



Superintendent's Report - January 2023

Happy New Year!

We are excited to be back from what we hope was a restful and happy break for everyone. The new year always brings promise and excitement and it is a time of incredible learning and opportunity for children, families and staff. We are looking forward to seeing our Strategic Plan come to life in every school and classroom as they work towards their goals on behalf of kids, families and community.

It is time to celebrate so much while still recognizing that individual families and communities continue to face unprecedented challenges. Our focus on Mental Health initiatives and the support being offered through the family affordability grant are meant to ease difficulties for whomever. We remind everyone to reach out in any way or to whoever they choose within the schools if further support or assistance is needed anytime.

In the spirit of bringing the Strategic Plan to life this month's Superintendent report is looking different. An important part of our Strategic Plan is the development and implementation of a new District Communication Plan. With this in mind the update will be expanded to include monthly information from our schools and programs. We hope this updated version does justice to the fantastic work people are doing across the district

We recognize that we learn, teach and work on the ancestral, traditional territories of the Ntē?kepmx and Syilx people and we acknowledge our Metis communities and their contributions to the Aboriginal ways of being and knowing.

Stephen McNiven
Superintendent of Schools

Success for ALL Learners ~ Today and Tomorrow



John Allison Elementary



December was a month of celebration with crafts, baking, singing and community visits to Ridgewood and other schools. Ms. Caron's class went to PSS (thank you to librarian Mrs. Atkinson for organizing) to bake cookies and read with the Princeton Posse. The Kindergarten and grade one classes went to sing to the residents of Ridgewood Lodge. Kindergarten students made cookies and did reading with Grade 4 students at Vermilion Forks. Our parent community was grateful that we were able to have a Christmas concert again at PSS. January brings a renewed energy and focus on learning.

Vermilion Forks Elementary



Vermilion Forks welcomes back Myrna Coates to the band program and we are very thankful for her services to keep our music program going.

A very special thank you for the following donations from:

Valley First \$10,000

Vancouver Sun \$14,000

Community Foundation of South Okanagan \$10,000

These funds are to support our afterschool program and this year our morning program.

These funds will help pay for food, supplies and staffing costs (students often bake / cook their snacks as part of the learning process). We have expanded the afterschool club to include four 'special' Friday theme days.

École Élémentaire Colletville • Colletville Elementary

Colletville students have made the best of the ice-covered fields. They cleared mini rinks and played mini hockey. The games included refs and scoreboards to give a true feeling of the game.



Diamond Vale Elementary School



Our Grade 2 and 3 students visited Douglas Lake pit house, to participate in drumming, storytelling and to learn about the pit house itself.

We hosted a full house for our first concert in three years and we were grateful for the support of PAC in organizing a Breakfast with Santa and the Christmas Store for students.

We have been using our Enhancing Learning Time to support reading at the Grade 2 & 3 level. Four days a week students participate in small reading groups, at their reading level.

Frisbee Rob also paid us a visit and talked to the students about kindness and not giving up.



Merritt Secondary Leadership students are running a basketball camp. This happens every Wednesday from 8:30 am to 9:30 am.



PSS Rapids swim team made it to provincials in Richmond. They wound up in 2nd place for single A schools. Congratulations!



As we counted down the last week prior to Winter Break, the PSS Student Council helped bring out the Christmas spirit in the building. Dress up events included: Ugly sweater, Red and Green, Christmas Characters and Pajama day. Activities included: Door decorating contest, Pancake breakfast and Card making. Of course Christmas movies, candy canes and board games were abundant!





Our Primary classrooms are going skating every Friday for the month of January. Our Intermediates will be heading off on a Ski Trip in February.

We have started our Science Fair prep and it looks like every Grade 4-7 school in the district will be hosting their own Science Fair this year.



Battle of the Grades, a school-wide turkey lunch, a Talent Show and Winter Formal dance all took place in the last week before the Break. Our Leadership class, under Mrs. Thompson undertook all of these fun events.



Indigenous Education



We will be having our first study session of the year. The Metis Study Session will be on January 19. This will take place the House of Honour from 3:30 to 6:00 pm. This is open to all School District Employees.

SD NO. 58
STUDY SESSION
MÉTIS PRESENTATION

JAN 19, 2023
3:30-6:00PM

MSS MPR
Cafeteria
Multi Purpose
Room

DINNER PROVIDED

DOOR PRIZES

MÉTIS NATION BRITISH COLUMBIA
Education & Resources

Nicola Valley & District
Métis Society President,
Betty Ann McDonnell

RSVP: Simone Chenoweth
schenoweth@365.sd.bc.ca

SD
FIFTY-EIGHT
Nicola-Uniontown

Aboriginal Advisory Council

Early Learning and Child Care



We have a keen SEY2KT (Strengthening the Early Years to Kindergarten Transitions) group working on developing some community and school-based activities for our Kindergarten students at Merritt Central. Some of the work, while focused on Central, will also spread to other schools with support from the Aboriginal Infant Development, Infant Development and Literacy Merritt community partners.



On the Princeton end, I will be meeting with Erin Williams, our Strong Start Facilitator to see how we can enhance our Ready Set Learn programming in Princeton. Erin is a huge asset who has some creative ideas on how we can move forward with making Ready Set Learn a success for our children who will be transitioning into Kindergarten.

Inclusive Education

Our parent newsletter will be going out this month. The newsletter will go out three times a year to keep families informed of what is happening locally and provincially.

New to the district will be vision screening for grades 3 to 6 students in Merritt and Princeton. This will happen in late winter or early spring.

There is lots of training that will be going on in the next while for our teachers, Education Assistants and First Nations Support Workers. An few examples are: CPI, POPFASD and CBIEP.

Also, we just supported school teams in getting POPARD in 2 schools in Princeton and Merritt which supports students, families and school teams.

Together we are better.

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION FAMILY NEWSLETTER
Issue No 1 | January 2023

ALL THINGS INCLUSIVE EDUCATION
Happy New Year to all! This is the first in a series of newsletters that will go out three times a year. Our goal is to keep you informed of what is happening locally and provincially.

This month is devoted to Mental Health Awareness. This initiative was started in 2010 to bring awareness to mental health and celebrate mental wellness. Mental health is a broad term for how adults and children may be feeling on the inside and not everyone has the same needs. There is no one-size-fits-all approach to taking care of yourself and those you care about. Our SELT (Social Emotional Learning Team) was asked to pass along some of their favourite family resources and this resulted in some great picks! You're invited to take a peek (over your couch one to one at a time). Who knows, something you discover could be a small or giant help today, tomorrow or sometime down the road when you need it most. Together we are better.

www.hoysigmund.com
Building Courage in Kids and Teens
Lynn Brown, Primary Counsellor
lhoan@360.sd58.bc.ca
Hornet

www.digitjournal.com
Strategies to support children and their emotions.
Anita Sabota, Interventionist Counsellor
hsabota@360.sd58.bc.ca
Hornet

MindShift® CBT App
Free evidence based anxiety relief app
Madison Hillman, Counsellor
mhillman@360.sd58.bc.ca
Princeton

www.dailymacenter.org
A place to advocate the heart and mind
MPS
Marcia Connor, Counsellor
mconnor@360.sd58.bc.ca
Hornet

Esse at Home K-7
Esse at Home 8-12
Strategies to manage worries and worryingly anxiety at home
Erin Switzer, Counsellor/RPS
eswitzer@360.sd58.bc.ca
Hornet and Princeton

www.familysupportbc.com
Resources for families of children with disabilities
Ann Ellis, Counsellor
aelis@360.sd58.bc.ca
MPS

