

As there have only been nine days of school between our March and April Board meetings due to spring break, this month's Superintendent report will focus primarily on updates related to specific initiatives within our 2021 – 22 Strategic Workplan and a few stories and pictures from schools.

2021 – 22 STRATEGIC PLAN WORKPLAN UPDATE

HONOURING DIVERSITY

❖ SCHOOLS AS SAFE PLACES

- ❖ Through consultation with a variety of SD91 stakeholders, including students, SOGI school leads, DPAC and others, many resources have been provided to schools this year to ensure that our schools visually welcome ALL individuals and have learning resources to ensure that students see themselves and their families represented in curricular resources.
- ❖ Significant work is underway to plan and prepare for SD91's second 'Share the Love' day on May 17th, a key celebration of this specific goal.
- ❖ Special acknowledgement to the following SOGI leads:
 - **Geneva Standbridge** for her work on creating and updating the [Share the Love website](#)
 - **Michelle Burt** and **Katy Burkholder** for starting the Rainbow Club
 - **Fiona Woods** and **Heather Derksen** for the great work with the Heroes Club

ENGAGE OUR WORKFORCE

❖ EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

- ❖ For the first time in two years, we are able to plan for an in-person SD91 Retirement Dinner to celebrate 18 retirees. A very big thank you to **Debbie Simrose** and **Donna Benson**, who spend countless hours preparing for this event.
- ❖ We celebrate years of service annually for our employees and are in the process now of organizing gifts and plaques for years of service.
- ❖ Principals, managers, and district staff continue to use the monthly Superintendent's Report to the Board to recognize employees who regularly go above and beyond in providing exceptional service/opportunities for our students and families.

CREATE STUDENT SUCCESS

❖ STRENGTHEN SCHOOL & DISTRICT PLANNING BASED ON STUDENT ASSESSMENTS

- ❖ Our Curricular Services Team regularly presents at our principal and vice-principal meetings to review district assessments to ensure that we pay attention to results and adjust instructional focus as needed.
- ❖ In the Fall of 2021, our District Numeracy Assessment was adjusted to focus primarily on 'Number Sense,' This re-focus has been well received by schools. Currently, there is work underway with a teacher working group to improve the new assessment. After each collaborative marking session, teachers provided feedback on the assessment and shared instructional strategies that support student learning.
- ❖ Similarly, our RAD Literacy Assessment is undergoing an adjustment to focus primarily on the components of the evaluation that focus on 'Main Idea, Supporting Details, and Metacognitive Skills.' Teachers have been invited to assist the curriculum services team in updating the RAD assessment to ensure that it engages students.

2021 – 22 STRATEGIC PLAN WORKPLAN UPDATE

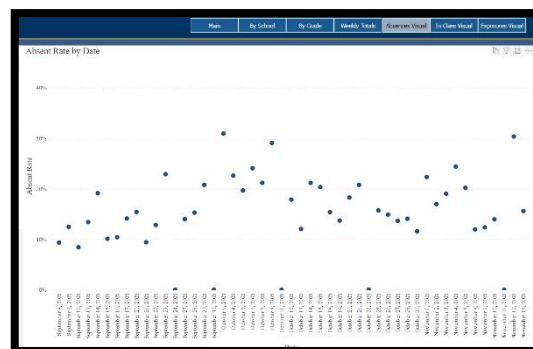
Recently, students from Student Voice had the opportunity to provide feedback on the RAD assessment. The students had lots to say and were eager to provide their ideas on making the assessments user-friendly.

- ❖ As we slowly emerge from two years of COVID context, assessments are critical in determining how best to support students moving forward.

