

Superintendent Report
December 2023
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.

Superintendent Report - December 2023

Happy Holidays to all. Thank you all for a terrific start-up and Fall in School District 22. Thank you especially to our students and staff. We wish you and yours a wonderful holiday season. Be sure to take in our many school markets, concerts, and celebrations leading up to the break. Over Winter Break (December 22 – January 8), we hope each of you gets some much-deserved rest and can enjoy delicious festive feasts with family and friends. Be safe.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) - There are many things coming at us around Artificial Intelligence and it is important for us to inform ourselves and learn about this transformational tool. These links provide a couple of places to start to help with our learning and the video helps to set the stage.

[The AI Revolution Video](#)

[Principals for AI in Education](#)

[Put Educators and Students in the Driver's Seat](#)

[Commonsense Media-AI Initiative](#)

B.C. School Trustees Academy (BCSTA) – November 23 – 25, 2023

Chair Olsen, Vice-Chair Sullivan, Trustees Acton, Comazzetto, Mindnich, Williamson, Secretary-Treasurer Johnson, and Superintendent Perkins attended the Academy. Keynote speaker was **Rose LeMay**, CEO, of the Indigenous Reconciliation Group. LeMay is Tlingit from the Taku River Tlingit First Nation in Northern British Columbia. She is an accomplished speaker with over 20 years of experience in policy and program development in health and mental health development in government and non-profit sectors. LeMay was the founding chair of the Wharērātā (fare'eh rata) Group, an international network of Indigenous leaders and their allies working in mental health and addictions. She is also a Certified First Nations Health Manager and Certified in Prosci Change Management. Rose is a board member on the Canadian Coalition for Police Reform.

Other speakers and topics included: **Rachna Singh** - Minister of Education and Child Care; **Michael Kusugak** - *Inuit, Who are We?*; Student Voice; **Mike McKay** - Good Governance in Complex Times: What is Takes for Boards to Make a Positive Difference; **Chas Desjarlais** - Blanket Exercise: Exploring Historical Relationship between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Peoples; **Dr. Vladan Prodanovic** and others - Reducing GHG Emissions on BC Public Schools; **Jordan Tinney** - Improving Student Outcomes: Unpacking Evidence; and **Christian Gonzales Becerra, Conor Morris, and Jennifer McCrea** - Implementing the Declaration Act Action Plan and BC Tripartite Education Agreement; and many others.

B.C. School Superintendent's Association - BCSSA (Okanagan Zone) – Senior district educators attended the Okanagan Zone meetings on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1. The Zone hosted regional table talks on Child Care and Early Learning, Curriculum and Assessment, Leadership and Human Resources, Inclusive and Indigenous Education and Enhancing the Learning and Strategic Planning. In addition to a business meeting, there was professional learning related to the BCSSA Competencies and Change Leadership.

Career Program Opportunities:

Jean Minguy Memorial RCMP Academy - applications now open. Takes place **May 11-17, 2024**. Any interested students should contact their Career Coordinator for more information. Applications are due January 31st.

Mini Med School - Do you work with students who are passionate about science and health research? On behalf of BC Children's Hospital, I would like to invite you and your grade 10-12 students to attend the following spring programs:

- Mini Science Night Salmon Arms – May 2, 2024 | 6:00 – 7:30 pm | SASCU Recreation Center (Auditorium), 2600 - 10th Avenue NE, Salmon Arm
- Mini Med School Vernon – May 3, 2024 | 8:30 am – 3:30 pm | Prestige Vernon Lodge & Conference Centre, 3914 32nd Street, Vernon

Mini Science Night & Mini Med School are BC Children's Hospital health science youth outreach programs that connect high school students with big ideas, big discoveries, and big names in health research. Presented by world-class researchers, clinicians, and health professionals, these programs include a diverse curriculum that highlights leading-edge medical research, explores a variety of careers in health sciences, and offers the opportunity to participate in hands-on science.

Okanagan Indian Band (OKIB) – Chief and Council have invited the Board of Education and senior staff to Head of the Lake for a joint session on our **Local Education Agreement (LEA)** on December 15th. We look forward to sharing and learning together at that event.

Trustees on Tour – Our Board of Education travelled to **Kalamalka Family of Schools** (Lavington Elementary, Coldstream Elementary, Kidston Elementary, and Kalamalka Secondary) on November 29th. Thank you to all Principals, Vice-Principals, staffs, and students at all four schools for hosting. The visits were both informative and celebratory.

Scholarship & Bursary Celebration – On the evening of November 29th, SD 22 hosted our scholarship and bursary donors, and their friends, for an informal celebration thanking them for their kindness and generosity in supporting our graduates as they transition from public school to post-secondary programs. Many of our students would not be able to attend post-secondary with the generous donation for our scholarships and bursaries. Thank you to all for your continued enthusiasm and support of School District 22.

Winter Break – We wish every one of you a wonderful Winter Break.

