

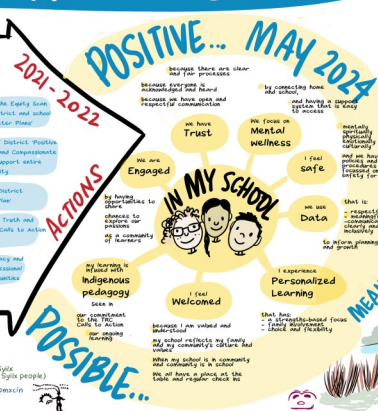
OUR STRATEGIC PLAN: SD 58 NICOLA-SIMILKAMEEN

Our goals have us creating a learning community with
 1 meaning and purpose
 2 appreciation and respect
 3 meaningful connections

OUR FIRST STEPS will be:

- 1. Place the strategic plan in the hands of all staff and students
- 2. Create a shared vision and purpose for the district
- 3. Develop a shared understanding of the strategic plan
- 4. Create a shared understanding of the strategic plan
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- 10. Create a shared understanding of the strategic plan

WELCOME
 We are excited to have you join the Nicola-Similkameen School District. We are committed to providing a safe, supportive, and enriching learning environment for all students. We look forward to working with you to achieve our shared vision and purpose.



Superintendent's Report - September 2024



Nicola-Similkameen School District would like to welcome all our new staff to the district and wish them all the best for the upcoming year. If you need support or have questions please reach out to your school principal or to us here at the district office.

We would like to introduce the new
Superintendent of Nicola-Similkameen School District



NICOLA-SIMILKAMEEN SCHOOL DISTRICT
 ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

P.O. Box 4100, 1550 Chapman Street, Merritt, B.C., V1K 1B8, Phone: (250) 378-5161, Fax: (250) 378-6263

For Immediate Release

June 25, 2024

Nicola-Similkameen School District Hires New Superintendent of Schools

The Nicola Similkameen School District is pleased to announce that Courtney Lawrance will join the district as its new Superintendent with a start date of August 6, 2024.

In selecting Courtney for this role, Board Chair Gordon Swan said that "the Board of Education recognized the outstanding leadership that she offered to schools in Alberta and Saskatchewan and believes that she is the right candidate for continuing the excellent work our current Superintendent and staff have been doing in all aspects of the Board's Strategic Plan."

Courtney has worked in education for 23 years and has been in Administration for the past 15 years. Courtney received her Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Education from the University of British Columbia and her Masters of Education in School Improvement and Leadership from the University of Alberta.

Courtney is originally from Chilliwack, BC and started her teaching career there moving on to Alberta and Saskatchewan. She moved into Administration when she was awarded a Vice Principal role in High Prairie, and subsequently onto Principal and Associate Superintendent. Courtney has a track record of success at both the school and system level in improving achievement in each role she has held.

Courtney is a passionate advocate for Indigenous education. Her graduate work focused on improving graduation rates for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students. Her commitment to this work has helped support improved graduation rates in her roles as a teacher, principal, and Associate Superintendent.

Relationships, commitment, and a student-centered approach with the best interests of students at the forefront of all decisions are the cornerstones of her leadership. Courtney is known for her passion, creativity, work ethic, and ability to build successful teams that utilize the gifts and talents of others.

Courtney is excited to take on the role of Superintendent/CEO, "I am grateful for the opportunity to work with and serve the students, parents, rights holders, and staff of Nicola-Similkameen School District in my new role. I believe my experience and skill set will allow me to support the great work already being done in NSSD, while bringing a fresh perspective and new ideas. Doing what is best for students is always my guiding principle and my dream is that every student who enters our doors will graduate from a safe and caring environment prepared for success - today and tomorrow."

The Board of Education wishes to thank rights holders and partner organizations for the time they devoted to assisting the board with the selection process, including Local Education Agreement representatives, both the Teaching and Support Staff Unions, the Nicola-Similkameen Principals and Vice Principals Association, the District Parent Advisory Council, and the district leadership team.

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Success for ALL Learners ~ Today and Tomorrow





The new school year at Merritt Secondary is up and running fast! Our Grade 11 & 12 Link Leaders welcomed over 120 new Grade 8 students to the building in August. The day was spent team building and familiarizing students with all things MSS. Our Fall sports season is in full swing with eight volleyball teams, cross-country running, girls' field hockey and boys' soccer teams all in action. Our Junior and Senior Leadership classes are focusing on bringing student voice to light and hosted the first student-led assembly.

It's going to be a great year.



Merritt Central Elementary School



Summer Institute

Our staff began the year with a unique and enriching Summer Institute experience. They embarked on a scavenger hunt that introduced many of our new team members to local businesses and landmarks, culminating at Glimpse Lake. The day was filled with team-building activities, including some wet and rainy games that fostered connection and camaraderie. The staff capped off the day by creating beaded lanyards and medicine pouches, further strengthening their bonds.



