

Superintendent's Report

December 11, 2018

Submitted by: Dr. Christine Perkins, Superintendent/CEO

LEARNING

CRESTON FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

ADAM ROBERTS ELEMENTARY

- Girls and Boys volleyball had a fun season. Thanks to Mrs. Delcaro, Mrs. Davies and Mr. Percival. Season ended with staff student volleyball challenge!!
- Parent Teacher interviews were held at school over the last month including on early dismissal days.
- NEW school webpage is gaining positive feedback and is live!!
- Coming up for December - rehearsals for Christmas/Winter performances
- Faye Brownlie will be at ARES for December 6th working with teachers in the Creston Valley Schools and students in Danielle Sonntag's class.

CANYON LISTER ELEMENTARY

- UNESCO Focus- Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) #16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions: Our student-made Peace Poles have now been mounted outside at the front of the school. They are a visual reminder of our wish for peace on a local, national, and international level. Our staff UNESCO school representative also attended the bi-annual UNESCO meeting in Vancouver as part of our responsibilities as a UNESCO member school. There was also an article in the local newspaper about our UNESCO work and the Be the Change group.
- WE Day in Vancouver- Canyon-Lister Elementary was recognized in front of 20,000 attendees at Rogers Arena for the work done over the past six years to make the world a better place. 18 students also received a back stage pass and preferential seating, and met some of the performers. This was live-streamed in the media, and the local radio station has invited us to talk about this on the radio. <https://www.we.org/>
- Remembrance Day/National Aboriginal Day/Louis Riel Day- our Remembrance Day assembly took place on National Aboriginal Day, and also honoured the Aboriginal people who served Canada. Chief Jason Louie of Lower Kootenay Band joined us for this. On Louis Riel Day we had a guest fiddler at our Metis Celebration assembly and we all attempted the Red River Jig, and we had bannock at lunch.

CRESTON HOMELINKS

- Renovations and relocation of the program is ongoing, as we consolidate all of our operations into one section of the building.
- The program is seeing an influx of Adult Dogwood students applying from the Bountiful community.
- All staff at Creston Homelinks are actively involved in the ongoing re-design and re-branding of the district's DL program, and are greatly contributing to the process.

ERICKSON ELEMENTARY

- PAC held their annual Turkey Bingo on Nov 21, 2018 to raise money to support the school. It was well attended.
- Currently PAC is getting ready for the annual Turkey luncheon on Dec 12. All students and staff get a special meal prepared by some of our great volunteers.

- On Nov 28th the school had a spirit day. Students and staff were encouraged to come to the school with crazy hair or a crazy hat for the day. Most people participated in the event.

PRINCE CHARLES SECONDARY

- Both Sr Volleyball teams won the Kootenay AA zone tournament qualifying for provincials. They leave for Langley/Burnaby Tuesday Nov. 27th through Saturday Dec. 1st.
- PCSS webpage launched as of November 26th.
- Our grade 12 leadership classes have been organizing and running various events that will occur throughout the year:
 - One group ran a successful bake sale fundraiser for Alma Quinton (grade 11), diagnosed with cancer earlier this year, raising \$2838.50 to help support the family.
 - Another group organized and ran our Remembrance Day Assembly.
 - Another organized a movie night for intermediate aged students and is doing a second one this week.
 - Another ran an intermural floor hockey tournament.

WILDFLOWER CRESTON

- Often the small is beautiful:
- This is a picture taken recently that captures beautifully the delight and excitement of learning as two of our Wildflower Creston kindergarten students celebrate making big strides in their counting and understanding of numeracy.
- Creston students continue their thematic work in the curricular disciplines of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) as they explore a project involving the creation of ping-pong ball mazes.



CRAWFORD BAY FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

CRAWFORD BAY ELEMENTARY-SECONDARY

- CBESS raised the Metis flag amidst student drumming at a whole school assembly following a lunch of local food and student-made bannock.

- Students and staff at CBESS start each day with a brisk walk or run around the beautiful grounds of the school, accompanied by the beat of a drum. This is a positive beginning to the day; students and staff start the day with an alert mind and heightened senses.
- Crawford Bay's PAC met with Superintendent Christine Perkins, Board Chair Lenora Trenamen and Principal Erin Gibbs to hear details of the Gr. 10-12 Grad Program and the structure of secondary programming at CBESS over the next 3 years.

