



Superintendent's Report to the Board October 16, 2024 **Dream. Believe. Achieve.**

October has been a month full of enriching learning experiences for both staff and students in SD22. This report highlights October's key events, including ongoing professional development in the district that aligns with The [Board's Strategic Plan](#). You will also find evidence of student engagement from Student Voice groups to enhance inclusive school environments. Additional highlights include schools' collaborative efforts with community members and partners to support student learning both inside and outside the walls of the school.

At the close of September, we observed Truth and Reconciliation Day, a time when students and staff engaged deeply with our shared history. This aspect of history was not part of my own K-12 education, so I am continuously learning and reflecting on our collective responsibility to "paddle together" as Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples towards a more equitable future. It is crucial that our commitments and acknowledgments transcend mere formality to truly embody reconciliation.



I wish to express my gratitude to the Elders and Knowledge Holders who generously shared their insights with us on our District Professional Learning Day, enabling our schools and classrooms to be places where *children can know who they are, where they come from, and where they are going* (Hon. Murray Sinclair). I also extend my appreciation to Director of Instruction, Charity Sakakibera, and her team for their dedicated efforts in advancing the vision of the district so that each child can Dream. Believe. Achieve. Limlimpt to this dedicated team.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karla Mitchell
Superintendent of Schools

Student Success

To provide many pathways for all students to pursue and achieve desired outcomes.

Reconciliation Week at ALP/Crossroads

ALP/Crossroads students spent a week focusing on Truth and Reconciliation activities. Students made pine needle baskets, painted Reconciliation rocks that will boarder the school entrance and engaged in meaningful discussions and activities led by staff and members of the Indigenous Education Department. This culminated in Orange Shirt Day on Friday the 26th.



Servant Leadership at BX Elementary

In September, the Leadership Students at BX Elementary School collaborated with the Salvation Army to support the local food bank.



They organized a school-wide food drive to address the shortage of food supplies, particularly around Thanksgiving. The leadership team, consisting of Lotte, Katie, Norah, Arya, and others, communicated with parents and guardians, urging them to donate non-perishable food items such as canned goods, dried fruit, granola bars, pasta, and rice. They emphasized the importance of donating unopened and non-perishable items, providing collection boxes in each classroom and a red container at the school's front entrance for convenience. The initiative highlighted the

pressing need, with over 100 families in Vernon relying on the food bank daily. The students encouraged even small contributions, stressing that every item could make a difference for families in need. The food drive was scheduled to run from Tuesday to Friday of the following week.

Student Engagement at Fulton Secondary

Fulton's Student Success goal is to foster a culture of academic excellence and personal growth, empowering students to achieve their full potential and pursue meaningful futures. This fall Fulton students have been feeling successful as they work on the writing process. They analyzed information from a scientific article and compared that information to a short story written by syilx author Jeanette Armstrong. During this process they learned the Mi'kmaq term 'etuaptmumk' which means "Two-Eyed Seeing". Two eyed seeing speaks to how people can examine a situation from both an Indigenous view and a western world view. Students learned that syilx knowledge holders provide a wealth of local knowledge. Students could demonstrate their learning in various formats. This learning activity falls within the communications core competency and the social awareness and responsibility competency.

Fulton students continued to experience success as they worked on the interconnectedness of all things science. Students used their knowledge of acids and bases from chemistry classes and brought that knowledge to the 'buffer lab' in Anatomy 12. They learned the concept of pH regulation in the human body. Buffers are crucial in maintaining the body's pH, which is essential for proper physiological function. They learned new skills as they created a pH gradient.



Student Success

To provide many pathways for all students to pursue and achieve desired outcomes.



Student Voice at VSS

VSS is dedicated to promoting an environment where students feel prioritized and supported. The VSS Student Voice group aims to enhance belonging and community within the school. Despite being a small group of students and one teacher, they meet weekly to focus on student wellness and inclusivity. They gather feedback from students to plan events and work with staff and administration to address student concerns. Student Voice organizes events to engage students in social and environmental issues, promoting

diverse topics to resonate with all students. Initiatives include promoting Orange Shirt Day and the Moosehide Campaign through merchandise and informational booths. They conduct an Anti-Racism week with events like movie nights and promotion materials to promote understanding. Additionally, they emphasize Earth Day in April and Pride Week in June. VSS appreciates the efforts of the Student Voice Group in creating a supportive and inclusive school community!

