

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.

Had ih/Hadi/Hadeeh and Welcome to Dak'et (Fall)

The end of September marked Truth and Reconciliation Day during which students and staff deepened our understanding of our shared history. This history was absent from my own K-12 experience and so I continue to learn, while at the same time reflecting on how each of us plays an important role in walking alongside one another as Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples to a better, more equitable future. A highlight of Truth and Reconciliation events was the collaborative project between the District and Live.It Earth, which not only exemplified our Board's continued focus on **Honouring People, Land and History**, but also demonstrated the deep interconnectedness of land and language. This work and the relationships nurtured among partners, the District, and Nations helps us to truly "Live our Land Acknowledgements". Ensuring that our acknowledgments go beyond performative is an essential component of reconciliation.



I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge and lift up the Elders, Knowledge Holders and Language Speakers who continue to share their valuable time with us so that the district can continue to become a place where children have the opportunity to know where they come from and where they are headed. I also want to recognize Director of Instruction, Leona Prince, and her team for their imaginative and authentic approach to this work. Mesiy to each of you. These are exciting times for our district.



Respectfully submitted,

K. Mitchell

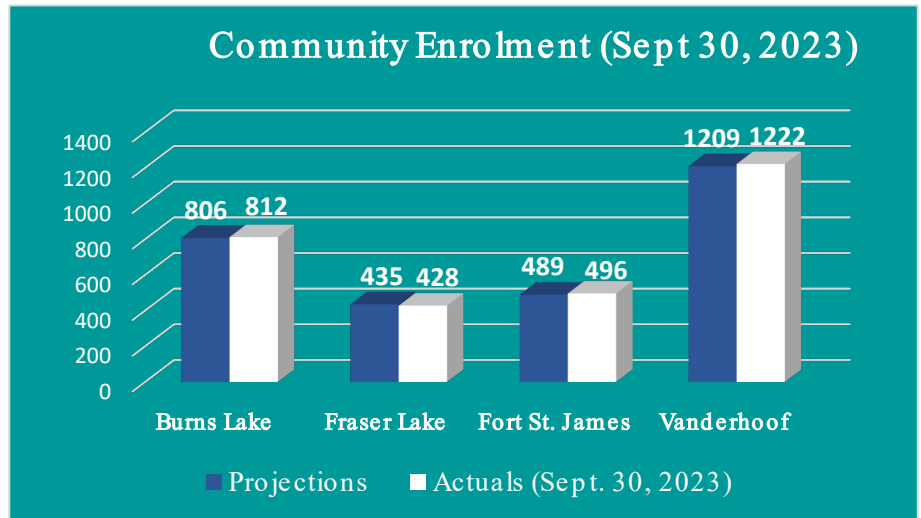
(she/her)
Superintendent

September 30th Student Enrolment Across Communities

This year, September enrolment across the district is up slightly from the Spring projection with some community-by-community variances. Overall enrolment across the four communities is 2958, compared to the projected total of 2939. Please refer to the table which outlines Projections versus Actual Enrolment as of Sept. 30, 2023.

Total student enrolment across all SD91 schools is 3556, compared to 3532 registered last September 30, 2022.

Thank you to everyone at the school and district levels who support the September 30th data collection for the Ministry on behalf of our District. There is a great deal of detailed and time-sensitive effort that goes into ensuring enrolment data is complete and accurate.



