



Superintendent's Report to the Board

Regular Board Meeting of Nov. 18th, 2019

MY STORY OF THE MONTH

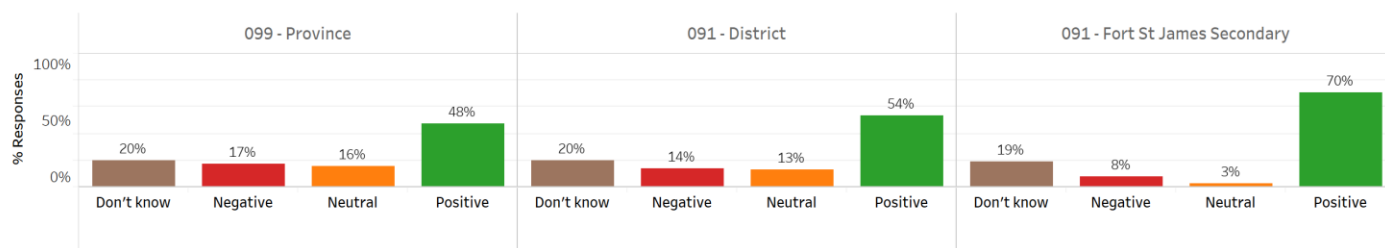
EVEN WITHOUT POWER...BREAKFAST IS ON!



- On Wednesday of last week, Fort St. James and area was without power beginning at 9:30 pm and coming on again just before 8:00 am on Thursday morning. As our team communicated with BC Hydro, our Transportation Department, and our principals to determine impacts on school that day, I received a picture of Jhen Bridgeman and Marina Saulig, two Fort St. James Secondary School (FSJSS) educators, navigating the darkness of their school with flashlights while preparing breakfast for students...WOW!! That same day, CKPG was in Fort St. James and ran a story of FSJSS's breakfast program...watch it [HERE](#).
- Recently, I had been looking at some 'Student Learning Survey' data from last year and came across this question, 'How many adults at your school care about you?' A question that is at the forefront of all schools as we know that a caring and welcoming school is a requirement for good learning. As I thought about the 'Breakfast in the Dark' story and the FSJSS data I was looking at, I had a 'eureka' moment in connecting the data below to the story. Below is a graph comparing how grade 10 students at FSJSS responded to that question in relation to the average response of grade 10s in British Columbia and grade 10s across our school district.

Question: Q26A - How many adults at your school care about you? -Grade 10 Students - 2018/2019

Don't know Negative Neutral Positive



- Of course the fact that 19% of students didn't know if an adult cared about them and a further 8% couldn't identify adults who cared about them is concerning and something that I'm sure the FSJSS team will look at. But to have 70% of students (22% more than the provincial average and 16% greater than the district average) respond positively to that question tells me that it is educators like Jhen and Marina who leave their homes on cold mornings without power to ensure that kids have food, that makes students respond in this way.
- Craig and his team should be very proud of this data and I wanted to make sure that we let them know that we noticed it and wanted to share it! **Way to go FSJSS!**



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LEST WE FORGET



- Our schools and staffs worked hard to organize Remembrance Day events that help to remind us all of why we 'remember' and to recognize and thank those who sacrificed.
- W.L. McLeod honoured their own veteran staff member, **Dan Nickel**, who was baked a cake by a student, and they also had the pleasure of listening to **Arlene and Johnny John**, relatives of Saik'uz veteran **Dick Patrick**.



LDSS 'WE DAY' VANCOUVER – THANK YOU WESTJET

- LDSS teacher **Patti Dube** and 12 students are headed to [WE DAY Vancouver](#) on November 19th courtesy of WestJet. The LDSS students were chosen for their many contributions to the local community and their work over the previous year focused on food and water security.
- Forty students and teachers from LDSS joined the 'WE Walk for Water' event on June 6th when they walked five kilometers in the rain to fetch water from Burns Lake so they could learn about the difficulties facing people who lack reliable access to clean water



STOP NOW AND PLAN - SNAP



- Nechako Lakes School District has partnered with the [Child Development Institute](#) (CDI) to bring SNAP, a program that supports learners in the area of self-control, to our schools to support the Board of Education's goal of ensuring Social Emotional Learning strategies across all our classrooms.
- On Nov. 12-13th, 20+ district educators gathered in Burns Lake with Aaron and Alyssa from CDI and district trainer, **Toni Dagenais**, to learn more about the program and how to implement it in schools.
- By all accounts, the training was excellent and we look forward to hearing the SNAP language across our schools.
- Our Learner Services Department is working on organizing future training dates.



