

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)

Time has been flying by since the last Board meeting. A lot has happened in our community and I appreciate the wonderful and generous hearts working to support those most closely impacted by the ongoing threats against some of our own. We need to stand together with our staff who have been targeted. School District 91 remains steadfast in our support of the Human Rights Code and ensuring equity, diversity and inclusion are at the forefront of our district and schools. We are proud of the safe, welcoming, and caring sites we are creating for children and youth every day, and yet we still have work to do so that each and every child, youth and adult in our schools feels they have a safe and respectful place to learn and work.

Sadly, I have had less time to be in schools but I did get to sit in for some of the Capstone presentations by the graduating students at NVSS. It really is an honour to hear students talk about themselves, their futures and the primary influences on their growth and development. I heard about extensive volunteering, farming, athletics, academics, and creative endeavours to name only a few! Thank you to the students who shared their stories and reinforced my belief for a brilliant future.

Much of the last few weeks has been spent collaboratively developing a Budget Engagement Process to encourage stakeholders, rightsholders and community members to learn about our budget process and offer us their thoughts. I look forward to working through the input we receive to help inform our budget development for the 2025-2026 school year.

I had the privilege to observe the EBUS Quality Assurance presentation for the Ministry of Education and Child Care. Amazing things are happening at EBUS and I understand why we are a leader in the province for online learning.

I was also able to stop by the CNC Vanderhoof Campus Open House for a tour and to start thinking about additional ways we can work together to support our students into the future. Our monthly IEC and Principal and Vice Principals meetings provided further opportunity to think about what lies ahead.

Respectfully submitted,

Anita McClinton

(she/her)
Superintendent

Strategic Plan Updates: GOAL 1: Honour Diversity

Pink Shirt Day across the District

HONOUR DIVERSITY

Respect the strength of all diversities within our communities.

Support the transformation of an education system that recognizes, celebrates, and includes Indigenous history, worldviews and perspectives.



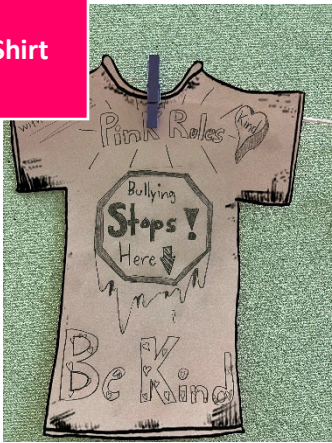
Decker Lake Elementary Staff and Students



WKE school photo (below) and Mr. Germaine's grade 2/3 ADST class from WKE's participating in a cooperative activity on pink shirt day (above).



Francois Lake Elementary Pink Shirt Day Activities

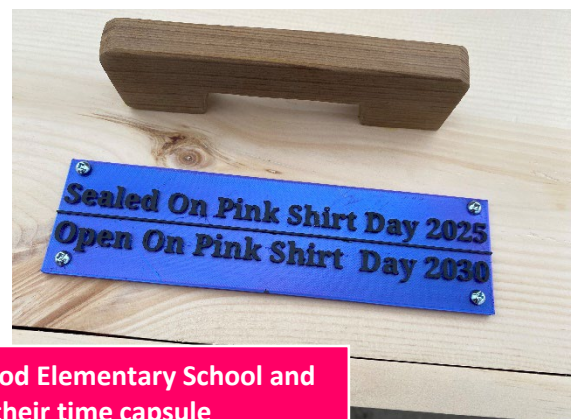




Sinkut View Elementary Pink Shirt Day Activities

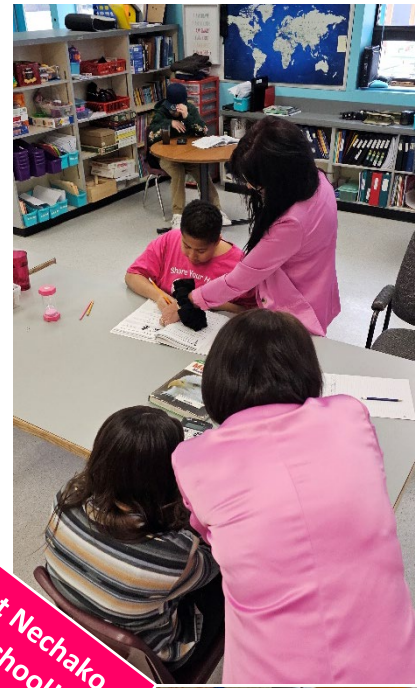


Mapes Elementary School
with RCMP guests



WL McLeod Elementary School and
their time capsule





Pink Shirt Day fun at Nechako Valley Secondary School!



