

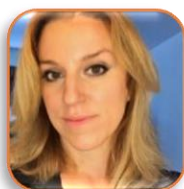
WELCOME TO THE 21 - 22 SCHOOL YEAR!

You only had to ride a school bus, visit a school playground, or sit in on a classroom to hear the excitement and see the joy collectively shared by students and staff, and perhaps parents, on the first days of school this September. Although we have collectively navigated the anxiety of COVID, it doesn't diminish the fact that schools are special places and that our students look forward to being back with friends and teachers.

Although we had hoped for a more normal and familiar school start, we are continuing to follow the guidance of the BCCDC and the Ministry of Education to ensure that our schools continue to operate as safely as possible within the continuing COVID context. This includes all our staff and our grade 4 – 12 students wearing masks. Thank you to our parents and students for continuing to support us in ensuring that schools remain as safe as possible for all.

As most of us return to school with stories and memories of our summer adventures, we have an entirely different group of employees who are just completing the last few chores from a very busy summer work schedule. A very big **THANK YOU** to all in this group, which includes staff from **facilities, technology, custodial, transportation and business operations**. Your hard work is recognized and appreciated by all of us as we return to great looking buildings!

My monthly report to the Board is intended to provide a summary of activities across our school district, and these stories are themed under the four strategic priorities of the Board of Education.



NEW FACES IN NEW ROLES: WELCOME

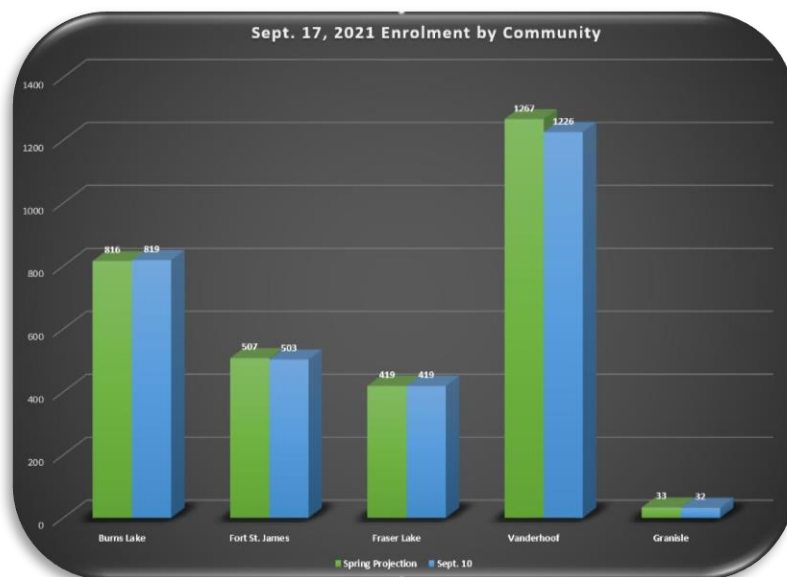
We would like to extend a very warm welcome to **Ms. Karie Evans**, the new William Konkin Elementary principal. Karie has a broad background in inclusive education and Social-Emotional Learning and recently completed her Masters in Educational Leadership from the University of Lethbridge. She is excited to make Burns Lake home and has loved meeting students and families these first few

WKE

weeks.

ENROLMENT ACROSS OUR COMMUNITIES

Every spring we do our best to send the Ministry of Education our predictions for the upcoming September enrolment. For many years now, we have experienced declining enrolment across most of our communities. This year our September enrolment across the district is almost identical to our Spring prediction with some community-by-community variances. Here are the numbers as of Sept. 17th:



WKE – START THE DAY WITH A GREETING

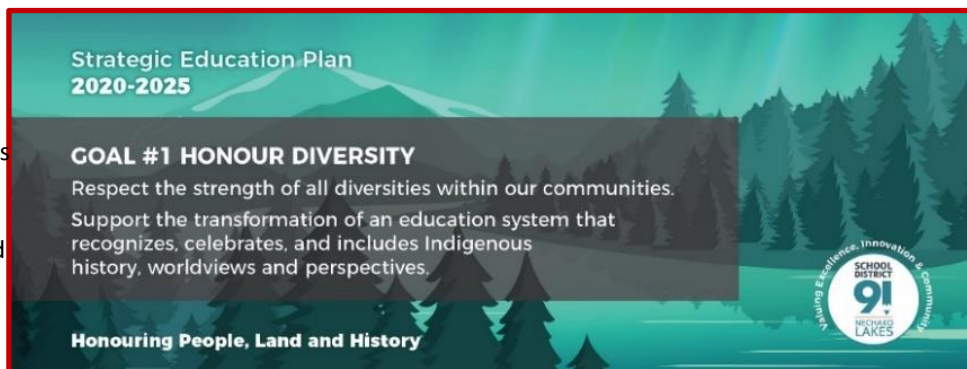


William Konkin
Elementary has
asked their
Carrier
Language and
Culture
Teacher,
Jordan
Williams, to