SALMO FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

SALMO ELEMENTARY

- Three of our primary teachers and the Salmo Elementary principal attended a literacy conference call Joyful Literacy. Thanks to the Innovative Learning Department for sponsoring the attendance. It was inspiring and staff are working together to develop whole school focused literacy centers.
- On Dec. 20th Salmo Elementary will be holding its Winter Concert celebrating winter sports.
- PAC have sponsored a Book Fair from Nov. 26 - 30th. This is a great opportunity to increase our new books in the library. Thank you PAC.

SALMO SECONDARY

N/A

KASLO FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

JEWETT ELEMENTARY

- Every two months we have an Aboriginal lunch where we prepare and eat traditional Aboriginal food. This month we are having Bison burgers with bannock buns.
- We continue with our Take Me Outside Days every Friday. We have been learning about mapping and trail marking. We made a compass out of a needle and used it to map a trail around the school.
- We have a Tech Club that meets most Thursdays in the month. We are learning how to program and code Cubelets. It is our turn for the class set of Spheros so the students are having fun developing programs and playing games with them. We also bought a BeeBot with the Tech Grant we got from the RDCK and we are using it to learn mapping.

J.V. HUMPHRIES ELEMENTARY-SECONDARY

- K/1 class routines in place now that we have consistent EA's after a long bumping process and can consistently plan for Read by 3 time
- One-to-one volunteer reading program for third straight year in primary
- Adjusting PE 8 and PE 9 schedule after break so that they are at the same time with two options with two teachers - Fitness 8/9 and Sports/Activities 8/9 - received approximately \$9000 in donated equipment and fundraising for fitness equipment purchases
- Student Parliament facilitated by Student Leadership Facilitator Position of Special Responsibility - many projects on the go
- Blunt talk and Freedom Quest substance counselling for students as a consequence for substance use/possession offences

- District pro-d & resources initiatives having impact at JVH
 - PECS program
 - WJIV training for Case Manager
 - Math program with Downs Syndrome from district pro-d day
- Big thank you from JVH and The BC Children's Hospital for all who supported our efforts in raising \$2645.37 in memory of Rowan Wiltse with our fall Run for Cancer Research. A great big thank you, too, to Brianna & Fyfe for taking the lead on this!!



SLOCAN VALLEY FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

BRENT KENNEDY ELEMENTARY

- Brent Kennedy recognized and honored Louis Riel Day with a Metis Flag raising assembly. Mr. Don Courson, President of the Nelson and Area Metis Society, joined Ms. Mann in growing our understanding about Metis people in Canada. The big takeaway from the assembly that carried on in classroom discussion and learning was the symbolism of the Metis flag. The blue background with a white infinity symbol has two meanings: the joining of two cultures and the existence of a people forever.
- As part of the work and learning Brent Kennedy is doing with the draft K-9 Reporting Policy, we hosted two very successful parent nights. Some teachers choose to use the early dismissal days to meet with parents in a more formalized "parent-teacher" interview format. Other teachers, worked with students to prepare for an "Exploration of Learning Night" that had students sharing their learning strengths, stretches and where they are going next in their learning. Both events provided teachers with an opportunity to discuss the shift in practice from reporting to "communicating student learning." Staff appreciated having a choice about how they would communicate on how the learning is going in their classrooms.
- Our extra-curricular fall/winter Volleyball program for grade 5 and 6's is underway with the support of Mr. McRann this year. Students have been practicing at recess and will be playing in 3 inter-school league playdays.

MT. SENTINEL SECONDARY

- Both Sr. Boys & Girls Teams qualified for the Provincial Volleyball Tournament ... the boys finishing 5th & the girls 10th ... Mt. Sentinel Boys will be Hosting the Provincial Tournament next year.
- Despite having to close the school for a day due to a Septic System failure... the Remembrance Day Assembly which was postponed was successfully hosted with an emphasis on First Peoples participation in our Armed Forces during the First & Second World Wars.

- Our Grad Class has put together a successful Christmas Craft Fair & Day with Santa at MSSS Sunday Dec. 9th in order to raise funds for their Dry Grad Event and to donate to the local Food Cupboard.

