



SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

October 2021

Submitted by: Dr. Christine Perkins, Superintendent/CEO





Acknowledgement:

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

Mission:

To inspire and develop lifelong learners who can communicate, think creatively, problem-solve, collaborate, and understand their personal and social responsibilities.

Vision:

To create a safe, healthy, and respectful learning community that enables each student to build a bright future.

Seaton Family of Schools:



Alexis Park Elementary



Our Alexis Park family gathered together on September 29th in a large circle outside. Our wonderful ISSWs, Kathy Morgan and Rhonda Philip, led students in a traditional song. The drumming, the voices, and the sea of orange shirts empowered the day and our school's focus on Truth and Reconciliation.

Our students also expressed themselves and their vision of Truth and Reconciliation through artwork.





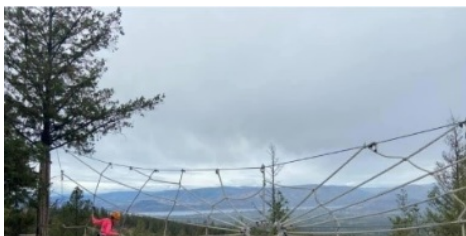
Beairsto Elementary



So many highlights in the past month – connections were key -

A highlight for us was staff working after the end of the staff meeting on their chapter of **ENSOULING OUR SCHOOLS** ... they are working on their presentations for our next staff meeting – one group had a song; one group had a sketch drawing...many ways to show and share their learning ... picture has a few of our groups.

Our report for our newsletter from Mr. Mclean shared how much we are working on **truth and reconciliation** as a whole school, and as a district, was also a highlight.



Un grand merci to Mme Lypchuk, Mme Argan, Mme Lafleur-Johnson and M Parkhill-Goyette for organizing this incredible experience for their students and giving their own time.



M. Robertson is back and says, "Things have changed!" He's right! Forgotten cultures have been resurrected; a forbidden language has regained acceptance. Coyote and the Four Food Chiefs dominate the gym and entrance of the school. Welcomes, at a rudimentary level, is being learned in many classrooms. Our Indigenous students are more and more aware of their roots. Not only is being Indigenous accepted at Beairsto School, it is celebrated!

A sea of orange t-shirts could be found on the premises on September 29th. Students helped to set up the Residential School display booth we have used for the last 9 years or so. Every class, every teacher, has a presentation, an activity, something to acknowledge Orange T-Shirt day in some meaningful way. Indigenous issues are at the forefront. Entire classes had responses. Residential School questions. It was not so long ago that the idea of addressing these issues seemed kinda controversial!

There is an ever-growing Indigenous section in the library. Our librarian, Mme. Labrie, has a collection of puppets to enhance her indigenous stories. Teachers are discussing a book recommended by our Indigenous Director, Charity Sakashane **Ensouling Our Schools**. Our new District Superintendent, Christine Perkins, has announced a focus on ensuring the success of our Indigenous students. At the first Pro-D day of the year the theme was *Schools as Places of Healing* and teachers, acknowledging that they are well aware of the statistics and issues, indicated that they are hungry for direction, information, and resources which will aid not only Indigenous students but also their peers. "Let's stop talking and start moving", they say. They have moved - a long ways.

Our "new normal" has allowed us to reopen the Indigenous Room and it has been wonderful to hear the sound of children's voices as they play, study, read and sort through the vicissitudes of their young lives with their friends. Our neighbour, M. Naim, has often commented on the positive synchronicity of our two noisy programs! A new quiet space has been created for some of the more personal work that students do with Mme. Duchesne - who is at Beairsto Tuesdays and Thursdays.

As always, there is much to do. We work on a spectrum where we continue to search for effective ways to support students academically, socially, emotionally and to connect with their heritage. There are diverging opinions on how Indigenous issues should proceed - what methods and direction might be the best. Those will not be decided today, in an elementary school. There are other demographics and ethnicities with us who have suffered and need acknowledgement. "As take on the current situation is that Canada/Beairsto School/2022, is striving to ensure the success of their indigenous peoples. In succeeding at this we can hope that our country will have a roadmap for the many other issues our country and world face. We hope that we may find ways to improve things together, to honour all of our cultures, heritages, traditions and languages. It is important, necessary even, to start where we begin.