- Our last day of classes is **Thursday, December 21, 2023**.
- Our first day back is **Monday, January 8, 2024**.

Seaton Family of Schools:



Alexis Park Elementary



Grade 6 and 7 students helped with our Remembrance Day assembly by delivering short speeches and reciting "In Flanders Fields". Three of our indigenous students drummed while an indigenous poem called "A Warriors' Call" was read.





Ms. Martin's class was busy making poppies for their bulletin board.



Intermediate students had the opportunity to participate in the "No Stone Left Alone" Program, which is a program to educate students about Canada's rich history of service to country and to remember our fallen by placing the Legion symbol of remembrance, the poppy, at each veteran's headstone.



Kindergarten students were keenly engaged in learning how to follow recipes. Students were excited to sing in music class on the round carpet.



Grade 1, 2, and 3 students had the opportunity to go skating at Kal Tire Place. We are very fortunate to attend school right across the road from this facility.



Members of the Vernon Vipers came to a Kindergarten and grade 1 and 2 class to read with our students.



Beairsto Elementary

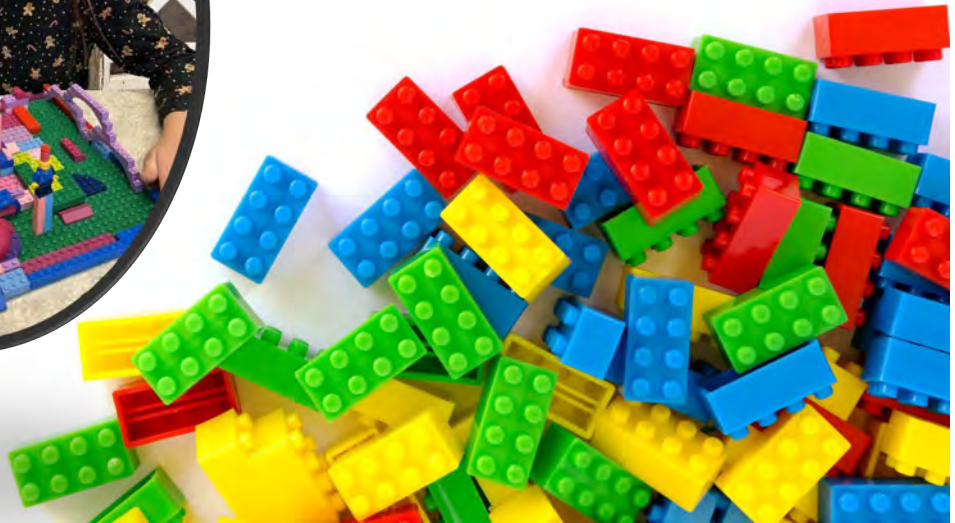
Beairsto students recognized Remembrance Day by attending an assembly with a focus on peace and kindness.

During the assembly, students were introduced to George McLean, an OKIB soldier who earned the British Distinguished Conduct Medal for his bravery and service in WW1.





There was also lots of joyful learning all around the school this month. Some students showed their learning by building Lego models together.



The Beairsto intermediate choir, led by Mme Baturin also showed their joy of learning in a different way by performing a song at the Kalamalka Rotary Dream Auction.





We keep “crankin’ up the heat” here at Harwood heading into December! We had a WONDERFUL Remembrance Day assembly where we honored our Veterans and our Indigenous Veterans local to the community.



Next, we finished up another strong season for the Harwood Heat volleyball teams!

A huge thank you to all the coaches volunteering their time to help our student athletes develop their skills and their love for volleyball.



At Harwood, we celebrated the upcoming colder temperatures by having a treat of warm “mini donuts” for our staff and students! They were delicious!



Lastly, part of our school focus, we have been learning about the 7 Grandfather teachings and have been focusing on the Eagle. The representation of love. We decided to show love towards creating men's cancer awareness by hosting a riveting moustache assembly and moustache day.

Can't wait to see how we crank of the heat in the upcoming month.



W.L. Seaton Secondary

Halloween fun....



and spooky food....



Class Remembrance Day display



Seaton and Harwood students collaborating on improving community.



Vernon Family of Schools



VLearn

vLearn continues to foster strong engagement and connections with our students both at school and within the community. This past month we were fortunate to have many opportunities to create lasting memories and core learning experiences.