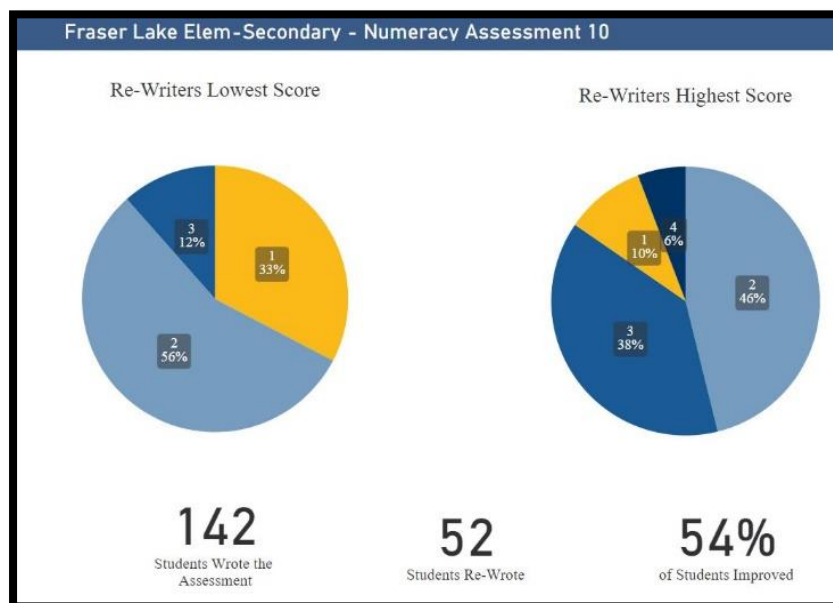
CREATE STUDENT SUCCESS

❖ SUPPORTING SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

- ❖ In the 2021 – 22 school year, we have used COVID funding to hire two district vice-principals to support schools with attendance. Their interactions with students, families and communities have helped support schools and welcome students back to school. They recently helped lead a community conversation in Granisle, which was very well received.
- ❖ We have been fortunate to be one of six public school districts involved in a Ministry of Education pilot to create a PowerBI dashboard specific to attendance. The dashboard can quickly identify students struggling with attendance so that schools can provide needed support.
- ❖ Much of our most recent attendance data has been COVID-related. We look forward to this system becoming more accessible to principals and schools as they create attendance support plans.
- ❖ Principals have regularly engaged in conversations specific to attendance and have been provided visual attendance data sets over the last year.



❖ GRADUATION ASSESSMENT STUDENT SUPPORTS



- ❖ We have used this year to collect data that clearly shows that the opportunity to support students in both initially writing and then re-writing grad assessments significantly impacts their final result (see FLESS Data to the left)
- ❖ This is a crucial goal area to be implemented by each of our high schools in the 2022 – 23 school year.

2021 – 22 STRATEGIC PLAN WORKPLAN UPDATE

❖ TECHNOLOGY SUPPORTING LEARNING

Thanks to **David Miles, SD91 Manager of Information Technology**, for submitting this update:

Smartboard Replacement Project

- 86 Smartboards have been replaced across the district to date.
- 56 this fiscal year with four more to be completed.

PC refresh project

- 150 PCs and Monitors have been received.
- 90% have been deployed to date.

SD91 Wallpaper for all District PCs

- The image below will be the first of many SD91 custom wallpapers rolling out on April 11th to all SD91 PCs. This will enable us to mark important days throughout the year (Share the Love, Orange Shirt Day, Remembrance Day, etc.), engaging both staff and students.



Voice over IP (VoIP) pilot project commencing in May 2022

- This project will replace our aging phone system with a modern, reliable, and more cost-effective solution.

Firewalls and Fibre target completion Aug 31, 2022

- We are working with Telus and IBM to improve our connectivity and security profile at all sites throughout the district. All sites will have a permanent fibre optic connection for network connectivity. This will enable a more consistent, reliable, manageable, and scalable network connection at all locations. Alongside the fibre connections, we are installing Palo Alto Firewall appliances at each site to align with the Provincial standard and improve our security posture relating to viruses, malware, and other external threats.

❖ INCREASE 'BELONGING'

- ❖ School principals looked at 'Belonging' data in the fall and have implemented various strategies in their schools to improve student belonging.
- ❖ We will continue to examine the results of these strategies over the remainder of this school and the start of the next.