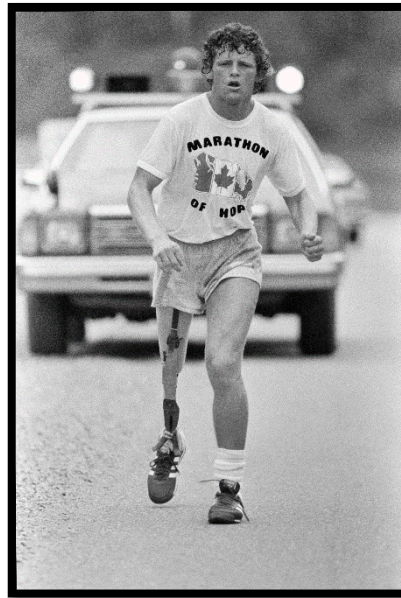
It is also important to recognize that we have changed our trajectory: we are on a new path and it looks like the right one. This is a good day!



Grade 7s having a trip together: team building and connecting.



The return of elementary school sports was very exciting!



We held our annual [Terry Fox Run](#) on September 31st. Harwood students ran around the community to show their pride in running for Terry.



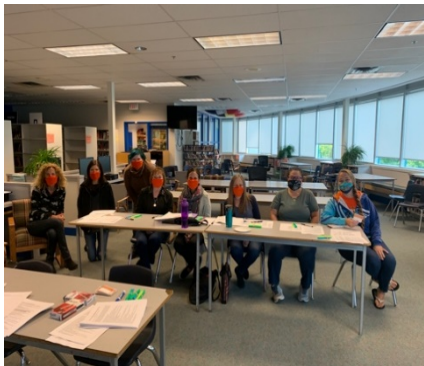
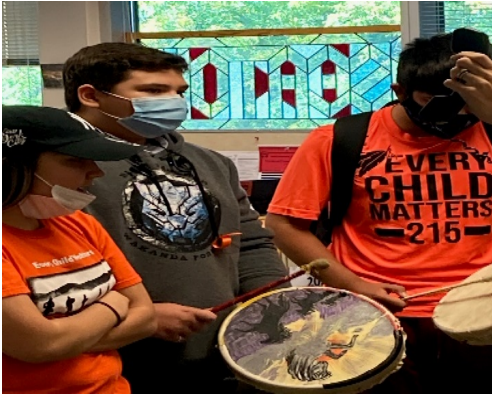
We took time to recognize the impact of residential schools on Indigenous people by wearing orange shirts and sharing a virtual assembly on September 29th.

The focus was on sharing stories and thinking of ways to contribute to reconciliation.



W.L. Seaton Secondary

Seaton staff and students had meaningful conversations about reconciliation.



Seaton Students exercised their democratic rights in the Canada Student Vote.

Vernon Family of Schools



Alternative Programs

ALP



ALP staff proudly wear orange and share their commitment to reconciliation.

Open Door

Open Door staff proudly wear orange and share their commitment to reconciliation.



CrossRoads

CrossRoads students giving back and working late volunteering for the Lumby food bank.



VLearn



VLearn Elementary students celebrated #OrangeShirtDay and participated in the Terry Fox Run on October 29th. Did you know that Terry Fox's maternal grandmother is Métis and Fox's younger brother Darrell has official Métis status? Students proudly shared stickers to share who they were running for.

Volleyball Academy students honoring the children that never made it home. #OrangeShirtDay



VLearn students learning all about the life cycle of a salmon with volunteers from Allan Brooks Nature Centre.



BX Elementary



Our highlight this month was our assembly honoring **Orange Shirt Day** and **Truth and Reconciliation Day**.

We were fortunate to have OKIB Elder, Pauline Achachan, open with a prayer in the syilx language, and Csetkwe, drum and sing the Okanagan song.



