

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

September 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

Welcomed students and families with fresh muffins, music, and excitement on Tuesday morning. We had many new families join our school community. Our amazing staff supported our new students to learn about the school and join classrooms.

The day kicked off with a virtual assembly where we were able to share the shape of the week with students and introduce some new faces. Last year at an assembly our school community was able to meet our new Vice Principal over Microsoft Teams, but we were surprised to be talking with an eagle living in a nest. Well, during this assembly we got to meet the man behind the eagle outfit.



Principal Mike Sutch shared with students the 'golden' rule here at Alexis Park, which is respect. Respect for self, others, and property. Mr. Sutch made one addition to this list and that was to respect people's personal space and needs as we return to school.

Throughout the day students (and some adventurous staff) enjoyed our brand-new playground!



We would like to thank Dr. Perkins for visiting our school and meeting staff and students. We would like to thank our wonderful custodians and maintenance crews that got our school ready to open. We would like to thank our Indigenous Support Workers, Educational Assistants, Noon-hour Supervisors, district staff, and teachers for being so kind and caring.



Beairsto Elementary



We had a great first staff meeting and were able to have lunch together... staff appreciated that we C them 😊😊 with Caffeine, Chocolate or Candy and some Candles to reconnect to calm this week.



The kindergarten teachers from Alexis Park and Harwood helped to welcome our grade one students to Beairsto on the first day along with our librarian, gym teacher and fine arts teacher – the rest of the school had fun sharing and reconnecting with each other about summer moments. Our brand-new grade ones got a taste of what it would be like in Grade 7 when they spent time in their classes with the grade 7 teachers.

- So happy to see the children playing soccer with grades 4 to 7 having fun and mingling together.
- Calm corners and couches are back:)
- From Grade 1 art with rainbows to overhearing 2 grade 7 boys having a chat about how rainbows are beautiful and scientific and why should they be girly – the joys of being back are everywhere :)



Beirsto Elementary...



Harwood Elementary

- We are thrilled to welcome all students back to school, including many new registrations.
- Welcomed 91 kindergarten students to SD22.
- Used our new portable and played on our new blacktop.



W.L. Seaton Secondary

- Seaton welcomed our incoming Grade 8 students with a fantastic orientation.
- Our Student Engagement and Equity team created beautiful displays to welcome our students and our new Superintendent, Dr. Perkins.
- We opened a new classroom called the Annex in the old soccer clubhouse.

W.L. Seaton Secondary...



Vernon Family of Schools



Alternative Programs



- Our ALP team is excited to continue our canoe carving work with Master Carver, Frank Marchand
- Frank shares his skills and expertise in carving and shares his knowledge and stories of Indigenous culture and syilx traditions as he works alongside our students

Open Door

- Our staff is looking forward to reconnecting and re-engaging with students
- We have plans to increase our activity opportunities for our Open-Door students



VLearn

Staff are looking forward to reengaging with students and families

- Everyone is excited for regular activity days
- District academies are up and running (baseball)

Alternative Programs...



CrossRoads

- Enrollment has doubled in the last two years
- To supplement core academics students are now able to be engaged in more hands-on activities and have found passions for art, photography, and fitness



BX Elementary

What a great start we had at BX! We were able to go to our new classes on the first day of school. Our students are jumping for joy with all the grass on our playground and field this year. We see the relief and excitement in our students as they play with all their friends this year and they are not restricted to a cohort or zone.





Hillview Elementary

Hillview would like to recognize three new additions to our school!

- Hillview is excited about our new gender-neutral Intermediate washrooms. The maintenance department worked hard to have these completed by start-up.



- Our new outdoor learning structure is nearing completion. We are very pleased with both the location and the design of our new structure.

Just before school ended, our Gaga Pit was installed. This is a PAC funded initiative and is very popular with our students.





Silverstar Elementary

- Held our first virtual assembly: introduced our Silver Star Dream Team...students/teachers/EAs /custodian/clerical/supervisors – so excited for another great year!!
- Grade ½ class made hot air balloons initiating a great start to a new year. “Away We Go”. Rockstar craft makers!!



