



School District 8
Kootenay Lake

Superintendent's Report

April 7, 2020

Submitted by: Dr. Christine Perkins, Superintendent/CEO

Superintendent's Report

LEARNING

CRESTON FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

ADAM ROBERTSON ELEMENTARY

- First Zoom staff meeting on March 31 with the whole staff. EA's currently engaging with some excellent on-line professional development. Teachers working on class plans. Many working towards using google classroom, web pages, etc. to provide learning and instruction to students. The initial focus is on contacting families and students and checking in with them.
- Teachers setting up support tutorials and sharing our strategies and tools to work in the on-line world of learning.
- Custodians cleaning and disinfecting the site with due diligence!! Great Team!! Extra work in prepping up a site for the ESW childcare.
- Working with staff around plans for picking up school supplies, work, student personal belongings.

CANYON LISTER ELEMENTARY

- Same as above!!
- Lots of thanks to our caring and committed staff, who are in the process of determining the food and technology needs of our students and thinking of innovative ways to support them.
- Registration for Late French Immersion is April 30, 2020.

ERICKSON ELEMENTARY

- Zoom meetings happening.
- Teachers are calling families and planning for a continuation of learning.
- EA's are helping around the school and doing self-learning.
- Our primary concern is for the well-being of staff and students.

PRINCE CHARLES SECONDARY

- Teachers are working collaboratively on-line to support continuity of learning.
- Communication with families has been ongoing and positive.
- The HUB team have developed protocols to enable the continuation of service for students. This is a great partnership between Valley Community Services, Interior Health, East Kootenay Addictions Services and Prince Charles Secondary staff.

WILDFLOWER CRESTON

- On April 02, the K-3 multi-age class will be hosting their first virtual dance party. A way to build some early connection amongst the peers with their teacher. A starting point for building community virtually over the course of this pandemic.
- The entire Wildflower team (EA's and teaching staff) are working closely to build continuation of learning plans, get supplies to families, and deliver resources to families in vulnerable circumstances.

HOMELINKS CRESTON

- N/A

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CRAWFORD BAY FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

CRAWFORD BAY ELEMENTARY-SECONDARY

- Just prior to Spring Break students began a course on Blacksmithing using a forge. Students were very enthusiastic and surprisingly outstanding results were achieved.
- Teachers have embraced the challenge of teaching remotely.
- We are working hard to support our most vulnerable families and learning more about supports that are available.
- Staff meet twice a week on Zoom as a whole staff and are extremely supportive of each other moving forward.
- We are all missing our students terribly. It is a completely different way of teaching.

SALMO FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

SALMO ELEMENTARY

- N/A

SALMO SECONDARY

- Prior to Spring Break:
 - Salmo Secondary hosted basketball tournaments that were well attended by local and visiting teams and families. Grad students ran a canteen to raise funds for their grad.
 - A group of students initiated a free cupcake give away event - "Cupcakes for Kindness". Foods classes helped bake and decorate cupcakes and student volunteers handed them out freely during lunch break.
 - Grade 7 & 8 students held a successful science fair event.
- Since Spring Break -
 - School site safety plans developed and implemented.
 - Student lockers collected and parents have been retrieving belongings.
 - Staff have met online for support and to discuss continuity of learning plans. There has been rich collaboration for how to move forward with meeting student needs.
 - Staff have been calling families to check in. Each family is to receive one phone call for a wellness check and to determine needs they may have. Staff divided up the list to do this, and documentation protocols put in place.
 - Team based approach to identifying vulnerable students.

KASLO FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

JEWETT ELEMENTARY

- Staff joining in on JVH zoom meetings for connection through Continuation of Learning Plan.
- Tipi arrived - planning a ceremony to include Jewett & JVH when time is right.
- Zoom with families April 9 at 2:00.

J.V. HUMPHRIES ELEMENTARY-SECONDARY

- Zoom meetings for full staff, teacher, elementary classroom teams, secondary, SBT.
- Focus on not rushing, communicating through telephone, SBT meetings prior to sending out learning tasks and additional supports.
- Zoom with families April 2 at 2:00.

