

Superintendent Report

October 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.

Motto:

Dream. Believe. Achieve.

Superintendent Report Notes

October 2023

Communicating Student Learning

The BC Ministry of Education and Child Care (MoECC) introduced a new K – 12 Student Reporting Policy which came into effect this school year. Student reporting is the assessment and communication of student learning. The goal of communicating student learning (CSL) is to ensure that:

- *students take part in meaningful conversations that help them develop responsibility for engaging deeply with their learning.*
- *parents and caregivers are well informed, are involved in decisions and dialogue about their child's learning and understand ways to support and further their child's learning.*

Learn more about the changes to student reporting by reviewing the Ministry of Education and Child Care [K-12 Student Reporting Policy Information for Families](#), downloading the MoECC [brochure for families \(PDF\)](#), or by reading the [SD22 Parent Guides](#) on the district website.

For a deeper understanding of how your child is progressing, please contact your child's teachers or school principal as they are best equipped to answer your specific questions about what instruction, assessment and reporting look like in your child's classroom.

Fall Student Parent Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Oct. 26 and 27 with a three-hour early dismissal happening on both days. More information about the schedule and format will be coming from your child's school. We hope this conference provides you an opportunity to be engaged with your child's education by celebrating their strengths and supporting their goals.

Feeding Futures

Funds go toward:

- **Food & Inclusion Programs** (Brown bag lunch program, top up to starfish back-pack program, fees for inclusion activities)
- **Regular school base for all students** (School activity fees e.g.: field trips, instrumental programs, athletic programs, cultural events, shop fees)
- **Regular school vulnerability** (Breakfast programs, hot lunch program (e.g.: pizza Friday) for vulnerable students, life skills cooking programs)
- **Alternate school vulnerability** (For alternate programs: Crossroads, ALP, Open door) and other suggested possibilities.

*Did you know? Every school has a *Hardship Fund*. As the weather gets colder, Principals and Vice-Principals are able to assist families who are vulnerable and need boots, clothing, fees, and support for other hardship items.

Enrolment

Our enrolment for the 2023-2024 school year is: 9115 plus 271 International students for a total enrolment of 9386. Last year's total enrolment in September was 9292.

Foundational Skills Assessment – (FSA) – The [Foundation Skills Assessment](#) is a province-wide assessment of British Columbia students' academic skills and provides a snapshot of how students are progressing in the foundational areas of literacy and numeracy. Participation rates in SD 22 are high and we thank all for their support. FSAs provide valuable information about where to focus our efforts and the data is included in our *Framework for Enhancing Student Learning* report:
<https://sd22.bc.ca/fesl2023/>

Halloween - Tuesday, October 31st!

Please see the attached notice about appropriate and culturally sensitive costumes for wearing at Halloween. [Halloween Costume Guidelines](#)

LGBTQ – October is 2SLGBTQIA+ History Month

Natashia Bacchus is the District's SOGI (Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity) lead. SOGI is an inclusive term that applies to all people as every person has a sexual orientation they identify with. SOGI celebrates our diversity and teaches us about human rights. SOGI teaching is embedded throughout the curriculum.

Please see link attached for LGBT History Month. <https://lgbthistorymonth.com/resources>

School-based Remembrance Day Ceremonies

School-based Remembrance Day activities will be held on **Thursday, November 9**. Contact your school as ceremonies are open to the public.

Non-Instructional Day – Thursday, November 10 – NO SCHOOL

Remembrance Day Stat – Monday, November 13 – NO SCHOOL

School Bus Safety Week - October 16 – 20, 2023. Drivers are reminded that they must remain stopped in front, or behind, busses until the red stop arm closes, and the red flashing lights go off the bus. At all times, be cautious and look for children who may be crossing the street.

Winter Break – Please be aware that school does NOT break until Thursday, December 21, 2023 and reopens, in our district, on Monday, January 8, 2024.



Seaton Family of Schools:



Alexis Park Elementary



Alexis Park Elementary had a busy and fantastic September. We had an ice cream social after school for students and families. Teachers served up ice cream cones and cups and we mingled with our families and students.



Volleyball season is well underway, and our boys had a great first game. Our girls' team will also soon play their first.



We had our first fire drill earlier in the month, and then after school the teachers had their own practice when we smelled gas. All is well as it was an outside smell that was pulled into our ventilation system.