Pictograph Project at Alexis Park

I was excited to attend the Truth & Reconciliation assembly on Friday, September 27, which was followed by classroom activities that focused on the actions that each of us can take towards meaningful reconciliation. As part of this learning, each student painted a rock with an image or word that symbolized what reconciliation meant to them or an action that they could commit to doing. Instead of the orange rock activity, OKIB students in Grades 5, 6, & 7 worked with Indigenous Success Teacher, Ben Louis and ISW Kari-Ann Hepting to learn about Okanagan pictographs. These students painted larger rocks with their own pictographs representing what being Okanagan meant to them.



After reviewing vLearn's Middle Years data and consulting with students and families about the transition from elementary to secondary, a need for supportive changes was recognized. This resulted in the implementation of a blended learning middle years cohort model this school year. In this model, a single teacher manages all Grade 8 and 9 core academic subjects online, promoting student connection through field trips, activities, regular check-ins, and online meetings. The Middle Years Cohort began with enthusiasm. Students enjoyed collaborative learning, sharing experiences, and outdoor activities. Interaction with staff, including Kona, the support dog, was especially beneficial. Students learned to pace their schoolwork and create personal schedules for success. Academically, they engaged in numeracy games, analyzed short stories, and discussed Reconciliation in the context of the Okanagan and Vernon. Community exploration included a library tour and participation in a mock election. Engagement levels are high, with expectations for more educational and social experiences. Appreciation is extended to teacher Marieke Jacobi for leading this group.

Leadership Excellence

To empower all staff to contribute to organizational excellence in the service of student success.

Upgrades at Lavington

If you have been in Lavington Elementary lately, you have likely noticed the massive project that is underway at the school. District Operational Staff is working hard to upgrade the facility to support long-term student success, and everyone cannot wait to see the final product!

As a staff, we collaborated throughout September and used data informed decision making to allocate our resources and supports for the year, and we have been bringing a Syilx focus to our indigenous teachings, as well as to how we recognize students.



OKIB Flag Unveiling at Ellison Elementary



On September 16th, Ellison Elementary hosted a ceremony to unveil the OKIB flag, which was installed on the gym wall. The school was honored to host

Elder, Pauline Gregoire-Archacan, who opened the ceremony and welcomed all present to the territory. OKIB Band Council members Allan Louis and Viola Brown spoke about the importance of the flag. ISW, Bobbi Cotter, along with several OKIB students, led everyone in the Okanagan Song once the flag was unveiled. It was such a special moment for the whole school community. Raising the OKIB flag at Ellison is an important step for the school community; one of the school

goals at Ellison is to ensure that all members of the school community are respected and included and that every voice is heard and valued. The installation of the OKIB flag serves an important role in honouring the local Indigenous community. I was so pleased to be invited to participate in this important school community event.

Student Leadership at Silver Star Elementary

At Silver Star Elementary, the motto "Tomorrow's Stars are Here Today" encapsulates the mission to inspire and nurture a community of lifelong learners. These learners are encouraged to communicate effectively, think creatively, solve problems, collaborate, and understand their personal and social responsibilities. These guiding principles drives the creation of opportunities for students to develop leadership skills. With these principles in mind, grade seven students participate in morning announcements, welcoming staff and students while sharing daily events. They also contribute to setting up and leading school assemblies, emphasizing kindness, compassion, empathy, and monthly goals and virtues.

Each division, following a shared schedule, is responsible for maintaining tidy school grounds and beautiful gardens. Additionally, buddy classes collaborate to support learning and growth among younger students. A student leadership group, initiated by a grade 6/7 teacher, is eager to assume various roles within the school, promoting further opportunities for all students to excel as leaders.

Leadership Excellence

To empower all staff to contribute to organizational excellence in the service of student success.

Learning Department Mentorship Program

SD22 has a strong history of building Leadership Excellence through teacher mentorship. The [Teacher Mentorship Program](#) is a 3-year program for teachers new to the profession, new to the district, or new to an educator role. Mentees are assigned to mentors to connect and collaborate providing opportunity to build collegial relationships, professional networks and engage in the SD22 professional learning ecosystem. Funds are provided to each mentee/mentor partnership to encourage collaboration and time for connecting with each other and can take many forms, including co-planning lessons or structures, observing one another's classroom, reflecting and revising over coffee or meals, exploring a key resource or manipulative or new structure, meeting with other mentors to discuss ways in which to support mentees, or meeting in small groups with a shared interest or goal. This program also provides a leadership opportunity for experienced teachers to support new teachers as they enter the profession or are new to SD22.