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SLOCAN VALLEY FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

BRENT KENNEDY ELEMENTARY

- Prior to the Spring Break holiday: Mrs. Koorbatoff and Ms. Maloff hosted two parent nights to share a new program opportunity for the start of the 2020/21 school year. Parents were thrilled to learn more about the proposed Multi-Age/Multi-Year program of choice for learners in Grade 1, 2, and 3 next year. More information to follow; a program brochure will be posted to our school website soon. Sneak peek: What will we make in our "nature kitchen?"
- Brent Kennedy is a lonely place without kids, teachers, and EA's zooming about the school and playgrounds! Week one of the suspension of learning saw staff reaching out to kids, families and each other to further build on their relationships and connections to nurture resilience during this very difficult time. We are ALL learning to ZOOM in new ways.
- The installation of the school's new water system will soon be underway. We hope that when students return to the building, we will have water flowing in our fountains again.

MT. SENTINEL SECONDARY

- Prior to Spring Break we hosted a very entertaining & successful Mexican Dinner & Talent Show evening in front of a full house to raise funds for our Dry Grad Events 2020.
- Hosted the first successful Google Meeting on Monday Mar. 30th with Admin & Teacher Leader team in advance of the first full Staff Meeting which we hosted on Tuesday Mar. 31st. Plans were developed for the continuation of learning with a soft start scheduled for Monday Apr. 6th.
- Plan and schedule developed for picking up laptops & essential locker items starting early next week.
- Zoom meeting planned for PAC meeting Monday Apr. 6th & Grad Meeting Tuesday Apr. 7th.

W.E. GRAHAM ELEMENTARY-SECONDARY

- First Zoom staff meeting Tuesday, March 31. All staff are healthy and safe. Teachers contacting parents and children. Teachers working on developing a delivery model of education. Most of us will use Google Classroom. Still working on how we'll deliver for our K/1/2 class.
- Extended deadline for applications for Valhalla Wilderness Program.
- Setting up a safe delivery model for student supplies that are at the school. So that families can collect their supplies for e-learning.
- Had another kindie registration! Driving up the Valley Student Population!

WINLAW ELEMENTARY

- Teachers have been very open and excited about new opportunities for learning.
- We are currently taking inventory of the needs of our families. At this point, we are looking at basic needs around access to tech, food, home learning environments and stress levels.

NELSON FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

BLEWETT ELEMENTARY

- Teachers are sharing their strengths and knowledge about the variety of platforms and resources at their disposal. The collaboration going on is amazing!
- PAC is planning a virtual meeting next week. We hope to introduce the new Principal, Tim Mushumanski to the group. They are also working hard to see how they can support children and families at this time.
- Thanks to the maintenance crew who have been installing new doors at the end of the building and to our custodian who is working to keep all safe.

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HUME ELEMENTARY

- Families are happily connecting to their teachers via Class Dojo. This is working due to the enthusiasm and support of amazing Hume families.
- PAC will have their very first virtual PAC meeting on April 7th. They are looking forward to the opportunity.
- Shout out to the Operations staff who have worked so hard to keep our school clean and safe!

L.V. ROGERS SECONDARY

- First virtual staff meeting Tuesday, March 31st -- so good to see everyone and get grounded for the week! Teachers are 100% committed to their professional learning in the new landscape, and to supporting student learning in new and creative ways--this includes academics, electives, and academies! Teachers have started communicating with families; soft start to learning April 6th.
- Priority for Health and Safety: ensuring all staff understand and apply the Safety Protocols within the building, and communication with our custodial staff has been ongoing: really appreciate their support and amazing work to get the school ready!
- Clerical and administrative team have been in this week to prepare for safe pick up and drop off of locker contents, textbooks, applications, as well as over 100 chromebooks starting April 6th
- We've met with our School Based Team, Food Security Team, and Grad Support Team for next steps
- Planning a virtual grade level assembly with our Grade 12's next week

REDFISH ELEMENTARY

- Thoughtful, flexible, brave, creative, caring and hardworking staff - at Redfish and in our whole district!
- Patient parents connecting, sharing ideas and support and the bright lovely moments in this new dynamic
- Excitement over learning new technologies, systems, resources - looking at the opportunities.
- Connecting with community members in different ways, so we all continue to feel a part of the whole.