Grade 7 Band

Our Grade 7 students had their first band class with Kurt Ward-Theiss, the district's new elementary band teacher. The students showed incredible enthusiasm and bravery as they embraced this new musical challenge. Their engagement and excitement palpable, making for a fantastic start to what promises to be a rewarding year in music education.



Making Connections

It's wonderful to see our teachers actively engaging with their students' interests. Mr. Shea has exemplified this by spending time with students during lunch and learning to two-step with them. His dedication to connecting with students outside the classroom highlights our school's commitment to building strong, supportive relationships.



Expectations and Routines Through Play and STEM Bins

Miss Morrison's class is already thriving with her innovative approach to learning. She expertly blends sensory play with academic instruction, using STEM bins filled with Lego, blocks, figurines, and natural materials. This interactive method is not only making learning routines and expectations more engaging but also enriching students' educational experiences.

StrongStart

As of September 9, our StrongStart programs are up and running at Merritt Central, Diamond Vale, Nicola-Canford and John Allison Elementary Schools. We look forward to our 0 to 5 kids and families to start attending after the summer break.





École Élémentaire Collettville

Les Chats Sauvages!



Collettville Staff - Building Community

Each year, Nicola-Similkameen School District staff have the opportunity to attend Summer Institute, two days of professional development and team building that take place during the last week of August. This year, the Collettville staff spent one of these days getting to know each other by completing a very competitive school-wide scavenger hunt (merci Nicole Mackay-Smith!) and collaborating around school values/vision/mission. We also learned more about the science resources put together by Line Vachon and Guy Dugas, both of whom were former French Immersion teachers in the district. We are so grateful to be able to draw from their wealth of knowledge. Collettville Staff are energized and ready to once again serve kids and families!



Kindergarten & Grade 1 Students Settle into a New School Year

Mme Anscomb completed her Kindergarten interviews with families last week and welcomed her new Kindergarten kids for a half-day on September 6. They began attending full days this week and their presence has brought so much joy to our school atmosphere.

On the half-day, Mme Anscomb gave her Division 6 (K/1) class a tour of the school, which included a stop at the office to meet M. Sambrook and Mme Ouimet before photocopying their hands. It won't take long for them to discover why École Collettville is the place to be!



Staffing Updates

M. Sambrook – New Principal
Mme Tancowny – Returning Grade 6/7 Teacher
Mme Ballard – New Education Assistant
Mr. Ward-Theiss – New Grade 7 Band Teacher
Ms. Redl – New Hot Lunch Coordinator
Ms. Webber – New Intermediate (4-7) Counsellor

The Collettville Staff wish all of our kids and families a fantastic year ahead, and commit to providing a learning community built on meaning and purpose, appreciation and respect, and positive connections.



Diamond Vale Elementary School

At Diamond Vale we spent the first few days in multi-grade groups, rotating around teachers. This gave students the opportunity to get to know several different teachers with the hope this will support in building a sense of whole school community. Our Terry Fox Run is coming up on September 13th, followed by a Meet the Teacher event on Wednesday 18th September.

Our staff recently participated in a full day workshop on 'Supporting Students through Challenging Behaviours' and came away with lots of practical ideas on supporting students with self-regulation. We also worked together to understand more on the Seven Grandfather Teachings.

THE SEVEN GRANDFATHER TEACHINGS



"We want to take back our education and teach our history, our language and our culture. We have begun to tell our story – our history – and we want to tell it in our own words to the world, so that this will never happen to any of the other nations in the world."
– Shirley Williams, Residential School Survivor

Community Learning Centre

CLC has seen a boost in enrollment and has some great energy in the building. Students are setting goals for the years and creating a vision for the future. We are really excited to once again partner with Take a Hike for some programming and with Scw'exmx Child & Family for the Thursday Lunch & Learns.

Good things are happening.



Grade 7 Eagle Bay Fundraiser starts Monday with pizza sales.

Our school-wide runs start today. They take place on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 11:45. Grades 1-7 participate in the runs.

Our before-school, hot lunch, and after-school snack program starts this week.



Vermilion Forks Elementary is hosting the Terry Fox Run on September 27th.

The students will head to Princeton Secondary on September 26th to watch a Hoop Dancer presentation.

We would also like to welcome Ms. Kelsey Batts, who will be temporarily filling the role of Principal this Fall.



BUBBLE SCIENCE



SavingSam



Early Learning and Child Care



The children and staff put this sign on the fence across the street from Riverside to thank the construction workers.

Important Dates:

September 30, 2024	Monday	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Statutory Holiday.
October 14, 2024	Monday	Thanksgiving Day.
October 25, 2024	Friday	Non-Instructional Day. (Professional Development Day.)

