

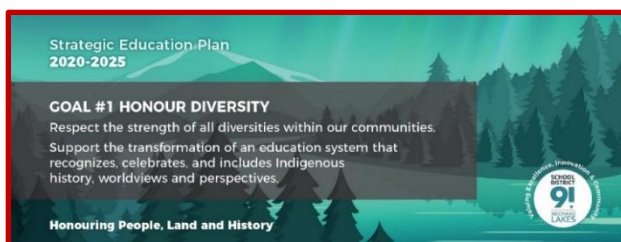
REMEMBERING MARLENE ALEC

The community of Burns Lake, along with Lakes District Secondary School (LDSS) and the School District, were saddened in late October by the passing of long-time Home School Coordinator, **Marlene Alec**. Marlene was a much respected and recognized elder and matriarch from Lake Babine First Nation and a beloved member of the LDSS family.



Marlene joined the staff of LDSS in 2009 and quickly made students and staff part of her larger "family." In recognition of Marlene's contributions to the school, students and staff prepared bannock in early November for the entire school. Principal **Heidi Grant** shared that "This was a "labour of love" to remember Marlene."

Marlene, you will be missed!



LEARNING CARRIER WITH MARGIE ALEC AT BABINE ELEMENTARY-SECONDARY SCHOOL (BESS)

At BESS Carrier language learning goes beyond the time spent with Margie Alec. When you listen closely, you will hear two languages being spoken, with students using local dialogue intermittently with English as they go about their learning. Students are often overheard counting in Carrier or giving greetings as they pass each other in common areas. During conversations about animals or objects, students often say the English word followed by the Carrier word. It's truly incredible to observe and an amazing gift!

Margie introduced the kindergarten to grade 4 class to the traditional practice of drying salmon to provide food for the winter. The students were amazed that even when it was dried the salmon retained its shape. Margie demonstrated how the salmon folded back into the fish shape, and ways the dried fish is removed from the skin. Students enjoyed eating their salmon snack!



FORT ST. JAMES SECONDARY SCHOOL (FSJSS) RE-INTRODUCES JUNIOR FIRE FIGHTER PROGRAM

Congratulations to FSJSS students **Isaiah Whynacht, Gabe Ouellette, Devon Joseph, Luke Bird, Aaron McVey, and Tyler McVey**, who were all interviewed and accepted as this year's junior fire fighters.



David Hoy Elementary School teacher and long-time volunteer fire fighter, **John Bennison**, has worked with local fire chief, **Ryan McVey**, to reintroduce the program and opportunity to FSJSS students. Although the students are junior members, they will be trained as regular recruits!



Strategic Education Plan 2020-2025

GOAL #2 ENGAGE OUR WORKFORCE

Foster school and district cultures that inspire and support passion-based teaching, learning, and leading.
Create opportunities for every member of our organization to contribute to student success.

Honouring People, Land and History



DRONE DELIVERY IN STALLAT'EN FIRST NATION

When Fraser Lake Elementary-Secondary School (FLESS) Principal, **Brian Cross**, was contacted to see if his staff and students would like to be involved in a unique '[drone delivery](#)' project (DTI), he jumped at the opportunity. A unique pilot



project between Stellat'en First Nation, the Village of Fraser Lake, and the UBC Faculty of Medicine to bring drone delivery to the north. The DTI project explores whether drone technology can be used to improve health care access for rural and remote First Nations communities. In this pilot project, DTI will transport items by drone between Stella (Stellat'en First Nation) and the Village of Fraser Lake. This short and simple route will serve as a test case for how this technology could be scaled up to other contexts.

As a start to student involvement, FLESS students were invited to enter a logo design contest for both landing sites as well as to name the drone. **Jasper Chitwood** [grade 5] named the drone "Sky Medic" & **Alanda Cereno** [grade 5] and **Aaliyah Prince** [grade 10] were the successful artists. All three students were celebrated at the launch ceremony at Stellat'en First Nation.