This year's Mentorship Program currently has 16 mentees and 14 mentors. The program is facilitated through the leadership of Jen Carter (Learning Coordinator). This year's kick-off took place in early October at the Allen Brooks Centre with time provided for mentees and mentors to connect and begin thinking about the opportunities where they might connect over the year. It is encouraging to see Leadership Excellence through colleagues building networks, engaging in professional learning, and supporting one another.

Excellence in the Innovation and Technology Department

Our IT department's collaboration with educators and technicians has produced significant initiatives that demonstrate a commitment to **Leadership Excellence**. Impactful collaboration with the Learning Department to create a professional learning application ensures that educators have seamless access to professional learning opportunities, which is a key aspect of leadership development. By adding these offerings to the school's weekly bulletin, the department has improved session attendance and engagement in professional development opportunities, encouraging a culture of continuous learning and growth.

IT has also partnered with neighboring school districts to organize and host the [Innovate-ED Conference](#). With this conference, we have engaged over 2,000 educators from across the Okanagan and beyond in powerful stories of learning and innovation. We continue to receive incredible feedback on the valuable learning sessions, keynotes, and more from these events. This year's event, Innovate-ED24, will be hosted at Kelowna Secondary School on October 25, 2024, coinciding with the Provincial October Professional Development Day. The theme for this year's event is "Students @ the Centre," focusing on innovative learning.

The district-wide implementation of Canva for Education and making Seesaw available to all elementary teachers highlights the department's proactive approach to leveraging technology for educational improvement. This initiative not only supports content creation but also aligns with the strategic goal of keeping student learning at the forefront of planning and implementation of innovation.

Overall, the department's efforts in innovation and technology exemplify the principles of **Leadership Excellence** by promoting professional growth, driving strategic initiatives, and maintaining a focus on student learning and development.

Community Connections

To build strong relationships amongst all community members in the service of student success.

Early Learning and Child Care

In our five Preschool programs, ECEs are building meaningful relationships and promoting strong communities among the three- and four-year-olds with our new Social-Emotional Learning curriculum. With an early focus on *Welcoming*, children are learning that greeting each other every morning shows care and helps everyone feel a sense of belonging. ELCC staff have also been building relationships and learning together through various professional learning opportunities. During the September non-instructional day, staff gathered for a syilx-focused afternoon, exploring meaningful Indigenous early years resources and ways to incorporate them into play invitations for young children.

In October, ELCC staff attended the Métis Early Years Conference to celebrate Métis culture and language in early childhood settings. Focused on “Creating Strong Roots for the Future of our Children through Language, Literacy, and Storytelling,” ECEs engaged in rich learning experiences to bring back to their programs while connecting with the broader ECE and Métis community. We are grateful to Leah Dorion, Métis artist and teacher, for reminding us to always put children at the center of all we do in our early years programs. We eagerly anticipate an upcoming workshop on October 25th, where ECE Recruitment & Retention Specialists from Métis Nation BC (MNBC) will collaborate with our department to provide invaluable learning for our ELCC staff using the language and culture kits MNBC recently placed in all StrongStart BC programs.



Inclusive Education: Community Volunteerism at the Connections Program

Students in the SD22 Connections Program have been incredibly helpful in volunteering for The Good Food Box Society. Their dedication and enthusiasm have significantly contributed to the success of this volunteer-run program. By assisting with various tasks, from sorting and packing fresh local vegetables and fruits to helping with distribution efforts, these students help ensure that affordable, high-quality produce reaches community members. Their efforts not only enhance access to nutritious food but also strengthen our local food system through valuable community partnerships. The students' commitment to this cause exemplifies the positive impact of volunteerism and community engagement within the Connections Program.

WL Seaton Secondary

This month, Seaton students had the invaluable opportunity to engage with representatives from leading post-secondary institutions during information sessions. Universities such as Okanagan College and UBC Okanagan, along with other esteemed universities, showcased their diverse programs and pathways for future success. These sessions serve as a vital springboard for students to set personalized goals within their MyBlueprint electronic portfolios, encouraging a proactive approach to their educational journeys. Under the leadership of Mrs. Jorgensen, Career Programs continues to be an accessible resource for all students, with an impressive 36% of students participating in Career programs coming from WL Seaton.