OKIB Council Member, Alan Lewis, spoke about the significance of the flag, and Jazmin Robins-Swanson presented one to Mr. Johnson, which will hang in our gymnasium.

We unveiled a mural by OKIB artist David Wilson Sookinakin. He spoke to us about the significance behind his painting and how he included bears and connected it to the land around our school. His beautiful work of art will hang in the entrance way to the school.



The children spoke about how students should feel in school and we ended with Jazmin dancing her healing jingle dance and then all participated in a round dance.





Hillview Elementary

During the past month Hillview Heroes were excited to celebrate the [Terry Fox Run](#). Students were challenged to each bring in a toonie and earn extra time at recess. Our students surpassed the goal and raised over \$1000 for the Terry Fox Foundation! We were also happy to have our volleyball teams back on the courts. Finally, teachers and students engaged in conversations, reflections, and learning, as we recognized [Orange Shirt Day](#) on September 29.



Silverstar Elementary

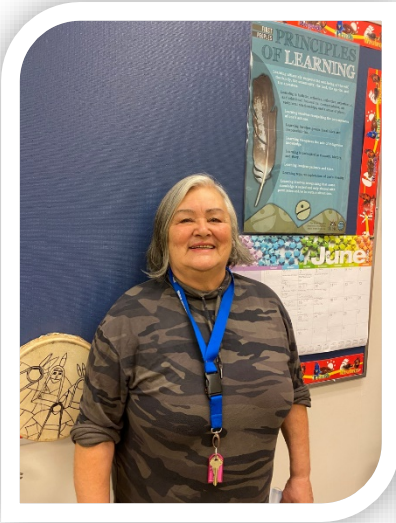
Grade 2/3 STEM challenge.... build a tower as tall as you can with cups and popsicle sticks.



On September 29th **Orange Shirt Day** we learned about **Truth and Reconciliation**.

Thank you to Kym Howay for leading us in the Round Dance.

As we watched our virtual assembly, we were all taught about the Okanagan Song and we learned about the beauty of our land.

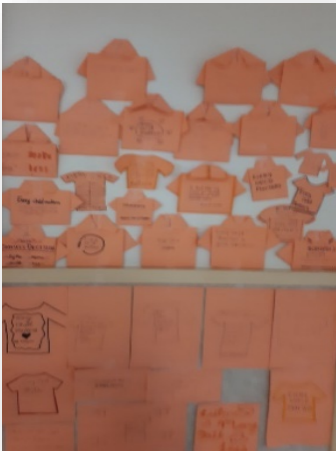




Vernon Senior Secondary



The VSS Cross Country Running Team photo from Wednesday's meet in Revelstoke. All 15 of our athletes came home with ribbons as our Junior Boys team placed second, and our Junior and Senior Girls teams both placed third. Go Panthers!



Our teachers and students at VSS engaged in many activities for **Truth and Reconciliation**. This is a picture of some of our student's work displayed in our second-floor hallway.

Getting outside on a cool but sunny fall morning to inspire the minds of our students in English class.



Fulton Family of Schools



Ellison Elementary



Ellison Family learned about the importance and the reason for **Truth and Reconciliation Day** this month. Our Gr. 5/6 classes engaged in a cultural lesson and created beautiful drums.

During a team building activity, our staff engaged in a scavenger hunt and some “antics”.





Mission Hill Elementary

It has been a busy month up on the hill! Our students honored Terry Fox with a school wide run through our community and around our school grounds.



Staff members came together to learn and reflect during our non-instructional day.



Our Grade 5/6 classes were on a field trip at Cherry Creek to learn about the history of the area. The students panned for gold.



Okanagan Landing

Our school has had a great month pulling together as a team. Our **Orange Shirt Day** event was thoughtful and respectful.



Our **Terry Fox Run** had students run across Canada – one of our gr. 5/6 classes organized the run to include student direction markers dressed up to represent the different provinces and territories of Canada. It took place on a beautiful and sunny fall morning.