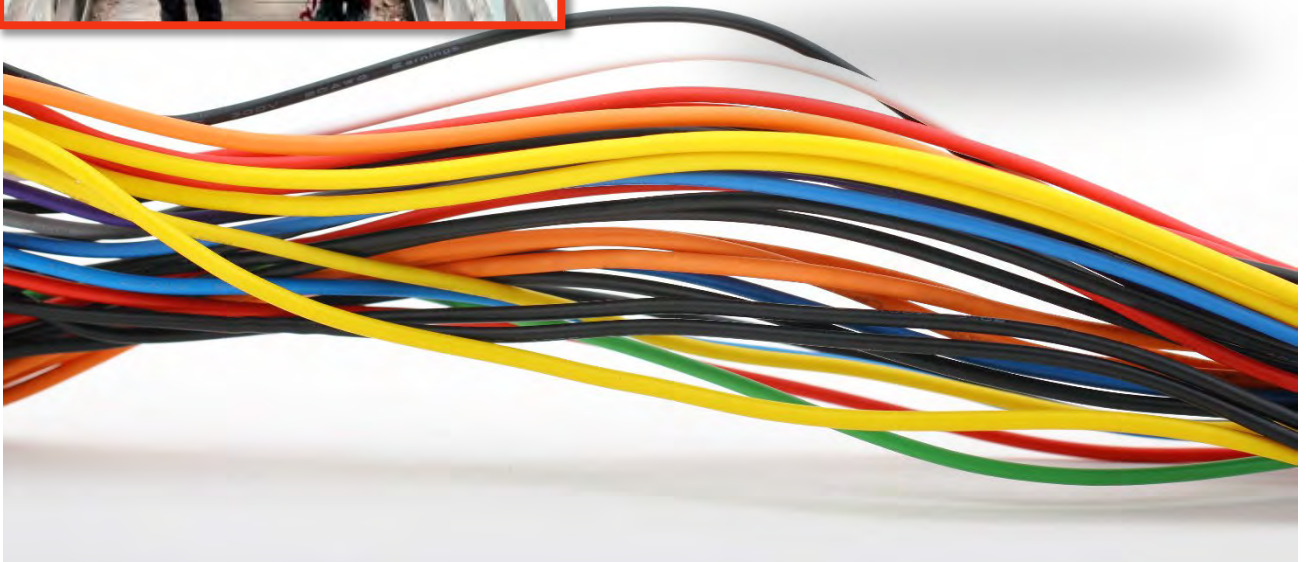


ALP/CrossRoads

Take a Hike kids at North Okanagan Therapeutic Riding.



ALP students out on adventures.





BX Elementary

Students completely ran our Remembrance Day Assembly, and they did a fantastic job. Sixteen students of different ages took on leadership roles to make the assembly a thoughtful event. A special thank you to our wonderful MCs of the assembly: Ira, Emma, Evan, and Norah. We had almost 100 parents and extended family attend the assembly. Our choir, conducted by Ms. J, performed a moving rendition of In Flanders Fields with an amazing solo intro by Arya. Mrs. Rivard's/Parilak's and Mrs. Cooke's/Nakucyj's classes sang I have Peace in My Fingers. One of our lovely Noon Hour Supervisors, Ms. Romy, shared with the school about her experience as a Veteran and the importance of Remembrance Day.





The whole school is working on preparing for our school's winter concert, and our grade 6s and 7s are now getting ready for a young entrepreneur fair and the coming basketball season.

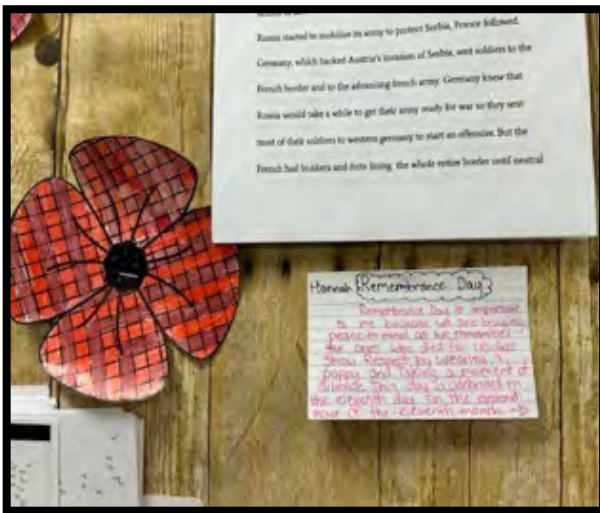
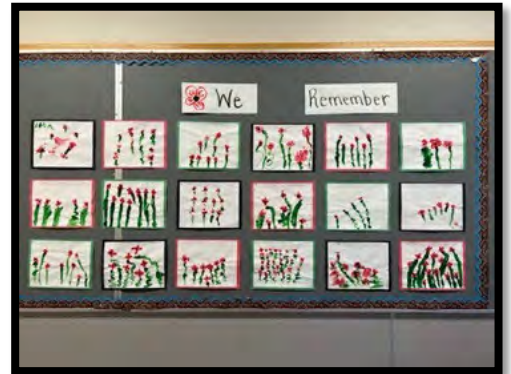


COMMON POPPY



Hillview Elementary

Hillview enjoyed a beautiful ceremony of Remembrance, which was emceed by four of our grade 7 students. Our choir performed "In Flanders Fields" in song, some Gr. 6/7 students shared their personal reflections about "Why they Remember," and Mrs. Johnson's class shared their thoughts on what "Peace is.."



