

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 Dukai Ooza (JUNE)

As we reach the close of the 2024-2025 school year, it is remarkable to reflect on all that has taken place across School District 91. It is hard to believe that this also marks the end of my fifth month in the district. I continue to be grateful for the warm welcome extended to me and for the steady and heartfelt commitment shown by our staff, rightsholders, and community partners throughout the year. Your fortitude and unwavering belief in the success and potential of our students have laid a strong foundation that I am honoured to build upon.

This season is one of celebration. Our schools have been alive with joyful year-end activities—from field trips and fun days to recognition ceremonies and meaningful transitions. Across the district, staff are working thoughtfully to support any students with a significant transition this year. These transitions mark important milestones, and the care taken to ensure students are ready and welcomed is a testament to the professionalism and compassion of our educators and leaders.



Graduation season has also swept across our schools, and it has been a true privilege for the senior team to attend so many of these events. The pride in our communities, the strength of our students, and the love and encouragement shared by families have been powerful reminders of why we do this work. We are inspired by the journeys of our young learners and look forward to all they will accomplish. As a BC hero, Rick Hansen reminds us, "There is no limit to the possibilities of what you can achieve if you have the courage to dream, the determination to succeed, and the dedication to work toward your goals." That spirit of courage, determination, and hope is alive in our graduates.



This month also brought me personal joy and inspiration at events like the Decker Lake Art Show, where student creativity was beautifully on display, and the Nechako White Sturgeon Juvenile Release at Riverside Park. At the sturgeon event, we were thrilled to hear the announcement from Rio Tinto of an additional \$150,000 in support for hands-on environmental and cultural learning in SD91. This contribution represents another step forward in connecting learning to land, water, and community, and we are grateful for this continued partnership.



As I continue to grow in my role as superintendent, I remain deeply grateful to live, learn, and work on the traditional territories of the Dakelh, Nedut'en, and Wet'suwet'en peoples. These lands are not only visually stunning but also rich in culture, language, and history. It is an honour to be part of a district that is grounded in such cultural diversity and Indigenous knowledge.

As we look ahead to the 2025-2026 school year, I do so with optimism and a deep appreciation for the people who make School District 91 such an exceptional place for learning and growth. Among the exciting work ahead will be the development of our new strategic plan, which will help guide our shared vision and priorities into the future. Thank you all for your commitment, your resilience, and your belief in our students. I wish you a safe, restful, and rejuvenating summer.

Respectfully submitted,

Anita McClinton

(she/her)
Superintendent

Strategic Plan Updates: GOAL 1: Honour Diversity



Filipino Heritage Month at WL McLeod

The school district food program is fortunate to have school meal workers of diverse cultural backgrounds. This includes Filipino heritage. As it is Filipino heritage month, the school meal team at WL McLeod took the opportunity to showcase their Filipino knowledge by sharing regional recipes within the school food programs offered at WL McLeod, Evelyn Dickson and Sinkut View. The two recipes shared were chicken adobo and Filipino pork steak. From family recipes to regional dishes, Filipino food is rich in stories that are worth sharing.

Indigenous Storyteller visits Nechako Lakes Schools

This month, Nechako Lakes had an honoured guest visit eight of our schools to share songs and stories.

Kung Jaadee is a professional Indigenous storyteller, educator (BA and BEd) and published author who has been sharing stories for 30-plus years across Canada. She belongs to the Xaayda (Haida), x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Tlingit, Tsleil-Waututh Nations, and is also part Hawaiian. She was born and raised on Haida Gwaii and is from the Yaguu'laanaas Raven Clan.

Her Haida name, Kung Jaadee, means 'Moon Woman' and was presented to her at her great uncle's memorial feast by her cousin Crystal Robinson.

Photos by WKE student photographer Rory Levick.



Place Based Collaboration – NVSS, BESS and Indigenous Education

This week Grade 8 students and staff from the Middle Years Nechako Valley Secondary School program, along with district staff members, experienced learning that was rooted in deep, traditional ways of being in the Babine Lake area. Elder Val Johnson, from Tachet, grounded us in place with stories of salmon abundance and only taking what is needed to sustain family members and traditional hunts of the caribou that roamed the Houston region.

