

Superintendent Report

March 2024

Submitted by: Dr. Christine Perkins





DREAM. BELIEVE. ACHIEVE.

Acknowledgement:

We are proud to live, work, play, and learn on the ancestral, unceded territory of the syilx people.

Mission:

We inspire and nurture students to thrive in their learning, relationships, and community.

Vision:

To become a community where all are respected, and each person is encouraged to develop their potential.

March Superintendent Report 2024

Under the BC Human Rights Code and the Charter, Boards must provide meaningful access to educational programs for all students, including students with diverse gender identities and expression. Students must feel welcome and included in school, regardless of gender identity or expression. Schools must respect student's choice of pronouns, and preferred name.

We stand by your Human Rights. Love is Love. Every human deserves love.

Anti-Racism Action Plan for SD22 - Our district is currently working on a roll out of Anti-racism education across the district. Thank you to teacher, Kym Tyssen, and our student trustees for leading this work on the ground. Thank you also to the Anti-racism committee who are hard at work on our new Anti-racism policy.

For more information see, B.C.'s anti-racism action plan for K-12 students:

Quick Facts:

- 58% of B.C. students say they have seen other students insulted, bullied or excluded based on their race or ethnicity.
- According to the B.C. adolescent health survey in 2018, a safe and supportive school environment, as well as the presence of caring school staff and feelings of being treated fairly, were associated with more positive outcomes among those who had experienced racism, including feeling safe at school and feeling good about themselves.

K-12 Anti-Racism Action Plan:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/download/89E84767362543DA8333CA8E4356D957>

Erase Racism: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/erase/racism>

Anti-Racism Learning Project Resources: <https://focusedresources.ca/en/anti-racism-learning-resources-project>

Anti-Racism Data Act: <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/antiracism>

If you are experiencing racism or would like to report an incident of racism, there is information on the Erase website on how to make a non-emergency report:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/erase/racism>

Translations

- [Antiracism_Action_Plan_23JAN2023_Chinese\(simplified\).pdf](#)
- [Antiracism_Action_Plan_23JAN2023_Chinese\(traditional\).pdf](#)
- [Antiracism_Action_Plan_23JAN2023_Punjabi.pdf](#)
- [Antiracism_Action_Plan_23JAN2023_Tagalog.pdf](#)
- [Antiracism_Action_Plan_23JAN23_French.p](#)

Career Education

Congratulations goes out to Career programs who just received a fantastic \$5000 grant to host a **Health Career Event for Middle Years students at Charles Bloom** in Partnership with Interior Health for next Fall.

Congratulations also to Career Programs for hosting **Career Programs Parent Info Night** with standing room only - 150 + people in attendance AND last week, the **Academy information night** with 450 people in attendance. Largest event ever.

The **SD 22 Career Programs** department supports our students in developing their career skills and competencies required to successfully transition towards a purposeful life. The goal of the program is to provide authentic opportunities and experiences for students to build confidence and develop the necessary skills relevant to their chosen career path.

SD22 students are provided the opportunity to get a head start in their **Post Secondary pathways through extensive dual credit offerings**. Students can head off into careers straight out of high school with certification as Early Childhood Educators, Educational Assistants, Health Care Assistants, Nursing Unit, Medical and Dental Office Assistants and even Pharmacy Technicians!

Dual credit Train in Trades and Work in Trades students can graduate from high school with Foundation Level 1 or 2 technical training in Aircraft Maintenance, Auto Service, Carpentry, Culinary Arts, Electrical, Heavy Mechanical, Millwright, Pastry Arts, Plumbing, Recreation Vehicle Service, Refrigeration & Air Conditioning and Welding. Have I mentioned the tuition for these programs is sponsored by the School District!

Career Programs also offers amazing **specialty programs** such as Work Experience, Trades Samplers, Health Care Samplers, Gateway to Technology, IT User Support, RCMP Academy, Female Firefighter for a Day, Jr. Fire Crew, Hairstyling, and the ever so popular Forestry program at CBSS at our own SD22 Woodlot taught by the talented Nathan Bartel.

All this work is supported by a small but mighty team: Principal Corinne McWhinney, VP Danielle Calder, Career Coordinators; Tim Thorpe (VSS/Kal), Debbie Meyer (Fulton/CBSS/vLearn), & Melanie Jorgensen (Seaton, ALP), and Clerical team; Tara McInnes & Anita Duckering. Be sure to reach out to the Career Programs team to learn more about these opportunities for you students.

Cell Phone Restrictions

SD 22 is pleased to say that we already include digital device use in our Code of Conduct (Policy 220). We also have updated guidelines coming for *Acceptable Use of Devices* for Fall 2024.

Background:

On Friday January 26, Premier Eby and Minister Singh announced a suite of initiatives focused on keeping students safe, including restricting the use of cell phones in schools.

The Ministry will work with school districts to ensure all schools have policies in place by the start of the next school year to restrict students' cell phone use in the classroom.

Many districts already address cell phones either at the district level and/or school level.

