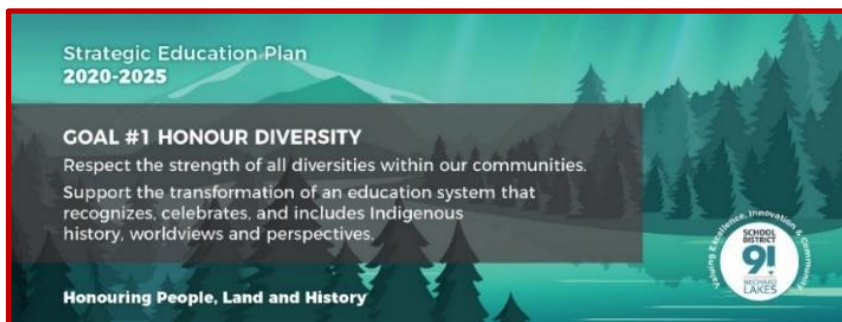


AUTHOR LEONA PRINCE JOINS K/1 SINKUT VIEW ELEMENTARY STUDENTS



We are proud to have a published author as a colleague, as are our students. On April 9th, Sinkut View's grade K/1 class was joined by **Leona Prince** as she read from her latest book, **Be a Good Ancestor**.



THANKS FOR LEGACY MURAL DAVID HOY ELEMENTARY GRADE 7S

For the past three years, the grade 7 students at David Hoy Elementary have worked with local artist **Kristen Cooper Nutbrown** to create a legacy mural for the school.



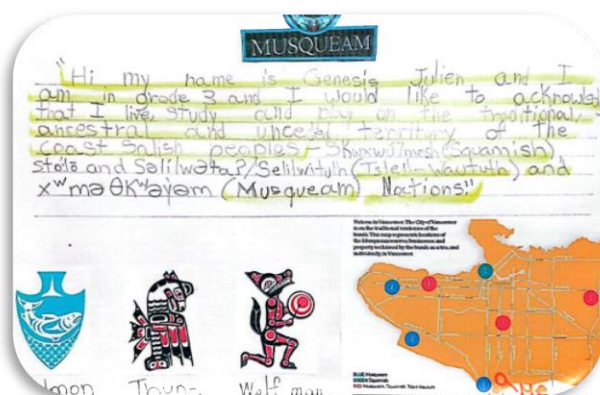
Kristen works with our students to develop a unique message and then facilitates the creation of an image that communicates this message.

The painting takes about a week to complete, and the metamorphosis from bare plywood to the breathtaking mural is an inspiring process for our students.

We are thankful to our PAC for providing the funding for this year's project.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS BY OUR YOUNGEST LEARNERS

Genesis, a grade 3 student at EBUS Academy, recently shared this well-articulated land acknowledgement prior to a virtual class that she was participating in. This is so well done Genesis....thank you for letting us share!



Strategic Education Plan 2020-2025

GOAL #2 ENGAGE OUR WORKFORCE

Foster school and district cultures that inspire and support passion-based teaching, learning, and leading.
Create opportunities for every member of our organization to contribute to student success.

Honouring People, Land and History



BEING AN EBUS ACADEMY TEACHER FROM AFAR

I had a chance to meet **David Mills**, an EBUS teacher, when the two of us were paired as judges for this year's Science Fair. As we chatted throughout the day, I learned that David was one of our EBUS teachers who works outside our school district as he lives in Vancouver. I asked him if he might share what it's like to be an SD91 teacher from afar. Thank you for sharing, David!



I started at EBUS in October 2020, and I currently work remotely from Vancouver and teach Foundations of Mathematics & Pre-Calculus 10, Pre-Calculus 11, and Physics 11.

I worked part-time at a private school and did some online teaching, but my main goal was to find a full-time job in a school that had a strong sense of community and provided me with a pleasant environment between students and colleagues. I had seen and felt what this was like in some TTOC positions and knew what it felt like not to have this. Having the support of colleagues and a positive student body makes any teaching position more pleasant.