We were lucky to have one of our parents who is an RCMP officer join us for this event. He stayed long after the run to talk to interested students about being an RCMP officer.

Our grades 6 and 7 students are enjoying the opportunity to play on school volleyball teams once again this year and they are also taking part in our Student Leadership Club.



Clarence Fulton Secondary



Fulton's office staff recognize **Orange Shirt Day** and their commitment to truth and reconciliation on September 29th.

Our cafeteria students continue the path to **truth and reconciliation** with campfire Bannock.



Our free breakfast program is up and running. Many thanks to our parent volunteers, the Salvation Army, and the Upper Room Mission for their donations.



Kalamalka Family of Schools



Coldstream Elementary



We had an amazing September filled with tons of excitement, smiles, and time for reflection too.

Terry Fox Run: A great big thank you to our parent volunteers & the RCMP for making this event a huge success! It was wonderful to have volunteers involved again!

Our new GaGa Pit: Thank you to our PAC for purchasing this for our school and thank you to the maintenance department for installing it so quickly! Our students are over-the-moon with this new addition to our school grounds.



Orange Shirt Day: Our school community took part in many activities to begin the learning journey and deepen our understanding about Indigenous culture and the impact of Residential Schools.



Kidston Elementary



Developing citizenship through Kidston Kindness by caring and contributing. We collected 653 lbs. of food for the local food bank and raised \$869 for the Terry Fox Foundation.



Our new classroom has arrived. Thank you to all the SD#22 maintenance workers who have been at the school setting it up and getting it ready for our grade 5/6 class.



Kidston Elementary students' (grades 4-7) version of Blackbird in the Mi'kmaq language created by Fine Arts teacher Melissa Jacobs for **National Truth and Reconciliation Day** September 30. There is also some art from students in grades K-5 at the end of the video too. I am so proud of our children! They sound great!

<https://youtu.be/2UdE0MT0cjU>



Lavington Elementary

Truth & Reconciliation

Our entire staff and student body made personal commitments to **Truth and Reconciliation** during **Orange Shirt Day**. There were powerful moments throughout the day while students shared their commitments, thoughts, and feelings during sharing circles.



Legacy Project

Thank you to the SD22 management and maintenance crew! They promised to have the self-proclaimed 'Mr. Maccagno Legacy Project' installed before the first snowfall. I think they've got this!

Stone Soup

All students were able to collect their crop that was planted last spring and prep the vegetables for stone soup. Huge thank you to our parent volunteers for guiding our students through the process. It was a delicious feast!

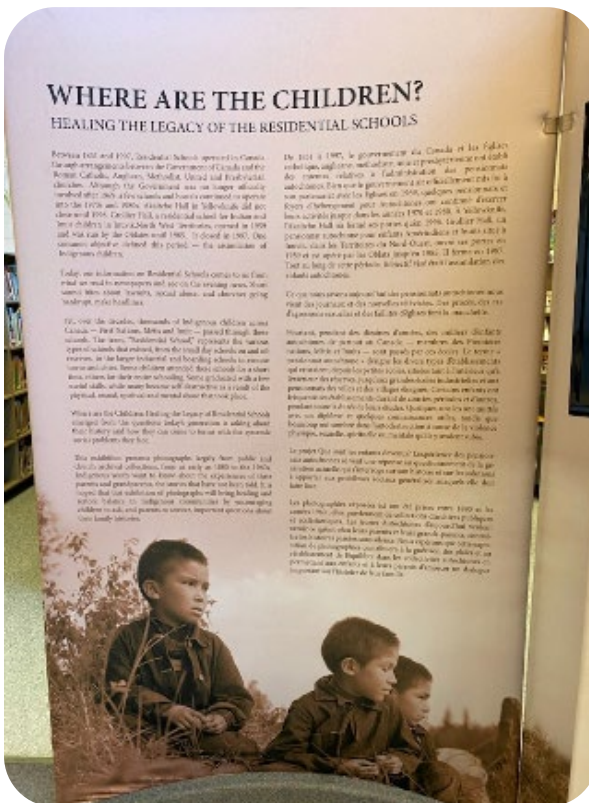




Kalamalka Secondary



Kalamalka has been enjoying the nice weather and taking as many opportunities to eat outside as often as possible.