The intention of the new requirement:

- to create consistency provincially
- to create space for focused learning and interpersonal connection in the classroom with fewer distractions and interruptions
- to support students with learning how to use cell phones responsibly and respectfully.
- to help keep students safe from online threats and harmful impacts of social media.

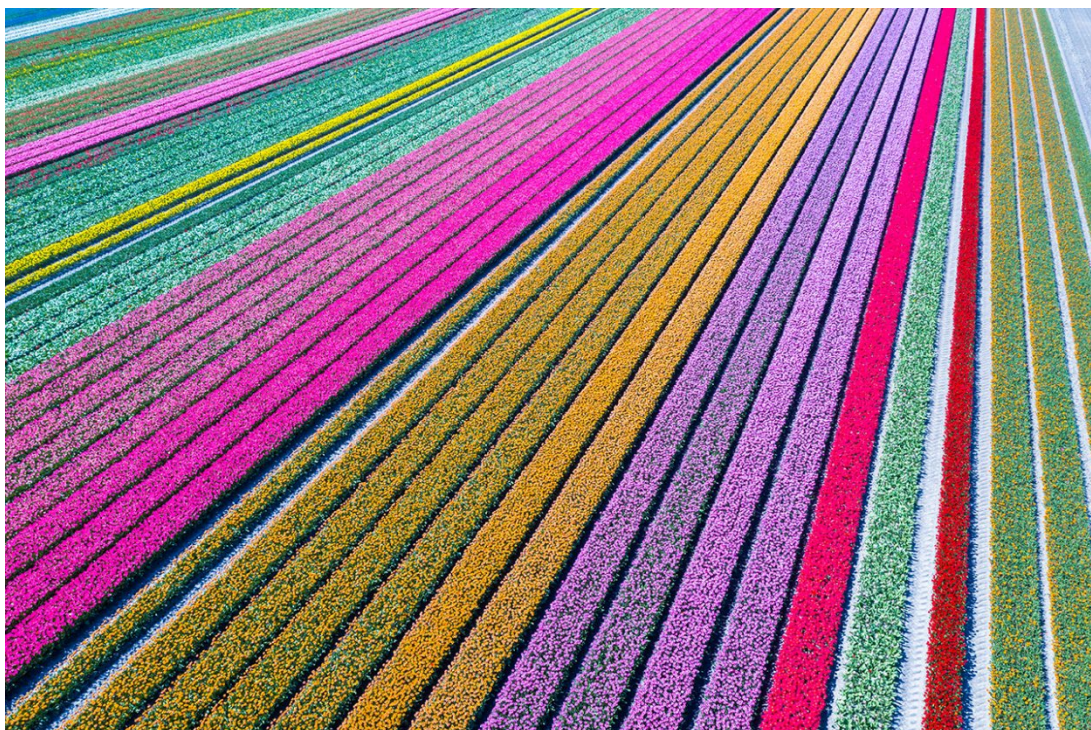
The Ministry is currently looking at mechanisms that will require school boards to address student cell phone use potentially in their codes of conduct while ensuring School Boards have the autonomy to develop an approach that best fits their school communities' needs.

These changes will be in place for the start of the 2024/25 school year.

How Are We Doing Report? Director of Indigenous Education, Charity Sakakibara, will be presenting to the Board in April.

The 2022/23 *How Are We Doing? Report* is available below. The *How Are We Doing? Report* reflects Indigenous student data for our district and is used for our evidence-based decision-making as we move forward.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/reports/ab-hawd/ab-hawd-school-district-022.pdf>



DATES TO REMEMBER:

March

- 14 Pi Day
- 15 **Last Day of School before Spring Break**
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 17 Red Nose Day
- 19 National Let's Laugh Day
- 19 First Day of Spring
- 21 International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- 21 International Mother Language Day
- 21 World Down Syndrome Day
- 21 World Poetry Day
- 22 World Water Day
- 23 Earth Hour (8:30pm-9:30)
- 29 **Good Friday – no school in session**
- 31 National Indigenous Language Day
- 31 **Easter Sunday (no school in session on Monday April 1)**
- 31 International Transgender Day of Visibility

April

- 1 **Easter Monday – no school in session**
- 1 April Fool's Day
- 1 National Fun Day
- 2 World Autism Awareness Day
- 2 **First day of school after spring break**
- 3 Find a Rainbow Day
- 3 National Teacher appreciation Day
- 6 National Pajama Day
- 14 International Day of Silence
- 22 Earth Day
- 24 **Regular Public Board Meeting**
- 25/26 **Conferences – early dismissal**
- 26 Administrative Professionals Day
- 28 National Day of Mourning

Seaton Family of Schools:



Alexis Park Elementary



Students were invited to a hockey tournament to cheer on the teams. Signs and noise makers were made for the games.



Our primary students celebrated 100 days by enjoying 100 cupcakes.





We continue to have lots of activities such as skating, Valentine's activities, dance, and watching our grade 7 band students excel with their instruments.





Beairsto Elementary

Beairsto has been buzzing with the start of “Manie Musicale”, an international song competition based on the March Madness basketball tournament. Classes have been listening to songs and getting ready to vote on which songs get to move forward to the next round of the bracket. The exposure to French music, culture, and vocabulary from around the world that this project provides truly engages and immerses students in a French learning experience.