The ceremony concluded with the whole school singing "We are the World," led by our school choir.





Silver Star Elementary

At Silver Star, we had an amazing, respectful Remembrance Day Assembly led by students. Classroom wreaths were laid; our Cadets, Girl Guides, and Scouts held a special place of honour; and poems, songs, and stories were shared and celebrated together.





Vernon Secondary School

Our leadership students who helped organize and run the Remembrance Day Assembly and ...



... our guests
entering the gym
for the assembly.

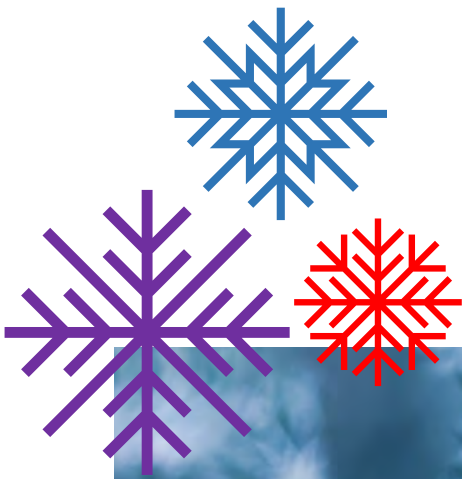


Senior Girls VB Team won the Valleys and are off to Dawson Creek for Provincials. Congratulations to both our Junior and Senior Football teams who are also going to provincials as well as our Junior A VB team.

Go Panthers!



Home Ec students are excited to have the opportunity to paint chairs for the Vernon Winter Carnival. Looking forward to seeing their finished winter themed creations.



Fulton Family of Schools



Ellison Elementary

Students and teachers at Ellison learned about, and celebrated Diwali, the Hindu Festival of Lights, by bringing in community members and traditional foods. Students presented music and created Rangoli patterns as a way to honor the festival.



We honored Remembrance Day and our veterans with a whole school assembly where all of our students took to song with messages of kindness and peace.



Mission Hill Elementary

Mr. Beck, Ms. Ellis, and Mr. Soons' classes participated in the No Stone Left Alone. Mr. Beck and one of our students were interviewed for a Castanet piece. Student led Remembrance Day Ceremony held at the school. Students did a great job.



Three students presented at the Board Meeting Nov.6th.



Okanagan Landing

Okanagan Landing student had a wonderful Remembrance Day assembly on November 9th, 2023.

One of our intermediate classes performed Imagine in ASL-sign language.



The students from each class created a wreath that was then brought to the front of the gym and put on display.



Earlier in the week we celebrated the opening of our new playground. Our PAC President and one of our teachers cut the ribbon! Staff were given the turn first to play on the great new structure.



November 9th Metis Bev visited our school to speak with some of our classes about the Metis culture and to teach them how to dance a jig.



Our school practice some safety drills in November. We did a Hold and Secure and a Lock Down drill with our students. We were lucky enough to have RCMP support for these drills.





Clarence Fulton Secondary

Fulton gathering as a school community to observe Remembrance Day. We honor the brave men and women who sacrificed so much for peace and freedom. By treating each other with kindness and respect we can honor the spirit of Remembrance Day and create a more peaceful and just world.



Butchering a deer in foods class.



Fulton's grade eight humanities class has been working hard on literacy with our buddies at Ellison. Students have spent the last three weeks compiling, a short story, written by the little buddies, guided by the big buddies. Making connections out in the Landing.



Kalamalka Family of Schools

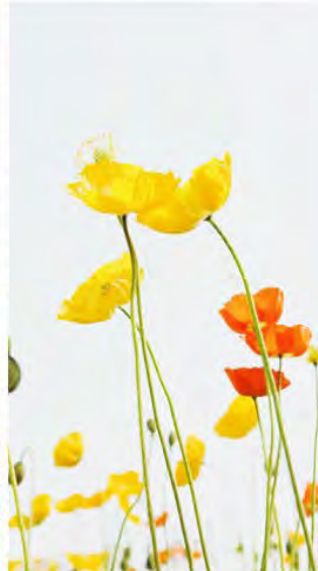


Coldstream Elementary



Remembrance Day at Coldstream was a beautiful ceremony run by our students. Grade 1 and 2 students signed 'Oh Canada' as we all sang along. Kindergarteners sang in front of the entire audience, grade 4's recited Flanders Fields and grade 7's played Halleluiah by Lenard Cohen on the drums and guitar. Together we honoured the past and talked about how we can work together towards a peaceful and kind future.

Featured in the photos are our two student masters of ceremonies, Trustee Sullivan and Mayor Hoyte.





Kidston Elementary

This month of November we cherish peace, as we foster a sense of respect, gratitude, and empathy, for our veterans and those who continue to serve.