In Ms. Krogfoss's class, students were busy making a story workshop, a play-based hands-on learning method for writing stories. The students were very engaged.





For our Truth and Reconciliation assembly, our students sat in circles in the gym. Our music teacher then led the students in a traditional song called "The Children's Blessing" by Sherryl Sewepagaham, a song gifted to Mrs. Huggins. We then went outside to participate in a traditional round dance led by our Indigenous support workers.





Beairsto Elementary

We had a very busy kick off to the school year at Beairsto. We held the Beairsto Fall Fair, which has been going since 1955! There were lots of goodies, books, and harvest items available for students to buy.

Students spent the next week learning about Terry Fox and raising money and awareness for cancer research. We finished off the week with the Terry Fox run in the school yard on a beautiful sunny afternoon. We finished September with a focus on Truth and Reconciliation and celebrated Orange Shirt Day with assemblies planned and run by students. Students learned about the Four Food Chiefs, residential schools and some actions to take to participate in reconciliation.





Harwood Elementary

We keep “crankin’ up the heat” here at Harwood heading into October. We have had a phenomenal start-up and we are ready to take on the fall. Our school kept Terry’s dream alive and held another successful Terry Fox run in our community. Harwood raised over one dollar per student in Terry’s honor!



Next, we celebrated international “Dot Day” led by our wonderful teacher librarian Mr. Taylor. All our students are working hard to make their mark on the world. Then, we hosted a great “Welcome Back BBQ” for all our families.



We were also the recipients of a wonderful surprise when a hot air balloon came for a visit to tell our students all about the wonderful world of flying around the beautiful Vernon area in a massive hot air balloon.





We finished off the month by hosting an Orange Shirt Day assembly to commemorate the Indigenous families that were impacted by the residential school experience. We gathered as a whole school community, welcomed by Mrs. Dacyk's class and Mrs. Scholz drumming and singing the Okanagan Song to our schools' entry. Then, we engaged in meaningful conversation around the purpose of Orange Shirt Day, watched Harwood students present a hoop dance routine, listened to commitments to Truth and Reconciliation by grade 7 students, and left to the beating of the drums.





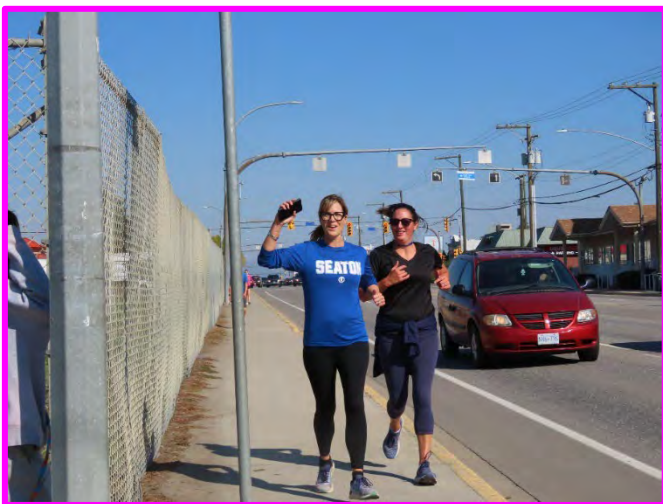
W.L. Seaton Secondary

A hot air balloon that ended up in the playground of Harwood but attracted a lot of attention here as well.



Ending of our Truth and Reconciliation assembly where students continued to drum into lunch.

Our annual Terry Fox run, always full of great enthusiasm.



Vernon Family of Schools



VLearn

At vLearn, the rainy weather didn't stop us from hosting a wonderful activity day and "Welcome Back BBQ" with our families. We were excited to see the many smiling faces of students in the school again. Thank you to carpentry for getting our new tables together just in time for our day! Our students have also been busy this past month building agency by collaborating with teachers on Student Learning Plans, taking steps forward on their reconciliation journeys, and documenting their personal learning experiences in Seesaw.

We are so happy to be back to school!



ALP/Open Door/CrossRoads



Orange Shirt Day





Take A Hike Day



Crossroads kids helping collect food and sort food for the First Responders Food Bank drive in Lumby.





BX Elementary

The school has had a great start to the school year. We are very thankful for the high level of engagement from learners and families. We are also grateful for our excellent staff, who make great events and experiences happen for learners. We have several staff members volunteering as coaches for the grades 6 and 7 Volleyball season, leading the Terry Fox run, and organizing outdoor learning.