At the Babine Elementary Secondary School site, Doris Munger led us in drumming and dance activities. It was a new experience for MYNVSS students to observe cultural and language learning led by youth as well as adults, and a tribute to the strength of community and school staff commitment to ensure Indigenous cultural and languages continue to thrive. In between times, students canoed, hiked, learned about plant identification and uses, and engaged in vigorous physical activities. The trip ended with a tour of the Fulton River salmon spawning channels, and a further chance to reflect on the important role that place plays in who we are and how life is lived. We are hoping that being in the mountains, beside the lake and surrounded by the boreal forest, created opportunities for students to reflect on the different lived experiences of the peoples who have lived here compared to those living near river valleys, flat plains and rolling hills and ways traditional lifestyles were similar and different.

We wish to acknowledge Jesse Fairley for supplying the Indigenous grant money that made this trip possible.



LDSS Balhats

The Potlatch was an amazing opportunity for miyo-wichetown/creating good relations between LDSS/SD91 and our 6 Nations.

I want to share a few pictures of the LDSS Potlatch with the district. It was an amazing experience - an incredible day of learning and reconciliation, and we all learned so much.

Meisy cho/Kinanaskomitin
(hiy hiy)/Thank you,
Antheia Gibson
Cultural Education Worker,
LDSS



Strategic Plan Updates: GOAL 2: Engage our Workforce



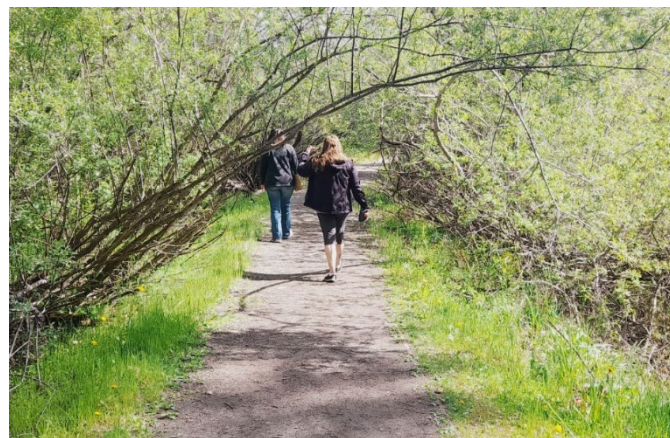
StrongStart Pilot Project: Enhancing Health Eating, Physical Activity, and Social Emotional Development

Brandi Rivard, a StrongStart educator at David Hoy Elementary School, participated in a pilot project that was led by Child Health BC and supported by the Ministry of Education and Child Care as well as the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions. Twenty-three school districts were selected to participate. The goal of this pilot was to support one StrongStart site in the school district to use two new resources in their StrongStart BC Center from January to June 2025. The resources are focused on healthy eating, physical activity, and social emotional development. Brandi submitted frequent

photos to Child Health BC of her implementation of suggested activities and recipes from the *Appetite to Play* and *Feelings First* resources. During a recent submission, Brandi's name was selected to win some early learning prizes! We are grateful for Brandi's participation in this pilot project and for her ongoing dedication to supporting families.

Changing Results for Young Children Project

This provincially funded project focuses on improving the social and emotional well-being of young children. We are in a triad with SD28 and SD57. Our final collaborative session took place in Prince George on May 28. Throughout the school year, each participant engaged in pedagogical narration, inquiry, and self-reflection. A note of gratitude to Sylvia O'Meara (EDS K teacher), Candace Beier (Mouse K teacher), Melinda DeCoteau (Mouse StrongStart educator), and Jess Shively (WKE StrongStart educator) for their continued participation in this project!



Students at DLES Build Their Own Birdhouses

Mr. Kallhood and Miss England's classes borrowed the district carpentry trailer and learned how to build their own birdhouses.

Each student researched a bird living in our local area and then built a birdhouse for their chosen bird.

Students learned how to follow a plan and to use tools from the carpentry trailer to create their birdhouse.

Once they finished, each child was able to take their birdhouse home.



Strategic Plan Updates: GOAL 3: Create Student Success

Decker Lake Art Show

Decker Lake Elementary hosted their annual Art Show on June 11th which showcased student art which was created throughout the school year. Community members, trustees and district staff enjoyed exploring the art show throughout the day.



Trustees Pooley and Davis (bottom right) and Superintendent McClinton (top left) receive tours of the Art Show from trusted tour guides – Thomas, Hallie and Holden (from top left)





Year-End Success at BESS

1. Our monthly culture nights have continued and have been a success. Our students performed at the LDSS arts fest and one of our grade 1 students, Triton Goddard, made the paper.
2. Our primary class enjoyed their caterpillar project and released their butterflies last week.
3. On June 18th we hosted the grade 8's from NVSS for an outdoor day and cultural experience at BESS.
4. Our grad Michelle Charlie walked the stage in Burns Lake and will have a ceremony on June 25th at BESS.



