



Superintendent's Report to the Board

Regular Board Meeting of April 19th, 2021

STRATEGIC GOAL - HONOUR DIVERSITY

SD 91 SHARE THE LOVE DAY – MAY 17TH

SD 91 will be hosting their first ever district-wide 'Share the Love' day on Monday, May 17th to host events against homophobia, transphobia and biphobia. More information about the day can be found [HERE](#).

Thank you to the many folks that have helped to organize this day of learning for our schools and students.



2021 'HONOURING DIVERSITY' MOUSE MOUNTAIN: VIRTUAL SERIES OF INDIGENOUS ARTISTS & AUTHORS



We have been happy with the participation in our three speaker series events to date; and, we are looking forward to hosting **DR. LEYTON SCHNELLERT** on April 20th and **SHELLEY MOORE** on May 6th as our fourth and fifth speakers, following presentations by **KEVIN LAMOUREUX**, **DR. NANCY DODA** and **DR. DUSTIN LOUIE**. This format of being able to quickly connect our parents and community members to provincial, national and global experts seems to be promising, and we are already thinking about continuing this format in the years to come.

The use of our student and parent panelists has also allowed ourselves and our community members to have their questions asked.

MOUSE MOUNTAIN ELEMENTARY: VIRTUAL SERIES OF INDIGENOUS ARTISTS & AUTHORS

Aboriginal Education staff **SONYA DUNCAN** and **VALERIE WELSH** at Mouse Mountain Elementary (MMES) have worked hard to organize a virtual presentation series of Indigenous Artists and Authors. This month, classes heard books read by authors **SHANE HARTMAN**, member of Nak'azdli Whut'en First Nation and former MMES/FLESS student, and **CECILIA JOHN**, member of Saik'uz First Nation. Other guest presenters this year have included Cree/Dakelh author/artist **CLAYTON GAUTHIER**, Gitksan artist **MICHELLE STONEY** and Gitksan author **DR. JANE SMITH**.





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STRATEGIC GOAL — ENGAGE OUR WORKFORCE

MOUSE MOUNTAIN ELEMENTARY AND FRASER LAKE ELEMENTARY-SECONDARY SCHOOLS: STREAM OF DREAMS



A very big thank you to **SONYA DUNCAN**, **VALERIE WELSH** and **MIKE MOLLENHAUER** who were instrumental in securing grant funding and organizing the 'Stream of Dreams' program.

Students in grades K-7 from Mouse Mountain Elementary and Fraser Lake Elementary-Secondary (FLESS) schools have participated in this program this year. The Stream of Dreams environmental education program helps communities discover their local watershed and teaches students to become stewards for salmon and all creatures. Students and staff painted their own unique dreamfish which will be displayed on a fence in the Fraser Lake community soon!



LAKES DISTRICT SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS CONTRIBUTE BIKE RACKS TO COMMUNITY

Teacher **BLAINE HASTINGS** and his students have collaborated with the local Rotary Club and the Village of Burns Lake to fabricate bike racks that will be placed across the community.



FRANCOIS LAKE ELEMENTARY — GAGA PITS



Through some small funding provided by SD 91 Careers and the use of the district ADST Trailer, Francois Lake teacher **CHRIS BACKHOUSE** engaged his students in building a Gaga Pit for their playground. Principal **WENDY KELEMEN** shared that the students were so excited to be the ones to build this new playground feature. What is a Gaga Pit you ask? Very similar to the game of dodge ball, but apparently much better!



LEARNING OUTSIDE



Although we have classrooms across our district using the outdoors as their classroom, NVSS teacher **MIA MOUTRAY** and district helping teacher **DEB KOEHN**, have been asking NVSS grade 8 students for specific feedback on what activities make learning outside effective. Student feedback has been so impactful that students have presented alongside Deb and Mia at the recent International Congress for School Effectiveness and Improvement Conference and a recent Networks of Inquiry and Indigenous Education learning burst. A great example of using student feedback to improve our approach to teaching!





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STRATEGIC GOAL — STUDENT LEARNING

SD 91 CISE AWARD WINNERS

As mentioned last month, we had a very successful, first ever, virtual science fair with students across our school district participating. Over the past month, 44 of our students participated in the BC / Yukon Virtual Science Fair, which was combined with the regular Central Interior Science Exhibition (CISE). **21 of those students were award winners** this year with three of our students moving onto this year's Canada Wide Science Fair, which will be hosted virtually from Ottawa in May.

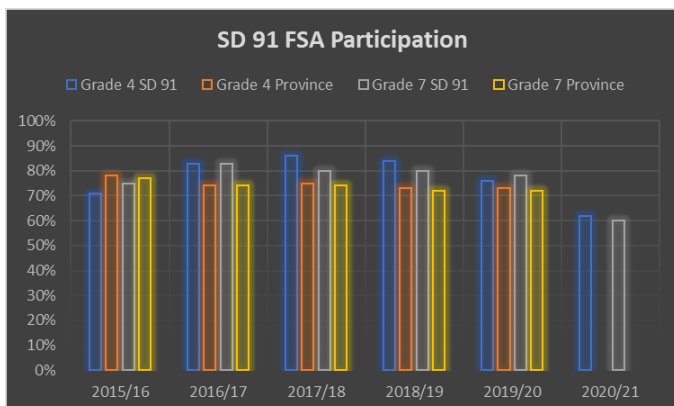


Congratulations to all our students and our award winners whom can be found [HERE](#).