On Friday, September 29th, the school honoured residential school survivors during Orange Shirt Day. Students from all classes came together to create a collaborative artwork, and several students contributed to the assembly.



Our school learning focus for the week was: the syilx people, culture, language, and oral history are resilient.

The week ended with students and their reconciliation work being featured in the local Castanet news.





Hillview Elementary

Hillview is "falling" back into routine and enjoying many exciting events so far this year! We enjoyed a beautiful sunny day for our Terry Fox run and reflected on the virtues of a HERO. We have also had a few amazing presentations, such as "Motivational Magic," which focused on the Superpowers of Kindness and Compassion, and we recently learned about habitats and being "Earth Rangers."



We came together to learn, honour, and remember the importance of orange shirt day and Truth and Reconciliation on Sept 30th. We also enjoyed a huge turn-out for our PAC sponsored "Hillview Hoedown."





Silverstar Elementary

We have had a great start to the school year! There is so much learning going on at Silver Star! We have big buddies from VSS working alongside some of our classes as well as many guest performances & learning activities.

Staff and students have been taking the time to learn why we wear orange, about Truth & Reconciliation, and to acknowledge those who have been affected by residential schools.



Vernon Secondary School

VSS was honored to host the September professional development day with a focus on Indigenous Education. It was great to listen to Anne Tenning as well as students from around our district.



The grad class of 2024 is having a great start to their year. We held a staff vs graduates baseball game and also took the graduates to Gardom Lake for a retreat where they had an opportunity to team build with their peers and have fun while doing it.



Fulton Family of Schools



Ellison Elementary



Our Ellison school community honored and remembered those impacted by residential schools on Orange Shirt Day. We focused on themes of inclusivity, kindness, and welcoming all. Students participated in the Children's Blessing song, led by Mrs. Robinson and Mr. Osborn's class.

One of our fall community building activities was a school-wide dance outside!





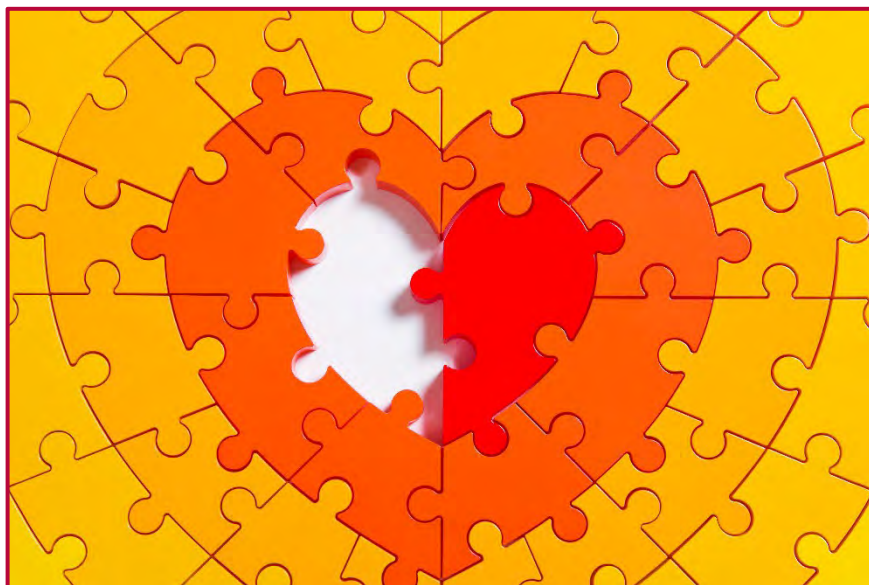
Mission Hill Elementary

Mission Hill Elementary had a great welcome back barbecue on September 21, with many families, staff members, and community members participating. This was a great event, and we are thankful for the Silver Star Rotary coming and serving us!





Truth and Reconciliation Day saw a flood of orange shirts worn and the flag was flying at half-mast to commemorate the day. Classes did individual activities to learn about the importance of this day.

