



Regular Board Meeting of June 15th, 2020

CLOSING OUT THE 2019-20 SCHOOL YEAR AND LOOKING AHEAD TO 2020-21

The first $6\,\%$ months of this school year seem so long ago and it becomes increasingly difficult to remember events like school Open Houses, Rembrance Day ceremonies, Christmas concerts and Spirit assemblies where

we didn't have to navigate new health and safety protocols related to the Coronavirus. We all speak about looking forward to our schools, communities and lives returning to the normal that existed pre-COVID-19, but a timeline for that is difficult to predict.

I know that parents are anxious about what the coming school year will look like and as we have become accustomed to doing, we will share information and news

as we receive it from the Ministries of Education

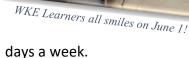
and Health over the coming months.

I do know that having some of our students back in our schools this June has helped to remind us of the important role that schools, classrooms and teachers play in the lives and development of our learners and their families.



WL McLeod staff member having a outdoor picnic / math lesson with a student.

For most of the past few weeks we have hovered around 30% of our students being back in our schools with children of essential service workers and our most vulnerable students receiving access to in-school supports five



ALL of our employees, both in the educational and operations side of our school district, have risen to the challenges presented over the last 3 months, and words are not enough to thank and recognize them for their

willingness to serve our students and families through these unprecedented times. Collectively we look forward to

getting a chance to rest and rejuvenate over the

summer months with our own families before having to think about what the next year will look like.



Mouse teacher Ms. Schroder using technology to connect with a student....notice the smiles on both faces!



WLM Principal Libby Hart asked Staff to describe in a single word what the last few months have been like.





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PARTNERS IN FOOD SUPPORT PROGRAMS

All of our schools organized and helped to deliver food subsidy supports to many of our students and families over the last several months. This would not have been possible without contributions by many, many individuals, local organizations and businesses, including local Food Banks. The following is a quick smattering of recognition for all those that have helped. I have not tried to create a comprehensive list as we have so many partners and I would undoubtedly miss many, but did want to showcase some

- In Fort St. James, **Colton Fulkerson and his team at Save On Foods** have been spectacular in working with our schools. **Jhen Brigdeman**, Youth Care Worker at FSJSS, who is integral to supporting our students with food at all times of the year, has been instrumental in helping to coordinate food supports for over 30 families with donations from **ACE Hardware** and the **Breakfast Club of Canada**.
- A very big Thank You to the <u>Integris Community Foundation</u> for a significant donation specific to assisting our schools with food subsidy programs.
- PLESS: HOME of the COUGARS Property of the Cougars of the Cougars

of the partnerships that I am aware of.

MSJV, CGL, Falcon Camps/Horizon North, & InternationalSOS
 each donated \$1000 to the vulnerable families food initiative
 in Fort Fraser / Fraser Lake. The presentation was made by
 lan Nearing & Debbie Hyde (MSJV), Rene Schooderbeck
 (ISOS), Jesse Erickson (CGL), and Kyle Arnouse (Horizon

North). Huge thanks to team from FLESS and Mouse Mountain for their work in assembling & delivering our hampers,

and to the Fort Fraser Food Bank for their help in making this all happen.

- A big Thank You also to the <u>BC Agriculture in the Classroom Fruit</u> <u>and Milk</u> program that also contributed to all schools being able to support students and families.
- In **Burns Lake** and **Vanderhoof** there are numerous individuals and local businesses that supported our food programs and although they will be receiving messages of gratitude directly from our schools, I would like to acknowledge their contributions and hard work.



William Konkin's Sue Martens who has been so essential in helping with food programs for students and families. Sue is referred to as the WKE Angel! Thank you Sue for all that you have done!





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NECHAKO LAKES GRADUATION 2020

A very big THANK YOU to our four high school principals, vice principals and staff for being creative in planning and conducting special graduation ceremonies for our 2020 graduates. We are thankful to Dr. Rakel Kling and her team at Northern Health for reviewing our graduation plans and ensuring that we were well within the existing health and safety requirements. If you are interested in watching any of our

graduation ceremonies up to June 14th, please

see below.