W.E. GRAHAM ELEMENTARY-SECONDARY

VWP has done a number of Friday events. They will be going Ski touring this Friday and then head off to SilverStar December 11th to 14th. They just finished a week long Red Cross Wilderness First Aid Course. OELP - students have been keeping close, most recently working on building shelters. They will be heading off to Nakusp Hot Springs this Friday, for a hike and a soak. Our Intermediate classroom has been busy as they survived their sleepover starry night at the school, complete with an astronomer from Nelson who brought all of his cool telescopes. Our little guys have been cooking up their apples and recently made some delicious apple crisp!

WINLAW ELEMENTARY

- Outdoor classroom near completion.
- New report cards this fall. Winlaw is part of the Slocan Valley Reporting Pilot. Changes to this year's fall report card include no letter grades and a new proficiency scale. The changes were well received from parents.
- Our Christmas concert celebration theme is "Christmas around the World". Students have been studying traditions from around the world and have chosen a country to represent at the concert.

NELSON FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

BLEWETT ELEMENTARY

- The Grade 4/5 students are busy reading their Reading Challenge books in preparation for the upcoming Nelson Public Library Reading Challenge. This fun event brings together Grade 4/5 students across School District 8 for an enjoyable and engaging reading competition.
- Blewett School students are excitedly preparing for our upcoming Winter Concert, which is being held Wednesday, December 13th at 1:00pm and 7:00pm.
- Blewett School welcomed Susan Milner in November for two full days of whole class Math workshops, focusing on problem solving through logic games. Susan has a wealth of knowledge from her previous role as a Math Professor at the University of the Fraser Valley.

HUME ELEMENTARY

- Hume School's Craft Fair is happening on Saturday, December 1st. At the fair, the students will be selling school-made crafts to raise money to support hungry families in Nelson. There will be 20 local vendors selling their wares as well as a gingerbread contest.
- Grade 5 have been participating in the "Beyond Recycling" program and will soon be on a field trip to discover how garbage and recycling is dealt with in the region.
- The annual Christmas concert will take place on Thursday, Dec 13 at 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm. Some of the classes will be going to Broader Horizons and other sr. citizen facilities to sing.

L.V. ROGERS SECONDARY

- "Growing Together: Conversations with Seniors and Youth" an intergenerational project between Nelson seniors and Carla Wilson's Grade 11 English class has been published as a book by Lee Reid. It is available at Otter Books.
- Several LVR students and LV Rogers staff chaperones Jenn Kidd and Kathy Centrone are currently in India with the support of the International Program - they are excited to be part of this amazing opportunity for intercultural learning
- Student representatives from 8 of LV Rogers leadership groups and programs held a lunch hour gathering in which they learned about each others' initiatives, projects, and hopes for making LV Rogers an even better school. Plans for collaborative projects and a leadership workshop in the works. Represented were: SAGA, AbEd Leadership, Rec Leadership, Student Council, Health Action Team, LVTV, and Newspaper Club.

REDFISH ELEMENTARY

- We have had a parent meeting and a student meeting to create a vision for adding grades 6 and 7 to Redfish. The children want many of the same things the parents do.
- Our Metis day celebration was beautiful and lively. We had music, food, a flag arising, drumming, grandparents and presentations on how we are inspired by our Metis friends.
- Our staff are excited about the day we had with Shelley Moore. One of the teachers who attended did a presentation to our whole staff. Now teachers are accessing two hours each to collaborate in building class profiles using Shelley's method. Very worthwhile Pro. D.

ROSEMONT ELEMENTARY

N/A

SOUTH NELSON ELEMENTARY

- Our South Nelson Student Council is comprised of 60 students divided into fall, winter, and spring teams. Our fall group has provided leadership by organizing fun school spirit activities and hosting 2 glow dance parties to raise money for our local SPCA. The students raised \$330 and will head down to the SPCA on December 12th to present the donation. They launched their final project this week which is the "Light Up the World Kindness Tree" where students will encourage each other, their families, and our school community with Random Acts of Kindness.
- South Nelson primary (K-2) and intermediate (3-5) multi-age groups participate in Friday Rotations where groups rotate through a variety of topics involving play based learning, exploration, and social/emotional development. Some of the topics explored this term are watercolour painting, choreographed dance, coding, Sinixt storytelling and art, math games, and STEM challenges.