We have two salmon tanks that are full of salmon fry. Students have watched these fish start out as eggs and progress through the life cycle over the last few months. This has led to lots of discussion about sustainability, environment, and climate change. Later in the spring a few classes will bring the salmon to the Kingfisher interpretive centre and release them into the river to start their journeys towards the ocean.





Our garden towers have also exploded with fresh grown herbs and greens! These towers have opened up opportunities to talk about where food comes from, healthy eating and sustainable practices.

The students are excited to enjoy some salad prepared with dressing they made with Grandma D., our school Food Coordinator. Bon appétit!





Harwood Elementary

We keep “crankin’ up the heat” here at Harwood heading into March! As March unfolds, the energy at Harwood remains high! Throughout this month, we've embraced a diverse array of events within our classrooms. To begin, our primary classes delved into the captivating history of ballet dancing, immersing themselves in the art of interpretation. From embodying emotions through the form of a rabbit to mastering intricate square and cooperative circle dances during our weeklong collaboration, our students have truly embraced the rhythm of movement.



Beyond dance, our school united in spreading affection on Valentine's Day and unleashing creativity on "Creative Hair Day." Moreover, select classes were treated to the delectable delight of Mr. Miller's homemade chocolate chip cookies, a gesture of kindness from our talented baker among the staff.



Simultaneously, our focus this month has been on understanding and embodying the value of "Honesty," a fundamental aspect of our 7 Grandfather teachings. We emphasize the importance of remaining true to oneself, avoiding falsehoods and gossip, and earning trust through our actions, thus honoring the wisdom passed down by the Sabe.





W.L. Seaton Secondary

Drummers welcoming Brad Baker, Associate Superintendent of Aboriginal Education and Jenn McCrea, Assistant Deputy Minister of the Learning Division within the Ministry of Education.



CARE kickoff event hosted by one of Seaton's finest and a slide of last year's top project (Seaton students).

Vernon Family of Schools



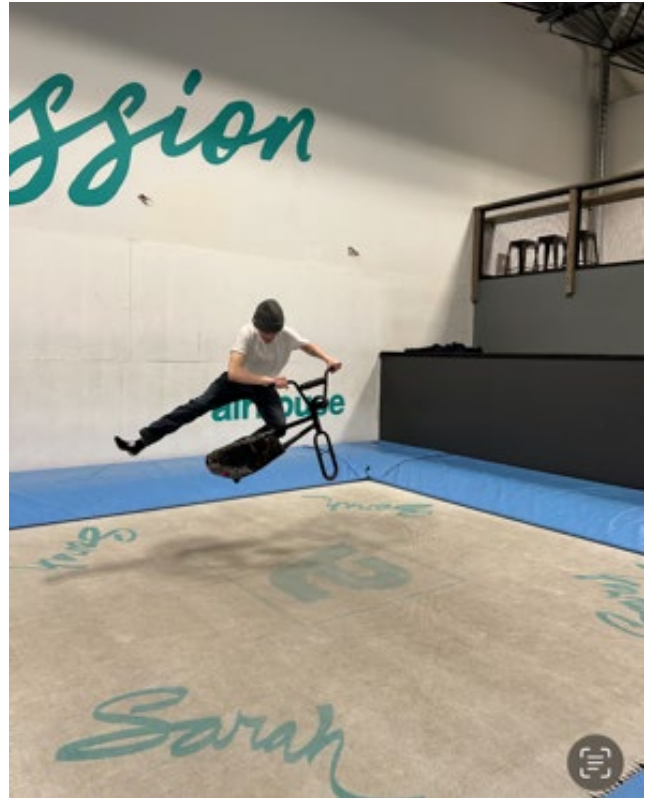
VLearn

During vLearn activity days, students are working to understand the importance of tmixw, the idea of “oneness” as a whole. Since everything is interrelated, one thing cannot be touched without the other also being effected in turn. This web of interconnectedness is the foundation for learning how to do right by each other and the earth. Students learn how to work together to accomplish goals and learn new skills. They see how important it is to encourage each other and contribute and share their knowledge with the greater group.



ALP/Open Door/CrossRoads







BX Elementary

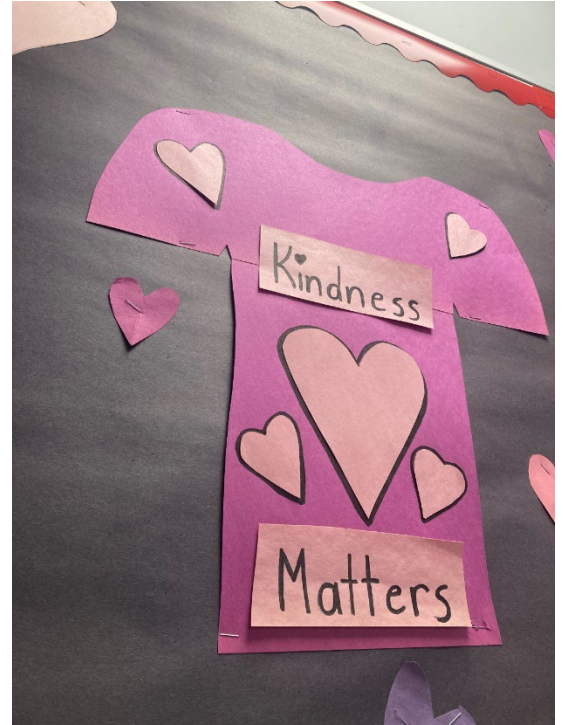


BX Elementary is learning all about environmental stewardship. Classes at the school are participating in the Stream to Sea program. Students have learned about the salmon lifecycle, the importance of salmon, and the need to protect salmon and their habitat. Students have been watching small eggs develop into little fry that will later be released into a local stream. This is always an exciting field trip for students which is full of great learning.