As well, we had the privilege of having the Residential School display at our school for the last two weeks of September.

Many of our classes came down to study it in detail and were moved by the poignant presentation.

Bloom Family of Schools



Charles Bloom Secondary



Some of our students gathered in a circle to drum and sing the song, **“Drum for the Children”** written by Tk’emlúps te Secwépemc.



Bloom students make commitments to Reconciliation and we will keep these posted all year to remind ourselves.



Grade 7 girls volleyball team were coached by two grade 12 girls, Emilia, and Mia, who are coaching for their capstone project.



Cherryville Elementary



Students in our grade 5/6 class made scarecrows for our school garden using various materials. They all turned out very differently!



Orange shirt day!

Our school got an orange shirt for all our staff members. We had an online assembly and a book walk in our library put together by our Indigenous Support Worker, Lynnelle Walters.

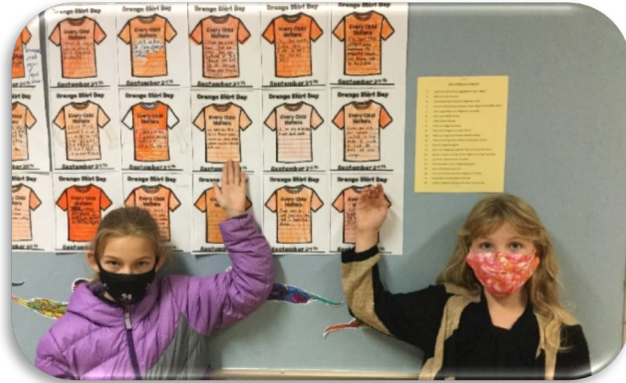


In our staffroom we have a shout out board where any staff can put a "shout out" to another staff member.

" We are better together"



J.W. Inglis Elementary

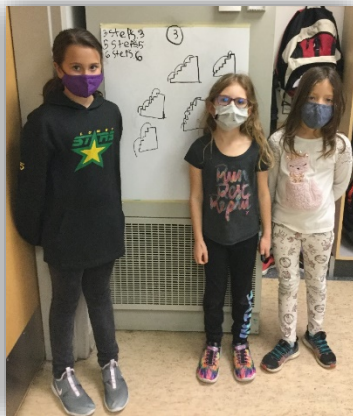


Two students from Mrs. Currie's Grade 4/5 classroom share their thoughts about residential school:

"I'm sorry for the kids who were hurt because they looked different and saw things differently."

"I'm sorry for what happened in the past. I hope I can be part of the change."

What powerful thoughts!



Vertical learning allows the blood to flow, collaboration to happen, and great learning to be shared. These grade 3 students demonstrate their understanding of skip counting using stairs.



Orange Shirt Day - Monique Gray Smith's book "You Hold Me Up" done as a 'story walk'. These big and little buddies talked about this page "You hold me up when you play with me."

Indigenous Programs



10,000 stickers were distributed to students and staff of SD#22 with everyone making a pledge to act for reconciliation.

This year the Terry Fox family shared their Métis heritage with all of Canada.

The design celebrates Terry's heritage, with illustrations of traditional Métis floral beading created by Métis artist Mal Blondeau (the Métis are known as the Flower Beadwork People).

The flowers chosen to honor the land where Terry's ancestors lived: the prairie crocus of Manitoba and the wild prairie rose of North Dakota



The Indigenous Education Department created a custom designed orange shirt for school district employees.

Human Resources

The Human Resources Department welcomes the many new employees that we have hired over the past few months. In October, Human Resources shifts our focus from large hirings of new employees, to supporting our current employees and the system. Some of these actions include supporting professional development, placing student teachers and practicums placement for support staff, and addressing various medical accommodations. We look forward to local teacher collective agreement bargaining beginning early November.