Jonny Bolton, Grade 6/7



Each Remembrance Day I bring in artifacts that belonged to my grandfather who fought on D-Day during the Normandy Invasion. Among the artifacts is an incendiary bomb that fell on my great aunt and uncle's house during the London blitz, a heavy artillery shell that struck near where my grandfather was sleeping, a badge taken from a German soldier, and an encyclopedia of WW1 written in 1918. These artifacts allow me to share personal stories of my grandfather's sacrifice and it encourages students to discuss and discover their own family histories related to Remembrance Day.

Kelly Wilson, Grade 3



Our class researched numerous Indigenous Veterans in Canada. We learned about aspects of each Veteran's history, and of their bravery and special skill sets that were instrumental in helping the Allied Forces win the wars. Canada's Indigenous veterans were instrumental in helping the Allied Forces win both wars. It is for these reasons and many more, that our class proudly honours and remembers our Indigenous veterans.

Brittany McMillan, Grade 6/7



Remembrance Day holds a special place in my heart. My husband served as an infantryman in the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. He was deployed on two tours - Bosnia and Afghanistan. In fact, he was the first tour to go to Afghanistan following the attacks of 9/11. I have so much respect and gratitude to all who served and continue to serve. They are the reason we live in such a safe and free country. Lest we forget. To the left is a picture of my class attending the No Stone Left Alone service at the Coldstream Cemetery (Nathan Betz - Veteran [Artillery - Afghanistan tour]).



Kalamalka Secondary



Kal's Mathletes Club held their first ever meeting this month where they worked on difficult and complex math problems. They're currently practicing to write several math competitions in the new year. Way to go Kal Mathletes!

Kal students working on their core competency reflections – thumbs up for good critical thinking skills!



Gr.9 art students at Kal worked with different media to produce amazing drawings and sculptures of jellies – here's one of many!

Kal's Sr Boys Soccer team headed off to Provincials in Burnaby through the week of November 20-24. They played their hearts out and represented our school and district well.



Bloom Family of Schools



Charles Bloom Secondary

Remembrance Day Poppies made creatively, and with honour, from one of our French 8 classes.



One of our Gr. 9 students
pridefully displaying their
latest creation from Wood-
Working class. Amazing
job!!!



Our Bloom team engaging in the 'joys of learning' at our past District Pro-D Day. Working on strategies to enhance student accountability, and reminding ourselves as educators to acknowledge the positive behaviours we witness while also correcting and using restorative practices. Keeping with our school slogan for this year: "Moving from GREAT to GREATER!"





Cherryville Elementary

Remembrance Art:

Grade 1/2/3 class - Ms. Rondeau



Grade 3/4 - Ms. Brookes



Grade 5/6 - Ms. Alexander - Poppy art with stories of war heroes on the backside researched and read aloud by students.



Student Presentations at the
Remembrance Day Assembly





J.W. Inglis Elementary

JWI had the pleasure of hosting Métis Bev where she shared her teachings in an interactive way for the whole school to enjoy in respect to Métis week.



Indigenous Programs

Métis Bev visited students at Coldstream, Kidston, JWI, and OKL in November and shared stories, songs, and taught students how to jig.