I had just seen a posting for EBUS and was initially a bit leery since I did not think an online school was what I was looking for. Would there be any connection between students and me or other staff? If there was, would I feel a part of it, or would I be the odd one out? But with the uncertainty of COVID and schools, I figured an online school would be most prepared for required modifications in the coming year.

I knew I had not made a mistake within the first month, and my concerns were put to rest. I had begun to speak with other staff regularly, gotten to know some of them, shared ideas, and collaborated on ways to improve our practice and courses consistently throughout the year. I felt welcomed and part of the "team". I was provided with the means to communicate with students one-on-one and develop weekly study halls where everyone can come together over time. Sometimes these interactions are strictly course-based, but other times it's just a chance to chat with the students and catch up on how they have been.

Since I started, there have only been a handful of days when I have not enjoyed my job. I have never liked any job I have had in the past more than the one I have right now, and I don't see this changing anytime soon. EBUS, the staff, and students have shown me that the school's community comes from the people and not whether it is online or in person.

THANK YOU JHEN

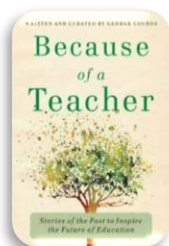
Jhen Bridgeman is our Youth Worker at Fort St James Secondary. She does many things to support our students throughout the school year, but two recent intertwined stories that speak to her work are worth sharing.



It is difficult to tell these stories without divulging the identity of the students and families that Jhen has supported this past month, but please trust me when I share that this work is outstanding. Jhen's hard work, advocacy, and compassion will help a young man struggling with significant anxiety celebrate his graduation with his parents and has allowed two siblings and their father to support their family with the loss of a loved one in Vancouver.

Without the hard work of Jhen, both of these examples could have been disastrous for the students.

Jhen, both of these stories, shared by your principal, significantly touched our hearts, and we are thankful that we have you to improve the school experience for so many students.



BECAUSE OF A TEACHER

Both Francois Lake and Decker Lake elementary schools acknowledged National Teacher Appreciation Day on Tuesday, May 3rd, as staff were treated to a luncheon and given the gift of 'Because of a Teacher' book. The staff members appreciated the recognition for all their dedication and hard work.

LEARN A LITTLE MORE ABOUT THE SD91 IT TEAM (PROFILE OF TEAM MEMBERS TO CONTINUE OVER TWO SUCCESSIVE BOARD REPORTS)

Paul Hawse – IT Technician and World Traveller



Born in Burns Lake and raised on Haida Gwaii, Paul took a circuitous route to join our SD91 family. After finishing high school, Paul spent some time abroad as both a Canadian soldier and a civilian involved in the Kuwait clean-up. Upon returning to Haida Gwaii, Paul worked in forestry until completing IT training and creating his own small tech company that contracted and provided IT support to Parks Canada, SD50, municipal governments and the Haida Nation. This work led Paul to support IT services in the mining sector, and in 2017 when the back-and-forth travel and camp life became too much, Paul joined SD91 and has been our primary EBUS Academy support since then.

Paul has been the key person in upgrading our EBUS infrastructure to improve resiliency and ensure 24/7 availability for our learners. Paul designed, documented, built, and deployed new hardware and software systems that now allow us to regularly update our infrastructure for security, performance, and stability patches. Paul's myriad of experience gained running his own business and working in the private sector have been a valuable addition to our team, bringing innovative ideas and different views that have helped inform our support, planning and implementation of infrastructure.

Paul is a valuable member of our team for his IT knowledge and because he can be relied on to provide a daily joke. Although he may get more groans than laughs, this shouldn't stop anyone from asking for his daily joke should you see him at a school or department. Paul's picture is fitting as he was also a powerlifter, a great conversation starter when you next see Paul.

Keith Teichroeb – IT Technician\Electrician and NVSS Grad

Born and raised in Vanderhoof, Keith is a proud alumnus of Prairiedale, Sinkut View, and Nechako Valley Secondary Schools. Following graduation, Keith worked for IKON Office Solutions as a copier tech, and many of us remember him in that role as he was often in SD91 buildings. After 14 years in that role, Keith pursued his red seal Electrician training

Keith takes immense pride in his work, and his work ethic and attention to excellence influence the entire IT team. During his time with the school district, Keith has run hundreds of miles of cabling, installing switches, wireless access points, radios, and future-proofing our infrastructure to improve resiliency. Although Keith loves his job, he shared that the people he works with are fantastic and he loves his team and the spirit of collaboration and team learning, which occurs daily.