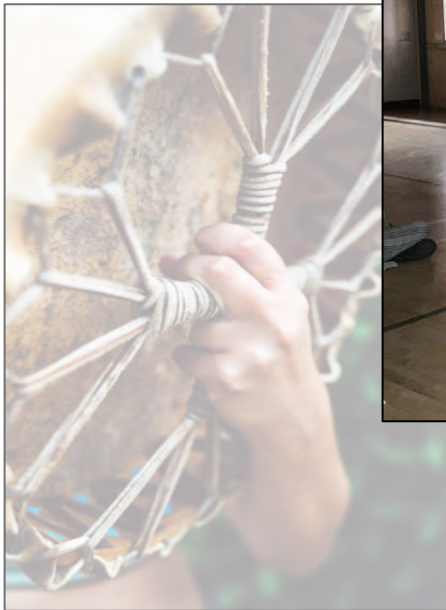




Okanagan Landing



OKL had our Orange Day Assembly on September 29th. One of our 4/5 classes performed a drumming song lead by one of our Fine Arts teachers.



OKL's garden is ready for harvest! Mrs. Peterson's class checked out the garden to see if the beets and carrots were ready for harvesting. They were not but tomatoes were. This class will be making borsch next week using veggies from our school garden.



October 6th Farmer Joe visited our school and made fresh apple juice with the help of students. It was delicious and some students were overheard saying it was the best apple juice they had ever tasted.





Embracing fall by harvesting some good ole Fulton Honey.



Connecting with each other on the land at Ellison Provincial Park.



Helping to keep our wetlands pristine.

Kalamalka Family of Schools

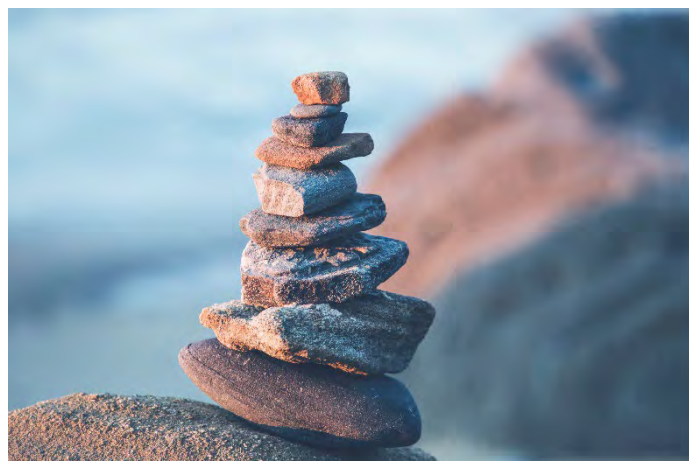


Coldstream Elementary

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Coldstream staff and students have been working hard towards our goals around Truth and Reconciliation including a grade 7 trip to the Kamloops Residential school this September.



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Each classroom focused on Indigenous ways of knowing in different ways, including art, storytelling, and the exploration of nature.





Kidston Elementary

At Kidston we had an Orange Shirt Day Assembly and a parent who is from Haida Gwaii performed The Paddle Song. Our students talked about Orange Shirt Day, how it came about and learned about residential schools in their classrooms.



Grade 6/7 students practicing a Blackfoot game called Run and Scream. This game emphasized the importance of lung capacity in everyday life.



We have had a couple of Friday dance parties at lunch time. There has been a lot of energy, many conga lines and a lot of fun.



Lavington Elementary

It is hard to believe that we are already a month into the school year! During September, Lavington students settled into their new classes, exceeded their goal to raise \$200 for the Terry Fox Foundation (we raised \$312!!!), collected food for the food bank, experienced the first fire drill of the year, brought in families for a Mug 'n Muffin, and are finishing off the month with Stone Soup made from the school garden as well as working towards reconciliation on Orange Shirt Day.





Kalamalka Secondary

KAL students were out learning on the land. Lakers raised money for Terry Fox and donated goods and time to the Food Drive. We also showed our support toward Truth and Reconciliation.



Bloom Family of Schools



Charles Bloom Secondary

Silas made us all proud the
Indigenous Pro-d day!



Terry Fox winner, Eboni Eyzaguirre





Cherryville Elementary

Orange Shirt Day



Cherryville's unique Orange Shirt design by **Raeleigh Parenteau**.

