

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 Chuszul Ooza

Across the district, the past month has provided many examples of the ongoing work to foster inclusive, caring, and connected school environments. Since my last report, schools marked Pink Shirt Day and participated in a range of Share the Love activities, with additional highlights included in this month's reporting. Together, these moments reinforce shared expectations around kindness, respect, and belonging that are foundational to our schools.

I appreciated the opportunity to be in several schools on Pink Shirt Day and to see firsthand the care and consideration students and staff show for one another. Whether through student leadership, classroom conversations, or school-wide activities, it was clear that messages of inclusion and empathy are being carried into daily practice, rather than confined to a single day of recognition.

As part of our Share the Love activities, we were grateful to welcome Mischa Oak as a guest presenter through multiple online presentations across the district. Mischa shared an inspiring message grounded in inclusivity, optimism, and hope, reminding participants that *"inclusion amplifies excellence."* His approachable and authentic delivery resonated with both students and staff and added meaningful depth to the week's focus. More information about Mischa and his work can be found on his website at www.mischaoak.com.



This focus on inclusivity is also evident in ongoing collaborative work across departments. School librarians are partnering with our food program manager to review and update reading materials to ensure they reflect inclusive perspectives related to food, body image, and well-being. This work supports student learning in developmentally appropriate ways and aligns with our broader commitment to ensuring resources are respectful, relevant, and reflective of diverse experiences.

Earlier this month, International Women's Day was recognized in some schools and district contexts as an important acknowledgement of the contributions and leadership of women and girls. While not all schools formally observed the day, it remains a valuable opportunity for reflection and learning around equity, representation, and respect.

This month, we also received our annual How Are We Doing report. District staff will continue to engage with this data and use it to inform adjustments to our workplan moving forward, particularly in relation to addressing persistent gaps for Indigenous learners while building on effective practices already in place. In this context, we are encouraged by the attendance research project underway with Dr. Dustin Louie (UBC), which we anticipate will provide additional insight to support responsive and evidence-informed approaches.

As we return from Spring Break, I hope the time provided a meaningful opportunity for rest and renewal for both students and staff. At the same time, planning for the 2026-27 school year is well underway across the district. Our budget engagement process is now in progress, and we are cautiously optimistic that the outlook for next year's budget is brighter than where we were at this time last year.

Taken together, these activities and areas of focus continue to support school engagement and strong partnerships, which are priority themes within our strategic workplan this month. Through collaboration, reflection, and relationship-building, we remain focused on creating inclusive learning environments that support student success and well-being.

Respectfully submitted,

Anita McClinton

(she/her)
Superintendent



Strategic Plan Updates: GOAL 1: Honour Diversity

Francois Lake
Elementary
School
celebrates
Pink Shirt
Day!



Food and Body Inclusivity in Nechako Lakes

A healthy school food environment is not just about what is served on a plate or trolley. It is also about looking at the setting, like the books in the library, to support students to develop a positive relationship with food and body. It was noticed that the food and nutrition-related books in the school libraries contained outdated nutrition messages, spoke of the American food guidelines, and promoted diet-culture. In discussions with the school librarians, it was agreed that the books needed to be replaced.



Fortunately, School District 91 - Nechako Lakes has been awarded an Imagine Grant to work on this project. Together, the food program manager and school librarians worked to develop a list of books that would bring positive, and inclusive, food and body messaging. 27 new book titles are being introduced, with more on the highway for the high schools. There are novels, books on foods from various cultures, books on gathering food, and books about all body shapes and sizes.

It is with much thanks to an Imagine Grant from Northern Health for making this possible.



Submitted by Robyn Turner-Klopper, Food Program Manager

WL McLeod Celebrates Share the Love and Pink Shirt Day



The last week of February was full of kindness, caring and inclusion. We met the Cereal Box Domino Challenge all the way from the library to the gym! Our Pink Shirt day event was so much fun. We paid it forward by donating 313 boxes of cereal to NeighbourLink that will be shared in our community. A huge thank you to our planning team (Mrs. Baker, Mrs. Ellis, Mme Obonsawin, Mme Gauthier and Mrs. Worthington) and classes who did that little bit extra - Mr. Meads class for engineering the domino fall, Mrs. Mueller/Mr. W.'s class for attaching the decorations and Mme Leclerc and Mr. Reimer's classes who





delivered the boxes to NeighbourLink. And THANK YOU to everyone who donated cereal and to our students for their amazing decorations.