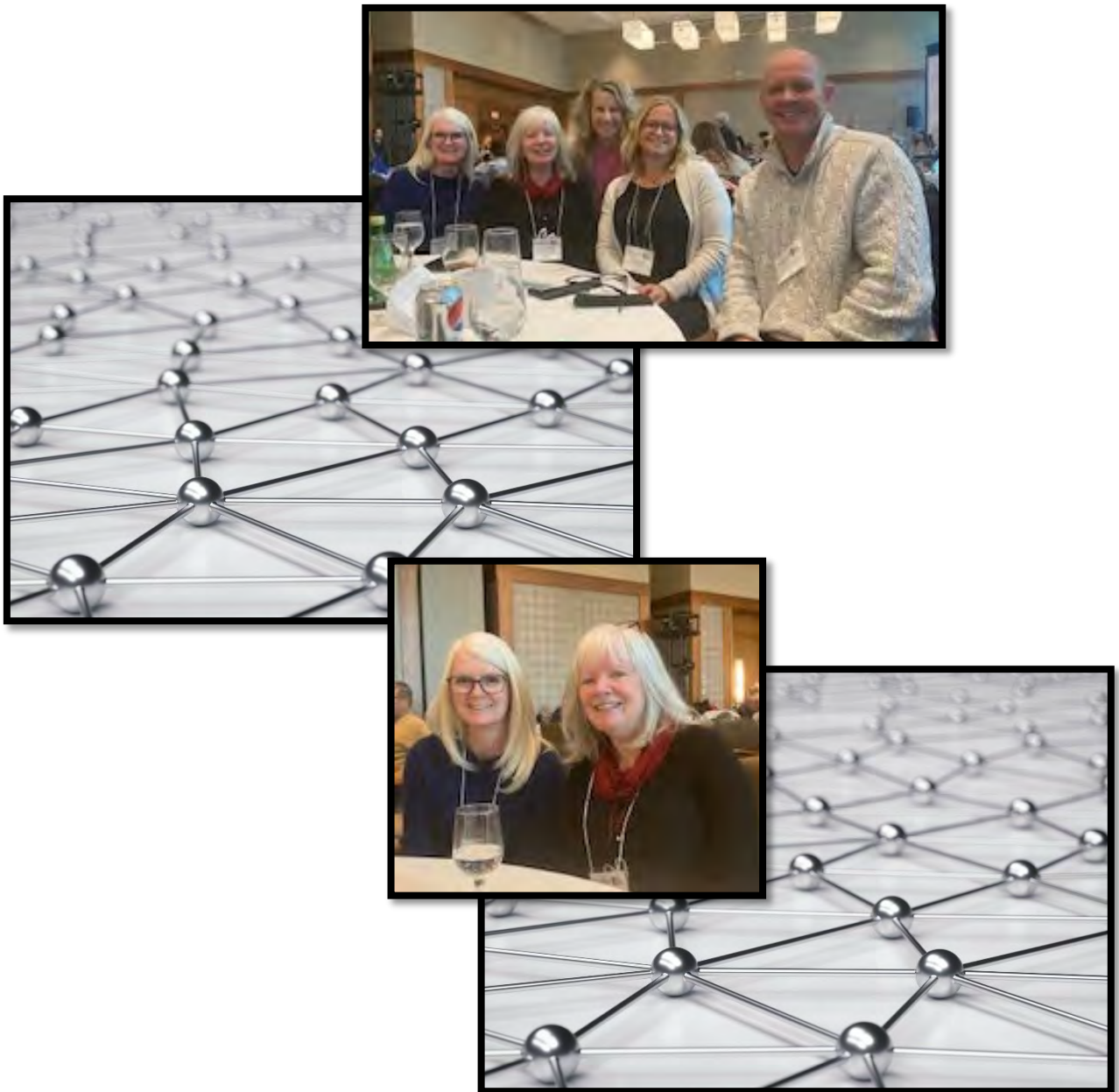
Additionally, Métis Bev worked with the Indigenous department on the professional day to learn more about Métis culture, history, and again dance the jig.



Human Resources

In early November Human Resources began the recruiting of student teachers who will be graduating this December. This included both a face-to-face information session on October 30 and virtual session on November 6.

Also in early November, members of the Human Resources team attended the BCPSEA Symposium in Vancouver with Dr. Perkins and Trustee Sullivan.



As part of our District Employee Recognition Program, Human Resources also recognized the following Early Learning Program staff for their outstanding work so far this year in supporting and developing outstanding Early Learning and Childcare (ELCC) Programs.

- For **Leadership Excellence** - Tanya Barnard, *District Secretary Early Learning and Childcare*
- For **Student Success** - Darlene Norman, *ELCC Responsible Adult*
- For **Student Success** - Jennifer McLay, *ELCC teacher*
- For **Student Success** - LaRae Moisson, *ELCC teacher*



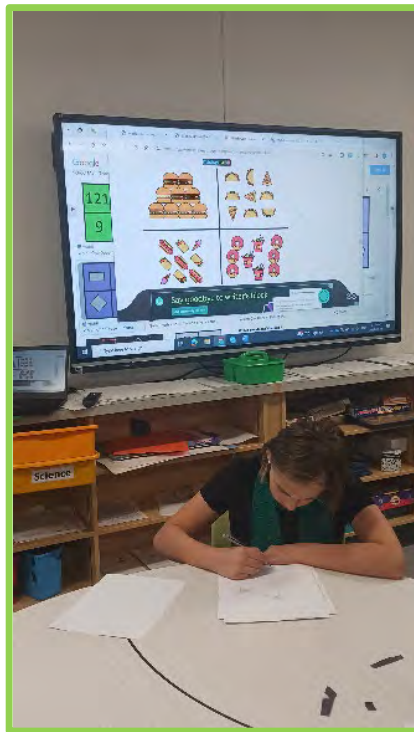
Learning Department

Sustainability and Climate Action has been the focus of a residency for Rhiannon Johnson with Connor Podmorow and Dan Curtis' combined Social Justice/Marketing 12 class.