Student Learning Curriculum



This month, we offered workshops focused on Phonemic Awareness, a foundational skill in learning to read. We were thrilled with the engagement of teachers and administrators, as more

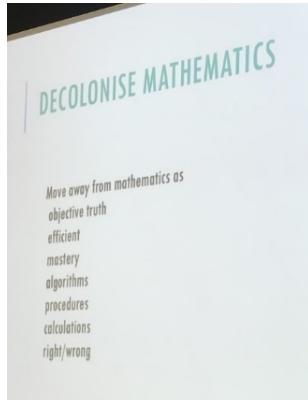


than 65 educators attended over the course of the sessions. Kindergarten & Grade 1 teachers received a practical resource to support daily instruction in their classrooms as we seek to develop the literacy competencies of our youngest learners.

Teachers teaching one another! Learning from one another is so powerful and we're thankful for teacher leaders who join our department to facilitate professional learning opportunities. Thank-you for leading learning with us!



Families and children (birth to 5 years) drop-in daily at our StrongStart programs at Alexis Park, Okanagan Landing, and Mission Hill. Our StrongStart Coordinators are Early Childhood Educators, who creatively engage children and families in meaningful, early learning experiences, and build relationships and connections with families each day. SD22 StrongStart early learning centers are places where families feel welcome, parents and caregivers connect with one another, and joyful learning is promoted.



Dr. Sean Chorney, from Simon Fraser University, lead our school-based administrators on Oct. 4th in learning how our curriculum in mathematics has shifted from focusing on content to competencies. He also shared ways in which we can indigenize and decolonize.



The next day, he worked with a group of secondary math teachers who have been exploring assessment strategies that highlight student proficiency of mathematical processes. He emphasized the importance of student agency, providing examples of learning contexts that relate to social issues and student perspectives. His next collaboration session with this group will focus on supporting the development of a unit on linear relations.

Career Programs

Our Career Programs team learned and listened about reconciliation in the morning of September 27th. In the afternoon, we worked together towards meaningful plans of action and commitment towards reconciliation. It was an impactful week.

One of the great rewards of working in Career Programs is we get to hear back from our students about the authentic learning and skills they develop towards their career goals. This month we heard back from one of our Jr. Forest Fire Crew members and how much they appreciated the experience this summer gave them. They also sent us some incredible photos of their experience below.





We held a parent/student information night for Career Programs and had just under 50 members of our community attend virtually. During the presentation we covered some of the great opportunities available to our students through Career Programs and ways to help plan for future careers. You can find the presentation posted on our Career Programs website here:

<https://sd22.bc.ca/programs-services/careers/>

Student Support Service

On September 27th, Student Support Service Itinerant staff worked together at the Board office to continue to develop our understanding and commitment to **Truth and Reconciliation**.

School District 22 continues to partner with Venture Training to provide 206 brown bag lunches for any students in need of a daily lunch.

The Connections Programs in SD 22 have been actively giving back to the community and engaging in positive community activities.

International



Charles Bloom Secondary School: Lots of petting of Freddy the service dog owned by PE/French teacher Katherine Normann. The dog helps all students feel at home, but we've noted he is especially loved by many of the international students. Some have pets at home and not here and miss them... Freddy also gives them a common point of interest and connection for conversations with other students.



Clarence Fulton Secondary School: Internationals have been forming friendship groups with students from several different cultures and supporting each other like family.

Enjoy the picture of our International Bake Shop!

Kalamalka Secondary School: Seven international students are on the junior and senior soccer teams. They have gone to Kamloops and Revelstoke for games.

Vernon Secondary School: We had a great turn out for our pumpkin pie day on the 8th of October, and a high degree of interest and engagement from students in our ELL classes about Canadian Thanksgiving.

W.L. Seaton Secondary School: We have been seeing students getting involved with different teams and clubs at school. We have students participating in the plant club (pictured below), climate action club, climbing club, yearbook, concert band, choir, volleyball team, and a large presence on the Senior Boys Soccer team. It is great to see our students making connections to Canadian peers and culture.