On Share the Love day we truly appreciated the message from Mischa about sharing kindness and finding joy in differences. In Heart Groups we read a book about living this important message in our neighborhoods and we made a colourful chain of linked hearts with notes of kindness, caring and inclusion – 59 meters!!



Strategic Plan Updates: GOAL 2: Engage our Workforce

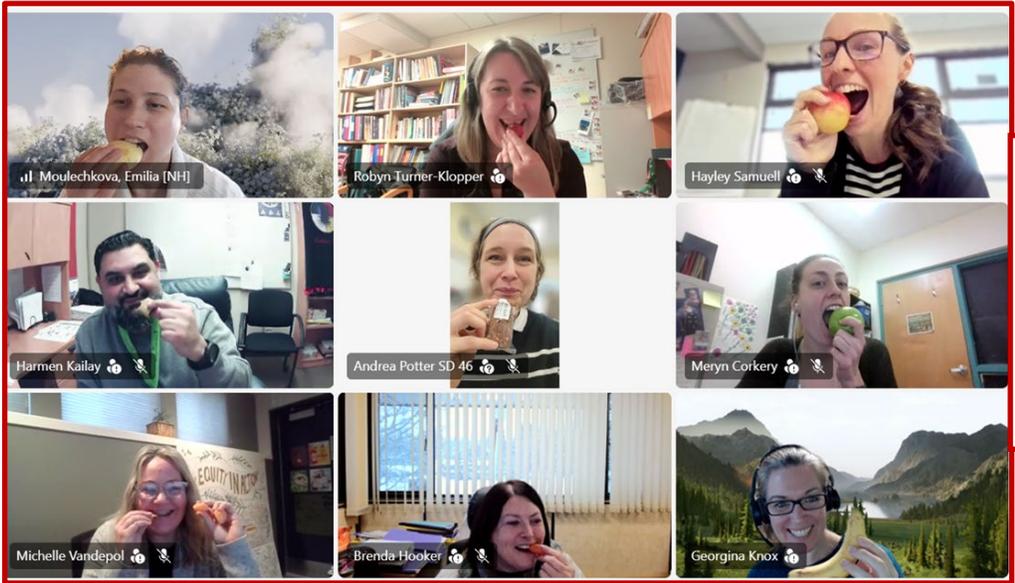
Northern, Rural and Remote Community of Practice,

Earlier this month, as part of the Northern, Rural and Remote Feeding Futures community of practice, school food program managers and coordinators from across the province gathered to share procurement projects happening in their school district and celebrate the Great Big Crunch. The 20 school districts that gathered exchanged knowledge about their procurement projects which include investing in infrastructure to support bulk purchases in the future, looking at collaborative purchasing opportunities, and looking at where bulk purchases can be stored while sharing among a few school districts. There is excitement among the school districts to see and hear about the local food system investments being made to enhance and support school food operations.

The Great Big Crunch was another part of the gathering (see photo below). This annual event brings together students, teachers, parents, community organizations, and partners of school food programs throughout the country for a joyful moment in celebrating healthy food at school. This year, the Great Big Crunch has been bigger than ever, with growing excitement over the value and need for school food programs. Over 31000 crunches have been registered, and a few came from the group of BC school district food program managers and coordinators that gathered at the community of practice.

You can learn more at: [Great Big Crunch | Coalition for Healthy School Food | Canada](#)
Submitted by Robyn Turner-Klopper, Food Program Manager





School Food Program Managers and Coordinators from around the province participate in the Big Crunch!

Strategic Plan Updates: GOAL 3: Create Student Success

WL McLeod Science Fair

CREATE STUDENT SUCCESS
 A continued focus on the essential skills of literacy, numeracy and social emotional well-being.
 Support effective teaching and learning strategies.



We hosted our McLeod Science Fair on Friday, February 20. All students in grade 4 to 6 participated. Our Fair included posters throughout the library, intermediate hallway and 4 classrooms.

Our school was full of talk about hypotheses, data, experiments and more. Our primary students all had the chance to visit the numerous projects and get an idea of what science looks like. We are very grateful for the huge turnout of caregivers who came out to support our scientists.