Keith supports Evelyn Dickson, Mapes, all District phone systems, network infrastructure and has become a key iPad supporter. You may find Keith at any of our sites, helping to service our network infrastructure or solving an issue with our aging phone system. He enjoys meeting people and always has a smile on his face. When asked about dislikes, he shared that he is not a fan of workplace gossip and rumours.



Kevin P. Derksen – IT Technician and LDSS Grad



Kevin was born and raised in Burns Lake and, upon graduating from LDSS, left town to explore the world. During this time away, he would earn an honours diploma in Network Administration and begin a tech company with friends with dreams of being a gazillionaire! Although the money dream wasn't realized, he started a family, returned home, and joined the SD91 IT team in 2005.

Kevin has been a valuable member who truly enjoys the ever-changing landscape of Information Technology. He has been instrumental in many IT initiatives within the district, including developing and implementing our AR Sandboxes, which are now in many schools.

Outside of work, Kevin is one of the founding members of 'Ride Burns,' the local mountain biking association of which he served as president for 11 years. Mountain Riding in Burns Lake is well known across British Columbia, and Kevin was instrumental in building that reputation and the associated trails.

Kevin supports LDSS, Decker Lake, WKE, BESS, and our key back-end infrastructure. Kevin closely collaborates with the team, teachers, and staff to keep a pulse on how technology meets people's needs and is always on the lookout for new technologies that can support student learning. Kevin is always up for a conversation, so if you see him in your facility, do not hesitate to ask how things are going; however, make sure you have the time because the conversation will not be short 😊

Tom Henderson – IT Technician and the New Guy

Born and raised in Smithers, B.C. Tom is the newest addition to the IT Team and one of our rare non-SD91 graduates. Tom joined the SD91 family in 2021 after following his passions for snow sports for more than a decade working in numerous different fields from Mattress making, Commercial SCUBA diving, Roofing, Silviculture, Gravedigging, Roustabout, Grape picking and most consistently with the B.C. Wildfire Service. Marriage and the prospect of starting a family led to the decision to seek more stable employment opportunities. His interest in technology led to Tom getting a diploma in Information Technology at Thompson Rivers University.

Tom is highly motivated by doing work that has an impact, and in 2013 he received the British Columbia Provincial Safety Award for his work as a Wildfire Fighter with the B.C. Wildfire Service. Tom and his crew responded to a motor vehicle accident near a fire they were engaging. The disciplined training Tom and his team committed themselves allowed the team to extract and package the incident survivors long before ambulances arrived. The speed and effectiveness of their response significantly increased the chances of survival and recovery for the individuals afflicted by the accident. As Tom said, "Our hard work saved lives" Besides the stability that SD91 provides Tom, the fact that his values align with the goals of the School District makes him proud that his daily work efforts contribute to educating students.



Tom supports Grassy Plains, Francois Lake and our back-end systems and has been a key part of our iPad Management initiative, Printing\Paper Cut and our AR Sandboxes. As the "New Guy" he has been an excellent fit for the team as he is always open to learning and supporting new technologies and projects. If you see Tom in your facility, say hello; he has some great stories from one of his many past jobs.

INSPIRING PATHWAYS SPEAKER SERIES – EBUS ACADEMY

We have hosted a new speaker series called Inspiring Pathways, focusing on career choices, overcoming adversity, and following your dreams. Open to all students Grade 7 to 12 across the district, the feedback from students and families has been full of gratitude for the real-life advice and insights that have been shared.

We are very fortunate to have these speakers present and share their stories:



Cpl. Susan R. Boyes; Metis Community Liaison, BC RCMP Indigenous Policing Services - Feb. 9, 2022

Susan has been with the RCMP for 36 years. Much of her time has been spent serving Indigenous communities throughout British Columbia in various roles. Currently, Susan is attached to the RCMP Indigenous Policing Services Unit and is the Métis Community Liaison. She supports communities by delivering crime prevention, recruiting, and Métis history programs. In times of natural disasters, Susan contributes to community health and support by attending affected areas to help citizens remain safe, secure and access resources.

