

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 SACHO NUN (January)

Happy New Year everyone!

With the new year has come a very chilly polar vortex - not the way we wanted to usher in the return to school, but I know everyone is making the very best of it all.



I hope that the holiday break was a time for each member of our school communities to relax and engage in some fun activities. Although I am not one to make New Year's resolutions, embracing a new calendar year always brings a sense of renewed energy and purpose to get back to the business of learning!

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](#). Our efforts continue as we are mindful of the well-being and achievement of learners. With the recent release of *The Aboriginal: How Are We Doing? Report* as well as the Ministry of Education and Child Care's *Distinctions-Based Approach Primer for the Province's Relations with First Nations, Metis and Inuit*, our District is committed to the critical and necessary actions of Reconciliation.

I know we are at the halfway mark of the year, but plans are well underway to get ready for the upcoming 2024-25 school year. Recruitment efforts for new staff are in full swing and preparations to welcome our new learners have also begun. This is also a critical time for soon-to-be-grads as they enter final assessments for the semester and look forward to their last set of new courses in the next few weeks. Exciting times!

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. Mitchell". The signature is fluid and cursive.

(she/her)
Superintendent

Strategic Plan Updates: GOAL 1: Honour Diversity

The Aboriginal: How Are We Doing? Report (HAWD) 2022-23



The How Are We Doing? Report is an annual, public report focussing on Indigenous students in British Columbia. This report was released in mid-January 2024, and the data report provides teachers, schools, school districts and the Ministry of Education and Child Care with important information on how Indigenous students are developing and identifies areas for intervention or further action.

The Nechako Lakes School District Report can be found at the following link: [ab-hawd-school-district-091.pdf \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://ab-hawd-school-district-091.pdf(gov.bc.ca)). This

report provides information about students from 2018/19 – 2022/23. The information is based on all students in SD91 (4105) attending standard schools in the district as well as EBUS Academy students attending from across the province. The percentage of students within our total student population in 2022/23 who self-identify within the data measures is 35% (or 1466 students; 420 on-reserve, 1046 off-reserve).



Distinctions Based Approach Primer

The Province has developed a [Distinctions-Based Approach Primer](#) to assist the provincial government in building an understanding of the legal basis for, and core elements of, a distinctions-based approach in all of the Province's relations with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit. A distinctions-based approach, and appropriate respect for Indigenous laws and jurisdictions, means that the scope of rights enjoyed by an Indigenous People is contextual and that the Province's relations and dealings with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit will be conducted in a manner that is appropriate for the specific context, recognizing and respecting the distinct and different rights, laws, legal systems, and systems of governance of each.

Strategic Plan Updates: GOAL 2: Engage our Workforce

Recruitment and Retention Efforts: New Teacher Spotlight



A series of New Teacher Spotlights have been created to showcase what it is like to enter a career in teaching in School District 91. These spotlights are featured on our website and social media, with more teacher features to come! Thanks to each one of our new teachers for taking the time to help

generate interest in our district as a great place to work! Thank you to Assistant Superintendent, Mike Skinner, for organizing recruitment efforts on behalf of the District for the upcoming school year.

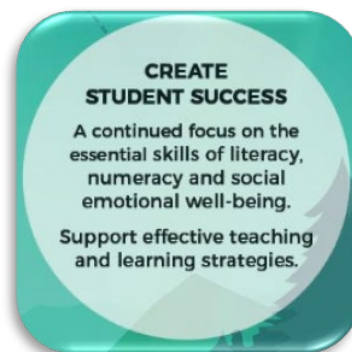


Strategic Plan Updates: GOAL 3: Create Student Success

Junior Achievement BC Market at NVSS

The 7th Annual JABC Market was another great success! In addition to many staff, parents and community members, over 200 students from WLM, EDS, Sinkut View and Mapes Elementary Schools could purchase (with SD91 bucks) a huge variety of MyNVSS Grade 7 student-created items.

The JABC market is an ongoing collaboration between Junior Achievement BC, the MyNVSS team of teachers and SD91 Career & Trades Programs.



Grassy Plains School Donation

I am proud to announce that the Grassy Plains School Grade 6/7 Leadership Club successfully raised \$1490 for the Chinook Emergency Response Society (CERS). Funds were raised through the "Fresh to You Fundraiser" and pledges from their recent Kids Market.

A cheque was presented to CERS during the December Holiday Concert, showing the impact a school community can have when they come together for a cause. Students hope that the funds will be used to purchase much-needed firefighting supplies for the emergency trailers, which are located around the Southside. What a rich example of service learning by Grassy Plains students!



Strategic Plan Updates: GOAL 4: Enhance Connections

Upcoming Early Years Screening Events in SD91

Families with three- & four-year-old children are invited to attend Early Years Screening events in various locations in the District.

These events will provide a fun, family-oriented atmosphere to support children's transitions into school. Families will take part in play-based

activities while learning about early learning programs and services, their local elementary school, and their community. Thank you to our numerous partners helping to make these events happen: Northern Health, Carrier Sekani Family Services, Connexus, Fraser Lake Public Library, Northwest Child Development Centre, Thomas Robson Consulting Ltd.

Event details are as follows:

The **WL McLeod** event in Vanderhoof took place this past Saturday, January 20.

Mouse Mountain: Wednesday, January 31, from 1 pm to 3 pm at the Mouse Mountain gymnasium in Fraser Lake.

We will be hosting similar events in the community of **Fraser Lake** on January 31, **Fort St. James** on Feb 5, and **Burns Lake:** TBA. Watch us on social media for more details!



Employee Recognition:

The Student Learning Survey (SLS) for students in Grades 4, 7, 10 and 12, as well as parents, staff and principals/vice-principals is now open and available for completion until May 3, 2024. This survey is an annual province-wide census that provides us with valuable evidence of learners' school experiences during their time with us in SD91. Schools and the District use the information to plan strategies and actions that meet the needs of learners. They form the basis for School Growth Plans as well as the District's Strategic Workplan.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize all the school staff and leaders who help to collect this information on an annual basis. Your efforts help us respond to learner needs are appreciated.

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We're on Facebook!
@SD91BC

You can also find us on Twitter!
@sd91bc