Our school is also learning about food sustainably and growing methods as students watch seeds transform into thriving vegetables in the tower garden.



This month BX also celebrated and focused on our school environment. February 28th was Pink Shirt Day. Our school community is so thoughtful throughout the school year, but we came together on that day to empower students to be kind to everyone and be friends to all.



The wonderful BX PAC also created a fantastic display in the main lobby of the school.



This month, BX also said goodbye and congratulations to our wonderful office administrator, Ms. Kadach, who has retired. She has always made our school a warm and welcoming place. She has fostered a caring environment at this school for so many learners, parents, and staff. From everyone in the BX community, we wish Ms. Kadach a lovely retirement.





Hillview Elementary

This month at Hillview, Mother Nature decided to demonstrate her sense of humour. Constantly keeping the school guessing if it was Winter or Spring? The students at Hillview decided to go with the flow and enjoy whatever weather we had. Some days we were able to get up to the local mountains for a snowshoe, other days we went indoors to swim, and yet other days we were able to bundle up and get some of the world-famous Okanagan fresh air.



Our students focused on being KIND and promoting the message of Travis Price and David Shepherd with the message of Pink Shirt Day.



For the month of February, we also focused on Black History month, writing fabulous reflections and thoughts on anti-racist actions, beliefs and the importance of kindness and love for all humans.

Our Kindergartens were working on becoming paleontologists, while also following the Reggio Inspired math process. Two of the Hillview Kinderstars can be seen making math stories for each other to watch and learn from.





Silverstar Elementary



At Silver Star, we are transitioning to Spring!



Plans are underway to clean up our school yard as the snow and ice melts, visits are being planned to our community garden, seeds are planted and sprouting in our Tower Garden, our Kindness Tree is blooming, and artwork is starting to show the excitement of the new start of Spring!





Vernon Secondary School

The power tech 8 class is preparing for their race car race that will happen Monday. Lots of planning, designing and painting happening today in class.



Okanagan Symphony Orchestra providing some lessons to our grade 8 and 9 music students today. What an excellent opportunity for our young musicians.





VSS continues to brighten the hallways and focus on school culture.

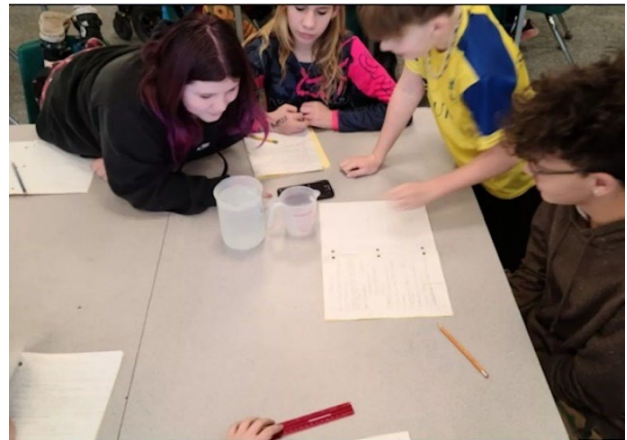


Fulton Family of Schools

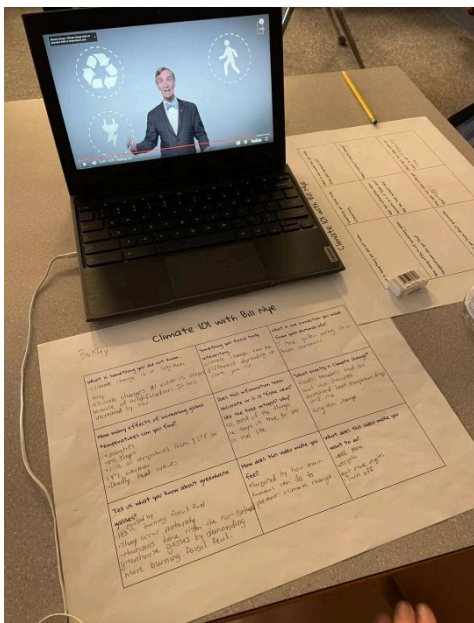


Ellison Elementary

Students at Ellison are learning about climate change and sustainability!