The Seaton School community demonstrated remarkable support for our graduating class of 2025 by raising over \$1,500 through a successful bottle drop-off event. This initiative not only encourages student engagement in the importance of recycling but also highlights the generosity of the community.

Looking ahead, WL Seaton is excited to participate in the upcoming Student Vote during the provincial election, providing students with a hands-on opportunity to engage in the democratic process. Furthermore, classes are gearing up for the CARE (Climate Action Ripple Effect) projects throughout the year. Last year, over 80 students enthusiastically took on various initiatives, showcasing their commitment to environmental stewardship and social responsibility. Together, these activities reflect the school's dedication to community involvement and the holistic development of students.

Mission Hill

On Thursday, September 19th Mission Hill school hosted a family BBQ, with Silver Star Rotary, Mission Hill PAC and the Leadership Students from Mission Hill. The school is so grateful to the Silver Star Rotary who provided over 460 meals for free. The Mission Hill PAC also organized carnival games for students, parents and other family and friends to participate in during the BBQ. PAC was also able to secure many donations from various businesses and families in the community and they were given out as prizes to the families that attended. Most of the leadership students in grade 6/7 came and volunteered



many Mission Hill Staff also attended the BBQ and they also brought their families to enjoy in the evening. Mission Hill School is better, stronger and more vibrant when we can come together to play,

celebrate, learn and share food. Thank you to all the families, businesses, Silver Star Rotary and other volunteers who came to make the evening fantastic.

Orange Shirt Day at Okanagan Landing

On Friday, September 27th OKL gathered as a school community to recognize Orange Shirt Day. Under the leadership and direction of ISW, Mrs. Kathy Morgan and music teacher, Ms. Lauren Eikerman, students sang an Indigenous Children's Blessing song. A group of OKL Indigenous students also played drums while the school community sang. This was a moving experience and meaningful way to honor such an important day.

Harwood Elementary School

Harwood is excited to be hosting their first Harwood Community Parent Night on October 17th. This evening will be a wonderful opportunity to connect, learn, and collaborate with district, community partners and families. The keynote speaker, parenting expert Aly Pain, will share some tips for effective parenting. Harwood is also hosting Brad Ogasawara, District Technology Innovation Coordinator, who will be offering a workshop on Internet Safety. Rhiannon Brunello, SD22 Learning Coordinator, will also offer a workshop about economical, fun ways to explore, engage and teach your child.

International Student Program

The SD22 International Student Program (ISP) emphasizes collaboration with community and global partners. The year commenced with a successful partnership with the district's Students Without Borders Academy (SWBA), which hosted an annual activities afternoon and BBQ for international program students, staff, and host families. Students enjoyed meeting peers and having a BBQ with their families.

ISP also collaborates locally to provide students with opportunities to explore Vernon and its surroundings. Recently, students visited Oyama Aerial Park and will soon experience O'Keefe Ranch's Field of Screams and a trip to Vancouver.

Global collaborations are crucial to the ISP's success. Recently, two Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) were signed with schools in Bangkok and Thailand, which will send students to Vernon in the future. Such partnerships significantly benefit the program, schools, and community.

Hillview - Community Connections

It has been a busy time at Hillview while building and connecting with the community this Fall. The school kicked off the school year welcoming families back to Hillview with the annual open house, which had an amazing turnout of approximately 280 visitors.

Staff and students also participated in the Terry Fox Run by running a great route around the community and raising just over \$800 for the Terry Fox Foundation. The Hillview Heroes continued to give back to the community by raising over 83 lbs. of non-perishable food items for the local food drive showing that kindness really does matter, and every little bit helps. The school community enjoyed their first spirit assembly where they honoured Orange Shirt Day



and committed to the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action by collectively learning and practicing important sylix words that will be brought into the everyday school environment.

Student and Community Engagement at J.W. Inglis Elementary

The academic year to date at J.W. Inglis Elementary has been busy with a series of activities, including a very successful Terry Fox Run, Welcome Back BBQ, and Cross-Country events, all of which have contributed to an exciting and engaging fall. J.W.I extends a heartfelt thanks to the PAC for organizing a successful and well attended BBQ, and the community for their support in raising over \$800 for the



Terry Fox Foundation.

From the outset of the year, the school achieved an impressive 99% attendance rate, consistently maintaining that rate at over 90%. This high attendance rate reflects the students' desire to be part of the school community and their strong connection to the school. Staff members are committed to ensuring that each student has a positive and enriching school experience, a commitment shared by the entire Lumby community.