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DR. NANCY DODA – MIDDLE YEARS

- [Dr. Doda](#), known to many of us as Nancy, was instrumental in helping us create a vision for our grade 7/8 Middle Years program at NVSS many years ago. She returned to our district this past month to work with school teams from across our district on learning more about 'Educating the Adolescent.'
- School teams left these two days inspired and thinking about strategies specific to our Middle Year learners.



A big THANK YOU to NVSS Vice Principal, Denise Dowswell, for helping to organize this excellent learning opportunity.

RCMP / MCFD /SD91 MEETING



- Our District Leadership Team had an opportunity to meet with RCMP Detachment Commanders from across our school district and with MCFD Director of Operations, Mr. Phillip Turgeon, on Oct. 30th. We attempt to meet once or twice a school year to ensure a greater understanding of how our organizations work together and to discuss programs and emerging trends across our communities.
- We are thankful for the continued involvement of both these organizations with our schools and students.

FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS ASSESSMENT



- All of our grade 4 and 7 classrooms have completed the [2019 Foundation Skills Assessment](#) (FSA). This assessment is very helpful to both the School District and schools to gather a quick snapshot of how our students are doing with their Foundational Skills (reading, writing, numeracy) that are a key, focussed goal for our Board of Education.
- Unfortunately, there are some existing perceptions around this important assessment that make some parents nervous about having their children participate. Our current School District participation rate for grade 4 students is approximately 78% and for grade 7 students is 80%. Schools will be sharing student results with parents in the coming months as this is important information for both parents and teachers.
- This type of external assessment helps us to ensure that we continue to focus on the essential skills required for future learning and to help design interventions for students struggling with specific skills.

Thank you to Fraser Lake Elementary-Secondary School (FLESS) Principal, Brian Cross, who spends many weeks every year organizing this assessment for our school district.



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PROVINCIAL CROSS COUNTRY RUN



- Brian and Wanda Nemethy, our extraordinary NVSS Cross Country Run Team coaches, took their large team of athletes to the [Cross Country Provincials in Abbotsford](#) in late October.
- As expected, every one of our athletes ran their best race at the Provincials, and I've thanked Brian and Wanda for another year of excellent coaching.
- I've never been to the provincial event which consists of athletes from every school size, something unique to Cross Country running, and so Brian sent me this video of the Jr. Boys race. Well worth a watch (click [HERE](#)) to see what it looks like when you have 280 athletes all beginning the race at the same time.

SD 91 CURRENT AND FORMER STUDENTS MAKING A DIFFERENCE



- FSJSS current student **Nicole Boyde** completes local insect collection, as part of her summer internship with the Chuntoh Education Society, in triplicate and delivers collections to local elementary schools. Read more [HERE](#).

- **Lara Hartman**, a FLESS graduate currently studying at Acadia university, presented at a recent TEDx event. We're very proud of Lara for doing this and if you would like to watch her presentation, please click [HERE](#).



- **Alison Desmarais**, a former NVSS graduate, has recently rekindled her Olympic dream by being one of 100 athletes, out of a field of 2000, to be selected to participate in an Olympic sport. For Alison that will be with Speed Skating Canada's National Development Team. Way to go Alison! Read more [HERE](#).

EQUINE ASSISTED LEARNING

- Thank you to Carrier Sekani Family Services who partnered with W.L. McLeod Elementary School to enroll 12 students into the Equine Assisted Learning Program. Watch for future updates on this program.





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SD 91 IN THE NEWS AND QUICK FACTS:

- ❖ [NVSS Vikings Football Top Seed](#)
 - ❖ [Elementary Cross Country Race](#)
 - ❖ [Former Student Wins COFI Scholarship](#)
 - ❖ [Serving and Spiking at LDSS](#)
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