



Superintendent's Report to the Board

Regular Board Meeting of Sept. 21st, 2020

WELCOME TO THE 2020 SCHOOL YEAR!



- A very warm welcome to our students and families as we begin the 2020 school year. Words such as unique, challenging, worrying, etc. do not seem to accurately capture the challenges of the last six months. Many of our students had not been in a school for more than 175 days prior to last Thursday, Sept. 10th and I know how excited all of us were to see them and welcome them back to schools.
- As of Friday, Sept. 18th we had welcomed back just over 90% of the students that we expected back. We know that there are families that chose other options to begin the school year, and we are hopeful that we will see some of these families return to our schools over the coming months. For those not returning this school year, we wish you the best for the year.
- I have been reminded repeatedly over the last several months that the strength of an entire organization is dependent on the sum of its many parts. I need to extend my gratitude and appreciation to our principals and managers, to the executive teams of both CUPE and the BLNTU, and to our district leadership team for the countless hours that were spent over the last several months navigating how to operate our schools to ensure adherence to all PHO and Ministry of Education health and safety guidelines. I would also like to thank our educators and support staff for all that they have done to both understand our health and safety protocols as well as getting schools and classrooms ready to welcome learners. **We are indeed fortunate to work alongside so many hard working, committed, and visionary educators and managers.**
- We are beginning to understand that we will collectively be living within the context of COVID-19 for the next several months, if not most of 2021, and so it will be important for us all to adhere to the protocols needed to minimize risk.



Ginger Moyah

NEW FACES IN NEW ROLES: WELCOME

I would like to welcome the following individuals to their new roles as principals, vice principals or part of our District Team:

- [Ginger Moyah](#) – Principal of Grassy Plains Schools
- [Mike LeDuc](#) – Vice Principal of Fraser Lake Elementary–Secondary School
- [Jason Kadonaga](#) – Vice Principal of EBUS Academy
- [Mark Gauthier](#) – Director of Instruction – School District Office



Mark Gauthier



Jason Kadonaga

In addition, the following individuals are now at new schools and looking forward to meeting students and families:

- **Megan Boniface** – Mouse Mountain Elementary School
- **Wade Fitzpatrick** – Evelyn Dickson Elementary School
- **Wendy Kelemen** – Decker Lake Elementary School
- **Natasha Toth** – William Konkin Elementary School
- **Dylan Watt** – Babine Elementary-Secondary School



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STORIES FROM ACROSS NECHAKO LAKES SCHOOL DISTRICT

✓ LDSS – GRADE 8s HEAD TO THE OUTDOORS

- The following educators: **Patti Dube, Tracey Brown, Steven Little, Garrett Shaw, Jana Epkens-Shaffer, and Tim Fraychineaud**, has worked tirelessly to create a grade 8 outdoor learning opportunity that will see grade 8s outside for a minimum of 2 days per week. The activities will include canoeing, orienteering, trail building, First Nations culture (such as visiting the Donald Landing Healing Center), meeting with elders, hiking, mountain biking, outdoor art, and involvement with the district wide KOH Learning project, which involves students in researching and understanding the impact of our watersheds on our communities and the ecosystem. What a way to begin these students' high school experience!



great

✓ SUMMER PROJECTS COMPLETED



NVSS Mural

- **Kevin Derksen**, our Manager of Facilities, has shared that \$1.4 million worth of Annual Facilities Grant projects were completed across our schools and departments over this summer. In addition to this long list of projects, additional projects from various Ministry programs were also completed resulting in significant investments across all our schools and communities to ensure that we continue to have world class buildings to welcome students and their families.
- This amount of work being completed over a summer break does not happen without the excellent work of all our Facilities employees. **Both Kevin and I would like to recognize and thank our maintenance and custodial crews along with Tracy, Carl, Lee and Dalphena for their commitment and hard work this summer!**



William Konkin
Elementary Playground

✓ NVSS - FOCUS ON RESILIENCE



- The Middle Years team at NVSS wanted to use a strength-based approach to celebrate resilience and so have started their school year celebrating students' strengths over the last several months. I have included a picture of the 'Celebration of Resilience' board being used to display student strengths. Way to go MyNVSS team!
- To ensure that parents are welcomed to NVSS, grade 7 teachers **Amber, Nicole, Jana-Rae, and Monique** welcomed parents to the 2020–21 school year using Microsoft TEAMS.