Lakes District Secondary....click <u>HERE</u>

Fraser Lake Elem. / Sec. click HERE

Nechako Valley Secondary School Click HERE

Fort St. James Secondary – Friday, June 19th

Our entire school district congratulates each of our 2020 graduates, and although our school graduation events looked

different from other years, we are pleased that each of our graduates was recognized in a unique and safe ceremony that celebrated this significant milestone. We know that the friends, families, and communities of each of our graduates is equally proud and will help to create memorable celebrations for our graduates. We want each of our graduates to know that we applaud their hard work and contributions to our schools and communities, and we look forward to hearing about their adventures and accomplishments in the years to come.

SAYING GOODBYE TO A FRIEND

Rosalie Nichiporuk was a School District trustee for 34 years, a good friend and passionate advocate for our schools. Rosalie passed away on June 12th following complications from a post-surgical infection. Rosalie loved life and laughter, and her positive energy will be missed by all of us that had the pleasure of working with her and calling her a friend. Our thoughts and prayers are with Rosalie's family.







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SD 91's Equity Scan Leads to Diversity Course for all Grade 8 Students

Following our Aboriginal Education <u>Equity Scan</u> process in 2018-19, specific key programming initiatives emerged that were grouped into the following three areas:



- I. Culture and Language as a result we are working to increase our overall number of Language Teachers across the district as well as focusing on providing our employees with access to professional learning.
- II. Connectedness & Relationships It was identified in our scan that we need to build stronger relationships between students, parents, our employees, our communities, and First Nations leadership.

III. **Communication** – it was identified that although the school district has several communication channels, some focus on specifically communicating work being done to ensure success for indigenous students is needed.

Given the above and one of the <u>Board of Education's strategic goals</u> being to 'Honour Diversity', we will be introducing a module focused on diversity which will be offerred to all grade 8 students in our district. The course is



being created by **Leona Prince**, District Principal of Aboriginal Education, in consultation with **Dr. Dustin Louie**, University of Calgary and former SD 91 graduate, and is being reviewed and edited by a number of our teachers. We are excited to see this course begin in the Fall of 2020.



WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN

Rhonda Togyi, our District Principal of Learner Services, has advised that we have begun to welcome our newest learners to

their schools. All schools will have completed their <u>Welcome to Kindergarten</u> events by the end of next week. Schools had in-person, virtual and phone options to accommodate the needs of our newest families. During the Welcome to Kindergarten event, kindergarten parents can meet their child's teacher and some school staff, as well as get information and a kit of supplies to support their children in getting ready for kindergarten.





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SD 91 Middle Years Network

A big thanks to NVSS Vice Principal, **Denise Dowswell**, for helping to coordinate our school district's Middle Years Network. This team has been provided the opportunity to connect and collaborate with **Dr. Nancy Doda** throughout the year and again at an online institute occurring June $22^{nd} - 26^{th}$. In addition, our school teams have participated in the <u>Middle Years webinar series</u> with Dr. Leyton Schnellert, hosted by SD 61.



SD 91 IN THE NEWS: (CLICK TITLE TO ACCESS ARTICLE)

❖ May 27th: SCHOOLS IN SESSION

May 28th: School Buses for SD 91 to Start June 1st
May 30th: Here is What FLESS Students Can Expect

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❖ May 31st: Interview with FSJSS PRINCIPAL

❖ June 1st: HEALTHY AND SAFETY REGULATIONS FOR REOPENING SCHOOLS

❖ JUNE 3RD: VANDERHOOF GRAD WRITES POEM TO CLASS OF 2020

❖ JUNE 3RD: VANDERHOOF REVERSE PARADE

❖ JUNE 3RD: LDSS CLASS TO GET UNCONVENTIONAL CEREMONY

❖ JUNE 5TH: VALEDICTORIAN, DARIA STRIMBOLD, TO REPRESENT BC AT WE VIRTUAL GRAD PARTY

❖ JUNE 8TH: FSJSS GRAD PLANS

❖ JUNE 10TH: LDSS GRADS RECEIVE A CHEQUE FROM THE RETURN-IT DEPOT