

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 Taltsi Ooza

Although our last Board meeting was not long ago, the weeks since have been full and purposeful across the District. April is often described as a season of renewal in Canada—that hopeful time when we know spring is on its way, even if winter hasn't quite finished having its say. With recent snowfall and colder temperatures, spring has arrived on northern time this year; however, there is no mistaking the growing energy across our schools. As weather allows, classes are increasingly extending learning outdoors, with students and staff taking advantage of the rich geography and seasonal transitions that define learning in Nechako Lakes.

This month's Superintendent's Report places particular emphasis on areas of focus from our strategic workplan, highlighting them as examples of how we continue to bring the Strategic Plan to life on a daily basis. In April, that focus is on enhancing connections by strengthening partnerships and creating student success. As a result, these themes are more prominent throughout this report, offering concrete illustrations of how strategic priorities are being enacted across schools, departments, and partnerships.

Much of the current system work reflects these commitments in action. Staffing conversations with school leaders are progressing thoughtfully, and budget consultations have begun, supporting responsive planning that centers learners and local context. Draft language for the 2026–2031 Strategic Plan has also been released for feedback from students, staff, families, Rightsholder Nations, stakeholders, and community members. Alongside this engagement, we are inviting student artwork to visually represent the plan, further reinforcing the importance of student voice and belonging.

From a governance and leadership perspective, I had the opportunity to attend the BC School Trustees Association Annual General Meeting alongside most of our Trustees and our Secretary Treasurer—an important opportunity for shared learning and connection within the provincial education community. Separately, preparations are well underway for interviews for two senior leadership positions, as well as open principal and vice-principal roles, reflecting ongoing attention to leadership development and succession planning.

Taken together, the work highlighted this month reflects a spring season that is busy, hopeful, and deeply connected to our shared direction. Additional examples of partnership, connection, and learner success can be found throughout the following pages, offering a snapshot of how strategic intent continues to turn into meaningful action across Nechako Lakes.

Respectfully submitted,

*Anita McClinton*

(she/her)  
Superintendent



Spring student art display at Mouse Mountain Elementary and students from Mapes Elementary

## Strategic Plan Updates: GOAL 1: Honour Diversity

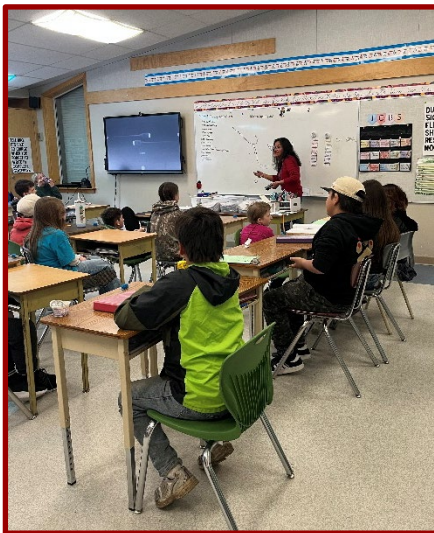
### Indigenous Storytelling at WKE

This week, students at W.K.E. had the special opportunity to learn from Indigenous storyteller Doris Munger, who visited classrooms to share stories from her youth and lived experiences.

Through storytelling, Doris Munger invited students to step back in time and learn about what life was like when she was growing up. She spoke about the homes and boats that were part of everyday life, offering students a meaningful glimpse into history through personal memory and experience rather than textbooks alone.

Students were deeply engaged as Doris shared stories that highlighted family, community, and ways of living. Her visits also included drumming and dancing, giving students the chance to experience cultural expression in an interactive and memorable way. The rhythm of the drum and movement brought energy and joy into the classrooms, creating a powerful learning experience for students of all ages.

These visits provided an important opportunity for students to learn directly from an Indigenous knowledge holder, supporting understanding, respect, and connection to Indigenous perspectives and histories.



W.K.E. is grateful to Doris Munger for sharing her time, stories, and knowledge with our students, and for helping bring learning to life in such a meaningful way.



### LDSS Drumming and Singing Group

The Drumming and Singing group at LDSS has experienced remarkable growth over the past year, both in participation and in the strength of their performances. Their dedication to developing their skills, deepening their cultural understanding, and supporting one another as a group has been truly commendable.

Last month marked a significant milestone, as we were incredibly proud to see the group showcased at the Prince George Cougars' Indigenous Weekend. This opportunity was made possible through an invitation from Lake Babine Nation, who recognized the talent and commitment of our students and welcomed them to attend and perform at the game. Representing our school in such a meaningful and high-profile setting is an outstanding achievement.

We extend our sincere congratulations to all members of the group for their hard work, professionalism, and for serving as such positive ambassadors of LDSS. Their performance was a powerful celebration of culture, community, and student voice, and we look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in the future.



Prince George Cougars Hockey Club was live.

