

We are grateful to live, work, and play on the unceded, ancestral territories of fourteen First Nations representing the Dakelh, Nedut'en and Wet'suwet'en peoples. We are working diligently towards creating equity for our learners through conscious acts of Reconciliation.

HADIH/HADI/HADEEH AND WELCOME TO YUS KE'NIGHUS (FEBRUARY)

The month of February has been filled with many important annual milestones – it has been both exciting and busy! Not only did we turn a page on the calendar, but students also engaged in 100th Day Activities, planned for important guest speakers, and enjoyed many outdoor physical health pursuits, such as skiing and skating. Witnessing students as they followed their learning passions during scientific inquiry was also a personal highlight for me as I had an opportunity to be a judge at the District's Science Fair held in Fraser Lake. Students were so well spoken and thoughtful about their projects! It is evident that our schools are places where learning and having fun are nurtured at the same time.

SD 91 schools also took the opportunity to mark Pink Shirt Day on February 22nd. This day, which was inspired in 2007 by an act of kindness in small-town Nova Scotia, is now a national and international day to focus a spotlight on the effect of bullying in our schools and communities. The first Pink Shirt Day was inspired by two grade 12 students in Berwick, N.S., after a new grade 9 student at their school was bullied for wearing a pink shirt. Travis Price and Davis Shepherd positively influenced their peers to arrive the next day in pink shirts in support of diversity, inclusion, and their new fellow student. Bullying is not only an issue with children and youth, but it can also be present within adult relationships. Racialized individuals and members of the LGBTQ2S+ community often face the greatest effects of bullying and harassment in Canadian society. I am proud that students in SD 91 were so intentional about wearing their pink shirts and, in some cases, they created and led anti-bullying learning opportunities for their peers. These efforts by youth (along with supportive adults in the district) are truly inspirational and help create safer spaces for each learner. They also provide further evidence that the Board's [2020-2025 SD 91 Strategic Plan](#) goal to *Honour Diversity* is continually coming to life!



Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. Mitchell".

(she/her)
Superintendent, SD91

PINK SHIRT DAY IN SCHOOL DISTRICT 91



STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATES: GOAL 1: HONOUR DIVERSITY



INDIGENOUS FOCUSED GRADUATION REQUIREMENT – SD 91 STUDENTS AND STAFF FEATURED!

As part of B.C.'s commitments to truth, reconciliation, and anti-racism, the Ministry of Education and Child Care is implementing an Indigenous-focused graduation requirement for all students starting in the 2023/24 school year. This change represents an important next step towards lasting and meaningful reconciliation, building on work to date to incorporate Indigenous content and perspectives into the provincial curriculum, educator professional

development, and professional standards for certified educators in B.C. The new graduation requirement will provide all B.C. students with the necessary time and opportunity to develop deeper understandings of the experiences, cultures, and histories of Indigenous peoples in Canada, in support of the K-12 mandate to develop the Educated Citizen.



We are excited about the new provincial video that features some of our local staff and students as they explain why this work is so significant and meaningful for each and every learner! Watch https://youtu.be/XMrFJE5_2uk More information about the new graduation requirement can be found at [Indigenous Focused Grad Requirement](#)

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATES: GOAL 2: ENGAGE OUR WORKFORCE

UPDATED ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING POLICY – UPCOMING ENAGAGEMENT

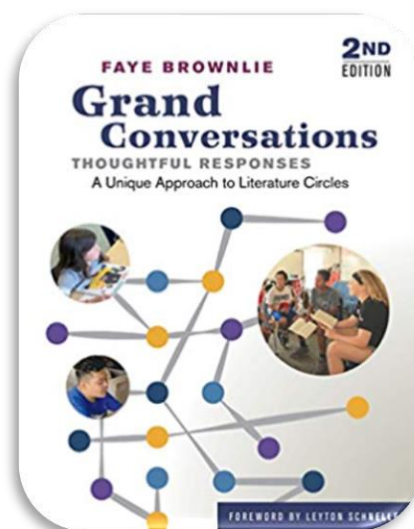
In 2016 the Ministry of Education and Child Care began implementing a redesigned provincial curriculum that is flexible, focused on literacy, numeracy, and the First Peoples Principles of Learning, and supports deeper learning through concept-based and competency-driven education. This educational shift to how and what students learn in the classroom required a corresponding change to student reporting policies and practices that are consistent throughout the province. Dedicated Parent/Guardian information will be available soon and school and district staff here in SD 91 will be supporting families as well as educators with information sessions in the spring. More information can be found at the following links:

[student-reporting-for-families](#)
[student-reporting-for-staff](#)



LITERACY LEARNING WITH FAYE BROWNLIE

On February 9th educators had the opportunity to come together online with author and educational leader, Faye Brownlie to discuss big ideas from her most recent publication, *Grand Conversations*. Teachers were able to engage in a casual book talk about the ideas and practices for small group literature circles. Faye's insights offer an alternative to the whole class novel approach that engages learners, encourages deep thinking, and fosters communication skills. The approaches discussed encourage even reluctant readers to want more time (and more books) to read. Thanks to the Curriculum Services Team for organizing these ongoing and impactful sessions for educators.



STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATES: GOAL 3: CREATE STUDENT SUCCESS



SCHOOL DISTRICT 91 SCIENCE FAIR AT FLESS!

It was an impactful day of learning at the annual SD 91 Science Fair at Fraser Lake Elementary and Secondary School. Over 120 projects and presentations were on display for staff, students, and the community to view! I would like to acknowledge Mouse Mountain Principal, Megan Boniface, for her countless hours of organizing and coordinating this event.

Many thanks to the staff as well as parents/guardians for their support to help the future innovators and scientists explore their inquiry questions and delve deeper into topics of interest.



The next step for student projects is quickly approaching at the Central Interior Regional Science Fair which will be held in Prince George on March 4th. Best of luck to students entering projects in this next phase of Science Fair 2023!

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATES: GOAL 4: ENHANCE CONNECTIONS

**ENHANCE
CONNECTIONS**

Create opportunities
and assist schools to
engage in valuable
learning activities with
community partners.

WILLIAM KONKIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

On January 27th, WKE hosted its annual Winter Carnival. This day was truly a successful collaborative effort between school and community! Students attended swimming in Smithers, mini golf and bowling in Houston, snow

painting and crafts at school, cross country skiing at Omineca Ski Club, and skating and curling at the Burns Lake Multiplex.

The day started with a delicious pancake and fruit breakfast hosted by PAC and donated by Save-on Foods. Everyone spent the day with Bonhomme Carnaval, parent and community volunteers, teachers, and staff, who all learned and participated together.



SD 91 IN THE NEWS

Mental Health Awareness in Secondary Schools

<https://www.omincaexpress.com/news/former-vancouver-canucks-goalie-corey-hirsch-speaks-up-on-mental-health-during-vanderhoof-visit/>

SD 91 Science Fair

<https://www.burnslakelakesdistrictnews.com/news/decker-lake-science-fair-einstiens-in-the-making/>

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