Finance Department

- Overall enrolment in the District is roughly as we forecast in the Spring. Much of our revenue is driven by enrolment, so this means no unpleasant budget surprises for now.
- Many schools have seen success with the introduction of payment of student fees online through MyEdBC. So far this school year, over 2,000 payments have been made online, simplifying the payment process for families and administration for schools.

Transportation

Our amazing bus drivers drove the message home – their commitment to **Truth and Reconciliation** and **Orange Shirt Day**.



Maintenance



Full participation with our maintenance team recognizing **Orange Shirt Day**.

Engagement – *all are invited to get involved*



So grateful to Mary Jackson, Krista Blankely, and all the volunteers of the Kalamalka Starfish Society; making sure families have healthy food at home. **Thank you, Starfish Pack Program!**



Silver Star Rotary:

A huge thank you to former School District Superintendent, Bev Rundell, and Silver Star Rotary for hosting Superintendent Perkins on Tuesday, October 12.



BCCPAC (Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils): <https://bccpac.bc.ca/>

To understand parents as stakeholders in public education, please see the following (There is an excellent graphic at the end to help you visualize the system):

<https://bccpac.bc.ca/index.php/resources/16-dpac-pac/920-parent-stakeholders>

BCPVPA (Principals' and Vice-Principals' Association) - <https://www.bcpvpa.org/>

BCSSA (School Superintendents' Association) - <https://bcssa.org/>

BCSTA (School Trustees Association) - <https://bcsta.org/>

Communicate with School District 22:

- Board Meetings: <https://sd22.bc.ca/board-of-education/board-meetings/>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SD22Vernon/>
- Trustees: sd22_trustees@sd22.bc.ca
- Twitter: Follow us @SD22Vernon
- Superintendent: cperkins@sd22.bc.ca
- Website: <https://sd22.bc.ca/>

October:

Foster Family Appreciation Month

LGBTQA+ History Month

Library Month

National Custodian Day – Saturday, October 2

World Teacher's Day – Tuesday, October 5

World Mental Health Day – Sunday, October 10

International Day of the Girl – Monday, October 11

Thanksgiving – Monday, October 11 – Schools Closed

Secret Path Week – October 17-23

International Pronouns Day – Wednesday, October 20

ShakeOut BC – Thursday, October 21

Provincial Pro-D Day – Friday October 22 – Students not at school

Student/Parent/Teacher Conferences – Thursday/Friday, October 28/29

Halloween – Sunday, October 31 (Some Halloween Guidelines are attached below)

Halloween Costume guidelines - What Not to Wear

School District 22 – (Vernon) reminds students to keep it fun, not offensive

Halloween is just around the corner and many schools throughout School District 22 – (Vernon) will be hosting activities, costume parades and extra-curricular events.

It is also an opportune time to remind parents and students about inappropriate costume wear and that sometimes, even with good intent, or without even fully realizing it, people wear costumes that can make others feel upset, insulted, or humiliated.

While the District does not have an official policy regarding Halloween costumes, they ask that everyone be respectful and that costumes should not cross the line that might promote sexism, racism, or appropriating culture.

Here are some guidelines to consider when selecting costumes that will be worn at school:

- Students need to be identifiable and visible to ensure safety.
- Costumes that are provocative, revealing, sexual in nature or employ questionable props will not be permitted on school grounds.
- Costumes that depict violence, alcohol or drugs are not appropriate. Fake weapons should not be brought to school.
- Costumes that could be offensive or perpetuate a stereotype of someone's culture, gender, heritage, or religion are not permitted. A resource to help better clarify this concern is the #IAmNotACostume Campaign which can be found at: <http://www.lspirg.org/costumes>

Another important reminder for older students that attend schools with younger grades, it is everyone's responsibility to create a safe environment for all students and to set a good example and think about how costume choice may impact others in the building.

With so many creative minds at work, there are a limitless number of costumes that don't offend, so why not pick one of those this year!

Happy Halloween and safe trick-or-treating.

