

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 Taltsi Ooza (APRIL)

This month, we are highlighting **Goal 3: Creating Student Success** from our SD91 Strategic Plan—a timely focus as we have celebrated both **Education Week** and **Earth Week** recently. Across our district, students and staff have been engaged in activities that not only deepen academic learning, but also inspire environmental stewardship, creativity, and global citizenship. These moments reflect our collective commitment to ensuring every student is supported, empowered, and prepared for a successful future.

Celebrating Education Week across School District 91 is an important time to recognize the incredible learning, leadership, and collaboration happening in our schools and communities each day. Trustees from across the district visited schools and sites, delivering thank you cards and sharing expressions of gratitude to honour the outstanding contributions of our educators, support staff, and students. These heartfelt gestures reflect our collective appreciation for the dedication, innovation, and care that define SD91. As we mark this special week, I'm reminded of the words of Canadian educator Dr. Jean Augustine: *"The future of our communities, and of Canada, lies in the quality of education we provide to our children today."* This spirit of empowerment is alive and well in our classrooms across the district and it is thanks to each of our staff that we continue building vibrant, inclusive, and hopeful learning environments for all.

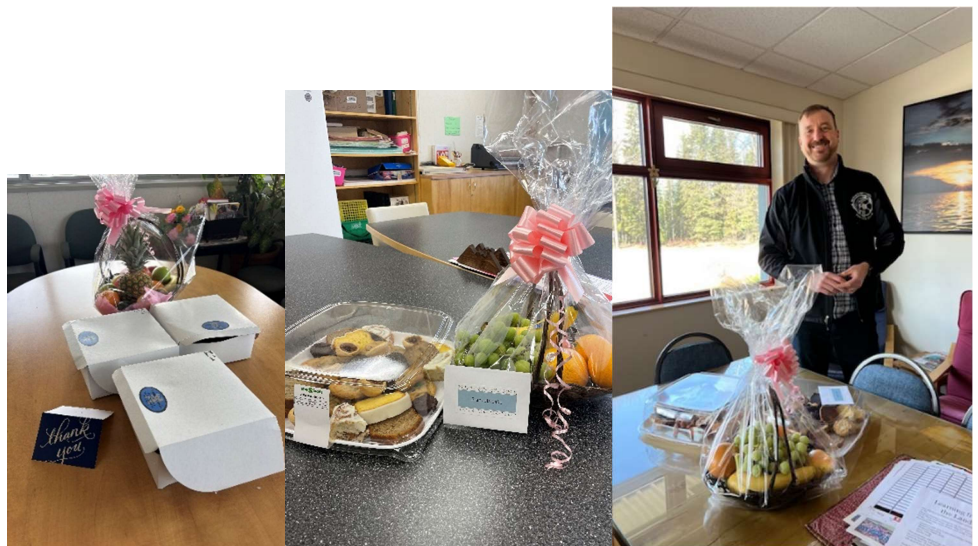
This month we also got to honour our bus drivers and have focused heavily on our budget development and planning for next year. Given our current budget concerns, this continues to be heavy work and I have gratitude for everyone who has engaged in providing helpful feedback and sometimes difficult conversations.

Respectfully submitted,

Anita McClinton

(she/her)
Superintendent

From right: Trustee Davis delivering tokens of gratitude for Education Week at Decker Lake. Items delivered by Trustee Hazelton and Trustees Walker and Albertson to Francois Lake and the School Board Office, respectively.



Strategic Plan Updates: GOAL 1: Honour Diversity

Culture Nights at BESS



Margie Alec has continued to push forward language reclamation at the school. Recently we had our second Culture Night and Margie joined and gave the community a language lesson. Throughout her session several of her students were ready to answer ahead of time or helping those around the room. That really shows their progress, confidence, and love of the language.

Our Culture Nights have also featured drumming, singing, and information from a local hereditary chief. The students and families have enjoyed these opportunities.