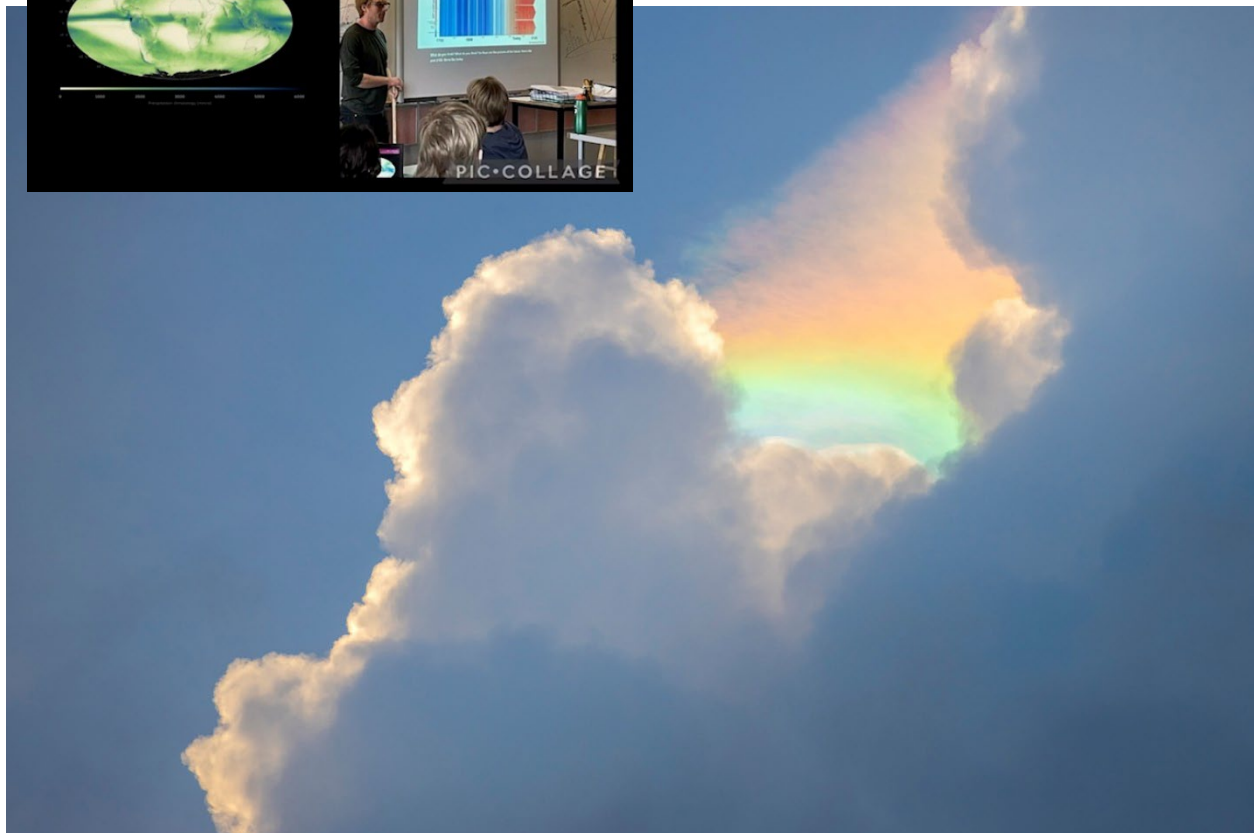
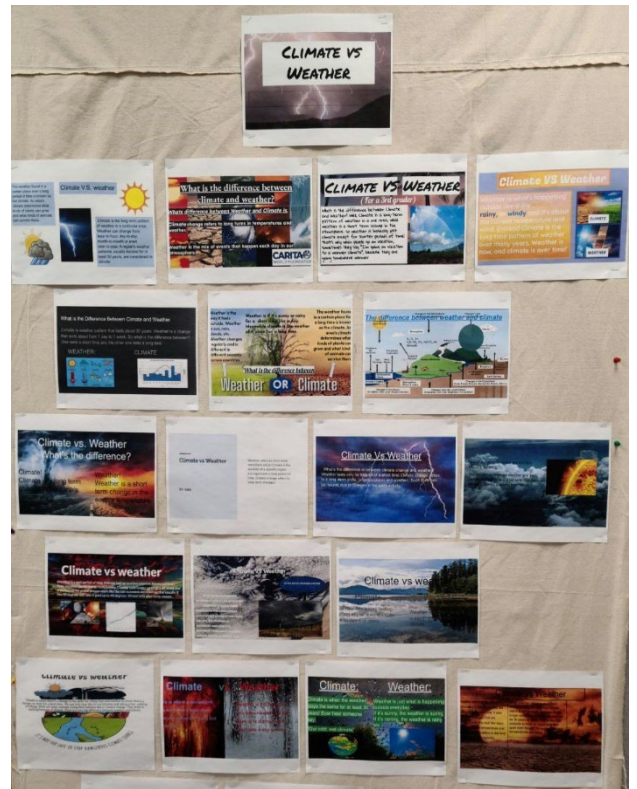
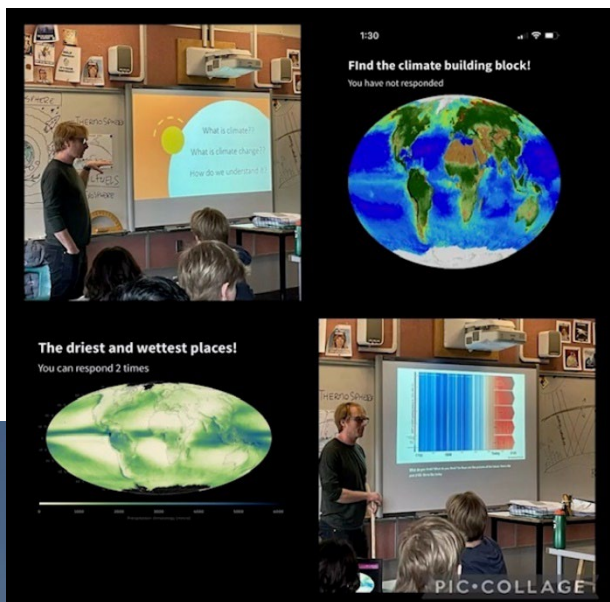
Here students are doing a “hands-on” science lab to explore glacier ice melts.