Dr. Todd Alec and Liza Sam RN - April 27, 2022

Growing up around the Fort St. James area (part of Dakelh territory), **Dr. Alec**, from Nak'azdli, knew he wanted to be a doctor early on. Dr. Alec followed in the footsteps of two Nak'azdli nurses who inspired him to enter the health profession.

"Lisa Sam and Renada Walstrom are local nurses who have done incredible work in our community. I wanted to do something similar to them, so medical school became a focus for me," says Dr. Alec.

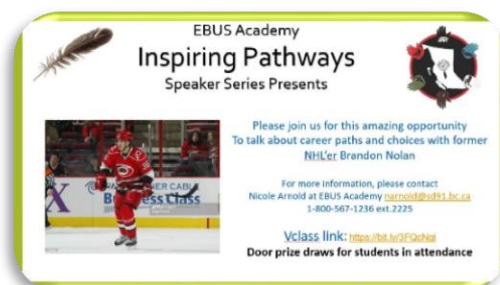
Liza Sam is Dakelh-un from Nak'azdli, where she grew up and continues to live today. She is a member of Lysilyoo (Frog Clan). Liza is a mother of two children; her family lines are woven into Nak'azdli and surrounding areas, tracing back nine and ten generations. Liza is related to everyone.

Graduating from the University of Northern British Columbia in 2000 with a Nursing Degree, Liza started her career working at Nak'azdli Health Centre as a Community Health Nurse; she continued to work with Nak'azdli for over twenty years. Liza also worked casually for Northern Health at Stuart Lake Hospital and Public Health during that time.

Session 3, May 18, 2022 @ 1:00 p.m. (Vclass link: <https://bit.ly/3qO6t4H>)

Brandon Nolan, Vice President of the Ted Nolan Foundation, co-creator of 3|NOLANS First Nation Hockey School, and former NHL Player.

Like his father, Ted Nolan (Former NHL Head Coach), giving back to First Nations and First Nations youth is very important to Brandon. Having effected the lives of over 2,500 First Nation youth through the hockey school since 2013, Brandon and his father and brother look forward to continuing to be positive role models for First Nations people for many years to come."



LEARNING CELEBRATIONS – SINKUT VIEW ELEMENTARY



Language and text being a source of creativity and joy have been apparent at Sinkut View Elementary as the Intermediate classes explore poetry, rhythm and rhyme in their classrooms, followed up by a Student Leads sponsored Dr. Seuss dress-up day.

Mrs. Ottesen's Grade 3-4 class celebrated the culmination of the SNAP program on the same day.



SCHOOL LEARNING CELEBRATION

The Curriculum Services team is hosting 14 SD91 school teams at a celebration of their inquiry learning on June 9th. Teams will come together virtually to share and acknowledge the successes and challenges they encountered as they focused on teacher and student learning.



Networks of Inquiry and Indigenous Education

Teams will be asked to share team, and individual learning and this annual event is always inspirational because we learn so much about reflective teaching practice from across the school district, which helps us all grow!

DECKER LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROJECTS



Mrs. England's grade 2/3 class at Decker Lake Elementary used the SD91 Trades Trailer and their imaginations to create beautiful wooden flower planters for every learner in the class with two extra planters - one for each of the school custodians as a gift for all that they do for our school. A shout out to **Darren Carpenter** for all his support with this hands-on project! Look at the faces of these very serious, but so happy, young carpenters!



Decker Lake school is also busy collecting toys and stuffies to send overseas to children in Ukraine and Uganda. Staff member, **Brenda Payne**, sewed nearly 100 cloth bags in which to send the toys. The response from the community has been very positive, and students have been generous with their donations! As toys are brought in, Mrs. Payne tucks them inside the bags so students can monitor our success rate with this endeavour.