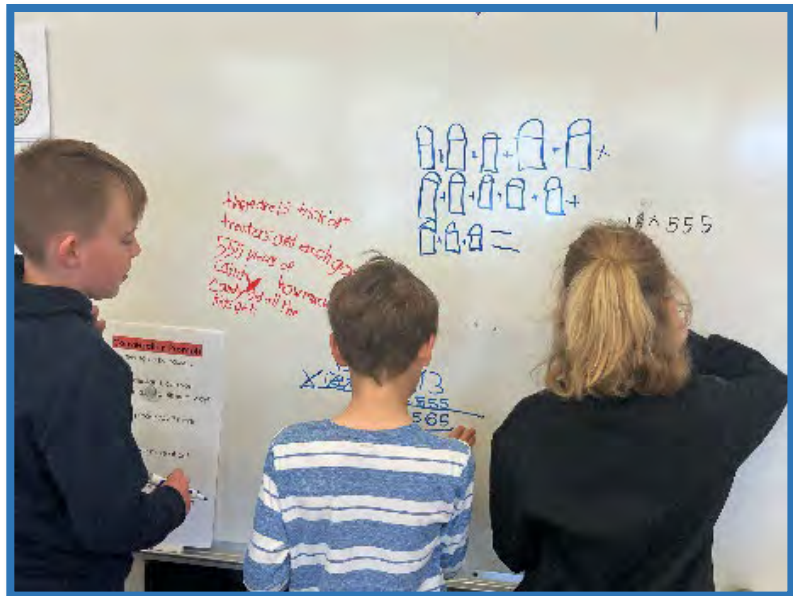
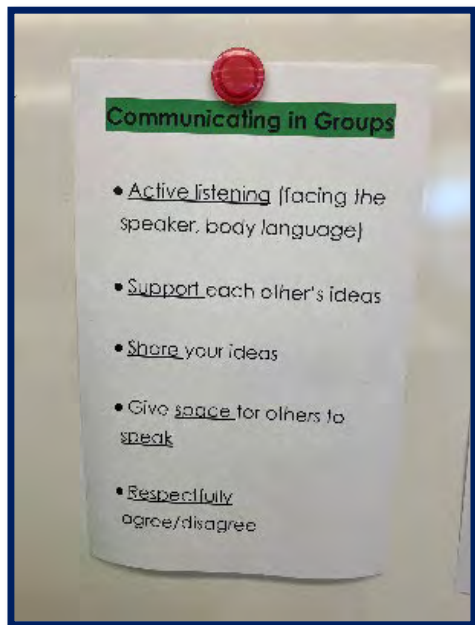
Using the model of CARE, students aligned broad topics from community education to entrepreneurship to science, with specific UN Sustainable Development Goals to come up with a topic of interest.



Students then collaborated with likeminded individuals to create interesting lessons that were shared with Grade 6 & 7 classes from Mission Hill and Ellison Elementary Schools. This residency continues to focus on student agency, providing experiential and flexible learning opportunities and a rich development of social awareness, responsibility, and communication skills.

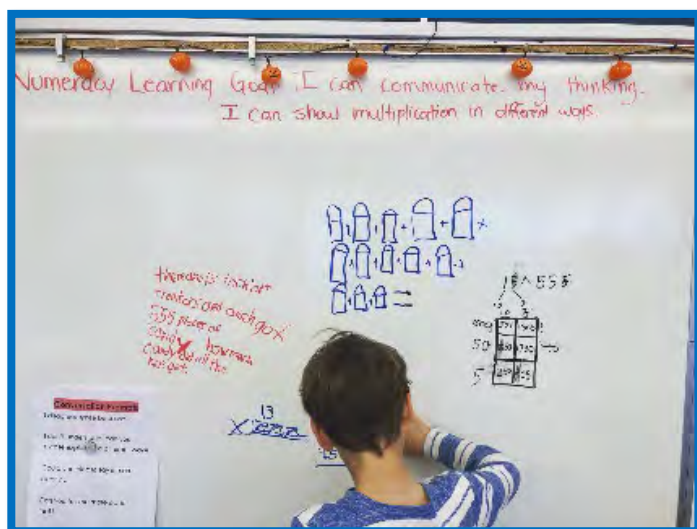


Bearisto learners are practicing metacognition and connections to numeracy and math competencies. Through this residency with Scott Belshaw and Sebastian Parkhill-Goyette, students practice a skill, choose which competency they are going to reflect on, and set goals for next time. The students were creative as they generated "Which is different and How are they the Same" provocation.



Marianne Campbell, a grade 4/5 teacher at Silver Star Elementary, has been working alongside Kimberley Tyssen, a learning coordinator in a numeracy residency since October.

The teachers have explored different high yield numeracy routines and vertical surface collaboration with students. Students have been developing their numeracy communication and conceptual understanding of the relationship between multiplication and division.



Some pedagogy strategies explored in this residency was providing students with clear learning targets and co-creating criteria with students. Through the experience, the teachers have noticed a higher engagement of students and an increased level of excitement when students were given agency within their numeracy learning.



Career Programs

“Forestry Trades welcomed students from Grades 9 to 11 to learn about the Forestry Program offered out at CBSS. Students took a tour of the Woodlot where they learned about mapping, different kinds of trees and safety on the woodlot site. Students also got to plant seedlings and see the machinery”.



Inclusive Education Department

Safer Schools - safety procedures training taking place at the school board office on November 16th.



