

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 TSINTEL OOZA (March)

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 last month has indeed been a dynamic and fulfilling month for your educational community! Engaging students in various activities such as Story Workshop, real-life number sense activities, and outdoor learning opportunities not only adds interest to learning experiences but also promotes holistic development for children.



Participating in events like the District's Science Fair provides students with opportunities to explore their interests, develop within the curricular competencies, and showcase their creativity. As a judge, witnessing the enthusiasm and dedication of students was truly rewarding. I was so impressed again this year by how students projected a sense of confidence in answering any questions.

Observing Pink Shirt Day is an essential initiative in SD91 to raise awareness about the harmful effects of bullying and promote kindness and inclusivity within schools and communities. It was heartening to see our schools actively participating in such important campaigns that create safe and supportive learning environments for all students. This is the goal!



Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. Mitchell".

(she/her)
Superintendent

Strategic Plan Updates: GOAL 1: Honour Diversity



ArtStarts in Schools!

[ArtStarts in Schools](#) provides innovative arts programs for young people, practical resources for teachers and artists, and leadership in advocacy for arts in education. As part of the District's ArtStarts initiatives, Candice George visited schools to engage learners in cultural performances. Candice is an Indigenous interdisciplinary performing artist, cultural educator, public speaker and facilitator. She proudly hails from Stelat'en First Nation and is of Dakelh and Wet'suwet'en ancestry. She is a renowned singer and storyteller, as

well as the founder of Skeh Nek'huna Hohdidul'eh "Teaching Children Our Ways."

Each school enjoyed her interactive cultural presentation of traditional music, stories from her personal journey, information about traditional kinship as well as cultural protocols. The presentations explored the strong connection that First Nations people have to the land and environment and it also introduced drumming as a tool for First Nations people in passing on oral tradition, as well as healing.



Strategic Plan Updates: GOAL 2: Engage our Workforce



Provincial Outreach Program for the Early Years (POPEY) – Rural Residency Literacy Project

POPEY Consultant, Jen Kelly, visited elementary schools in the Burns Lake area as part of the Rural Residency Literacy Project. She collaborated with classroom teachers to deliver model lessons on various literacy strands and debriefed with primary teachers following the lesson. During her visit to SD91, Jen also

delivered a literacy workshop titled, *Building a Successful Primary Classroom: Proven Strategies for Primary Reading*. In May, POPEY will return to our school district for the final visit of the school year. We will conclude the project with an open invitation to all SD91 teachers to attend a primary writing workshop on May 10th.



Co-teaching in Action! Story Workshop at WL McLeod

Story Workshop is a process designed to inspire and strengthen storytelling and story writing. It is also another way to decolonize the instruction of writing skills. It is an activity that promotes high levels of student engagement as children listen to a story, build story scenes, and engage in story play and storytelling.

Teacher Leader, Michelle Miller-Gauthier has been co-teaching and modelling lessons using this approach in classrooms at WL McLeod.

Number Sense Building

Teacher Leader, Roberta Toth, has been working with a number of elementary classes on building number sense. The focus is on using counting collections, in which students work collaboratively to group and count real-life objects in meaningful ways.



Zone 01 - Robotics Workshop

Duncan Woods (FLESS), Jose Cayanan (EDS/WLM), Dionne Ellis (WLM), Kellen Anderson (NVSS) and Patrick McDowall (DHES) joined Dominic Bruneau from Zone 01 Robotics to learn and use SD91's newly arrived collection of robotics resources. Zone 01 Robotics, working with Jose Cayanan and SD91 Career Programs, applied to the Rio Tinto Canada Fund and were successful in securing \$15,000 worth of Robotics to reignite and/or enhance programs for students. In addition to day-to-day use at school, students will be able to participate in regional and potentially national level competitions in the coming months and years. Career Programs will be looking to expand the robotics program and its associated resources to participating schools with support from Zone 01 Robotics and our Partners in Education at Rio Tinto Alcan.



Strategic Plan Updates: GOAL 3: Create Student Success

Science Fair 2024

The **SD91 District Science Fair** was held on February 21st with 128 students participating, showcasing 86 projects! Students from across our district, as well as students from Eugene Joseph School, participated and did an excellent job of demonstrating their learning! View this year's DSF finalists [here](#).



The **Central Interior Regional Science Exhibition (CISE)** was held on March 9th at UNBC and SD91 was well represented. Two students were among the five top finalists in grades 7-12 who were selected to move onto the **Canada Wide Science Fair** (held in Ottawa, Ontario from May 26-31). Visit our list of CISE Award recipients [here](#).



A big congratulations to all SD91 students who participated in the District Science Fair and CISE this year!



Search and Rescue member Sue Forshner introduced ENSOE 11/12 students to Adventure Smart's Survive Outside program. Both Sue and Paul Broen took students into the bush to implement the 3 T's: trip planning, training and taking the essentials. Working in teams, students practiced STOP (stop, think, observe, plan) and then built practical shelters and fires that would help them survive if lost or injured outdoors. The session ended with an outdoor meal and some awesome survival swag. A big thank you to Sue and Paul for providing this valuable training. More to come this the spring!



Changing Results for Young Children (CR4YC) Project

CR4YC participants met to continue to discuss teaching and early learning theory as well as finalize their inquiry project on the theme of social-emotional well-being. Discussed as part of the project meeting was the Valentine's Day activity organized by Jessica Shively (StrongStart educator at WKE). Jessica's preschool and StrongStart children created cards for the residents of an assisted living complex in Burns Lake. Participants in the CR4YC project will meet again on April 10th.

Strategic Plan Updates: GOAL 4: Enhance Connections

Nechako Lakes School District/CNC Partnership

SD91 is pleased to be working with the College of New Caledonia to offer secondary students a dual credit Early Childhood Educator (ECE) course this semester. LDSS and NVSS students enrolled in the ECCL-156 (Care and Guidance) course are exploring approaches and techniques that support children's optimal development.

At the conclusion of the course, they will earn both secondary and college credits. Each month, the school ECE cohort is invited to attend a Learning Lunch. During the most recent session, they listened to a local ECE share her experiences and stories as an early childhood educator. SD91 and CNC plan to offer another ECE course in the fall.



Employee Recognition:

I would like to express appreciation to school staff for supporting science fairs at all levels and FLESS and their staff members for hosting and supporting the District Science Fair. We had highly invested teams of judges at school fairs and the District Fairs. This included SD91 teachers, administrators and support staff, all investing their time to support students in their scientific inquiries. I would also like to thank the Trustees, families and community partners for their support in ensuring the fairs were so successful again this year. Sincere gratitude to Megan Boniface and Tyler Clark for their continued leadership with Science Fair, both at the District and Regional level.

I would also like to acknowledge Language and Cultural teacher, Carla Martin, for her organization of a recent gala evening at FSJSS in support of the Girls' Group. This was a first for the group and the gala was a rich showcase of the work the girls have been doing this year as they engage in their Indigenous culture. The gala event was a fundraiser for their trip to the International Pow Wow in Albuquerque, New Mexico and the young women enjoyed a full house of family, community and staff supporters.

Find Us on Social Media!



We're on Facebook!
@SD91BC

You can also find us on Twitter!
@sd91bc