Submitted by Mrs. Hart, WL McLeod Principal



Provincial Wrestling Success

NVSS and LDSS traveled together to the 60th annual B.C. Highschool Championships. 155 schools and 803 competitors participated.

LDSS picked up their first provincial medal when grade 10 student, Hunter Sprake won bronze. This is a very impressive feat for a program that is only two years old. They also had several place in the top 6 in the Jr division.

LDSS had 9 competitors participating
NVSS had 12.



NVSS had 2 provincial champions in the Jr division (grade 8-9). Vera Himmelright and Linden Alden. They also had two silvers, Allyson Good and Shounie Beauséjour as well as a bronze by Elaina Ruiter. These excellent results garnered enough team points that the NVSS team was 2nd in the province in the Junior girls category.

NVSS placed 19th and LDSS was 71st (out of 155) in combined team scores by the conclusion of the meet.

A huge thank you to the coaches who dedicate their time!



Submitted by Travis Himmelright and Steven Little, Vice Principals, NVSS & LDSS

Strategic Plan Updates: GOAL 4: Enhance Connections

District Science Fair

🌟 SD91 District Science Fair - Congratulations to All Participants! 🌟

What an incredible day of curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking at the SD91 District Science Fair Held in beautiful Fraser Lake on the traditional lands of the Nadleh Whut'en and the Stelat'en First Nations! We are so proud of every student who stepped forward to ask big questions, design experiments, and share their learning with our community.

Your hard work, perseverance, excitement, and passion for discovery truly shone through.

🏆 Grade 4 Winners

1st Place: Dominic Khan - *Sinkut View Elementary School*

2nd Place: Lavinia Fawcett - *Sinkut View Elementary School*

3rd Place: Holden Cardinal & Sylar Abietkoff - *Decker Lake Elementary*

Honourable Mentions:

Tenley Vala & Hailey Weber - *FLESS*

Brielle Goulinger - *Sinkut View Elementary School*

🏆 Grade 5 Winners

1st Place: Jovie Parsons & Ailee Hilman - *FLESS*

2nd Place: Tyndall McRobert & Brody Raymond - *W.L. McLeod Elementary*

3rd Place: Ezra Taylor & Riley Vuohijoki - *W.L. McLeod Elementary*

Honourable Mentions:

Brighton Gardener & Kelan Holland - *FLESS*

Zyel Neidrauer & Nolan Pfeifer - *Mapes Elementary*

🏆 Grade 6 Winners

1st Place: Anika Khan - *Sinkut View Elementary School*

2nd Place: Zander Wilson & Brogan Wilson - *Decker Lake Elementary*

(Tie) 3rd Place:

Brodie Howe - *Sinkut View Elementary School*

Avery Leigh & Lyric George - *W.L. McLeod Elementary*

Honourable Mention:

Scarlett McGill & Tahliya Stephenson - *FLESS*

🏆 Grade 7 Winners

1st Place: Lauren Khan & Erin Hibner - *Nechako Valley Secondary*

2nd Place: Elizabeth Hunter - *Francois Lake Elementary*

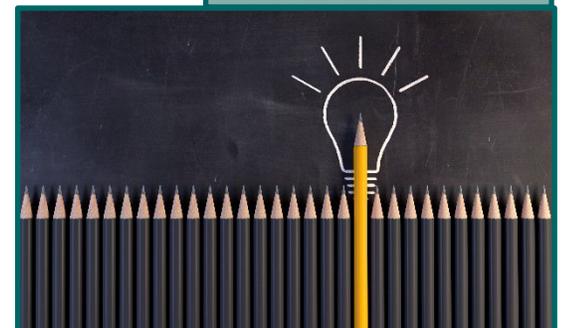
(Tie) 3rd Place:

Sharma Heyaan - *William Konkin Elementary*

Taylor Thompson & Anunnaki Adib - *William Konkin Elementary*

🏆 Grade 9 Winners

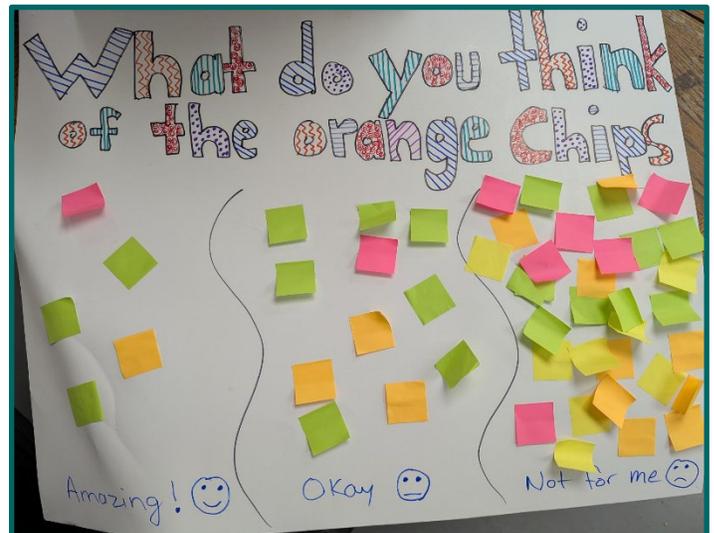
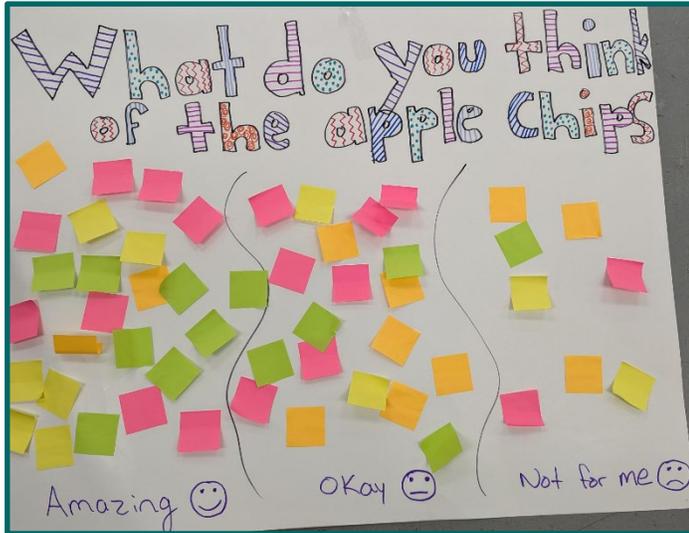
1st Place: Tahirah Soles & Brenden Crowley - *FSJ Secondary*



From testing which grains grow best, to designing sustainable birdhouses, to exploring music's impact on heart rate – our students demonstrated thoughtful scientific design, creativity, and a commitment to solving real-world problems.

A heartfelt thank you to our judges, volunteers, teachers, and families who made the day possible. And to every participant: your curiosity is powerful. Keep asking questions. Keep experimenting. Keep discovering.

The future is bright in SD91.



At the district science fair, students participated in a small experiment and had the chance to taste a new snack (apple chips and orange chips). This item is made in BC, gluten-free and nut free. The students provided feedback on enjoyment of the item. Based on the results, apple chips will be purchased for future use in snack programs, and perhaps field trip lunch bags.

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 25th. 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!

A colorful poster for "MADAGASCAR A MUSICAL ADVENTURE JR. 2026". The poster features the Madagascar characters: Alex the lion, Marty the zebra, Gloria the hippo, Melman the giraffe, and the penguins. The text at the top reads "PROUD TO BE MCLEOD PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS: OUR 17TH ANNUAL PRODUCTION". The title "MADAGASCAR A MUSICAL ADVENTURE JR. 2026" is written in large, stylized letters. Below the title, the showtimes are listed: "THURSDAY, APRIL 23RD - 7 P.M.", "FRIDAY, APRIL 24TH - 7 P.M.", "SATURDAY APRIL 25TH - 1 P.M.", and "SATURDAY APRIL 25TH - 7 P.M.". The ticket information is listed as "\$5 EACH OR \$20 FOR A FAMILY OF 4 OR MORE". The poster also includes the DreamWorks logo and a small disclaimer at the bottom.

Employee Recognition

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the many individuals and groups who contribute to the collective team that supports each student's success. In addition to the dedicated work of our school-based staff, this includes parents and caregivers, Indigenous Rightsholders, district office staff, community partners, coaches, and other stakeholders who walk alongside our learners each day. The strength and value of these relationships are reflected throughout the content of this month's report and underscore the shared responsibility, collaboration, and commitment that support student well-being, engagement, and achievement across the district.

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You can also find us on Twitter!
[@sd91bc](#)