WILLIAM KONKIN ELEMENTARY'S 'REMEMBER YOUR WHY'

When Principal **Karie Evans** created a bulletin board asking WKE staff to share their 'WHY' for being in education, she was pleased to see the many whys that appeared. Here are some quotes from WKE staff:

- "School was my happy place when I was a kid. The adults were kind and helpful. I hope that I can help to make school a fun and safe place. Also...kids are so funny and fun to be around. I love my job 😊"
- "I started teaching because a student asked me to. I stayed in teaching because it was my childhood dream to teach & it's better than I dreamed."
- I love to see the joy on students' faces when they realize they have learned something new. I love learning with students. I love learning with my classes during the months of May and June. We know each other very well by then and celebrate the learning of the year behind us 😊."

NECHAKO VALLEY SECONDARY SCHOOL (NVSS) CROSS COUNTRY (XC) TEAM AT PROVINCIALS – THANK YOU COACHES BRIAN & WANDA NEMETHY

The NVSS Cross Country Team had excellent XC Provincials with some very good results. Coaches **Brian and Wanda Nemethy** predict that with this young team they will see even better results next year. Congratulations to NVSS athletes **Ava Bailey, Elli Carpenter, Jimmy Reid, Seth Teichroeb, Josh Wu, Madison Seely, Ailis McCleary, Lilly Muller, and Elise Nelson.**

These opportunities and results for our students don't happen without our dedicated coaches; and, so thank you, Brian and Wanda and thank you to all coaches across our schools and communities!



LDSS CELEBRATES CAREER LIFE CONNECTION PRESENTATIONS

LDSS staff, invited community members, and local elementary teachers were honoured to be part of the adult panels that listened to students present during the first round of Career Life Connections (CLC) presentations in late October.

Strategic Education Plan
2020-2025

GOAL #3 CREATE STUDENT SUCCESS

A continued focus on the essential skills of Literacy / Numeracy.
Ensure Social Emotional Learning is embedded within all of our classrooms.
Support the use of promising and effective teaching strategies.

Honouring People, Land and History



Student
Chloe Rolufs

pictured with her ATV, is sharing her in-depth knowledge of her machine, its engine, and various components, to support every aspect of her presentation. **Mr. Dube** was very impressed!

Several students showcased their cultural connections including **Jaden West** sharing what Pow Wow dancing means to her....great job Jaden!



W.L. McLEOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (WLM) – BC LOVE YOUR SCHOOL LIBRARY DAY

On Monday, October 25th WLM did **DEAR** (Drop Everything and Read) in honour of [BC Love Your School Library Day](#)



SOUND OF UKULELE'S AT DECKER LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (DLE)



Four out of six divisions at DLE have enrolled in virtual, yes you read that correctly, virtual ukulele lessons. They join a number of classes across the school district in this district-sponsored elementary music initiative.

Classes are taught by a passionate music instructor from [DMS Music](#).



SINKUT VIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (SKV) VISITS LOCAL WETLANDS



SKV was fortunate to reconnect and explore a local wetland area just outside of the community of Vanderhoof. This initiative was a collective effort; and, a special thank you goes out to **Casey Lytton**, NVSS teacher, and **Darren Carpenter**, SD91 Career & Trades Programs Coordinator, for the additional time that was put in to meet and give teachers a tour beforehand, plus arrange all of the transportation. Breathing in the fresh air and walking through grass above their heads in spots, learners explored natural habitats for mammals, vertebrates, and insects.

We plan to return in the spring and hope to see more amphibians, invertebrates, and birds.



FRANCOIS LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (FLE) STUDIES ROCK & CONSTRUCTION

On October 26th, **Ms. Lowe's** grade 5/6/7 class invited community member and former business operator, **Randy Hamp**, in to talk about rocks in construction and building structures to augment their class study on rocks. They concluded the lesson with a hands-on experience of working with concrete to build concrete pumpkins.

Strategic Education Plan
2020-2025

GOAL #4 ENHANCE CONNECTIONS

Promote collaboration and partnership with all facets of community.
Encourage our schools to participate in opportunities that strengthen our communities.

Honouring People, Land and History



FRASER LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT PARTNERS WITH SD91 TRANSPORTATION TO IMPROVE BUS SAFETY

A huge thank you to SD91's Lisa Barnes and her Fraser Lake Transportation Department team who volunteered in partnership with the Fraser Lake Volunteer Fire Department to review and improve safety procedures related to school busses. The group reviewed safety equipment, bus features, and safety prevention programs to prepare learners for emergencies.

Thank you all for doing this outside of the work day to ensure that our many, many students who ride school busses daily are safe! We hope to see this partnership work happen with local fire departments in each of our communities over the coming months.