February 6 at 6:05 PM · 🌐

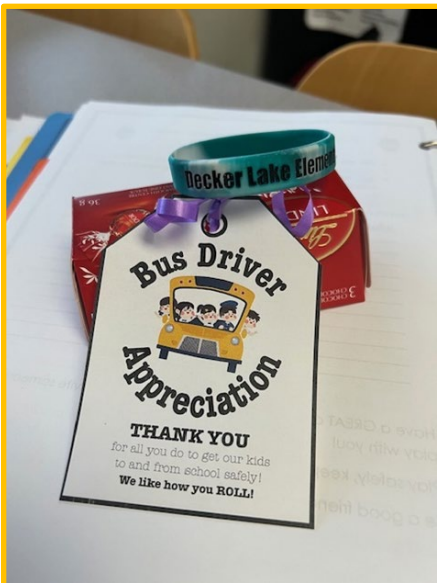


### LAKES DISTRICT SECONDARY SCHOOL PERFORMANCE



## strategic Plan Updates: GOAL 2: Engage our Workforce

### Bus Driver Appreciation



Bus driver appreciation occurred not long ago across the district with schools and district staff celebrating our driver's in different ways. Decker Lake Elementary School showed their appreciation with a small token and note of appreciation being shared with each driver.

**ENGAGE OUR WORKFORCE**

Nurture 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.



# Strategic Plan Updates: GOAL 3: Create Student Success

## Quiet Indoor Sports Meet @ DLES



**CREATE STUDENT SUCCESS**

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

Support effective teaching and learning strategies.

Huskies gathered in their team colours and participated in relays to earn points for their team. This sports meet has been a 40+ year tradition at DLES and is a great way to promote school spirit and increase engagement. It was a fun afternoon full of bouncing, popping balloons, shooting hoops, and whistling with crackers in your mouth. Go Huskies!



## Camp Read-A-Lot at Evelyn Dickson Elementary



Before Spring Break Mrs. Egan's grade 2/3 Class participated in "Camp Read-A-Lot"! During the week, the students participated in many literacy activities including campfire stories, as well as sewing projects, campfire cooking and learning how to use a compass.



## Evelyn Dickson Robotics

EDS Robotics team made it to the quarter finals of the district robotics competition. The entire day was nothing short of amazing - full of energy, teamwork, and unforgettable moments. A huge thank you to the RoboticZone01 organizers, Rio Tinto, and SD91 Careers for putting together such a fantastic event. Special thanks as well to the judges, parents, and students whose support and enthusiasm made the day even more meaningful. And of course, congratulations to all the teams and coaches who helped make it such a fun-filled and inspiring day.

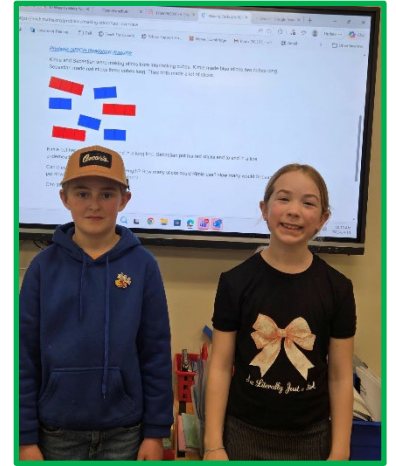


# WKE Shines on the Global Stage 🌐

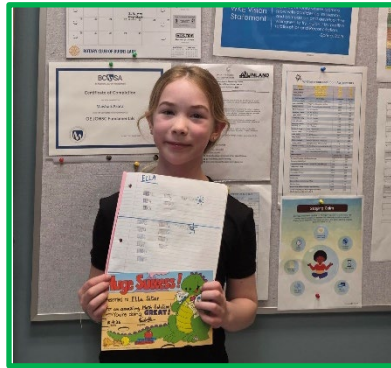
Learners at William Konkin Elementary recently demonstrated strong problem-solving skills and mathematical reasoning through their participation in a series of live mathematical investigations developed by **NRICH**, part of the University of Cambridge. These rich tasks invite students to engage deeply with complex problems, articulate their thinking, and consider multiple solution strategies, mirroring the kinds of competencies emphasized in the BC Mathematics Curriculum.



Through curiosity, perseverance, and creative thinking, WKE students explored challenging mathematical ideas and submitted their reasoning to a global learning community. Notably, the work of several students from William Konkin Elementary was selected for publication on the NRICH Cambridge website. Their solutions included visual representations, pattern recognition, and mathematical generalization, such as identifying relationships in multiples of six and explaining why viable solutions must be even numbers. These student contributions were highlighted alongside submissions from learners around the world.



Equally important, all participating students were acknowledged by NRICH for their thoughtful engagement, reinforcing the value of persistence, risk-taking, and learning through exploration. This experience reflects the strength of instructional practices at WKE that prioritize mathematical discourse, conceptual understanding, and student voice. It also demonstrates how authentic, high-quality learning opportunities support student confidence and success in mathematics.



