

It is my pleasure to submit the April Superintendent's Report highlighting the most recent experiences of both students and adults that align with the [Board's Strategic Plan](#). This month's activities have been punctuated by deep learning experiences through collaboration and technology. Over the past few weeks our elementary students have been engaged in STEAM learning activities organized by the Technology and Innovation Department and it has been wonderful to witness the energy and creativity as students have taken on a variety of inter-school challenges. SD22 students are not only demonstrating their curiosity but also honing their ever-growing skills in collaboration and teamwork.

In March our senior leadership team, as well as other invited staff, participated in the Thompson-Okanagan BCSSA Chapter professional development session focused on Generative AI in education. The session provided our representative team with valuable insights into how generative AI technologies are reshaping education. Through structured activities, resource-sharing, and collaborative planning, our team engaged with critical questions about AI's role in developing durable skills, addressing bias, and transforming instructional approaches. This professional learning directly supports our strategic commitment to *Leadership Excellence Through Collaborative Learning* by creating space for reflective conversations about both opportunities and challenges posed by AI. The knowledge and strategies our team gained will directly benefit SD22 students as we prepare them for the future where AI literacy will be essential.



SD22 will host the next Thompson-Okanagan Gen AI session in Vernon on April 17, 2025. Our team will be working to incorporate learning from both sessions into operational plans that will enhance teaching and learning experiences throughout our district. By continuing to explore the intersection of AI and education, we are ensuring our students develop the adaptive thinking, ethical reasoning, and technological competencies they will need to thrive in a rapidly evolving future.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. Mitchell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of the last name being a large, stylized 'M'.

Karla Mitchell
Superintendent of Schools

Student Success

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

Learning Department Update

Over the past three years, the Learning Department, facilitated by Scott Belshaw (Learning Coordinator), has supported the five families of schools in improving middle grade success and transitions to secondary schools. Grades 6-9 teachers from Kal, Charles Bloom, and VSS families of schools are participating in year one of the Middle Years Program. They are meeting three times this year to connect and create opportunities for smooth transitions from elementary to secondary school, focusing on student wellness, voice and choice, and literacy and numeracy. Fulton and Seaton families are in year two of the program, building on their relationships and transition activities established last year, focusing on student diversity, identity, and strengths.

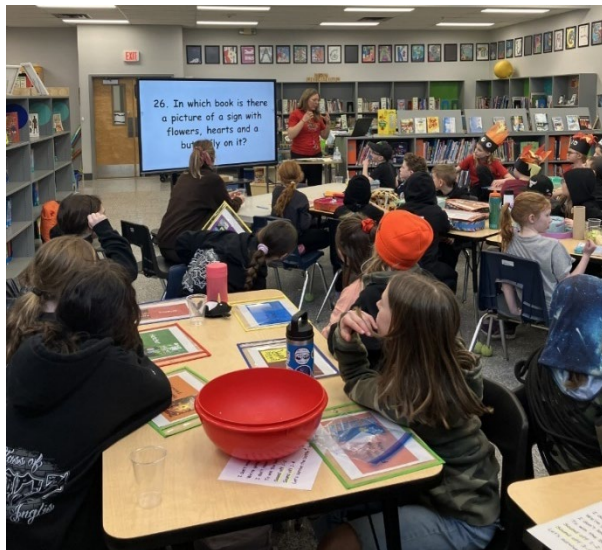
Through these collaborations, teachers have planned cross-school, cross-class activities for grade 6/7 students as well as experiences at secondary schools. Activities include collaborative microscope labs, food studies, taste testing, winter orientations, capstone presentations, dissections, culinary arts skill and volleyball and basketball camps organized by grade 11/12 students. Secondary students are embracing their roles as mentors, supporting grade 7s to the new spaces, culture, and learning at secondary schools.

The Learning Department is excited to host the third Middle Years Student Voice Day on May 8th, bringing together students and teachers to shape the district's Middle Years focus and culture. Representation from grade 8 students across all secondary schools and grade 7 students from Charles Bloom will share their ideas and experiences to guide programming for next year.



Grandfather Teachings at JWI

Throughout the year, the focus at JWI has been on the 7 Grandfather Teachings to recognize Student Success. This month, the teaching of Courage was highlighted. There have been some very obvious gestures of courage, such as trying skiing for the first time, to smaller ones such as standing up for a friend in a game. The students have been reminding one another each day of the importance of being brave and these reminders have made such a difference.