ENHANCE CONNECTIONS

❖ STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS

- ❖ We are grateful to join the monthly multi-agency meetings with our partners. Each community meets once a month with principals, district staff, and the agencies that support our communities, such as MCFD, Carrier Sekani Family Services, Northern Health, Nezel' be Hunuyeh, Connexus, and First Nations communities.
- ❖ As we begin to plan for next year, meetings between our Early Years Providers and District Staff allow us to arrange support for our Kindergarten learners. This is an important transition for families and schools, and our partnership helps to ensure a smooth transition.
- ❖ We also continue to strengthen our relationship with post-secondary teacher education programs across the country and are pleased to currently host a Lakehead University Practicum candidate at NVSS.

Strategic Education Plan
2020-2025

GOAL #1 HONOUR DIVERSITY

Respect the strength of all diversities within our communities.
Support the transformation of an education system that recognizes, celebrates, and includes Indigenous history, worldviews and perspectives.

Honouring People, Land and History



DECKER LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARTNER WITH LOCAL BEADERS



During the week of April 4th, **Miss Lee** invited three community members, **Helen Cunningham**, **Sarah Green**, and **Katie Nesbitt**, to teach traditional beading. Learners enjoyed the hands-on lesson and felt proud of their creations.



EBUS ACADEMY STUDENT MARYAM ABUSAMAK CREATES TRUTH & RECONCILIATION VIDEO

Please take a moment to watch Maryam's video related to Truth & Reconciliation. Great job, Maryam!

Click [HERE](#)



SD91 IN THE NEWS AND QUICK FACTS:

- [NVSS Sound of Music](#)
- [Vanderhoof Honours Pioneer Bill McLeod](#)
- [LDSS Student Painting for an Education](#)
- [New Graduation Requirement](#)

TOWER GARDENING AT WILLIAM KONKIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Three teachers at WKE have chosen to grow Tower Gardens this year with their classes. The students have grown lettuce, herbs, peas, rainbow chard, green beans, kale, cucumber, and squash. Several vegetable feasts have already taken place as the students have harvested their garden crops.

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



WELCOME TO THE LAKES DISTRICT SECONDARY SCHOOL (LDSS) OLYMPICS

On March 17th, the LDSS Athletic Department hosted the LDSS Olympics. Students and staff were invited to form teams of 4. There were arena sports in the morning (curling and speed skating), followed by a BBQ lunch for the whole school. Other events included skeleton and biathlon. Enthusiasm and costumes abounded.



BABINE ELEMENTARY-SECONDARY SCHOOL CELEBRATES WINTER CARNIVAL



Winter Carnival was held at BESS on March 17th for the whole K-12 community. Great fun and hot dogs were had by all, and we had **Chris Paulson** from Spirit North return to give some more skiing and outdoor play lessons.



Strategic Education Plan
2020-2025

GOAL #4 ENHANCE CONNECTIONS

Promote collaboration and partnership with all facets of community.

Encourage our schools to participate in opportunities that strengthen our communities.

Honouring People, Land and History



LDSS PAC ORGANIZES CAREER DAYS

The **LDSS PAC** is working with the school and the community to deliver a set of career days for students in grade 9. This grew out of PAC discussion around our school plan and students' transitions from school to life after school. They have secured an impressive menu of presenters. Photos and more to come next month as the events are on April 20 and 27.

DECKER LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENT SPEARHEADS TEAM SEAS FUNDRAISER



A grade three learner, **Kieran McDonald**, is spearheading a Team Seas fundraiser. One pound of trash is removed from the ocean for every dollar raised. His goal is to raise \$160 to clean 160 pounds of trash. Students from all grade levels support Kieran's initiative by bringing in a loonie. Kieran has been responsible for the idea and carrying out the plan! Remarkable initiative for a grade 3 learner! Way to go, Kieran!