Strategic Plan Updates: GOAL 1: Honour Diversity



5th Living Our Land Acknowledgments

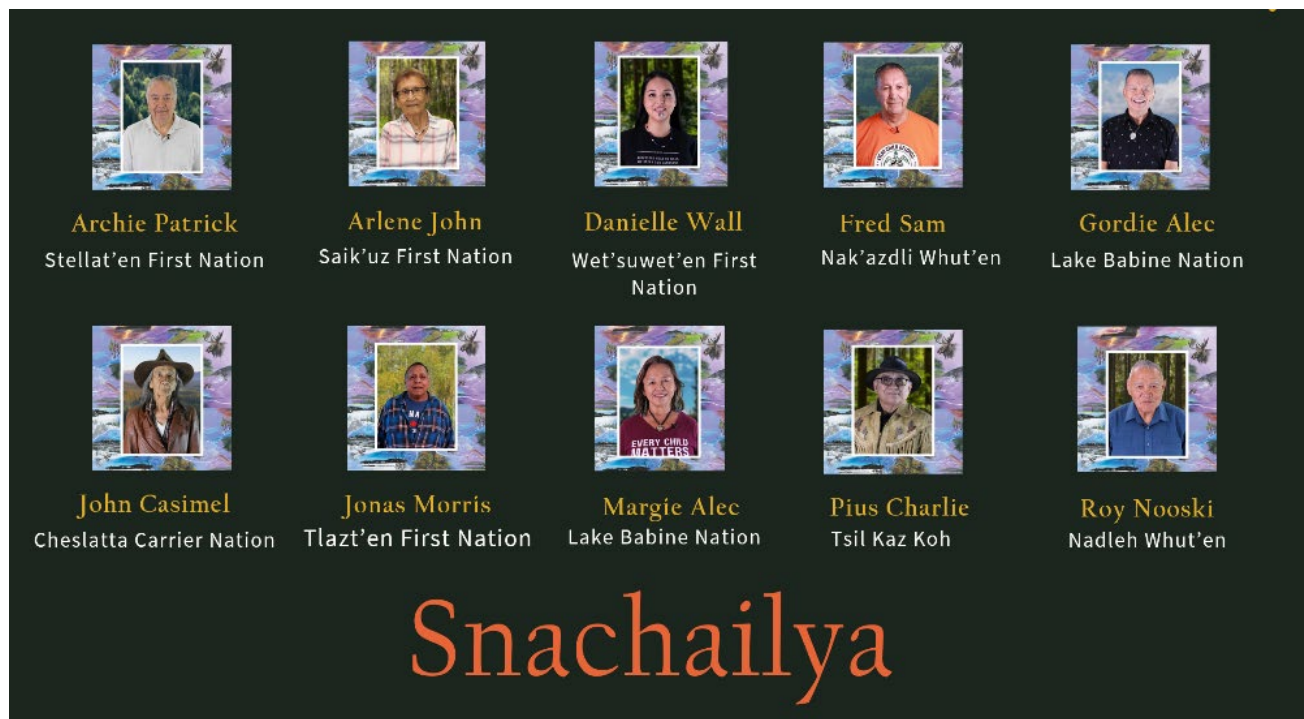
Our District theme for this year is "Living our land acknowledgements." The idea of this is to move beyond the words spoken in an acknowledgment and put them into action. Leona Prince's vision was to have Elders, Knowledge Holders and Language speakers do a traditional welcome to all who visit SD91 buildings. Leveraging QR and AR technology as well as a partnership with [LiveIt.Earth](https://liveit.earth) has allowed this vision to become reality! On September 29th a district wide event was held to unveil Territorial Welcome posters that now hang at the entrance of each of our buildings, including our two board offices. The posters feature a local member of the First Nations communities who were also honoured at school ceremonies.

The following link contains a video featuring the story of how this project came to life. Our Grassy Plains students are featured near the end so watch for them!

<https://player.vimeo.com/video/868505739>

We feel that everyone in our beautiful province should know about this project because it is a true reflection of our reconciliatory journey. We hope that people find inspiration and see the many ways in which they can achieve their own reconciliatory goals. With the tremendous help of the staff at LiveIt.Earth we have highlighted the diversity of Indigenous languages within our communities and also leveraged technology in a way that can impact our youth and the communities around us.

Our district serves 14 First Nations who are Dakelh, Nedut'en, and Wet'suwet'en speaking peoples. The members from those 14 First Nations who sit on our Indigenous Education Council (IEC) have supported this project and we are thankful for their guidance. Snachailya to Elders, Knowledge Holders, and Language Speakers who shared their time and language with us.