Strategic Plan Updates: GOAL 2: Engage our Workforce

Story Workshop at Decker Lake



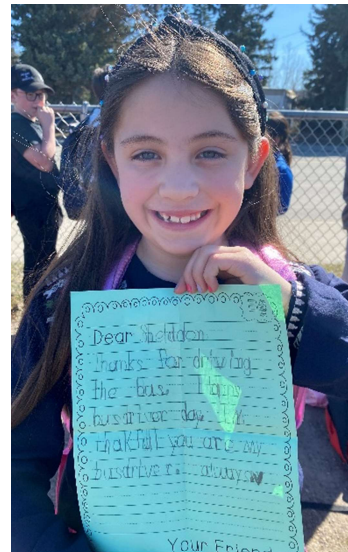
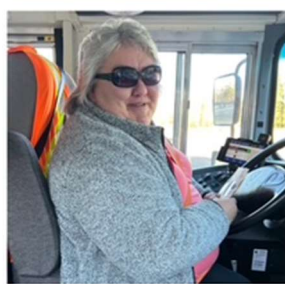
Michelle Miller-Gauthier presented a Story Workshop to the Grade 1/2 class. We are grateful for the work Michelle does to inspire our students and staff alike!



Bus Driver Appreciation Day!

Thank you to everyone across the district who joined in sharing your love and gratitude for our bus drivers on April 16. The love and care were deeply felt by every driver and memories for a lifetime were created!

Brenda Rivett, Manager of Transportation



Displays of gratitude for our bus drivers at Decker Lake above and WL McLeod to the left and below.



Strategic Plan Updates: GOAL 3: Create Student Success

Success at BESS



Jeanette Lapre, our wonderful 3-7 teacher, has been doing lots of hands-on learning with the students. Over the past month she has built CO2 cars with the grades 3-12 and has helped them with carpentry projects including building a portable smoker to smoke fish at school. Wow!

Beth Milne, our K-2 teacher, has been majorly stepping up and building confidence in her students and their decoding skills. She has made each student feel seen and heard and has taken a group from struggling to walk in the door to loving school.

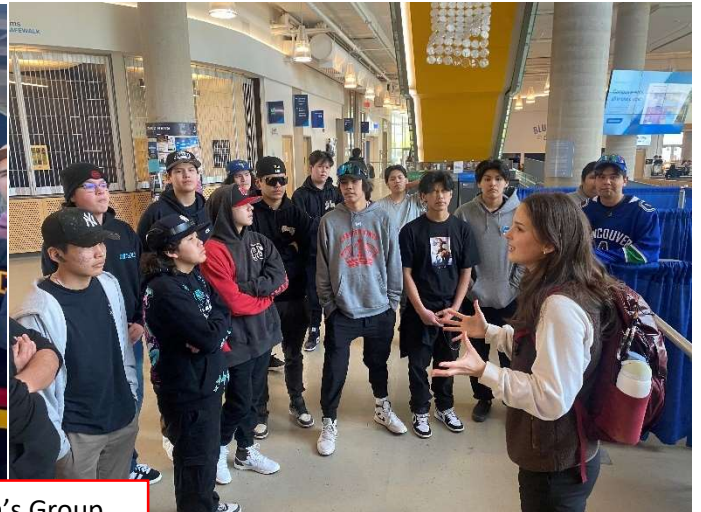
The senior students completed an exchange in Winnipeg. As of this writing, they have enjoyed their travels (for most, this is their first plane trip or out-of-province trip) and have had a lot of fun in Manitoba (especially at the zoo)!



Babine Elementary Secondary School senior students on an exchange to Winnipeg at the museum.

LDSS Indigenous Young Men's Group

From April 14-17th, 2025 the LDSS Indigenous Young Men's Group travelled to Vancouver on an educational journey. One of the main highlights of the trip was the visit to UBC. During this trip students toured the campus and asked questions about campus and university life. The students had a chance to hear from a second-year student from Nadleh Whut'en about his educational journey as well as two Indigenous professors. The students received a private tour of the Museum of Anthropology. We have heard from many of the students and their parents since the trip that their child wants to attend UBC. There were many other wonderful learning opportunities including a visit from a Lake Babine Nation member to share his experience of moving to the city as a young man and building a life there. The group also connected with the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society and learned about their programs and opportunities. There were many wonderful 'firsts' on this trip: first plane ride, first hockey game, first time on a university campus. We greatly appreciate the support of SD 91 in making this trip possible for the students.