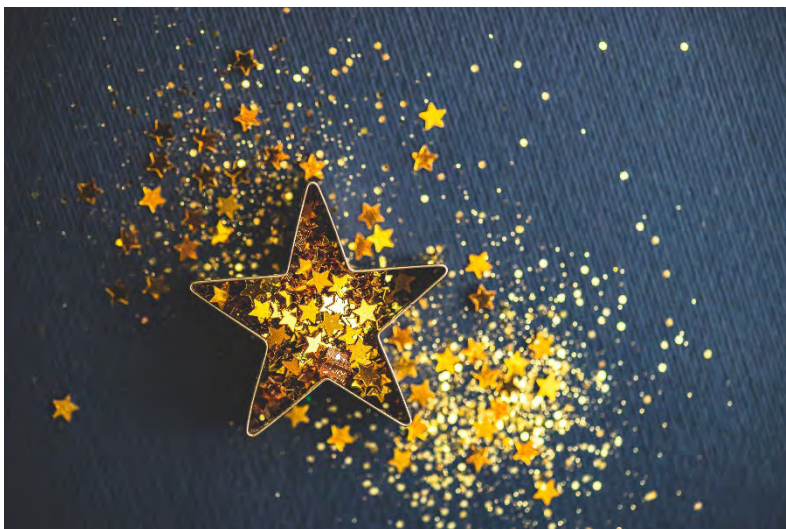
Artwork by grade 1/2/3 Ms. Rondeau's Class and Grade 5/6 Mrs. Alexander's class.





J.W. Inglis Elementary

We are very proud of all of our students. We have intermediate students playing with primary students and all ages getting involved in regular dance circles at recess and lunch.



Indigenous Programs



At Vernon Secondary School, on September 25, seven hundred and thirty-eight school district staff attended an Indigenous focused non-instructional day featuring keynote speaker, Anne Tenning. Anne's topic was "Unpacking the Truth in Truth and Reconciliation Through Story".

Following the well-received keynote, seven brave, proud, well-spoken students shared their experiences in our schools.



Orange shirts, designed by students, were featured at the School Board Office in the month of September.

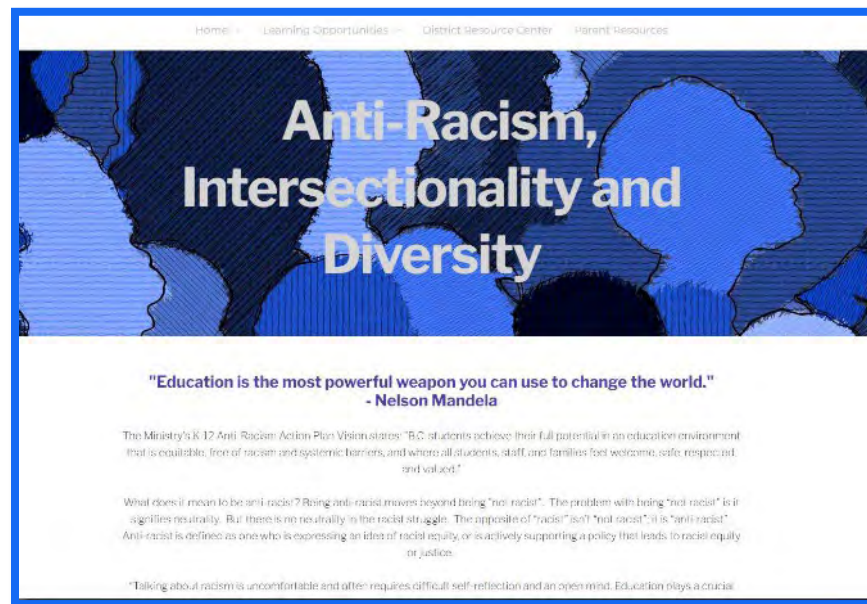
Human Resources

As part of our Strategic Plan focus, Human Resources is recognizing staff efforts that align with our strategic priorities; Student Success, Leadership Excellence, and Community Connections. In September the following staff have been recognized; **Mike Grace** and **Elizabeth Brown** at Seaton for Leadership Excellence, **Gus Busenius** at ALP for Community Connections, and **Lynn Butters** at Fulton for Leadership Excellence. Each recipient earned an SD22 embossed YETI coffee mug!

We look forward to acknowledging more employees throughout the year!