Strategic Plan Updates: GOAL 2: Engage our Workforce

Provincial Outreach Program for the Early Years (POPEY) at BESS, FLES, GPES, WKE, and DLES

Our school district's application to participate in the POPEY (Provincial Outreach Program for the Early Years) was accepted for the 2023-24 school year. POPEY's rural residency project will be centered in the Burns Lake and area schools and will consist of three 3-day visits. The POPEY consultant, Jen Kelly, visited BESS, FLES, GPES, WKE, and DLES from Sept 26-28. During each school visit, Jen modeled a literacy lesson as the classroom teacher (and in some cases another primary teacher) observed. Following each lesson, Jen debriefed with the teacher(s) to discuss how effective the strategies were to engage learners and ensure success.

Participation in the POPEY rural residency project for teachers is voluntary. Exploration topics include reading comprehension strategies, foundational literacy, oral language development and/or writing strategies. Our District Literacy Support Teacher, Michelle Miller-Gauthier will follow up on resource questions from teachers and explore further lessons or interventions with them. The next POPEY visit will take place in Burns Lake and area schools from Feb 7 and 8. On Feb 9, POPEY will host a literacy workshop on





that will be open to all educators in the school district. A special note of appreciation goes out to Wendy Kelemen, Michelle Miller-Gauthier and Laretta Hunter for their roles in the project.

[Provincial Outreach Program for the Early Years: Home \(popey.ca\)](http://popey.ca)

New Teacher Orientation/LOP

District VP, Deb Kohen, continues to support new teachers and teachers on Letters of Permission across the school district. October provided an opportunity to focus on planning, classroom management, instruction and assessment practices. Support was also provided for report card writing, as well as informal learning updates. Beginning this month, new teacher networking opportunities will be held in communities around the district.

Strategic Plan Updates: GOAL 3: Create Student Success

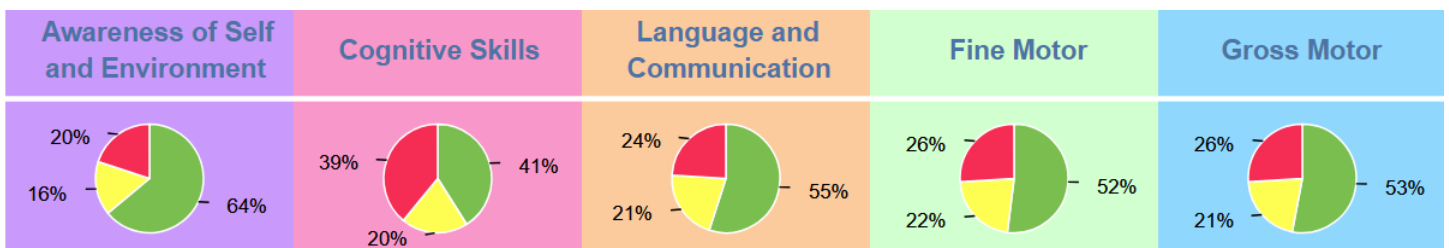
WKE Literacy

WKE has implemented Literacy Folders for each learner. Throughout the school year, student writing samples from the school-wide write, district assessments, reading assessments, and other important sources of evidence of learning will be added to the folder. At the end of the school year, the literacy files will be passed to the next teacher to help them get to know each student as a learner and implement differentiated opportunities from the beginning of the school year. When students and parents meet with teachers, they will be able to see learner progress and strengths. By the end of Grade 7, each learner will have a folder that demonstrates their amazing progress in literacy throughout elementary school.



Early Years Evaluation – Direct Assessment (EYE-DA)

Kindergarten educators from 11 schools in the district completed the fall kindergarten assessment. This assessment is the Early Years Evaluation – Direct Assessment (EYE-DA). The EYE-DA takes approximately 45 minutes to complete and in total, 190 kindergarten learners were assessed. Below is a snapshot of the overall data from this fall's EYE-DA:



Schools will be working to help learners in need of additional support within the 5 domains.