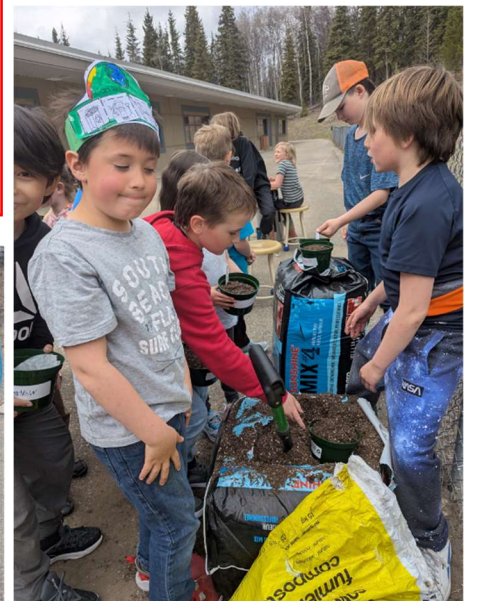
LDSS Young Men's Group
on their Vancouver field
trip.



Earth Day at Decker Lake



To celebrate earth day the
Kindergarten class at Decker Lake
Elementary School made earth day
crowns in Social Studies with Ms.
Lee. (left) and the grade 1/2 and
4/5 classes buddied up and
planted flowers together (right).



Earth Day at WKE



Staff and students went out on the land to take care of it for all it teaches and gives us! We love to see how seriously teacher, Liam Catton takes cleaning up our planet! Great work, all!



St. Patrick's Day scavenger hunt at WL McLeod

Students full of smiles and loving learning during this year's scavenger hunt... not sure the entire pot of gold was found, but there was a lot of love and teamwork!

Francois Lake Poets

Over the past two months, something magical has been happening every Tuesday morning at François Lake Elementary—our Poetry Club has been coming to life with creativity, expression, and confidence! This small but mighty club has quickly become a highlight for many students, offering a unique and inspiring opportunity to explore the world of poetry while building powerful public speaking skills.

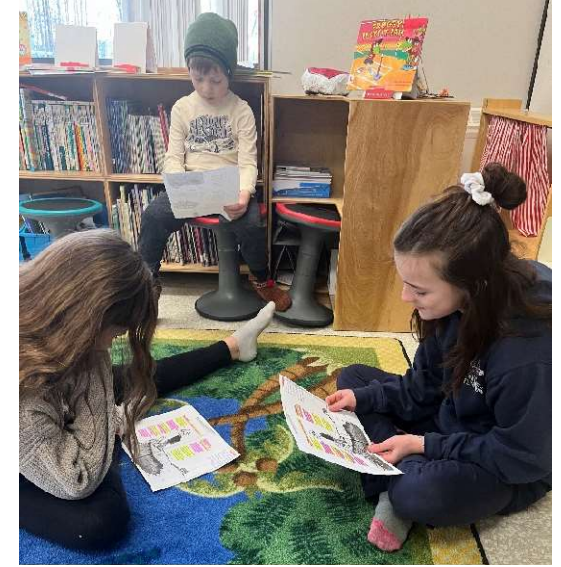
Once a week, students gather to practice a poem that they selected that spoke to them—funny, serious, heartfelt, or thought-provoking—and practice performing them with clarity, emotion, and poise. It's been incredible to see how each student brings their own voice and personality to their chosen piece. Whether they're performing solo or as part of a group, every Poetry Club member has shown dedication and courage.

On April 12, their hard work paid off when our 15 Poetry Club students represented François Lake Elementary at the Lakes District Festival of the Performing Arts. That's an impressive turnout for a school with only 49 students! There were six solo performances and four group entries—ten in total. The level of commitment and talent on display was nothing short of inspiring.