spend the first 30 minutes of each school day greeting students in the main foyer of the school. These greetings help to welcome all students but work especially well for students who may be stressed or anxious about the day. Would there be a better way to start the day than to be greeted

by a friendly face welcoming you to school?

Jordan is co-teaching with each classroom teacher once a week to support projects and inquiries in a variety of topics including Science, Math, Social Studies, Literacy, or other learning plans as co-planned with the teachers.



SD 91 LEARNS WITH JO CHRONA

We are very excited to welcome and work along renowned BC educator **Jo Chrona** this coming school year. All British Columbia teachers follow a professional set of standards, and in June of 2019, a ninth professional standard was added that reads:

“Educators respect and value the history of First Nations, Inuit, and Metis in Canada and the impact of the past on the present and the future. Educators contribute towards truth, reconciliation, and healing. Educators foster a deeper understanding of ways of knowing and being, histories and cultures of First Nations, Inuit and Metis.”

Jo will be joining teams of secondary educators on four occasions this school year to look specifically at ways to incorporate this standard into secondary courses.



3RD ANNUAL SD 91 ABORIGINAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE - SEPT. 24TH

Sept. 24th is our school planning day which has been set aside for our educators and employees to learn more about ‘Reclamation and Restoration.’ We are honoured to virtually host distinguished public speaker [Kevin Lamoureux](#), author [Richard Van Camp](#), educator [Jo Chrona](#), former LDSS graduate [Dr. Dustin Louie](#) and our District Principal of Indigenous Education, [Leona Prince](#) for a great day of learning.



Strategic Education Plan 2020-2025

GOAL #2 ENGAGE OUR WORKFORCE

Foster school and district cultures that inspire and support passion-based teaching, learning, and leading.
Create opportunities for every member of our organization to contribute to student success.

Honouring People, Land and History



THE AMAZING LEADERS RACE

To help reconnect our system leaders following an incredibly stressful year, we decided to put them into teams and have them do an 'Amazing Race' as part of their August 'Back to School' event. Many, many laughs were had and we thank all our community friends and partners that agreed to host race challenges.



ENGAGING OUR NEWEST EDUCATORS



Thank you to our District Support Teachers, **Roberta Toth** and **Michelle Miller-Gauthier**, who hosted a Sept. 14th session specifically for new educators to our district.

From the many comments during and after this session, it was clear that the session was really well received, and I know that Michelle and Roberta look forward to being in these classrooms over the course of this year.

'THINKING CLASSROOMS' WITH DR. PETER LIJEDAHL

We are pleased to welcome SFU's **Dr. Peter Liljedahl** who will be guiding many of our teachers through his research-based work on [Thinking Classrooms](#).

Parents who have students coming home excited about standing up in small groups and writing



on whiteboards as they solve complex math problems will know that this is the learning coming from this project.

Peter was pleased to be in beautiful Nechako Lakes on Sept. 2nd where he was joined by 40+ educators as they explored Peter's research-based practices and the use of vertical work spaces. Peter will return to work with this excited group on three more occasions this school year.



STRENGTHENING LITERACY WITH FAYE BROWNLIE

Many of our grade 5 to senior secondary teachers are excited to be on school teams learning from [Faye Brownlie](#) throughout this school year. Faye is one of British Columbia's most sought after literacy and learning experts. Faye begins her work with our schools the week of Sept. 20th, and this work will carry on to the end of this school year.



SUMMER SCHOOL

Three NVSS students and two FSJSS students experienced a summer school experience that they will remember for many years to come. These students were hired through community partnerships and grants. Both groups of students worked on a variety of activities including: *fish trapping and eDNA sampling on local creeks, insect sampling, developing projects for younger students to engage with local wetlands, using drones to assist with land and water based visual surveys, stream remediation work and many other local ecological activities.*

It took a team of folks to help put together these opportunities for our students and so a big thank you to: **Casey Lytton, Wayne Salewski, Barry Booth, Brent Murray, Darren Carpenter, Richard Martin, Nechako Environment and Water Stewardship Society,** and others who I may have missed.