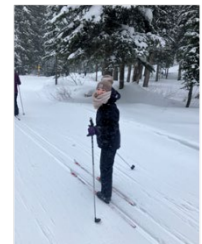
Also at JWI, the 2nd Annual Battle of the Books was a huge success, yet again. The students dressed up in costumes, brought snacks, and were ready for a friendly competition of comprehension. It was lovely to see staff, intermediate and primary students alike, having such a great time reading. Thank you, Ms. Muller for the support with this event! The District Battle of the Books, which aims to support reading comprehension and promote a love a literacy, will be held on Tuesday April 15th at Seaton (6:30pm).

The school is now gearing up for an amazing sprint to the end of the year. Some events include Track and Field, swimming, Chess Tournament, [WWEST](#),

and a Bloom tournament, to name a few. The school is ready to finish the 2024/25 school year strong. Go Wild Cats!

What's Happening in SD22 Vocations Programs?

The Vocations team had an eventful winter term, filled with a diverse array of practical, physical, and community engagement activities. Students from all five high schools had the opportunity to participate in bi-weekly visits to WorkBC, followed by an in-person resume and cover letter writing workshop at Vernon Secondary School. Additionally, students had the chance to attend a series of seven cooking classes hosted at a local church, where they honed their culinary skills by preparing and baking various dishes. Students also had the opportunity to participate in a cross-country ski lesson at Sovereign Lake Nordic Center. The term concluded with a group outing to Lincoln Lanes bowling, providing students with an opportunity to socialize and interact while engaging in physical activity.



Innovation and Technology Supports STEAM Week!

During the second week of April, the Technology Innovation Coordinators (TICs) led by Chelsea Kiddine, hosted an incredible opportunity for SD22 students to build community connections within their family of schools through STEAM activities.

Our TICs teamed up with WWEST/iSTAND group from UBCO and provided around 1150 students from grades 6-8 a safe and supportive environment to build new friendships and help each other solve a series of STEAM challenges. Teams were made up of students from different feeder elementary schools and the events were hosted in the secondary school across the district. This allowed students to build their STEAM skills, become familiar with their future secondary school communities, and make connections beyond their existing classmates when they arrive in the fall.

Indigenous Student Leaders: Planning for Upcoming Gathering

SD22 Indigenous Leadership Students met recently at the Charles Bloom Welcome Room to prepare for an upcoming gathering in Kamloops. Setting the stage in advance to be actively engaged participants is very important for the group.

The gathering will take place in early May and Indigenous student leaders from SD22, and eleven surrounding school districts will travel to Kamloops to participate in an important cultural gathering. This gathering will provide a platform for Indigenous youth to explore and address mental health and wellness issues.



Students will have discussions and create action plans focused on mental health and wellness across four educational domains: policy & governance, instructional core, learning environments, and individual students.

Overall, the goals of this gathering will be to: enhance understanding of cultural identity, create stronger community support networks, enhance leadership skills and create practical action plans for improving mental health and wellness in our school and communities.

I look forward to connecting with students on May 5th after the gathering to learn from their experiences so that SD22 can continually improve with student voice at the forefront.

Beairsto Elementary School

Beairsto has been focussed on giving students a chance to flex their leadership muscles by participating in various clubs and activities around the school. Some recent highlights include the grade 7 students keeping the basketball season going by playing intramural 3v3 games. They have taken the initiative to help set up and take down the gym, keep score, and cheer on their teammates during the games. Some primary students have taken on the organization and promotion of a very popular comic club, where students have enjoyed sharing their favorite comics and creating new ones. The grade 6/7 students have taken on the planning and organizing of school assemblies, doing a fantastic job of spreading kindness during the Pink Shirt assemblies. In a school of Beairsto's size, staff really rely on students to take on leadership opportunities such as delivering hot lunches, supporting younger peers in classrooms at lunch time, reading together, decorating the foyer, helping younger students solve problems, collecting compost and recycling, shelving library books, and much more.

JWI Student Leadership

The JWI Leadership Students have been busy organizing school events such as Spirit Week and a whole school movie night. They are outside every day at lunch supporting students, should they need it, and have been busy helping around the school with various tasks. They make a huge impact on the school community, and they have a smile on their face which makes their impact even sweeter.

ALP/Crossroads

To support student voice and agency, students have taken on a variety of leadership activities within the Alternate Schools. Some students attended the Indigenous Leadership Group hosted at Charles Bloom Secondary School. Staff will engage with them on what they learned and support them in taking on a bigger leadership role within the school.