EBUS

Pink Shirt Day

Our online Pink Shirt Day event was hosted by Student Council and Student Voice. The students addressed the origin of Pink Shirt Day as well as how standing up against bullying, different phobias that refrain people from connecting as well as how kindness can change people's lives.

GSA sessions

EBUS GSA is hosting a speaker on March 21 2025: one for gr 5-7 and one for gr 8-12. This is organized through Out In Schools/Out On Screens.

Indigenous Vclasses

Nikki Arnold, the EBUS Indigenous Education Advocate, has wrapped up the winter hands-on learning v-classes and is planning a new set for spring. These v-classes were very popular and learners expressed how much they valued coming to these, connecting with the group and learning about Indigenous culture. Nikki also hosted the Inspiring Pathway Speaker Series in late January: Taylor McPherson.

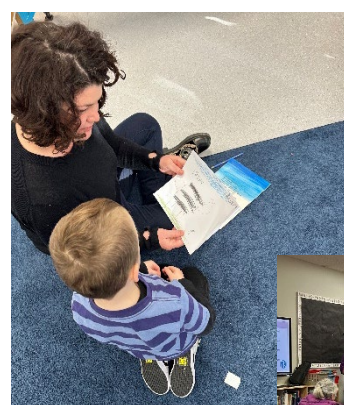
Through Karie Evans and the Arts Starts grant, EBUS is planning to host the Haida Elder Kung Jaadee on June 2nd.

Strategic Plan Updates: GOAL 2: Engage our Workforce



Primary Writing Professional Development

The Curriculum Services Department hosted a three-day visit with Dr. Jen Kelly in February! Jen has extensive experience as a teacher, a district literacy coordinator, UBC professor, teacher consultant with the Provincial Outreach Program for the Early Years (POPEY), and an independent literacy consultant. Her visit to our school district was launched with her delivery of a professional development workshop titled, "Building a Successful Primary Classroom – Proven Strategies for Primary Writing" which was well researched and engaging. The next two days unfolded at Evelyn Dickson Elementary and David Hoy Elementary where Jen modeled strategies for teaching writing in several demo lessons. Classroom teachers that were participating in this literacy project were then released from their assignment to meet with Jen Kelly and Michelle Miller-Gauthier to debrief and co-plan. Through this visit, Jen Kelly successfully shared how book making with children brings a sense of play to the writing process, is developmentally appropriate, and strengths based.



Jen Kelly working on primary writing with students and staff in February.



Strategic Plan Updates: GOAL 3: Create Student Success

Central Interior Science Fair

Congratulations to our students who participated in the Central Interior Science Exhibition at UNBC on March 8, 2025! We are proud to recognize the outstanding achievements of our Special Award, Grand Award, and medal winners who showcased their curiosity, creativity, and dedication to science-based inquiry. While the Central Interior Science Fair is a community-based event, it was great to see representation from around the district.



Sending well wishes with our Canada Wide Science Fair Finalists

Brendan Crowley, Tahirah Soles, Katherine Thiessen-Clark, and Kiah Thiessen-Clark (pictured below with SD91 School Board Trustee Hazelton) who will be traveling to the Canada Wide Science Fair in New Brunswick in June. 4 of the 5 finalists selected are SD91 students!

A huge thank you to all the educators, caregivers, and supporters who have encouraged and guided our students in their scientific exploration this year. Your commitment to fostering a love of learning and discovery is truly appreciated.

EBUS Success for Students

Student Voice

EBUS has two representatives who attend most of the SD91 Student Voice meetings. The topics and discussions that are brought up in the SD91 Student Voice meetings get shared with the Student Council team at EBUS.

In February, EBUS Student Voice (in collaboration with EBUS Student Council) hosted their second mental health fair for gr 7-12 students which was focused on Body Image. Our third mental health session will be embedded in our May Assembly and focus on motivation and finishing strong. Having it in the assembly will encourage all students, as well as some parents, to stay engaged in learning until June.

Student Council

This team meets every two weeks. EBUS has a group of 7 learners who meet biweekly to connect and organize vclasses and events for the rest of the learning community. This group facilitates the meeting, takes the notes, plans, organizes and have many ideas on how to spread awareness, support learners and build community in an online learning world. In the upcoming months, this group is hosting an Earth Day event as well as an EBUS Talent Show for staff and students!

Assemblies

In our online assemblies, which we host each month, we highlight SEL activities learners have shared with us, posts on various Padlets from different vclasses or events, other submissions from learners from their lives outside of school (sports events, accomplishments, activities...)