Who doesn't love a lesson from Bill Nye the Science Guy?

Students in Mr. Craik's class had a special guest, Dr. Jeremy Fyke, a climate scientist, in to discuss how weather systems are changing.

Checking student understanding:
Climate vs Weather.





Mission Hill Elementary

With the snow melting and grounds becoming visible, some students have taken it upon themselves to clean up our area so that we have a welcoming and safe place to play.



Mission Hill hosted a parent/guardian and caregivers' night in which we saw about 35 families attend. One of the sessions had to do with looking at our environment as we take kids for walks. Other sessions were on anxiety, cooking on a budget, effects of technology, growth mindset and transitioning to high school.

With pink shirt day, students learned about spreading kindness and how we need to be kind with each other to create an environment of care and respect.





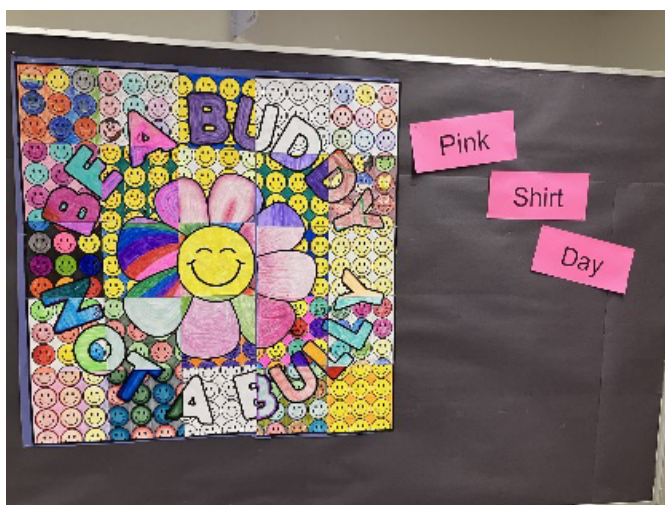
Okanagan Landing

It was a time of kindness and careers at OKL. We had some parents come in to visit to talk to grade 2s and 3s about their careers. Lots of great questions from our students to these parents.

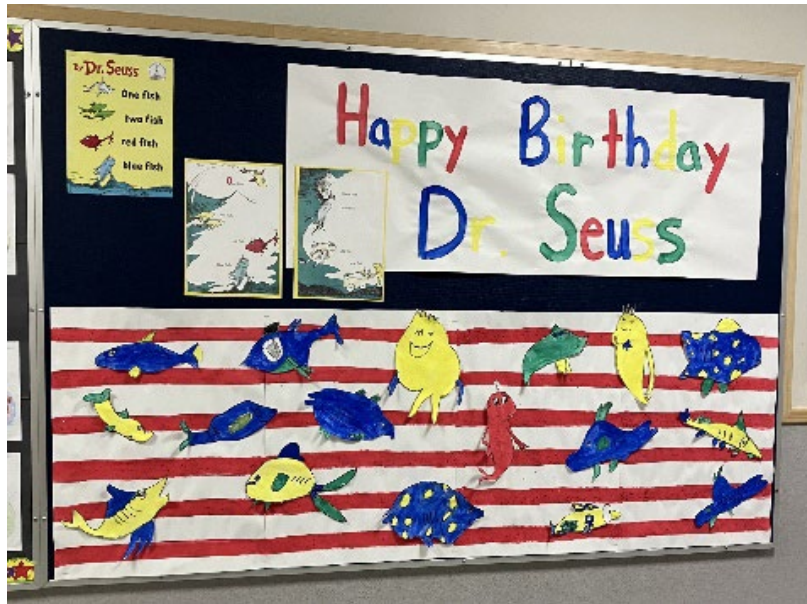




We also celebrated Pink Shirt Day with an assembly and Random Acts of Kindness.



The beloved author Dr. Seuss celebrated a birthday with fun rhyming books shared with classes. Even though we are not in school for St. Patrick's Day there were pots of gold spotted in OKL!



Clarence Fulton Secondary



Senior Boys and Coach Dale Olson are the North Zone Champions.



