

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 the 2025-2026 School Year!

The start of a new school year is always a moment filled with promise. On September 3rd, our schools welcomed students back into vibrant learning environments, setting the tone for a year of growth, connection, and possibility. There is a unique energy that comes with fall—an eagerness to reconnect, to explore new ideas, and to build meaningful relationships that support student success.

This year, our focus continues to be on nurturing the whole child. Staff are working intentionally to understand each learner's individual strengths and needs, with particular attention to well-being, literacy, and numeracy. These areas are foundational to British Columbia's Core Competencies, which guide students in developing the intellectual, personal, and social-emotional skills needed for lifelong learning. The "Know-Do-Understand" model remains central to our curriculum and assessment practices, helping students become engaged and educated citizens.

We also remain deeply committed to the value of Honouring People, Land, and History, a principle that continues to shape our work and is reflected in both the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan and each school's Growth Plan. This year, we are excited to begin the process of refreshing our Strategic Plan. Throughout the fall and into the spring, students, staff, rightsholders, and community members will be invited to share their perspectives through a variety of engagement opportunities. Their voices will help shape the next five years of learning in Nechako Lakes School District.

We are pleased to welcome back Leona Prince to her role as our Director of Instruction - Indigenous Education, who has returned from her secondment with Ministry of Education and Child Care. Karie Evans has assumed the role Director of Instruction - Inclusive Education, replacing Claire McKay. Interviews for the Manager of Facilities role are scheduled to take place before the end of September and we look forward to filling this pivotal position on a continuing basis.

As always, I want to acknowledge the incredible efforts of our staff in launching the school year with care and intention. Whether working directly with students or behind the scenes, every contribution matters. Many employees worked throughout the summer to ensure our schools were ready to welcome learners, and their dedication is deeply appreciated.

Together, we look forward to a year of collaboration, innovation, and continued commitment to creating inclusive, engaging spaces where every student can thrive.

Again, welcome to the 2025-2026 school year! It is an honour to be starting my first school year as the superintendent

Respectfully submitted,

Anita McClinton

(she/her)
Superintendent



Left: Staff at Decker Lake Elementary School waiting to welcome back their students.
Right: Staff and students soaking up the joy of returning to DLES!

Strategic Plan Updates: GOAL 3: Create Student Success
McLeod Cares Leader Training



The end of August brought another McLeod Cares Leader training day at McLeod. We had 28/34 grade 6s Cares Leaders who were able to make it (and that's only 2/3 of our grade 6s kids - HUGE grade 6 group this year!). The kids spent the day with Ms. Hart and Ms. Baker learning how to be big buddies, role playing making phone calls, learning their responsibilities for the year and getting the school set up. They spent time phoning the families of their Kindergarten or new student buddies to welcome them and plan for opening day. Great work!

CREATE STUDENT SUCCESS

A continued focus on the essential skills of literacy, numeracy and social emotional well-being.

Support effective teaching and learning strategies.

NVSS Grad Walk Through at WL McLeod

Graduates inspiring young learners in their cap and gowns for the annual NVSS grad walk through at WL McLeod last June ...



Strategic Plan Updates: GOAL 4: Enhance Connections

EDS ADST

During the last two weeks of the 2024-25 school year, Evelyn Dickson Students were fortunate enough to be supported by the Vanderhoof Fire Department and BC Hydro for the culmination of ADST projects. Grade 5/6 students spent hours designing boats out of cardboard and they were able to put them to the test in the Fire Department's pop-up bladder!

The entire school spent an afternoon, gathered on the hill, enjoying the sunshine and some delicious popcorn (thanks to our wonderful PAC), watching with anticipation to see if their eggs—safely tucked into the creative contraptions they had worked hard to build—would survive the 50-foot fall.



Thank you to BC Hydro for bringing their lift so that we had some significant height to drop the eggs.



A Sinkut View Sweet Twist on Tradition!

This year, Sinkut View is mixing their beloved Ice Cream Social with a brand-new event... 🛒 The Pick-a-Jar Picnic! It's everything families love – ice cream, games, and family fun – plus the excitement of picking and winning surprise-filled jars!



Employee Recognition

As we begin the new school year, I'd like to take a moment to recognize the outstanding efforts of our maintenance and finance teams.

Our facilities and custodial staff have done an exceptional job ensuring each school and its grounds are in excellent condition. Their work over the summer included several major projects, notably the completion of the track at FLESS and the boiler upgrades at NVSS, all of which contribute to safer and more welcoming learning environments.

Meanwhile, our finance department worked diligently throughout the summer to finalize our GRE and complete the audit process. Their steady commitment ensures our operations remain strong and accountable.

Thank you all for your dedication and hard work. Your contributions are deeply appreciated and set a positive tone for the year ahead.

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