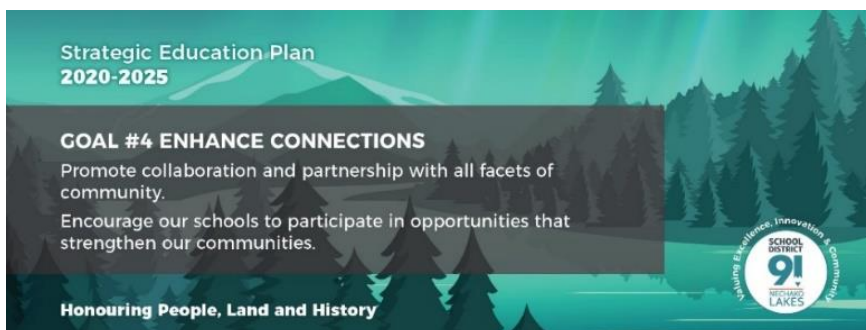
Like all elementary schools in the district, we are in the throes of district learning assessments. This month, students will complete various assessments related to literacy, numeracy, and kindergarten learning. We also complete parts of a local numeracy assessment to assist with our school planning for the coming year.

Wow...way to go Huskies, and thank you Brenda for all that sewing!



LAKES DISTRICT SECONDARY SCHOOL (LDSS) CAREER FAIR

LDSS hosted a grade 9 Career Fair, organized and run by our fabulous PAC. It involved more than 25 local employers and a host of parent volunteers. It is connected to our initiative to see every student transition to work or further education.



RCMP VISIT SINKUT VIEW ELEMENTARY...

As a part of the DARE Program, members of the local RCMP Detachment brought two squad cars for **Mrs. Jensen's** Grade 4-5-6 class to explore. We are looking forward to a visit from the Indigenous RCMP Liaison on May 19th.



... AND WILLIAM KONKIN ELEMENTARY

On Wednesday, May 4th, our School Resource Officer, **Constable Orlowski**, spent the whole afternoon with us. He began with a talking circle, sharing character traits he values, such as integrity, which he defined as doing what's right when no one is watching. He then took learners outside for a tour of the tools of policing, including his Kevlar vest, siren, and vehicle. Students even got to sit in the driver's seat. He ended by talking about his personal educational journey

and giving learners a chance to ask questions. Constable Orlowski booked this visit because of the interest student showed in learning more about police work after his last two visits to WKE.

We are so fortunate to have such incredible community partnerships.



HEALTHCARE TRAVELLING ROADSHOW VISITS FRANCOIS LAKE ELEMENTARY (FLES)



On May 4, we welcomed the [UNBC Healthcare Travelling Roadshow](#). University students training to be doctors, nurses, midwives, physiotherapists, lab techs, etc., set up a variety of interactive stations for the K-7 students to visit. They circulated each of these stations from 10:00-11:30 am and then bid farewell to the visitors who were on their way to visit Grassy Plains School. The FLES school community enjoyed the UNBC healthcare roadshow!



CONGRATULATIONS W.L. MCLEOD ELEMENTARY ON WINNING THE POLLINATOR AWARD

W.L. McLeod Elementary is the excited recipient of the Pollinator Award. This BC Farm to School award is new to Northern BC. It honours leadership in the principles of the



Farm to School program. We are so proud of our Farm to School Program, and it is amazing that others are recognizing how great it is as well. It truly is a team effort. We are so grateful to **Michelle Roberge, Evania Nolan, Heather Campbell-Stewart**, our **McLeod PAC**, and the **Nechako Valley Food Network** for all their work and partnership with us.

ABCDE (ASSOCIATION OF BC DEANS OF EDUCATION) PRESENTATION



On April 28th, the Koh-Learning in our Watersheds team presented to the ABCDE at UNBC's beautiful Agora Courtyard around the new outdoor Fire Circle.

The session featured current and former SD91 students, educators, and other Koh team members. The gathering provided a glimpse into the diverse learning experiences happening in the Koh-Learning program. Each presenter shared a transformation moment they experienced through the Koh-Learning program. Each speaker brought an "artifact" which has special meaning to them. The inspirational stories highlighted the power of learning when different voices and knowledge come together to connect communities, lands, waterways, and well-being.