Strategic Plan Updates: GOAL 4: Enhance Connections



Cultural Safety Course Launch: SD91-BLNTU-IEC Collaboration

We have launched our cultural safety course! This is a self-directed course and is open to any member of our staff to complete at their discretion. We believe that this course can be a pivotal step in the journey towards Truth and Reconciliation. As a district, it is our vision to ensure that all staff have a fundamental understanding of the local history of the region's First Peoples, while recognizing our collective journey together, within our respective communities.

Through the course, staff will learn both general knowledge of First Peoples' history as well as gain local knowledge of the communities we serve.

In BC, belief in the success of all students is at the center of the professional standards for BC educators. Standard 9 sets the path for reconciliation in BC for all educators in our system and states that, "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."



Standard 9 guides educators to critically examine their own biases, attitudes, beliefs, values and practices to facilitate change. Educators value and respect the languages, heritages, cultures, and ways of knowing and being of First Nations, Inuit and Metis. Educators understand the power of focusing on connectedness and relationships to oneself, family, community and the natural world. Educators integrate First Nations, Inuit and Metis worldviews and perspectives into learning environments. If you have not yet had the chance, please view the Ministry's Standard 9 Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w4sBNxiA7YI>

The district would like to thank the members of the Indigenous Education Council (IEC) and the BLNTU current and past presidents for their ongoing support. A special thank you to Patti Ann Plowman, Lara Hartman, Elizabeth Bennett and Marina Saulig for their valuable contributions to this project.

Dual Credit Partnership with UNBC – ECCL-156 Care and Guidance

High school students are now able to get a head start on their Early childhood Care and Learning Certificate. Nechako Lakes School District formed a partnership with the College of New Caledonia last June to offer a dual-credit Early Childhood Education (ECE) course to secondary students, beginning in January 2024.



Students can receive credits for high school and post-secondary as they embark upon the training for an in-demand career as an early childhood educator (ECE). ECEs are skilled professionals who provide care, connection, and early learning opportunities for our young children during one of the most important phases of their lives.

The job demand for ECEs is at a record high and BC will require an additional 12,000 ECEs to achieve the government's commitment to universal child care. For information about the ECCL-156 Care and Guidance course offering, please check out the CNC website.

Fort St. James Secondary Research Boat Partnership

The adventures in ENSOE 11/12 continue! This month students got to join project lead, Peter Krahn, and Nak'azdli Natural Resource on the new research boat!

Students were introduced to basic boating safety, etiquette, communication and knots. They received a one-on-one driving lesson and then practiced setting the containment net and wing net. This experience demonstrates the potential that the boat can have in selective harvesting, position and invasive species monitoring, as well as water quality testing. Back in the classroom students are finishing up their Pleasure Craft Operating Cards and will be critiquing boating policies and practices.



A huge thank you to Peter Krahn from Genesis Environmental Consultants Ltd., Pete Erickson and Nak'azdli First Nation, Mike Amyot with the support boat, Lindsay Jennings from Chuntoh Education Society, Gary Soles and the FSJSS Shop classes, Administration and the SD91 Careers Department, parents and students.

Employee Recognition

In October we recognized World Teachers' Day! World Teachers' Day is held annually on October 5th to celebrate all teachers around the globe. This day has been celebrated since 1994 and is a day to celebrate how teachers are meeting student needs through transformative education.

Thank you to all SD91 educators for everything you do to create school and classroom environments where learners can develop a sense of efficacy and truly flourish. Your efforts in collaboration with the many support staff across the district make our schools special places for students.

SD 91 in the News!

[School District 91 Truth and Reconciliation project unveiling - Burns Lake Lakes District News](#)

<https://www.burnslakelakedistrictnews.com/news/hot-meals-bringing-community-together/>

<https://www.burnslakelakedistrictnews.com/news/decker-lake-orange-shirt-day/>

<https://www.burnslakelakedistrictnews.com/news/wke-orange-shirt-day-assembly/>

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