Student Learning

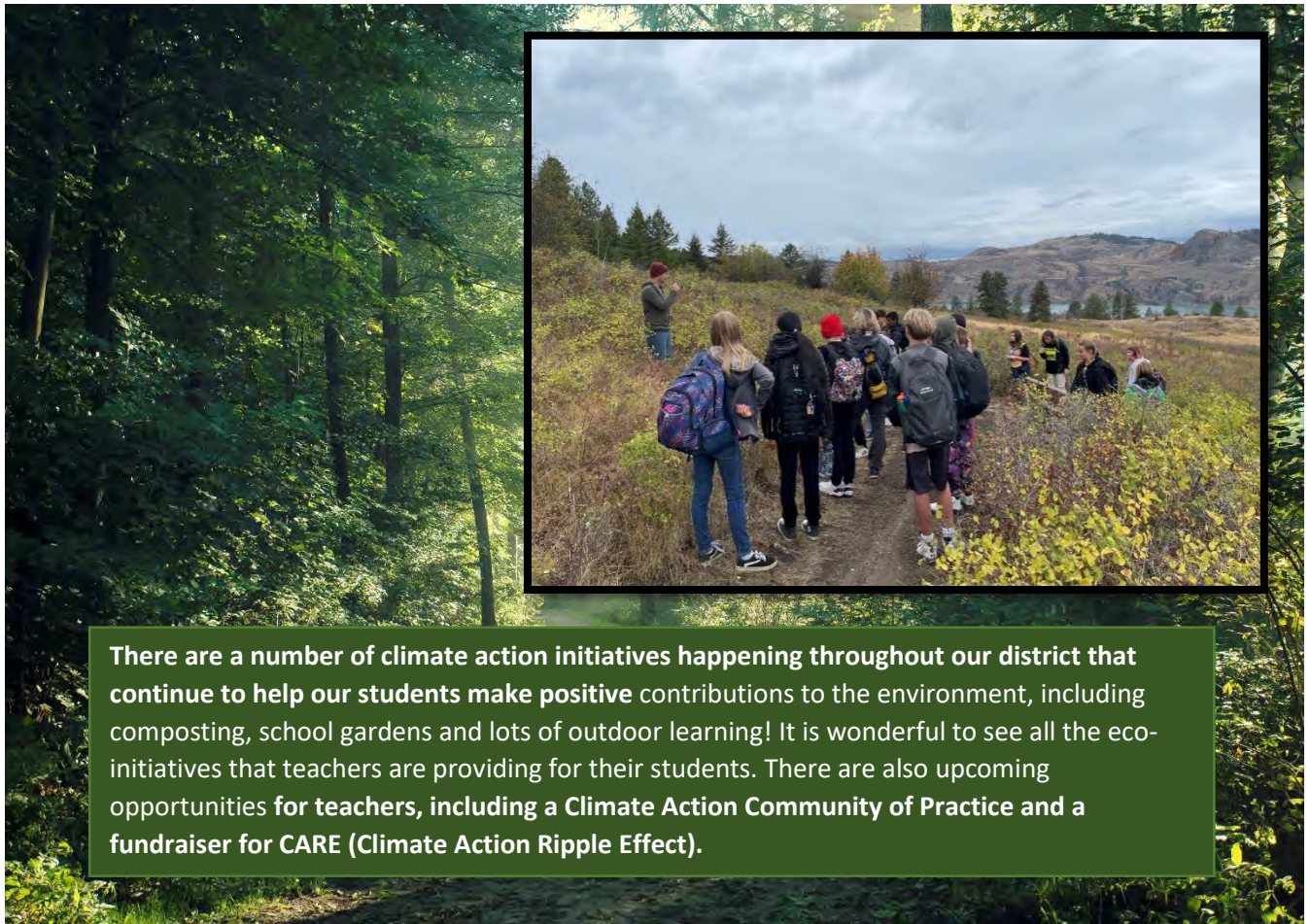


On sd22learns.ca the Learning Department has updated the “Anti-Racism, Intersectionality and Diversity” resources for teachers. On the website there is a wealth of resources for educators including the BC government’s K-12 Anti-Racism Action Plan, videos, lesson plans, teacher resources to use in the classroom and suggested literature for our personal journey towards becoming anti-racist.

Twenty-eight educators new to teaching, new to our district or in a new role came together at Allan Brooks Nature Center on Thursday, October 5th for the Mentorship Kickoff. We began this event with a *syilx* Welcome by Amiel Logan and Land Acknowledgement by Stacey Mee while overlooking a 360-degree view of the beautiful Okanagan, getting to know one another and making initial plans for professional learning for this year. We even watched the launching of the weather balloon from the weather station!