Rhythm Resource

We are hosting two online drumming sessions with Daniel Duggan through the Arts Starts program in SD91. Thank you, Karie Evans, for opening this opportunity up for our online learners!

Field Trips

When staff is in Vancouver in early May for the BCEDL conference and the NOIE Symposium, there will be field trips for our full-time learners. These currently in the works and are proven to be such a valuable piece of the learning here at EBUS.

Grade 5/6 Class at Sinkut View Elementary School Theme Park Project

Our grade 5/6 class at Sinkut View, with their teacher Mrs. Mullings, is doing some incredible learning. They are working on an extended project which includes math, art, ADST, science, and language arts.

Students started by going over the project expectations and then had to create a budget for their theme park ahead of building it, incorporating a math component. Next, they gathered supplies and started building – a lot of planning and meeting ADST outcomes happened in this phase. This also covered many Fine Arts (art) outcomes. Finally, there was science in this. Students planned their games/challenges and built ramps, etc. using concepts of simple and complex machines. They tried their challenges, addressed what might not have been working, and tried again.

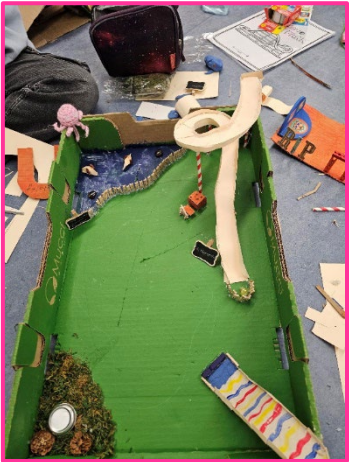
Students have now finished creating their theme parks. Their theme parks had a game or a challenge to them – students invite their classmates to try the challenges (and give feedback). This is happening currently.

The next step is to tie in Language Arts ... students will be given writing challenges (including fictional stories) which will directly connect to their theme parks. A few students are already planning their writing, but none have started yet.

This has been an incredible learning and social experience for this class. A few of the projects have been built through the work of partners. Even for students working alone, however, there have been a lot of collaborative moments such as sharing Grade 5/6 class at Sinkut View Elementary School Theme Park project materials, sharing ideas, giving and receiving feedback, and just enjoying working alongside each other. Two students even built a vehicle out of wood and cardboard and added a trailer hitch to the back of it (using a screw) so they can tow (drag?) their project around the room if need be.

Highlight: as there is so much to this learning experience, all 27 students have had a chance to shine and share in a way which directly works for them. The problemsolvers, scientists (builders), artists, writers, communicators. There is something for everyone.

Student Projects:





Finally, during the week of March 3-7, our grade 5/6 class invited all other students and staff in to learn about their creations. The younger students got to try all the theme park activities, ask questions, and even win prizes. Everything was organized and led by our older students.



On behalf of Mrs. Mullings (teacher) and the gr 5/6 class at SKV, thank you for checking out our work!

Strategic Plan Updates: GOAL 4: Enhance Connections

WKE Community Connections

Mr. Rajat Rai, a computer programmer and IT specialist who moved to Burns Lake with his wife within the past year from Manitoba, has volunteered to start a computer club for students in Grades 5 – 12. He believes that students who might wish to enter careers in technology are not necessarily exposed to background knowledge about how computers work prior to entering post-secondary. He has offered to run a game-based club to teach students all about computers so that they understand their potential use beyond video games and word processing. Mr. Rai is an approved volunteer, having been through a background check as well as confidentiality agreement and volunteer expectations.



The club runs in the WKE computer lab on Fridays. The first meeting took place on Friday, March 7th from 3:00 – 4:00 pm. We invited all the schools near us to join the club and its first club meeting had 14 students attend, including learners from WKES, DLES, and LDSS. We are very excited to be able to offer this opportunity to students in the Burns Lake area and appreciate the chance to involve a real-world computer career expert into our school on a regular basis to share his love of all things technology with our students.

Waffle Wednesday at NVSS



Waffle Wednesday was a great success! A big thanks to the NVSS PAC volunteers and to our RCMP members who came out to help in the morning!



Employee Recognition:

I would like to offer special appreciation for our staff at Evelyn Dickson Elementary School this month. They keep showing up for their students and providing safe, inclusive and welcoming learning spaces regardless of the difficult context they are working in. No one should be made to feel unsafe as a result of doing their job!

I thank all of you who are also standing up in support of our staff and our incredible communities.

Find Us on Social Media!



We're on Facebook!
[@SD91BC](#)

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