# Strategic Plan Updates: GOAL 4: Enhance Connections

## Nechako Lakes HR in Community

This past month has been especially busy for our Human Resources team as they advanced the Strategic Workplan focus on enhancing connections through intentional outreach and partnership-building. By strengthening relationships with community partners and increasing our visibility across the region, this work directly supports our ability to recruit and retain staff—an essential condition for student success in Nechako Lakes.

HR staff represented Nechako Lakes at multiple job fairs, including events hosted by the Nee Tahi Buhn Band in Burns Lake and Sai'kuz First Nation, engaging with prospective employees and community members while deepening our presence within local Indigenous communities. Additional outreach continues through participation in regional job fairs in Prince George and Vanderhoof, as well as an upcoming WorkBC and Nak'azdli Whut'en-partnered event. Through these efforts, the HR team is helping to strengthen partnerships, build trust, and support sustainable staffing that enables strong learning environments for students across the district.

Thank you, Brittany and Tyrell for your ongoing efforts for connection and success!



## Spirit North & A Trip to the Beacon Theater at Decker Lake Elementary School



Each Wednesday throughout the year, Huskies participate in activities with Spirit North. During the past several weeks, Huskies have enjoyed trail walking and fort building in our trail system behind the school.





DLES Huskies traveled to the Beacon Theater before Easter to watch the movie *Hopper*. Everyone enjoyed the popcorn and the show.



### Spring & Easter at Fort St. James Secondary

The Food Program Worker in Fort St. James has students and parents 'eating out of her hands' with the amazing food and especially Easter and spring treats she is and has provided.



### It's Time to Move It, Move It!

This year, Proud to be McLeod Production is happy to present MADAGASCAR. They hope to see their gymnasium full for the public shows as they have in previous years as their students love to perform for other students and the community!

Our public shows will be April 23, 24 and 25 at 7:00 with a 1:00 matinee on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are \$5 each or \$20 for a family of four or more and can be purchased at Wallace Studio's, Quilter's Corner, WL McLeod office and at the door if space is available.

Come on out and support our student actors!

## Sus'an Yaz Childcare Center Grand Opening

We are pleased to recognize the grand opening of Sus'an Yaz, a new licensed childcare and early learning space located on the Southside. This initiative was made possible through a meaningful partnership between Nechako Lakes School District (SD91), Cheslatta Carrier Nation, Carrier Sekani Family Services (CSFS), and The Link, with grant funding provided by the Ministry of Education and Childcare.

As shared by those involved, Sus'an Yaz—translated as *Little Bear Cave*—began years ago as a dream and has become a reality through collaboration, perseverance, and strong community support. The opening of this space provides Southside families with access to a safe, welcoming, and nurturing early learning environment that supports children's well-being and development.



This partnership reflects a shared commitment to reconciliation and to working together in ways that honour Indigenous leadership, relationships, and community-identified priorities. It demonstrates the positive impact that can be achieved when Rightsholder Nations, community organizations, and public education collaborate to support children and families. We extend our sincere appreciation to all partners for their vision, dedication, and continued support of early learning and childcare in our district.



## BC School Trustees Association Annual General Meeting



I had the pleasure of attending the BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA) Annual General Meeting alongside Nechako Lakes trustees and our Secretary-Treasurer, Darlene Turner.

The AGM plays an important role in supporting effective board governance, providing trustees with the opportunity to engage in provincial-level dialogue, debate motions that

shape the collective advocacy and direction of the Association, and contribute to decisions that impact public education across British Columbia.



Trustees enjoying a pause in the action and discussing proposed motions



Board Chair Christie with the Honourable Lisa Beare, Minister of Education and



Equally valuable was the time spent connecting with colleagues from other districts, as well as with staff from the Ministry of Education and Child Care and the BC Public School Employers' Association, and engaging directly with the Minister.

These opportunities reinforce the importance of Nechako Lakes trustees participating actively in provincial conversations and learning alongside their peers.

There was also time for informal connection and collegial interaction, helping to foster positive relationships

and a strong sense of community among trustees across the province. In that spirit, the Nechako Lakes table became a point of interest for many attendees, who stopped by to admire – and enjoy – the generous spread of food thoughtfully provided for our trustees by district staff, a small but appreciated reflection of hospitality and community.



## Employee Recognition

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to our Indigenous Education staff for their ongoing leadership and commitment to advancing Indigenous student success across Nechako Lakes. Through relationship-based work, collaboration with Rightsholder Nations, schools, and communities, and a steadfast focus on belonging and achievement, their efforts strengthen outcomes for Indigenous learners.

I also want to recognize and thank our administrative professionals across the district as we celebrate Administrative Professionals Day this week. Their professionalism, care, and attention to detail keep our schools and district offices running smoothly each day, and their contributions are essential to supporting staff, students, and families!

## Find Us on Social Media!



We're on Facebook!  
@SD91BC

You can also find us on Twitter!  
@sd91bc