Students gather in Coldstream to hear mentors speak at the C.A.R.E kick off celebration. Here they are listening to ex Fulton teacher Al Gee as he explains projects his students completed.

AIAO learning about terrain stability and geology, and the glacial history of the region. Through these encounters, we not only gain knowledge but also continue to develop an appreciation for the interconnectedness of all living things and the vital importance of stewarding our environment for the well-being of future generations.

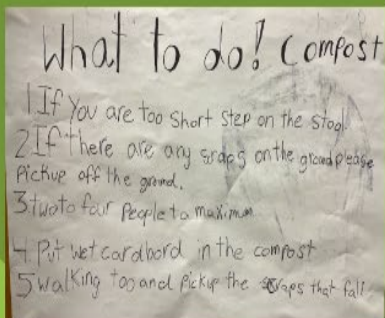


Kalamalka Family of Schools



Coldstream Elementary

COLDSTREAM ELEMENTARY- COMPOSTING, GROWING OUR FOOD, AND EXPLORING OUR environment



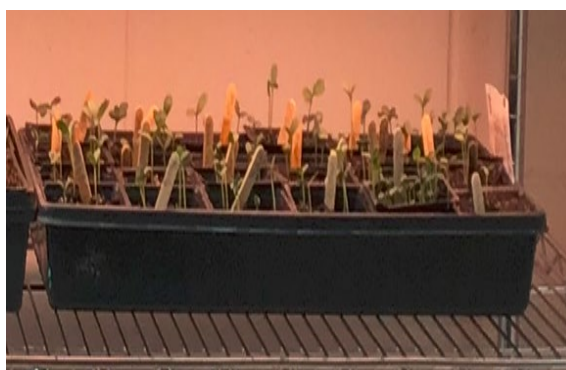
Coldstream Elementary has excitedly been planting seeds in our tower garden, refining our composting, and using our natural environment as a place to learn and explore.



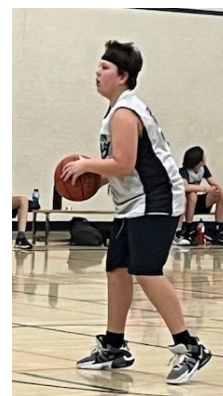


Kidston Elementary

Kidston has started planting seeds to get ready for our garden as spring is fast approaching. The plants are already sprouting!



One of our grade 7 boys basketball teams and our grade 7 girls' team are advancing on to districts. The final games were close, and our teams showed great teamwork and a lot of passing!





One of our grades 5/6 classes just completed a box project where they had to be creative to make something out of boxes, write about their boxes, and then share their creations and process that they went through in its creation!

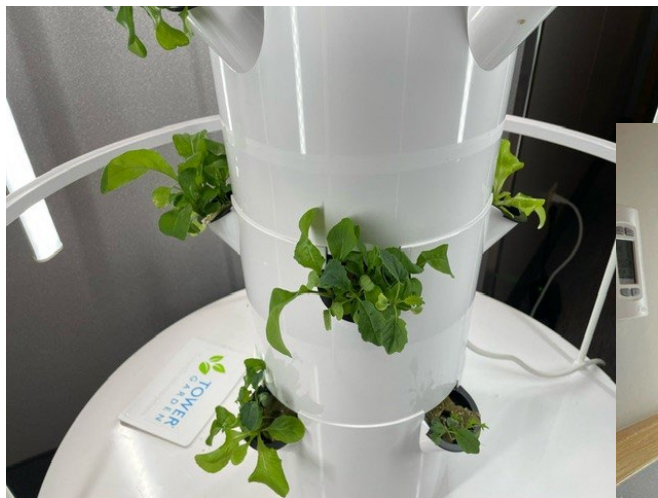




Lavington Elementary

Environmental Stewardship, climate action and food sustainability are important issues all year long, which is why Lavington staff and students are excited to have not only a wonderful outdoor learning garden, but also a brand-new, indoor grow tower.

Our tower has started conversations about space efficiency,





Kalamalka Secondary



Two of Kal's basketball teams went to provincials – we sent them off with a great pep rally! Here, two sets of siblings battle to build our school spirit!

Kal Outdoor Ed and Women's Fitness classes have been spending lots of great time learning outdoors – here they're enjoying a bluebird day at the rink!





Learning about ecological systems and resilience through arts and crafts with pine needles

The Kal Gr.11 and 12 Foods students are excited to take on CARE projects this year, looking at sustainability and environmental stewardship through the lens of food.





The first week of March was Kalabunga! Four sets of *house teams* battle in fun games to show off their school spirit through positive teamwork and collaboration.