- Montessori 2-4 Sketching self-portraits. Proud to be learning about proportions of the human face and symmetry. First day learning adventures.





Vernon Senior Secondary

- VSS was ready to welcome back all our students. Our leadership class decorated our commons and prepared a banner that was welcoming with a safety message!



- Our grade 12s are excited for their graduation year and being able to be back in our schools' commons area!



Vernon Senior Secondary...

- The VSS Panthers Football Team is ranked No. 1 by Varsity Letters and Howard Tsumura. The following is a quote from his article...
- “Time will tell what effect the pandemic will have on our program, but I know that the bonds formed between the guys that have been grinding it out without any games are very strong,” Panthers’ head coach Sean Smith told Varsity Letters as his team enters the new season with a decisive No. 1
- The picture below was from the 2019-2020 season when the VSS Team won the last Provincial Championship at BC Place.



Fulton Family of Schools



Ellison Elementary

- We welcomed our Ellison Eagles back to a freshly painted school – Thank you to the amazing painting crew of SD #22, who became part of our Ellison Community in May and June! The exterior of our school looks fabulous with our new colors and the addition of a new roof!
- We held our first virtual assembly of the year and introduced our amazing Ellison Team. We welcomed several new staff members to Ellison this year, from classroom teachers, support teachers to new EA’s and custodial staff – all great additions to help us SOAR to new heights!
- We added a 17th Division to our school, and we have been very busy for the last two weeks with daily registrations and welcoming new kiddos to our Eagles Nest!

Ellison Elementary...

- During the first few days of school, we are focusing on kindness and extending a helping hand, as well as reviewing our SOAR virtues of **Self-Regulation**, **Orderliness**, **Accountability** and **Respect**.



Mission Hill Elementary

- We are happy to have our students settled into their classes up on "The Hill". The halls are buzzing with excitement and new friendships.
- Teachers shared our virtual assembly and students were introduced to several new teachers. We welcome everyone to the team!
- Our grade one students started their year with some math challenges and problem solving. We have some great critical thinkers.





Okanagan Landing

- We were excited to welcome back 311 returning students and many new students this year. Our current enrollment is 333.
- Our opening assembly focused on treating each other with kindness and ensuring a safe learning environment for all.
- We are looking forward to getting reacquainted with our school community and learning about what makes each individual special.



Clarence Fulton Secondary

- Fulton staff got to enjoy a delicious homemade lasagna lunch today together in the staff room. It was great to connect.
- Our staff met in the gym for our staff meeting and to become aware of all our safety protocols and to discuss trauma-based practices.
- Dayton Ingenhaag, a Fulton graduate from last year, just earned a full football scholarship to SFU. A testament to his hard work and dedication.

Clarence Fulton Secondary...

It was a great first day with lots of excitement in the air.



Kalamalka Family of Schools



Coldstream Elementary

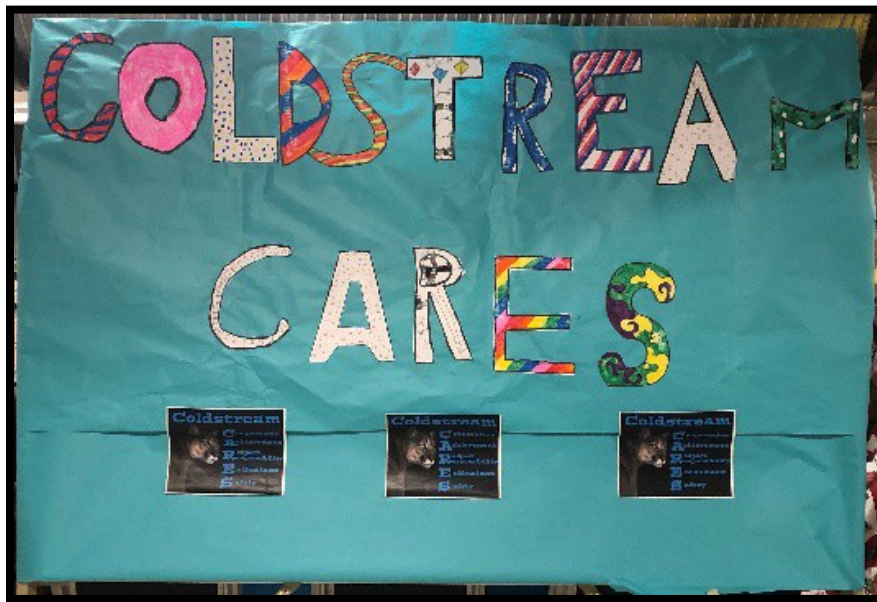
Welcoming our students back to school and seeing their great big smiles has made it a fantastic start-up.