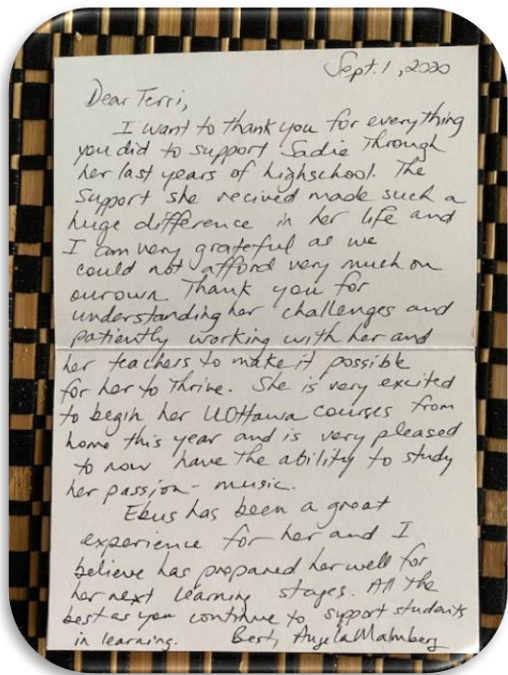
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✓ BUSY AT EBUS ACADEMY

- As anticipated, EBUS has been busy registering both many SD 91 families as well as families from across the province. SD 91 is fortunate to have an outstanding virtual school with a strong group of committed educators offering excellent distance programming to students across the province. I have selected just a very small sampling of feedback that comes across my desk from EBUS parents and students across the province:

Realizing this is the end of the course, I want to express my gratitude and appreciation for the time we have spent during this time. Considering the amount of efforts teachers give into teaching their students and being there for them during hard times, I want to express how thankful I am for you being a mentor! I know during this time covid has affected many of us and I think teachers don't get as much appreciation and recognition as they should be! Once again, I would just like to thank you, Mr. Wong, for the efforts you have made into reaching out, giving insightful feedback on work, etc. 😊



Hello Mrs. Sedgwick! My mom and I just wanted to thank you for all your help. All of the videos and explanations in the green books of Chemistry 11 make it possible for me to understand new information the first time. You are one of the best teachers I've ever had and I'm really glad I'm in your course!

LONG RANGE FACILITIES PLAN

- The School District has retained Cascade Facilities Management Consultants to complete a Long-Range Facilities Plan (LRFP) to help inform our long-term planning. Our last LRFP was completed in 2008 and has helped to guide us well for the last decade. LRFPs help to ensure that we develop and follow a strategy for the use of our capital assets over the long term to provide cost-effective delivery of educational programs.
- The Ministry of Education has set criteria for LRFPs which are identified under the following headings:
 - School District Organization
 - Educational Programming
 - Student Enrolment
 - Existing Schools
 - Community Use
 - School Capacity
 - Transportation of Students
 - Public Consultation
- We anticipate receiving a final report in late 2020 at which point the Board will determine their public consultation processes.



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HONOURING DIVERSITY – NEW COURSE FOR ALL GRADE 8S

- Over two consecutive school years, School District No. 91 proudly participated in the Ministry of Education's 'Equity in Action Project' which guides school districts in addressing systemic barriers impacting Indigenous student achievement. Our workplan over the 2018-19 and 2019-20 school years included focus groups, individual interviews, and staff, parent and student surveys which then culminated in a list of recommendations for the School District in the areas of: (a) *Culture and Language* (b) *Connectedness and Relationships* (c) *Communication*
- A key recommendation was the development of a grade 8 course that explores student identity in an effort to ensure that each of our students begins their high school path in an inclusive environment that honours and recognizes who they are as individuals.
- Beginning this school year, every Nechako Lakes grade 8 student will take part in the Honouring Diversity course being taught by high school teachers who were oriented to the course in late August. The curricular basis for this programming comes from the [Personal and Social Core Competency Curriculum](#) from the Ministry of Education which explores:

"...the set of abilities that relate to students' identity in the world, both as individuals and as members of their community and society. Personal and social competency encompasses what students need to thrive as individuals, to understand and care about themselves and others, and to find and achieve their purposes in the world."
- We are thankful for the support of our Board and the work of our educators and principals in leading this reflective work over the past two years. We are confident that this course will be foundational in ensuring that each of our grade 8 students begins their high school journey grounded in an environment of safety, awareness, and inclusion.
- Thank you to the following teachers who were oriented to this course in August and will be helping to teach it this year: **Amy Dash, Heather Derksen, Kathy Chmelyk, Mia Moutray, Travis Himmelright, Mercedes Ducharme, Doug Rash, Michelle Miller-Gauthier and Carla Martin.**



Also, a very big thank you to **Leona Prince**, our District Principal of Aboriginal Education, and **Dr. Dustin Louie** for helping to analyze the feedback from our Equity Scan data and collaborate on the creation of this unique course for our students.

WL McLEOD – GOOSE CHASE

- To help WLM students learn and follow the health and safety guidelines, the school created a school wide scavenger hunt using pictures of students following the guidelines. Lots of creativity and fun [HERE!](#)





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SD 91 IN THE NEWS AND QUICK FACTS:

- [Hello Falcon Families](#)
- [Welcome Back Vikings](#)
- [SD 91's Back to School Plan is Approved – Here's What to Expect](#)
- [SD 91 to Submit a Back to School Plan](#)
- [New Mural at Nechako Valley Secondary School](#)
- [New Principal at Evelyn Dickson Elementary](#)
- [Youth Voyageur Canoeing Program in Vanderhoof](#)
- [Foundry Youth Centre Coming to Burns Lake](#)
- [SD 91 Makes Several Administrative Changes](#)
- [Granisle to Get a New Health Centre at BESS](#)