Strategic Plan Updates: GOAL 4: Enhance Connections

WL McLeod Welcome to Kindergarten

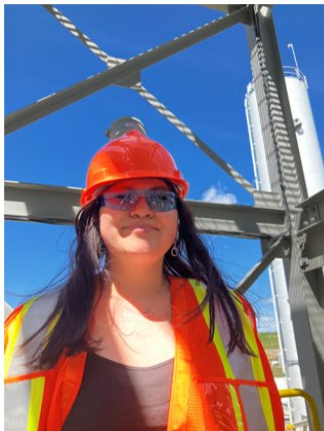
Our school and our grade 5 McLeod Cares Leaders hosted a BBQ for over 120 people on May 27.



BESS Winnipeg Exchange



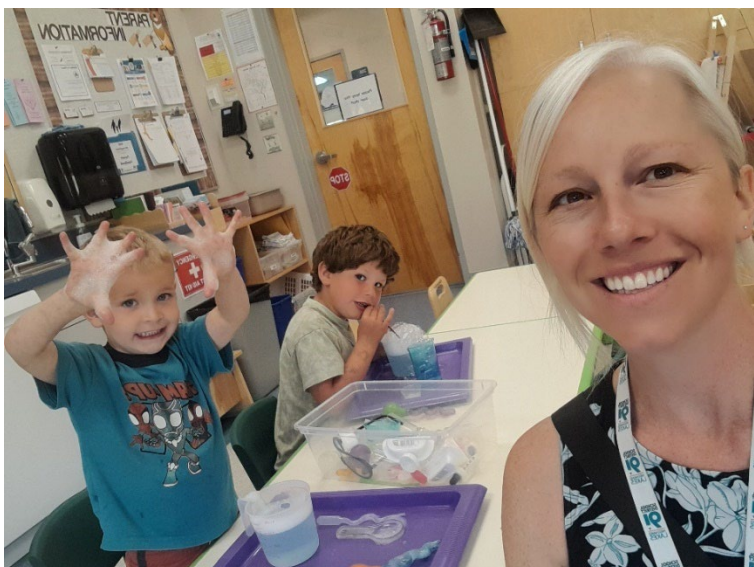
In June BESS hosted the Peaceful Village, an after school group from Winnipeg at BESS. The group of 21 students joined our students for a week full of activities including, Sports Day, Culture Day, reading with the primary kids, canoeing, and a trip to the old mine across the lake. Our guests stayed at the school and had a wonderful time.



Strengthening Early Years to K Transition Project

This provincially funded project was centered in the Fort St James community this school year. To support young children with their transition to kindergarten, we hosted several gatherings at David Hoy Elementary. In May, we invited a dance instructor, Alison Keery, from Haida Gwaii. She guided the four-year-olds and their caregivers to explore movement activities at our Pizza and Dance Party. It was great to see families in attendance and to see them enjoying Alison's dance session! In June, we hosted a Campfire Gathering for the future kindergarten children and their caregivers. The weather was amazing, and the families enjoyed meeting with the kindergarten teachers and their future classmates.





Just B4 Preschool Program

We are pleased to share that all eight spots available in this licensed child care program at WKE have been filled for September. The Early Childhood Educator, Jess Shively, infuses each session with energy, kindness, and creativity.

Decker Lake Salmon Release

Miss England and her grade 4/5 class at Decker Lake Elementary School travelled to Granisle to release the salmon they raised.

Students learned about the life cycle of salmon and enjoyed releasing their salmon into Babine Lake.

We are grateful to Fisheries and Oceans for offering such a wonderful program.



Neighbour Link Food Drive

Lena Miller and I were thrilled to drop off a trunk full of food for the Neighbour Link Food Drive on June 18, 2025. The Board office staff pulled together to help fill the cupboards of our local food bank when we heard they were running very low. We challenged our PVP to encourage their staff to do the same for all of our local food banks!



Employee Recognition:

I want to extend my sincere appreciation to our finance team for their tireless efforts during this demanding budget and year-end season. Their attention to detail, professionalism, and commitment to transparency have been instrumental in guiding us through this complex and critical work. We are truly grateful for their steady leadership behind the scenes.

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