Coldstream Elementary....

Our new kindergartens showed us their biggest Coldstream Cougar roars!

- We welcomed 23 new students this week.
- Our first week has been focused on **Being Together & Making Connections.**



Kidston Elementary

Kidston added 2 new divisions this year expanding our school family to 18 divisions. We welcomed 38 new students and many new staff to our building. We are waiting for our third portable to arrive. Thank you to the maintenance staff for all your hard work getting the new portable site ready over the summer



Kidston Elementary...

Our school garden flourished over the summer thanks to the help of our Kidston community. Families signed up for a week over the summer to take care of the garden.



We are excited to have the addition of our new outdoor learning structure almost complete. Can't wait for it to be done so we can continue our place-based learning outside on our beautiful school grounds.



Lavington Elementary

Our Truth and Reconciliation Memorial Garden has flourished over the summer. We will harvest the seeds and replant/regrow in the new season to symbolize our journey.



Lavington Elementary...

Not to brag but...

Best Elementary gym in the District! Refinished floor and new lighting. Bring on Elementary sports and the BC Winter Games!



Our school community enjoyed a 'Welcome Back' gathering outside to introduce all staff and begin building the foundation for a successful school year!



Kalamalka Secondary

We had a busy start-up at Kal with many fresh new faces of new students from BC, and across Canada as well as international students from seemingly everywhere. We also welcomed many new staff members as teachers, CEAs, and secretaries.

I asked many students how they feel about everything starting up again and being back in school, and the general reply was, 'Meh, it's school.' BUT I also read between their lines, and I could tell that they were very pleased and happy about the whole routine starting up and being part of their lives.

Kalamalka Secondary...

We are very excited about our school goal of 'indigenizing' our school and to that end we had local syilx artist David Wilson paint this mural which will be installed in our front foyer. (It's a lot bigger than it appears below!)



The kids are also hard at work already in our local stream as they went on a science field trip for Jennifer Bitz's STEM class in grade 8:

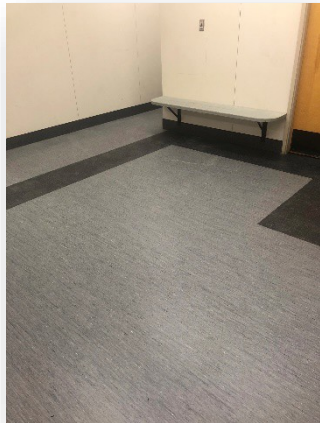


Bloom Family of Schools



Charles Bloom Secondary

- We love our new lighting. So grateful to the maintenance department for getting our new sprinkler system and ventilation system all up and running in one wing!
- Our new floors in the girls' changing room look fabulous!



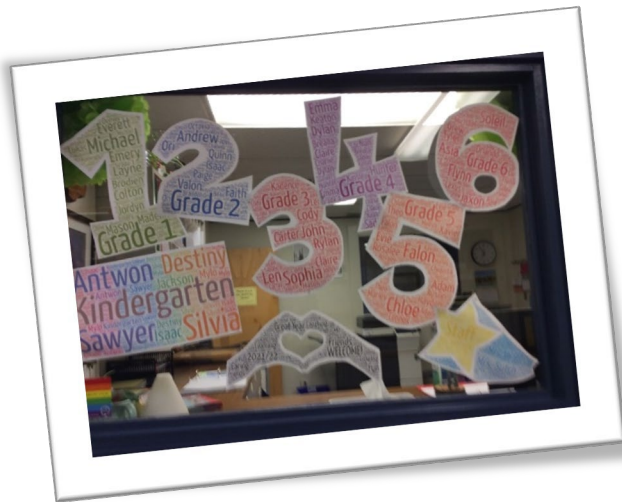
The new volleyball PE class is a huge success! Thanks Mr. Romain.