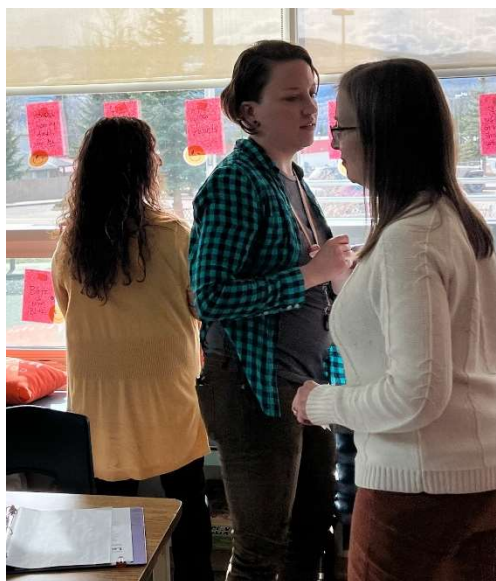
Even more exciting? Out of the ten entries, six were selected to perform at the Gala Honours Concert on April 17. This is a huge achievement and a testament to the effort and enthusiasm our students put into their performances. We are so proud of each and every one of them!

Stay tuned for more exciting news from François Lake Elementary, and don't forget to support our incredible poets at the Honours Concert on April 17!

Marlee Wilson



WKE Compassionate Systems



For several months, the teaching and support staff of WKE have been using Compassionate Systems tools such as the Aspirational Iceberg (Giroux, 2019), to discuss how we want our school to feel to learners, employees, guardians, and community guests. We created a new WKE Vision Statement as a result of the first stages of this work that took place from November – March.

Teachers and CUPE staff worked to identify patterns, behaviours, structures, mental models, and artefacts that would allow this vision to become actionable. This process was repeated by CUPE staff. Then, at our April staff meeting, teachers used stickers in a gallery walk to vote on the most important of these to incorporate into school life. Next, the CUPE staff engaged in the same process, and then 12 parents and our school trustee at PAC. Our education partners in our local communities are also being given input into how to make this vision a reality through our in-person meetings and by email. These pictures depict a recent stage of the work, where we identified through the pruning principle described by Breakspear & Rosenbrock (2024), which of the action items are most important to start with, and which items can be pruned in order to bring focus to the work. All stakeholders, including our intermediate students, will lend their voices to this important conversation.

Karie Evans, Principal, WKE

References

Breakspear, S., & Rosenbrock, M. (2024). The pruning principle: Mastering the art of strategic subtraction within education. Amba Press.

Giroux, S. (2019). *Framing the iceberg for Teachers - Center for Systems Awareness*. Center for Systems Awareness iCal. <https://systemsawareness.org/document/framing-the-iceberg-for-teachers/>

Decker Lake Elementary School Indoor Silent Sports Meet and Spring Concert

DLES huskies participated in a 30+ year tradition on March 21st with their annual Indoor Silent Sports Meet. Huskies had a fun afternoon competing against each other in their house team colours and cheering each other on with silent cheering and waving.

Relays included removing the wrapper from a piece of gum while wearing oven mitts, a dress up relay, a javelin throw, and the cracker and whistle relay.



DLES hosted a spring concert on March 20th for the Decker Lake school community. Guests enjoyed an afternoon of entertainment which included a primary choir, musical performances, and poetry. Huskies enjoyed a power point at the end of the concert highlighting memories made during term two.



Strategic Plan Updates: GOAL 4: Enhance Connections

District Floor Hockey Play Day



One of the two grade 4/5 teams from WL McLeod in action. They were also joined in the fun by a grade 6 team.



Employee Recognition:

As we continue our collective journey to support student success across School District 91, I want to take a moment to extend deep appreciation to our school-based leaders. Principals and vice-principals play a pivotal role in shepherding their school communities through both opportunity and challenge—creating safe, inclusive, and inspiring environments where students can thrive. Their commitment to leadership, care for staff and students, and focus on learning remains unwavering, even as we have begun navigating difficult conversations around next year's budget and our projected shortfall. Their resilience and dedication are essential to our path forward, and we are truly grateful for all they do to lead with integrity and heart.

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@sd91bc

