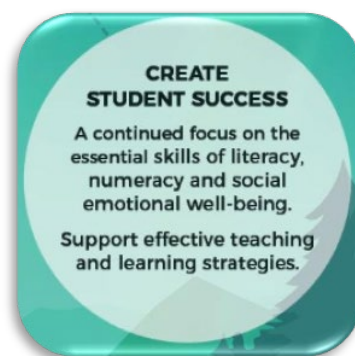
Supporting First Nations Student Success

May 9, 2024
9:00 am – 4:00 pm

responsibilities), and Schools of Choice. We also engaged in a data review related to Indigenous Children and Youth in Care; this learning extended to our recent PVP meeting as we dug into the stories the data tells us about our work in support of success for children in care.

New Spaces Classroom Renovation at David Hoy Elementary

We are pleased to share that David Hoy Elementary School has been awarded \$141,020 in funding through Child Care BC New Spaces Fund for a child care space creation project. Over the coming months, the school will have an extensive renovation completed in a classroom. Upon successful completion of this renovation, we will be able to open a licensed child care program with **24 new School-Age Care spaces** (pending license approval). This means spaces will serve children from age four and up to grade six age. Stay tuned in the coming months for updates regarding this project and the anticipated grand opening. The renovations are expected to begin at the end of June. We wish to extend our sincerest 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 create these new child care spaces for the families in the Fort St James community.



Project Chef in SD91 High Schools

The inaugural Project Chef recently concluded, and the results are in...success! Sixteen students from FLESS, NVSS, and LDSS spent two days extensively exploring the world of culinary arts. Our 'Partners in Education' from the CNC Professional Cook Program opened their kitchen and learning

spaces at CNC Prince George to offer an array of hands-on activities ranging from flambaying shrimp to preparing sausages. SD91 students were also assisted by the Professional Cook instructors/students in the initial planning and preparation stages for their starters, main courses and desserts for the meals they would be preparing on day two of the project.

Upon return from Prince George, student planned and ate dinner at the North Country Inn while also receiving behind the scenes access to observe the operations of a commercial food kitchen. Day two of Project Chef was held at FLESS with student teams working to create a full three-course meal. The CNC Professional Cook Program instructors and students made the trip to Fraser Lake and provided hands-on support and feedback as the day progressed. A variety of great food was made by the students leaving the CNC instructors with some tough decisions; however, after much back and forth and multiple food tastings it was the LDSS team and their Japanese themed menu plan that ultimately received the Top of Class accolade.

As always, SD91 extends its deep appreciation and thanks to our 'Partners in Education' from the CNC Professional Cook Program, the North Country Inn, and the Four Rivers Co-op. Students are already looking forward to Project Chef 2025!



Strategic Plan Updates: GOAL 4: Enhance Connections

Before and After School Care: Provincial Pilot

As the province moves forward with fully integrated before- and after-school care on school grounds, more families will save time, money, and stress. Three school districts have been selected for this initiative this fall: Chilliwack, Nanaimo-Ladysmith and Nechako Lakes.

This initiative will use existing school space, school district resources, and staff to provide seamless care without additional pickups and drop-offs for families. The District has been awarded funding for the next two years to bring this endeavor to life.



Strengthening Early Years to Kindergarten Transition (SEY2KT)

SD91 is participating in the **Strengthening Early Years to Kindergarten Transition (SEY2KT)** project. This project will continue to be centered in the Fort St James area for the 2024-25 school year. In May, some of the staff from David Hoy joined together to host two events to welcome the future kindergarten children to the school. Our gratitude to Cheryl Work from the Northwest Child Development Center who will be the community lead contact for SEY2KT. The District is excited to work with Cheryl and other early years service providers to support future kindergarten children.

Moose Hide Campaign



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Schools in the district acknowledged Moose Hide Campaign Day once again this year. LDSS students had the opportunity to hear Anthony Tom speak about the history of the campaign, as well as listen to speaker Leah Leween who also distributed medicine pouches. Everyone present was welcome to end the day at the Burns Lake Native Development Corporation where they engaged in additional learning experiences. Thank you to all schools who supported Moose Hide Campaign events this year in order to ensure awareness of gender-based violence. [Learn the Issue | Moose Hide Campaign](#)

Employee Recognition: All staff who made Share the Love Day a success

I want to extend my deepest gratitude to each staff member who made our school district's Share the Love Day a success this month. These efforts and commitment have made a significant impact on our students and school communities. Whether in co-planning with students, organizing, or executing the day's events, your contributions create safe spaces and school environment where students feel included, valued and supported. Your efforts help our students understand that schools are more than just places of learning; they are communities where everyone belongs and is celebrated.

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