Thoughts and stories were shared by SD91 educators **Leona Prince, Mark Gauthier**, and **Mia Moutray**. However, the highlight of the gathering were the stories of inquiry, growth, and transformation by our exceptional SD91 students-**Siobhan Klassen** and **Kate Roberge** and former SD91 student and current UNBC student **Jordan Cranmer**.

SD91 IN THE NEWS AND QUICK FACTS:

- [Congratulations to new David Hoy Elementary VP Kim Repko](#)
- [Congratulations Leona Prince, SD91 Newest Director of Instruction](#)
- [McLeod Elementary Presents The Wizard of Oz](#)
- [UNBC Healthcare Roadshow Stops in Burns Lake](#)
- [SD91 Responds to Mothers Day Concerns](#)

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES UPDATE

HONOURING DIVERSITY

- ❖ INCLUSIVE CURRICULUM – [UPDATED MARCH 2022](#)
- ❖ VALUING INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE & CULTURE – **UPDATE IN JUNE 2022 BY LEONA PRINCE**

ENGAGE OUR WORKFORCE

- ❖ STAFF DEVELOPMENT - [UPDATED MARCH 2022](#)

We are going to continue our work with leading thinkers **Peter Liljedahl** (Thinking Classrooms), **Faye Brownlie** (Literacy) and **Jo Chrona** (Indigenous Education) for the 2022 – 23 school year. This year's learning opportunities have been well received by schools and educators and we will be reviewing feedback to determine any changes for the coming year.

- ❖ NEW EMPLOYEE ORIENTATION & WELCOME – [UPDATED OCTOBER 2021](#)

Although these virtual sessions were organized and advertised well in advance, overall turn out from new and existing staff was low for all sessions. We will be gathering feedback, but believe that better advertising and promotion at the district and school level would help increase attendance. Reaching out with personal invitations to our newest staff and having more school-based leaders promote events are two concrete reflections as we proceed with this goal for the coming school year.

A big thanks to each department and staff member who presented this year. We look forward to building on the onboarding initiatives for next year.

We are working to move our support staff onboarding and orientation online for September 2022.

- ❖ EXPAND & SUPPORT CULTURE OF INQUIRY - [UPDATED DECEMBER 2021](#)

We were pleased to have **14** school teams from across the school district participating in this year's [Network of Inquiry and Indigenous Education \(NOIE\)](#) learning and there is a planned celebration and sharing of



learning planned for June 9th. Each participating school was provided with \$1000 from the School District and an additional \$ 500 from NOIE to help cover release time, food, and resources for the teams.

All participating teams were required to use and report on the 4 key questions below that were to be asked early in the inquiry and then again following implementation of the inquiry plan:

- I. **Can you name two adults in this school who believe you will be a success in life?**
 - *How do they show you that they believe in you?*
- II. **Where are you going with your learning?**
 - *What are you learning? What are the big ideas you are exploring? Why is this important?*
- III. **How are you doing?**
 - *What would you like to tell others about how you're doing with your learning? How do you know how you are doing?*
- IV. **Where to next?**
 - *Tell me what the next piece of learning is for you. What do you need to do to get better at this?*

CREATE STUDENT SUCCESS

❖ ALIGN SCHOOL / DISTRICT PLANNING AND COMMUNICATION - [UPDATED DECEMBER 2021](#)

School data folders are regularly updated following completion of both local and provincial assessments and principals are increasing their use of these data sets to inform school planning and priorities. We received our [Framework of Enhancing Student Learning](#) feedback from the ministry in the last month and were provided with the following meditative questions:

- I. How might the district utilize the available data as a means for engagement with students to enhance learning?
- II. How might you expand the involvement of students, stakeholders, Indigenous peoples and communities, and other community members who represent the breath and diversity of perspectives to help develop your plans?
- III. As the planning process evolves, how could the implementation of specific learning initiatives be more directly linked to strategic priorities?

District and school leaders will spend time in the coming months to reflect on these questions and consider how they can be incorporated into strategic objectives for the coming school year.