Cherryville Elementary

- Our school welcomed 7 kindergarten students and 4 new students from grades 1-6!



Our grade ½ class had a fantastic dance party!



We started off with a virtual assembly talking about kindness and thinking what we want to write on our school entrance bulletin board for “This year I want to . . .”



J.W. Inglis Elementary

We opened the doors to many new students and lots of positive energy. Students enjoyed connecting with all their friends without having to worry about 'Zones' and 'Cohorts'!



The JW Inglis PAC purchased 'Buddy Benches' which were installed this summer. These boys were testing out the benches and it looks like they liked them!



The school was buzzing with activity over our opening 3 days as students worked on building positive classroom communities through such activities as building marble tracks and "Big Buddy/ Little Buddy" reading.

J.W. Inglis Elementary...



Two grade 3 students stand beside the sunflowers that they planted in the spring and two grade 1 students sit beside the squash they planted in the spring – they were amazed at how well the seeds they planted had grown in our new garden troughs.

Indigenous Programs

The Indigenous Education team has arranged for two Legacy of Hope exhibits to be featured in SD22. The first exhibit is a traveling exhibit and is entitled, *Where are the Children? Healing the Legacy of the Residential Schools*. **Each secondary school** in the district will be host to the Legacy of Hope exhibit throughout the fall and winter, so that SD22 staff and students can learn about 125 years of the Indian Residential School system.



Indigenous Programs...

The Indigenous Education team has arranged to display a second interactive exhibit, ***Remembering, Honouring and the Way Forward*** at **VSS**. This piece was developed to: “...acknowledge the dark chapter in Canada’s history, to remember the Survivors who made it out of the Schools, and to honour those who did not, so that we can learn, change, take action and build respectful relationships between Canadians and Indigenous Peoples moving forward.”



- We also welcome new members to our department: **Dave Lafontaine** as the District Vice Principal and **Sheryl Newton** as Indigenous Education Lead Teacher.



Human Resources

- 42 new teachers hired to the district either as a TTOC or contract teacher for this school year.
- 59 support staff hired to the district this school year. This number includes 38 Educational Assistants.
- Over 100 new employees, including exempt staff, attended our voluntary virtual new employee orientation on September 2nd.
- Looking forward to local teacher collective agreement bargaining this fall and CUPE collective agreement bargaining this spring.

Student Learning Curriculum

Our Learning Directions Team has grown with an addition of another Technology Innovation Coordinator and Literacy Intervention Teacher. They are all excited about the year ahead and have been collaborating and planning professional learning opportunities. The Learning Directions Team is really looking forward to getting into schools to engage and support both students and teachers. They will be bringing:

- Fresh ideas
- New instructional resources
- Exciting ways to engage and collaborate



Student Learning Curriculum...

Lisa Ball has been preparing new resources in the DRC and is eager to get these into the hands of teachers.



Check out <https://www.sd22learns.ca/> for all things teaching and learning.

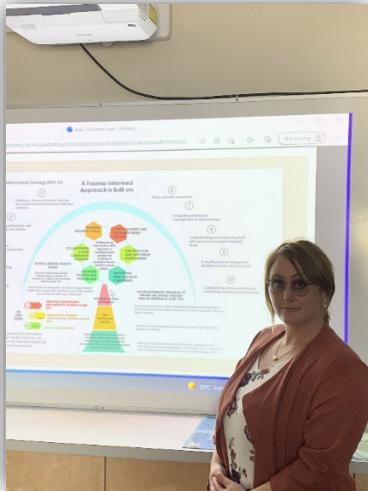
Career Programs

- We have a number of students that have taken advantage of our strong partnership with Okanagan College and have begun their learning in August/September:
 - Explore Trades Sampler – Experience with five different trades building up the base skills.
 - Academic Dual Credit – 1st year university level academic courses.
 - Plumbing Foundations
 - Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Mechanic
 - Certificate Programs – Nursing Unit Assistant, Education Assistant, Health Care Assistant.
- Many of our students have been working hard over the summer and have collected work experience credits to count towards their graduation. There are many more opportunities for students to plan for their future in the coming months.