Summer students planning for elementary tree planting at Redmond wetland.



Exciting to see amphibians returning to the McLeod Wetlands.

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

For the first time in many, many years, SD 91's Inclusive Education department (formerly Learner Services) has been able to fill ALL vacant postings. There is now a complete team to support learners and schools. This year we hired a new school psychologist, behaviour consultant, speech language pathologist, and counsellor to join our dedicated, creative, and professional Inclusive Education Team.

We welcome:



Joslin Thalheimer
Counsellor



Megan Young
Speech Language Therapist (SLP)



Stephanie Lindstrom
Psychologist



Uli Roessler
Behaviour Consultant

To our existing team:



Chantal Phillips
SLP



Lisa Mitchell
SLP



Stacey Stewart
SLPA



Maddy Catford
SLP (On Leave)



Sandy Haskett
Occupational Therapist (OT)



Jeannie Sinclair
OT (On Leave)



Cathy Tassie
Teacher for the Visually Impaired



Paul Woolnough
Teacher for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing



Shauna Ianson
Counsellor



Todd Blattner
Counsellor



Toni Dagenais
Counsellor



Nick Ferguson
Counsellor



Debbie Scott
Counsellor



Joanna Cardinal
Counsellor (On leave)



Kerri Dyck
Executive Assistant



Rhonda Togyi
District Principal



Claire McKay
Director of Instruction

FRAMEWORK FOR ENHANCING STUDENT LEARNING

British Columbia's Ministry of Education has initiated a reporting process titled 'Framework for Enhancing Student Learning' ([FESL](#)). FESL "brings a formalized approach to the planning and reporting expectations for schools with a focus on enhancing student learning and success. It combines accountability with evidence-informed decision making and system-wide continuous improvement to support equity of outcomes for all students in the provincial K-12 public system. The Framework also reflects a public commitment by Indigenous peoples, Indigenous rightsholders, education partners and communities to work together to improve student learning and enhance the intellectual, social and career development of all learners."

For those interested in reading our school district's FESL report, please navigate to the 'Board' section of our website or click [HERE](#).



W.L. McLEOD'S CARES LEADERS



W.L. McLeod's Cares program is a popular program that pairs grade 6 student

leaders with incoming kindergarten students and their families. The leaders are provided training by principal **Libby Hart** just prior to the start of the school year. They

then contact the families of in-coming kindergarten students to introduce themselves and answer questions. Kindergarten students are welcomed to the school and supported in their first year of school by their Cares Leader. Here are some pictures of this year's batch of Cares Leaders being trained on Sept. 1st. This year's Cares Leaders t-shirts contain the phrase 'Every Child Matters' which was a suggestion from one of last year's leaders!

Strategic Education Plan 2020-2025

GOAL #4 ENHANCE CONNECTIONS

Promote collaboration and partnership with all facets of community.
Encourage our schools to participate in opportunities that strengthen our communities.

Honouring People, Land and History



WILLIAM KONKIN CELEBRATES TERRY FOX

Our first school-wide event took place over several days and culminated on Friday, Sept. 17th, when WKE participated in Terry Fox Day. Students in every grade renewed their commitment to the Marathon of Hope ideals through lessons in class and then through the Terry Fox Run & Walk.



On Monday, September 20th, our students attended the first school-wide assembly in many months to connect with Cops for Cancer. Cops for Cancer Tour de North 2021 is an exciting annual event where law enforcement and emergency services personnel cycle across the coast of BC raising money for childhood cancer research and support services at the Canadian Cancer Society.

OUTDOOR CLASSROOMS WITH COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Our community partners continue to amaze us. Long-time SD 91 partner and local landowner, **Richard Martens**, has contributed a portion of his land next to Clear Creek in Vanderhoof for the construction of an outdoor learning site. Some of the construction costs of this space are being covered by the **Nechako Environment & Watershed Stewardship Society (N.E.W.S.S.)**. The construction timbers will be milled at the FSJSS portable sawmill. The **ITA** will be assisting with labour costs with students working alongside a local contractor.



A cement pad on the Marten's property was poured this last summer and we understand that many of Mr. Marten's cows are enjoying the new emerging learning space.

SD 91 IN THE NEWS AND QUICK FACTS:

- [BL Comfor Supports LDSS Archery](#)
- [Decker Lake Elementary Celebrates 100th Birthday](#)
- [LDSS Archery Strikes Out Competition](#)
- [SD 91 Staffing Challenges](#)