With support from the Food Coordinators, students have been given a role in the planning and preparation of the hot lunch program. This not only gives students a sense of accomplishment, but it also provides valuable skills in meal planning, budgeting, shopping and food preparation.

For Spirit week, students organized and ran the activities and dress up days. This was a fun way to launch into Spring before the beginning of the break. It was a great turnout with positive participation in the events.



Hillview Elementary School



Hillview Elementary students and staff have demonstrated amazing leadership skills and have contributed significantly to the success and achievement of all students this month while working hard to create a positive, inclusive school environment.

Hillview students are involved in many leadership opportunities. Peer leaders and lunch monitors help all students during recess and lunch, demonstrating what it means to be a Hillview Hero by being Helpful, Engaged, Respectful, and having an Open Heart.

Mrs. Jolly's grade 4/5 class demonstrated leadership this month by taking the initiative to clean up the school grounds by picking up litter. They showed pride in their school and care for the environment.

Charles Bloom Secondary Student Leadership through “March Madness”

At Charles Bloom Secondary, senior leadership students treated the school to some “March Madness” as high energy activities took over the school during lunch breaks before the Spring Break. Numerous events included physical and mental challenges such as arm wrestling, foosball, corn hole, relays, chess, and gaming, as well as the ever-popular ‘Fear Factor’ and ‘Storm the Wall’ finale. This traditional week of events at Bloom also showcased the successful effort and dedication that senior leadership student displayed to make it a memorable week for both students and staff. Way to go, CBSS!



Community Connections

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

OKIB Flag Raising at Okanagan Landing School

On April 8th, Okanagan Landing Elementary hosted a ceremony to raise the OKIB flag in front of the school. The school was honored to host Elder, Pauline Gregoire-Archacan, who opened the ceremony and welcomed all present to the territory. OKIB Band Council member Allan Louis spoke about the historical significance of the land and in particular the area known as “Canoe Beach”, not far from the school. Director Charity Sakakibara spoke of the importance of the flag and the significance of the porcupine on the OKIB flag. OKIB drummers joined us to close the beautiful ceremony. The installation of the OKIB flag serves an important reminder in honoring the local Indigenous culture, territory, and community. I was so pleased to be invited to participate in this important school community event.



Career Programs Update

SD22 and the Vernon RCMP recently kicked off the annual Jean Minguy RCMP Youth Academy by inviting the 34 students who were selected for the academy to gather at the Army Cadet Camp for fitness testing. The Academy, which aims to strengthen community ties, welcomed student applicants from across the region (not just SD22) to offer them a unique immersive week-long overnight experience. Each participant was given a uniform, and a duty belt complete with intervention tools, and the Cadet Camp space was transformed into a para-military setting where students get to participate in hands-on learning



scenarios, drills, and even sleep in simulated barracks. Volunteer RCMP officers help guide the students as they learn about interrogation tactics, forensic identification, use-of-force options, search and seizure, organized crime and drugs. The overall goal is to mimic the Depot experience for students. By engaging in this academy, students not only learn about the responsibilities and challenges of policing but also develop a deeper understanding of community service and leadership.

vLearn



Last month, vLearn students dazzled the school community with their Fine Arts achievements at a recent showcase event. Their courage and growth were on full display, and staff couldn't be more impressed! From traditional piano and guitar to the unique sounds of steel tongue drums and the quirky Otamatone (look it up, if you haven't already!), the variety of instruments played and the range of music from classical to modern was astounding. Students also showcased their dance talents and displayed their stunning artwork, adding even more vibrancy to the event. This showcase was more than just a celebration of their creative talents; it was an

opportunity for students to present their learning to a wider audience, forge new connections within the community, and gain invaluable experience. It also opened doors to new ideas and promoted a deeper appreciation for the arts. By engaging in these events, vLearn is bringing the learning community closer together, and deepening a sense of unity and support.

Vernon Secondary School

The VSS Vocations Program is currently engaged in a paid work experience. Currently, two students are working at World's Health and Fitness. They started out as unpaid work experience students; however, the facility has now offered them paid positions. They currently work one day a week to support custodial jobs at the gym. These two students are also working with a local company called Diverse Reinforcing Rebar. The students are learning about what it takes to work on a job site.

Vocations students have also been going to WorkBC, exploring their job postings, and looking into attending the Employ Program once they complete school. This program offers a 6-8-week paid training program and places students into a job that matches their preference for another 8 weeks. The goal is for students to attain permanent positions.

It has been highly beneficial for the Vocations Students to collaborate and work with the community in order to explore and prepare for the future. This support for diverse learners is greatly appreciated!