ROSEMONT ELEMENTARY

- Staff are trying different platforms for connecting with students but still have many questions.
- Parents are patiently waiting for what the "new normal" will look like; they have been very supportive.
- Rosemont PAC hosted its first annual Carnival night on March 12; it was a great success raising over \$2400.

SOUTH NELSON ELEMENTARY

- Staff have had amazing collaboration in sharing resources, helping each other in setting up online platforms, and had their first Staff meeting via Zoom on March 31st in planning for the continuity of learning for our South Nelson families.
- Many, many thanks to the hard work of the South Nelson custodial staff and SD8 Operations staff in preparing our site to start looking after children of Essential Service frontline workers starting on Monday, April 6th.
- A huge shout out of thanks to sd8 and the contractors who refinished the gym floor at South Nelson over the break. It looks fantastic!

TRAFALGAR MIDDLE

- Our amazing staff started compiling resources and learning how to better navigate the online learning platforms before we came back into session! The entire Traf Staff convened on March 31 in a virtual staff meeting using Google Meets, and it was a great success, where staff not only shared ideas and resources, but really took the time to check in with each other. Continuing this week, staff have been collaborating and learning how to use the Google Suite effectively and safely by practicing with each other.
- Teachers have been busy this week contacting every student and family to check in and say hello. Trafalgar is really missing our students and we are happy they are all safe at home!

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- As of Friday April 3, we have handed out 90 devices for our students to use to access their learning during this unprecedented time.
- A huge Thunder Clap of appreciation for our parent community who have been patient, supportive, and kind. We thank you so much!
- Another massive thank you to all the staff who have been working to keep our site clean and safe!

WILDFLOWER NELSON

- Gr. 2-6 Class (Heather and Emily) - A class term project which was both a book & a diorama. Each student chose a different First Nations people to research, pre-contact. After learning/researching/writing for several weeks they each made a diorama of their Nations home in their landscape. The special knowledge that each person accumulated during the research really came through in how they represented the land, animals, clothing and transportation. Each student could also speak to the differences between all the other cultures. I see highlighting this diversity as a true celebration!
- Gr. 7-9 Middle Years Program - On March 15th - the middle years students hosted an open house where they had an opportunity to share out their Passions Projects worked on throughout the Winter term. Projects ranged from novellete's, fundraising for the wildfires in Australia, exploring adobe editing software, building canoe paddles, a rock band performance etc... (to name a few). An amazing celebration of student ownership of learning as they explored and learned as well about the inherent challenges of being self-directed.
- Wildflower Staff Connect Community - 2000 people signed so far. Kim Laybourne wanted to find a way for people who may need help, and for those offering help, to connect with each other through the pandemic. She chatted with Anne Cavicchi and from there the idea grew, and Nelson Helps was founded!
 - Nelson Helps is an unofficial group of volunteers working together to help the people of Nelson during the COVID-19 pandemic, reaching out to offer assistance as good neighbours. If you are in a group particularly vulnerable to the virus and don't want to go out for prescriptions, groceries, or other essentials, there is someone is willing to help! If someone is in isolation or quarantined and needs help, people are there for them.
 - Essentially, they successfully created a way to connect people using Facebook, e-mail, and an online network. People who are not online have also been able to connect with the group through community contacts. <http://www.nelsonhelps.ca>, Video: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1333721206813193>

ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

- **From the Heart** Thursday, March 5, 2020: A team of Indigenous and non-Indigenous students from Mount Sentinel Secondary School and Sequoia Learning Centre are engaging in a 6-month learning process toward a public display and performance in March 2020. This exciting evening was led and facilitated by teacher, Andrea Mann. An evening of shared learning, inspired learning, and gracious learning! A true example of learning through the process of Reconciliation and student voice. From ticket sales, \$366.53 was raised. Students have donated this money to COINS, Circle of Indigenous Nations who serve Indigenous families and students in our community.
- **Indigenous Culture Celebration** Friday March 6, 2020: A partnership between the Capitol Theatre and SD8 Aboriginal Education. We offered two showings, one in the day which was smaller version of the evening for students in SD8 and one in the evening for community. Both events were very full! An evening of share culture, dance, and teachings.
- **Birch Bark Biting**: We have welcomed a new Elder, Pat Bruderer, into our district with a special teaching known as birch bark biting. Pat visited Wildflower, Rosemont and Trafalgar in March. This is a traditional art form which is created by biting bark with your teeth. Pat shares that this art form existed across Canada from the west coast to Labrador at one time. Of course, students love this treat and experience! Interested? Here is a YouTube video of Pat and a sample of this art below: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bFJaa9ndAts>
- **ABED Interim Continuity of Learning**: The Aboriginal Department will continue to offer supplemental supports to families during the Pandemic: cultural and academic supports to all ABED students in our programs to support pathways to graduation. In the first week back, ABED staff have been in touch with families to begin assessing needs and strengthening connections via video, email, and phone calls. The ABED team met as well, via Zoom,

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where we practiced ceremony, song, and shared teachings - we recognize the resiliency of Indigenous communities and look forward to growing creative supports as a continuation of the shared journey forward.



DISTRIBUTED LEARNING

- N/A

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM

- All International students whose parents want them to return home have arrived at their home countries safely.
- International Program staff connecting through Zoom to continue to support International students.
- International students are grateful that their Canadian learning will continue.
- Homestay families have been supportive and caring as students work through this challenging time while being so far from families.

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

- Very successful ZOOM session on March 31 with Alyson Oshurst on MyEdBC Competency-Based IEPs. Attended by approximately 50 people virtually.
- Shelley Moore ZOOM presentation for SD8 on April 6 - this is part 3 of our learning series for the year. Shelley is an excellent online presenter and has provided great sessions for us this year.

INNOVATIVE LEARNING SERVICES

- SD8 has an extensive lineup of professional development opportunities for primary, intermediate, middle school and secondary teachers throughout the month of April. We will be hosting these workshops in a virtual format via Zoom. - [April ProD Opportunities Flyer](#)
- On April 2nd, Adrienne Gear facilitated a workshop for 140 SD8 teachers based on her popular resource "Writing Power".
- SD8 has created a "Continuity of Learning Plan" for SD8 staff. This fulsome resource includes information for staff, parents and students during the current provincial in-class suspension of classes. In addition, we have compiled a package of extensive digital learning resources for teachers. We are also working with our website developer Sotropa

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to create an online "Web Classroom" space on every school website for all teachers to utilize as part of SD8's Continuity of Learning Plan.

- Weekly check-in meetings with school counsellors to continue assessing the needs in each school community.
 - First meeting took place on Thursday, April 2nd
 - Meetings will continue on Thursday afternoons
- Pandemic Food Equity Program to support vulnerable students supported through Community LINKs funding.
 - Food programs are expected to continue in schools for vulnerable students.
 - Principals to identify what programming can continue in the same manner for vulnerable students, and what programming needs to be modified to maintain the same level of service for vulnerable students.
 - If food programming cannot continue face to face, then Principals are to provide grocery cards (or food supplies if grocery cards are not an option) to vulnerable students.
- Safe Schools Coordinator and Schools Mental Health and Addictions Coordinator will be looking at joining school-based team meetings and potentially staff meetings as a way to support staff. Also, they are looking at expanding on our existing sections on the SD8 website to add more vetted resources instead of sending out individual emails. Safe Schools Coordinator and Schools Mental Health and Addictions Coordinator will continue to check in with counselors and PVP to support when and when needed and are also looking at the potential to do some online live webinars to connect with parents around digital parenting, anxiety, conflict management and mental health.
- Supporting teachers with resource collection and organization as we transition to the new digital world of online learning.
- Connecting with Trades Sampler students to help them look for ways to continue to learn about careers in the trades
- Working with PSIs and ITA to help YTT students while they adapt to online delivery of a hands-on curriculum.

ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE

SECRETARY-TREASURER

- COVID-19 Responses & Planning.
- 2020-2021 Budget Preliminary Draft Prepared.

HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES

- HR-FAQs.
- Provided answers pertaining to COVID-19 and working remotely.
- Reviewed CUPE collective agreement.

OPERATIONS

- Gym floor at South Nelson refurbished... just like new.
- All buses have been cleaned and disinfected.
- Custodians cleaning/disinfecting schools providing safe environment for those employees working.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- Development of technology loaner program to support remote learning.
- Continued rollout of Microsoft Office 365.
- Implementation of tools and technology to assist the District in this new learning.



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ENGAGEMENT & RELATIONSHIPS

COVID - 19: Please see our website for all current information re: Learning and District Business during COVID -19 - www.sd8.bc.ca

AUDITs - Postponed due to COVID-19.

BCCPAC - Annual AGM and conference is CANCELLED due to COVID-19.

BCSSA & SD 8 - Spring Forum - CANCELLED due to COVID-19.

BCSTA - Members of the Board of Education and senior staff attended the Leadership Training Series on strategic planning for student success and the *Framework for Enhancing Student Learning* via ZOOM.

BCPSEA - The BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) has reached a tentative Provincial Collective Agreement with the BC Teachers' Federation.

CAPSLE - The Canadian Association for the Practical Study of Law in Education [2020 Conference](#) is CANCELLED due to COVID-19.

DIRECTORS & SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM - A huge thank you to the members of the Senior Leadership team - both Directors and District Principals who worked through their normal Spring Break to ensure SD 8 - Kootenay Lake was ready to support Principals, Vice-Principals, CUPE, KLTF, and students and families as we transition to a "new normal" due to the pandemic COVID-19. A special thank you to Director of Operations, Bruce McLean, and the entire Operations staff. Health and Safety at all our sites have been the focus and we thank you for your work above and beyond. The daily work of the District continues in support of our frontline medical and health care workers and their families, our vulnerable families and our guiding principles;

Guiding Principles for Ministry of Education during the COVID-19 pandemic.

1. Maintaining a healthy and safe environment for students, families and staff is paramount.
2. Providing services to support children of essential workers is our top priority.
3. Supporting vulnerable students who may need special assistance.
4. Providing continuity of educational opportunities for all students.

We ask for patience as our Technology Department works to support our families and teachers in coming days as we work to ensure "Continuity of Learning" for our students.

DPAC and PACs - Thank you for your support during this pandemic. We wish all your family members good health.

The Budget consultation process for 2020-2021 will be going online. Please check our website for regular updates.

GRADs - your Principal will be in touch re: next steps for Graduation under COVID-19.

LEADERSHIP TEAM (PVPs) - Our leadership team continues to work on the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning (FESL) and our District Strategic Plan.

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MINISTRY OF EDUCATION - In an amendment to the Ministry of education's Five-Year Capital Budget, it has been determined that Blewett Elementary School Expansion project approval has "not been approved to continue to business case development as the project does not meet the Ministry's priorities for capital investment.

The reasons cited says Superintendent Perkins is, "Based on 10-year enrolment projections, the Ministry now recognizes that the school's existing capacity meets the requirement for current and future enrolment and has made the decision to remove support for this project".

Other projects were approved and include:

- A new HVAC system at Mount Sentinel Secondary (\$244,000)
- Mechanical Upgrades to South Nelson Elementary (\$850,000)
- Electrical System Upgrades to Trafalgar Middle School (\$400,000)
- A new bus (\$140,000)