There are currently twenty-four mentees and twenty mentors taking part in the Mentorship program, including TTOCs, SBRTs, Early Years, Middle Years and Secondary math, Science and Humanities teachers, as well as Athletic Directors and Computer/Robotics teachers and Librarians.



There are a number of climate action initiatives happening throughout our district that continue to help our students make positive contributions to the environment, including composting, school gardens and lots of outdoor learning! It is wonderful to see all the eco-initiatives that teachers are providing for their students. There are also upcoming opportunities for teachers, including a Climate Action Community of Practice and a fundraiser for CARE (Climate Action Ripple Effect).

Career Programs



Inclusive Education Department

Breakfast and lunch programs are up and running in schools.



A student enjoying breakfast including fresh fruit at Harwood.



Kalamalka Secondary has a great breakfast buffet. The students really like cereal, and the dispensers are awesome!



At Mission Hill, toasted bagels are always a popular breakfast item.



Early Learning & Child Care



At OKL Seamless Day Child Care program, each child used their handprint to make a feather as part of their learning about Truth & Reconciliation with ECE Kari DeVries and childcare staff.

Children in the Beairsto Seamless Day Child Care program have been exploring fall through art using natural materials and bright, vibrant colours.



Our Grade 3-7 After-School Child Care program at BX Elementary has been embracing the beautiful fall weather with lots of time outdoors! Soccer is a favourite after-school activity.

International

SD22 International Students have settled in well over the first month of the 2023/24 school year. They are adjusting to life in Canada, learning about the culture, and making new friends. A major highlight of September was the opportunity to connect with Students Without Borders Academy students for an afternoon of activities, a BBQ for our homestay families, as well as some time at Kal Beach.



October looks to be an exciting month filled with loads of fall activities and great learning opportunities. For some of our students it will also be the first time they've ever experienced Halloween, Thanksgiving, and leaves changing colours. It is always terrific to watch our SD22 International Students enjoy their Canadian experience.



Finance Department

The Finance crew had a successful September startup and was a first for many of us! We are bringing that same energy into October, and we started it with a big bang – check out the stack of timecards that were entered for the last pay period – can you guess how many? If you guessed between 749 and 751, you are very close 😊

As always, please feel free to reach out to any one of us with any questions, concerns, suggestions, or feedback you may have, this team is here to assist in any way we can!



Transportation

Introducing our hard-working dedicated office staff and bus washer on Sept 29 as we remember and reflect on the impact of residential schools and what reconciliation means to each of us.



IT

My BluePrint - The secondary schools in the district have been implementing myBlueprint for students to set goals, complete Core Competencies reflections, and create three-year graduation plans. The Technology Innovation Coordinators have been busy working with the different high schools to support teachers and students in the implementation. Chelsea Kiddine spent the day at W.L. Seaton supporting staff and teachers in setting their goals and completing their first core competency reflection.



Meet Dustin Kelly (R) and Drew Bate (L) Both Drew and Dustin graduated from high school in School District #22 and now have come back home to pursue their career as IT Technicians. They do a lot of work behind the scenes keeping our IT functioning well and responding to technology needs as they arise.

Innovate-ED – The entire Innovation and Technology team has been working hard to prepare for the Innovate-ED conference being hosted at VSS on October 20th. They are very proud of their efforts and have put together a premier conference offering in collaboration with several other interior districts. Check out the link to see more <https://www.innovate-ed.ca/>.



Maintenance

This summer was marked by a flurry of activity as the maintenance team undertook several ambitious projects to improve its infrastructure and provide an enriched learning environment. Despite the challenges, we are thrilled to announce the successful completion of numerous projects.

Here's a glimpse of the busy summer and a few notable accomplishments:

Bloom Food lab Upgrade



Four new portables were seamlessly integrated into the school premises, creating additional classrooms to accommodate the increasing student population. This expansion aligns with our commitment to providing quality education while adapting to the growing needs of our community.

Beairsto- 2 new modular classrooms



VSS -2 new Modular classrooms



Throughout the Facilities: Several accessibility upgrades have been implemented across various facilities. These enhancements are designed to ensure that all students, staff, and visitors can navigate the school environment comfortably and safely.

These renovations reflect the commitment to providing an optimal learning environment for students and improving the overall functionality of the school facilities.