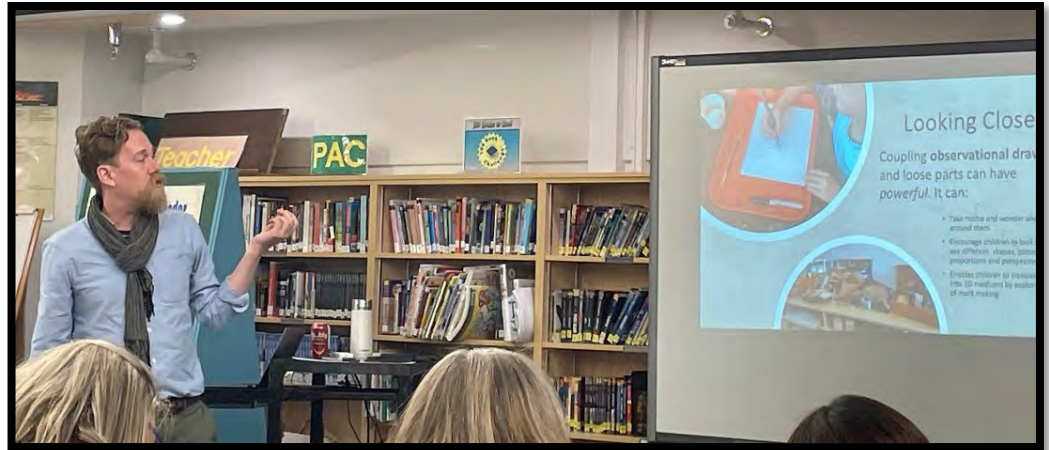
Early Learning & Child Care

Twenty Kindergarten to Grade 3 teachers from across the district are involved in the Community of Practice ***"Enhancing Early Learning Experiences Through the Lens of Story Workshop"***.



The kick-off event was hosted on November 20th and featured Matthew McBride, teacher from Vancouver School Board, who shared his wisdom and experience with using story workshop as a powerful way to engage young children, document learning, and promote joyful literacy learning in the early years.

We look forward to the exciting work ahead as this community learns together this year.

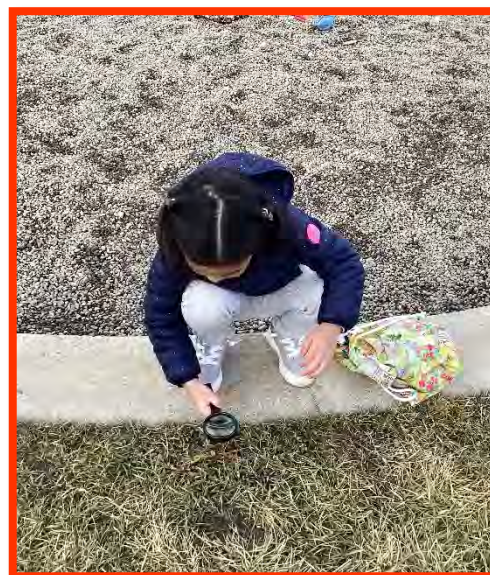


Ms. Gail, ECE at Mission Hill Preschool, has been building backpacks for the children full of tools to spark investigation outdoors.





The children have been enjoying time outdoors on the school grounds searching for items, observing closely, documenting their findings, and talking lots about their experiences.



Lillio is the new child care software and app we introduced into our licensed child care programs this school year. One of the ways we use Lillio is to strengthen the home - centre connection. We know

that when Educators and families have a strong connection, children benefit and that's why we use Lillio for quick & easy two-way communication and information sharing to help families stay connected with child care program staff.

With direct messaging capabilities, we are able to deepen conversations and strengthen relationships with caregivers, creating an essential bridge between school and home!

International

The first couple months of the year have been full of excitement and busyness for SD22 international students. They have settled into life in Canada, have enjoyed several activities, and are now getting used to the change to colder temperatures, shorter days, and inclement weather. Recently ISP students took part in a trip to Vancouver, the Field of Screams, and also had the opportunity to experience what was the first Canadian Thanksgiving and Halloween for many students. So many students are taking advantage of their experience in Vernon, and are loving their time here. So many students are also counting the days until they see their first major snowfall and until opening day at Silver Star.





Finance Department



Our Team always embracing the “Joy of Learning” on Friday Finance Fun Days! Last Friday was “Plaid Shirt” Day and those that forgot are taking the photo 😊.

From the Finance family to yours, we would like to wish you all a very safe and fun filled festive season!



IT



The Innovation and Technology Department was able to share their learning and learn from others at the annual IT4K12 conference in Vancouver. This is BC specific conference for IT departments where districts and service providers from around the province meet and learn about the latest technologies in education.



Maintenance

The new childcare playground is underway and the new offices for Early Learning Department.





Wishing everyone a
very safe, happy holiday.
Be kind and caring.
See you in 2024!