A big thank you once again to our parents, teachers, principals, judges and to **MEGAN BONIFACE** and her small team of volunteers for creating this opportunity for our students.

A very big congratulations to **ALEX LEA** (LDSS), **RONAN BLATTNER** (NVSS), and **JEMMA BLATTNER** (NVSS) who are all moving onto the Canada Wide Science Fair.

2020/2021 FOUNDATION SKILLS ASSESSMENT



We have just wrapped up this year's provincial FSA assessment for grade 4 & 7 students, and parents will be receiving a report on their child's results in the coming 4 – 6 weeks. A key goal for our school district is to create success for every student by a continued focus on the essential skills of literacy and numeracy. Consequently, the FSA is one of several important assessments to ensure that your children are succeeding at school. This year's district wide FSA participation rate was just over 60%, significantly lower than our normal participation rate of 80%. The FSA for 2021/2022 will be done in the fall and we look forward to the majority of our grade 4 & 7 students participating in this important assessment.

WILLIAM KONKIN ELEMENTARY STUDENTS CONTRIBUTE TO BURNS LAKE COMMUNITY GARDEN - KINDNESS



William Konklin's 'KINDNESS' project continues to contribute to the local community. The most recent gifts are student built bird houses that are being placed in The Link's community garden. Students are continuing to learn about the notion of kindness and the impact it can have on individuals and their community.





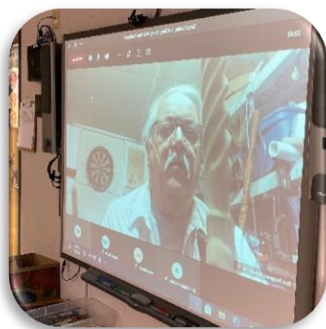
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STRATEGIC GOAL — COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

GRASSY PLAINS WELCOMES GRANDFATHER AND HAIDA CARVER DON PONGRACZ

We have been looking for opportunities to connect our learners with their community despite the restrictions existing around Covid-19. "Last week we were able to virtually join the grandfather of one of our students in his workshop as he led us through a soap carving activity. **DON PONGRACZ** is a Haida carver by trade and was an absolute treasure of knowledge to have join our school. Students were so excited to try their hand at carving and were all pleasantly surprised with their Haida canoes. Don was able to share stories and enrich us with knowledge from his culture. Each of our learners was also eager to share with him their final product, which he later told us was the highlight of his week. He loved seeing how unique each of the students' canoes were." *Submitted by Ginger Moyah, Principal*



FLESS STUDENT LEADERSHIP PROVIDES COMPUTERS TO STUDENTS

With help from the **Youth Leadership Society of BC**, our student leadership group successfully put in for a grant and was able to purchase 50 computers. These kits came with tower, monitor, speakers, webcams, and an assortment of accessories. We were able to pass these on to students who might not have a computer at home to work with. Thanks to leadership teacher **KATHY CHMELYK** and student **LEXA** for spearheading this initiative.



EVELYN DICKSON ELEMENTARY RECEIVES GRANT FROM ARTEMIS GOLD FOR OUTDOOR LEARNING

BECKI LARSEN's grade 3 class and **TORI SILVER's** grade 1 class at Evelyn Dickson Elementary would like to send our greatest appreciation for the generous grant from the Artemis Gold Blackwater Project Sponsorship and Donation Program. This money will be used towards our outdoor program and provide students with proper equipment to enhance their learning.





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FSJSS SENIOR HUMANITIES LINKS TO UNBC'S GEOFFREY R. WELLER LIBRARY

Senior humanities teacher, **GRETCHEN VOGELSANG**, is partnering with UNBC librarians, **TRINA FYFE** and **KEALIN MCCABE**, to link her students and their classroom directly with UNBC librarians to achieve the following goals:



- I. support student learning to create information literate citizens,
- II. help the students to recognize the skills they have acquired throughout their schooling and to see how these skills can be applied in their everyday information-seeking activities,
- III. demystify post-secondary education and to lessen anxiety associated with attending institutions of higher learning,
- IV. create a relevant program that scaffolds the sub-skills needed for success in transitioning to higher education; and,
- V. instill a sense of belonging and to introduce them to the supports that are available to ensure their success.

SD 91 IN THE NEWS AND QUICK FACTS

- [French Immersion Parents Present to SD 91 Board of Education](#)
- [William Konkin's Kindness Program](#)
- [WKE Exposure Notice](#)
- [WKE Students Trapping Leprechauns](#)
- [Burns Lake Athletes Win at the Virtual Provincial Special Olympics](#)
- [Vanderhoof High School Committee Looking for Business Support for 2021 Class](#)