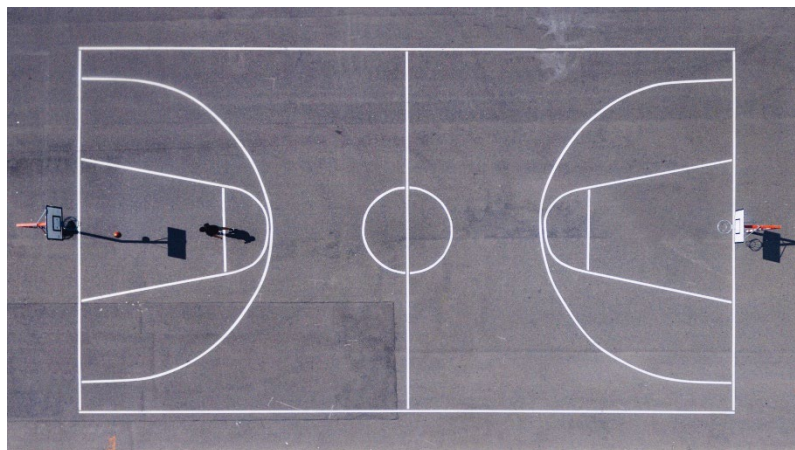
Bloom Family of Schools



Charles Bloom Secondary

Our Gr. 8s attended the inaugural C.A.R.E. presentation in Coldstream last week! Our students are working towards making Bloom and Lumby a more sustainable and “greener” environment. We have also ordered an additional 2 compost bins from Spa Hills Composting to help train both students and staff to consider the environment when throwing away waste and/or organic materials.

Our Bloom Senior Girls Basketball Team placed 9th at this year's 1A Provincial Championships! This squad of girls and coach Chad Romain also were presented with the 'Most Sportsmanlike Team' award at the tournament. We are so very proud of this group of young ladies!





Cherryville Elementary

Superintendents report March 2024

Cherryville students participated in the annual Winter Olympics. Students were placed in their house teams to compete at each event. The PAC was involved as well serving hot chocolate and food. Even the spectators joined in the fun at the end with a friendly tug of war.





School wide drumming lessons with Ms. Newton.



The grade 3-4 class were doing flint knapping with deer antler to create an arrowhead or spearhead.





J.W. Inglis Elementary

It has been a busy time out at JWI with students enjoying all the different weather changes. Students have been loving skating at the local rink and rolling giant snowballs! We like to think we are next leaders in eco-friendly snow vehicles. Patent pending.



Our grow tower is coming along nicely, and our Indigenous students have been working hard on their beading projects.



Spring is coming and we will be ready!

Indigenous Programs



Seaton Drum Group welcomed special guests Brad Baker, Associate Superintendent of Indigenous Education at the Ministry of Education and Childcare and Jennifer McRae, Assistant Deputy Minister at Ministry of Education and Childcare.

Brad Baker visited and sang with Alexis Park students.



Human Resources

The HR team has been busy in training sessions learning the new Edsembli Human Resources-Payroll system. We have also been meeting with school administration and district management planning for the upcoming 2024-25 staffing season.

In February we participated in a fun Valentine's event with the entire School Board office team. A big thank you to the SBO Social Committee for hosting this event and the Valentine's Gift card draw for staff. It was a great event to support staff wellness!





Career Programs



SD22 Dual Credit Welding students Axel, Mason, Parker, Cory and Nate are getting ready to test their skills in the Skills Canada Regional Competition being held at Okanagan College Kelowna on February 23, 2024.

SD22 sweeps the podium:

Bronze was won by Cory Mazymchuk



Silver was won by Mason Lloyd



Gold was won by Parker Levesque

Early Learning & Child Care

Young children have so many stories to tell!



Early Learning Success Teacher Allison Jmayoff has been walking alongside Early Childhood Educator Cori Novakowski at our Alexis Park JB4 Preschool to bring story workshop to life. Through play, children are developing their oral language skills, creativity, and vocabulary!

Preschool is full of new discoveries each day!

Over at Mission Hill preschool, Ms. Gail (ECE) has been inviting children into scientific discoveries. They've been learning all about how trees and plants collect water from their roots.



International

The Vernon International Student Program is rolling along after a great start to semester 2. The program is currently enjoying its largest student numbers ever and students are taking advantage of the fleeting moments of winter, while very much looking forward to spring and summer. Over recent weeks, students have enjoyed time at Silver Star Mountain Resort for a day of skiing and snowboarding, and a separate day of tubing, skating, and a hot dog/marshmallow roast at Tubetown. International Program students and staff really enjoyed these activities, and for many students, it was a chance to try these activities for the first time. Many students have also been lucky enough to enjoy travel with the host families in recent weeks, exploring many different parts of Canada.



Looking ahead, students are excited about the upcoming spirit weeks in high schools. These are always terrific opportunities for International Program students to get involved in the schools and display their skills and talents. Students and staff are also looking forward to Spring Break and our annual Rockies tour during the holidays.



Transportation

Congratulations Bruce Moore on your remarkable 34 years of service with SD22 in both the transportation department and custodial department! Such dedication, commitment, and impact on the community and the lives of students deserve all the recognition. Your hard work and contributions have undoubtedly made a difference. We are all wishing you the best as you embark on this exciting new phase of life!



IT

Some of you may have heard that our schools are updating their wireless. What you may not know is that the company we are working with has a commitment to sustainability and can help us move towards our sustainability goals by reducing our carbon footprint. As we make decisions in IT, we strive to work with partners that help us meet our sustainability goals and our WIFI upgrade is just one example of that.



Maintenance



Have a fabulous spring break!!