GRASSY PLAINS SCHOOL (GPS) THANKS RCMP CONSTABLE NITZ



Grassy Plains would like to express their gratitude towards their school liaison officer, **Constable Brandon Nitz**. Constable Nitz goes well out of his way to make our students feel valued. During our Halloween activities, Constable Nitz reported to duty bearing goody bags for everyone. But the best part was he was now "Sergeant Banana Split," who began 'splitting' our sides with his 'punny' humour. Staff and students of all ages enjoyed the extra connection that they were able to have with our school constable.

On his way out the door he let us know he would be attending our Remembrance Day assembly no matter what, "...it's on my day off, but I'm not going to miss it." We sure appreciate those who go the extra mile for our little school.



NVSS PARTNERS WITH NEW CALEDONIA PADDLERS

No words needed here as this picture says it all!



SD 91 IN THE NEWS AND QUICK FACTS:

- ❖ [Northern Health Order Impacts Spectator Access to Events](#)
- ❖ [SD91 Pilots Provincial Seamless Kindergarten Program](#)
- ❖ [SD91 Teacher Shortages](#)
- ❖ [Northern Health Partners with SD91 to Provide Vaccination Access to NVSS](#)
- ❖ [Spectator Access to SD91 Events Suspended](#)
- ❖ [Parent Delegation to School Board Prompts Reactions](#)
- ❖ [LDSS Rocket Launch](#)

STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVES UPDATE

As per the [Strategic Plan Workplan](#) for 2021/2022, here is a summary of the updates for November from the school district's leadership team.

HONOURING DIVERSITY

❖ SCHOOLS AS SAFE SPACES

- Objective shared with principals, managers, Inclusive Education team and SOGI leads in September and October of 2021.
- In the process of creating a working group to first meet in December 2021.
- Work with schools to purchase visible materials.
 - Stickers & lanyards are being sent out, books have been shared in schools and more sent every month, rainbow mats in every school and pronoun badges have been shared in many different venues.
 - Will continue to share stickers and other materials through out the year.
- Members of the district leadership team have met with principals and are booking a meeting with athletic directors specific to the issue of Physical Education, safety, and options.



ENGAGE OUR WORKFORCE

❖ EMPLOYEES MAKING A DIFFERENCE

- Schools, departments, and district staff continue to encourage recognition of employee contributions in the monthly report to the Board. We encourage recognition of employees from both the education and operations sides of our school district.
- This year all employees, with a focus on our newest employees, are being provided the opportunity to join in an [SD91 Staff Orientation Learning Series](#) featuring a variety of topics throughout the year.

CREATE STUDENT SUCCESS

❖ SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH GRADUATION ASSESSMENTS

- Many of our schools have incorporated the work of Carol Dueck's *Growth Mindset* into supporting students with academics. A promising practice emerging from FLESS's secondary level is being shared with all of our high schools in the hopes that this will become a standard practice for all Graduation Assessments.

- Since 2019, FLESS Principal, Brian Cross, has been inviting students to join him for lunch time sessions on test writing skills and then a 're-write' of their Graduation Numeracy Assessment. Although some students decline the offer, the majority of the students complete at least one rewrite with many students choosing to complete two rewrites.
- As expected, the majority of students improve their score and thus graduate having obtained a personal best on the assessment.
- To see FLESS results for their 2019, 2020, and 2021 cohorts, click [HERE](#).

❖ TECHNOLOGY SUPPORTING LEARNING

- We are moving this update to the December 2021 Board of Education meeting where Manager of IT, David Miles, will share and demonstrate some of the latest technologies supporting learning.

❖ INCREASE BELONGING

- "'School Belonging' has been associated with higher levels of happiness, psychological functioning, adjustment, self-esteem and self-identity..." (Hattie, Allen, Kern, Vella-Broderick, Waters – 2016).
- To see a 5 year trend for SD91 specific to the question, 'Is school a place where you feel like you belong?' please click [HERE](#).
- The topic of 'belonging' and specific strategies and communication has been and will continue to be discussed with principals. We hope to see some specific district strategies specific to 'school belonging' in all school plans over the coming year.

ENHANCE CONNECTIONS

❖ POST SECONDARY PARTNERSHIPS

- For a complete update on our current and emerging post-secondary partnerships, please click [HERE](#).