Student Support Service

We have been spreading the word about moving forward in SD 22 using a Trauma Informed Approach to supporting students and staff. Kristen Zuest our Mental Health and Healthy Promoting Schools Liaison has presented about district wide initiatives that are available to all schools.



Our Inclusion Support Team is busy preparing community life skills activities that will be available to our students with diverse needs. Adapted aquatics begins again soon.



Student Support Service...

In Student Support Services we have brought various groups together for staff meetings to collaborate and plan for the upcoming school yr.



International

- Has welcomed 212 international students representing 14 countries for September 2021. We are still waiting for an additional 24 students to arrive. These students have been delayed due to a backlog in visa processing times.
- Feedback from our international students has been very positive. Our students are feeling welcomed in their schools and are finding the class topics interesting and are enjoying the change in teaching style.



International...

- Charles Bloom Secondary School has welcomed 17 students into their program this fall, which is the largest group of International students in many years.



Finance Department

- Many families will not have to hunt for their lost cheque books this year. Most student fees can now be paid online with a credit card through the MyEdBC portal. Transportation fees can be paid through School Cash Online.
- The School District spent over \$107 million last school year towards its mission to inspire and develop lifelong learners who can communicate, think creatively, problem-solve, collaborate, and understand their personal and social responsibilities. The annual financial statements will be presented to the Board next week.
- In addition, the School District invested \$15.5 million last school year in our capital infrastructure, including school renovations, additions, and school technology.

Transportation Department

Looking forward to our new Transportation Manager (Tracey Syrota) coming on board mid-September.

New electric buses hit the road this fall...how exciting!!

Thank you to everyone working towards getting everyone to school safely.



Engagement – *all are invited to get involved*

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/>

Orange Shirt Day – Wednesday, September 29th - We encourage our entire learning community to wear Orange Shirts (and ribbons and shoes and anything else you may have) to school on September 29, 2021. This is to recognize the history and ongoing trauma caused by residential schools.

Day for Truth and Reconciliation: Sept. 30, 2021 will commemorate the history and ongoing trauma caused by residential schools. There will be no school on September 30th. We encourage our entire community to learn about our Indigenous partners across Canada and recommend the following:

FNESC (First Nations Education Steering Committee): <http://www.fnesc.ca/authenticresources/>

- **Dr. Murray Sinclair** – every Canadian should know this person. Please see the YouTube link attached. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tIAVLIDAQLU>
- **Indigenous Writers:** <https://www.cbc.ca/books/14-inspiring-children-s-books-from-indigenous-writers-1.4832091>
- **Spirit Bear:** First Nations Family and Caring Society shares Spirit Bear's story of taking a journey and hearing Survivors' stories. This resource is shared to support conversations with young students surrounding the Residential Schooling System. This resource is recommended for Grades K-4. <https://fncaringsociety.com/SpiritBear/honouring-memories>
- **Truth and Reconciliation (TRC) Website:** Please take some time to learn how you can action these 94 calls in your communities. <https://nctr.ca/about/history-of-the-trc/trc-website/>
- **Truth and Reconciliation Week:** Gr. 5 to 12 teachers are encouraged to sign up for Canada's 2021 Truth and Reconciliation Week, running Sept. 27 to Oct. 1, 2021. Over the course of five days, teachers will share videos created by Indigenous storytellers, which show traditional ceremonies and artistic performances, alongside conversations with Elders and knowledge keepers, survivors, and children of survivors of residential schools. There will also be a moving tribute to the missing children that never returned home from the residential schools. On September 30, Orange Shirt Day, a special program will be held to commemorate the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Registration is accessible on the [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#) website.