- Travis Barrington, from Resource Recovery at the RDCK, spent an afternoon with a multi-aged group of grades 1/2/3 students helping launch the "Plastic Education Kit" put together by Environment and Climate Change Canada. Concerned students want to be part of the solution.



TRAFALGAR MIDDLE

N/A

WILDFLOWER NELSON

- Indigenizing & thematic learning: One of our classrooms students recently had a great day out at Cottonwood Lake (cold and wet, but lots of fun): playing in the snow, learning about the importance of animals in Indigenous cultures, finding totem animals and building them out of snow, and drumming. The students were challenged in their resilience and learning throughout the day!
- The Seedlings (K/1) learned about tree medicines with Jenna Cooper (Ab Ed - facilitator)! Strength, heart, grounding are some of the gifts that medicines trees give. Students were able to see how we are related to the trees through the pattern of the tree growth rings. Students were able to identify that you can find the tree ring patterns in our belly buttons, our eyes and our finger prints!



- Wildflower Samba Band raises money for Salvation Army. Thank you to Liam Fitzpatrick for all his support and time with the students. A beautiful multi-age student cross-section of the school stepping in to participate.



ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

- Winter season Aboriginal staff recognition - This is a new initiative this year which has grown out of a recommendation from the District Aboriginal Advisory Council this fall. In the last week of December, the District Aboriginal Team will be creating a winter acknowledgement ceremony to honour and gift all ABED staff at all schools. We will travel to all schools across the district to honour the hard work within the Aboriginal team to support all self-identified Aboriginal students pathways to graduation.
- SD8 District Equity Scan team planning - Friday, December 7th, team meeting to finalize implementation of District Equity Scan Action plan. This is an initiative supported by the Ministry of Education as a tool to decrease the achievement gap of Indigenous students in the BC public school system.
- Metis Awareness Month - a true success! From October 16-November 16th, schools across the district participated in raising awareness of the Metis peoples through: visible awareness displays in classrooms, handwork including traditional beading and weaving, Metis jigging, Metis storytelling, Metis guest visits, bannock bake off's, concluding with the raising of the Metis flag at Nelson City Hall and a traditional feast held at Lakeside park.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM

- 10 students and 2 chaperones from SD8 which includes students from LVR, PCSS, and Mount Sentinel are in Sonapat, Haryana, INDIA. They departed December 1 and will return December 15th. AWESOME!!!
- For the first time ever, in the history of the International Program, our superintendent has traveled overseas to gain insight, knowledge, and experience with the inner workings of the very competitive aspect of recruitment of international students. This is a huge undertaking as days are filled with meetings, presentation, relationship building overseas and then evenings are spent running the district from afar. Thank you Dr. Perkins for you sincere interest in and desire to learn about our international program. The IP staff is impressed - INDEED.
- Second semester will see an increased enrollment in our district international program from first semester as we realized 8 extensions for the second semester from students who had only registered to be in our district for the first semester. So to date we have 126 students (head count) in our district (FTE 82.06) from 12 countries in 10 of our schools.

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

- Inclusion support teachers have taught 7 sessions of Mandt to 50 staff members in November and arranged the online training of another 30
- The kindergarten outdoor program at Erickson Elementary has helped a student with a visual impairment to develop better orientation and mobility and visual efficiency skills. In addition the program has allowed her peers to support her mobility needs in various outdoor terrains.
- Nelson Wildflower classes are vetting G-Suite accessibility and learning apps/extensions for a few months. The final list of apps and extensions will be posted on the Inclusive Education website as a potential tool to support reading, writing and numeracy.

INNOVATIVE LEARNING SERVICES

- Faye Brownlie, an internationally renowned BC educator, spent 2 days working with staff in SD8.
 - December 4th: evening conversation with elementary principals and vice principals, sharing ideas regarding the K-9 Reporting Pilot and "Communicating Student Learning"
 - December 5th: facilitated a full day workshop on using the reading and writing BC Performance Standards. 27 intermediate teachers from across all elementary schools on the west side of the district participated.
 - December 5th 6-8pm: Faye joined 12 primary teachers from Canyon Lister Elementary, Erickson Elementary, Wildflower Creston and ARES for conversation about reading and writing strategies in early primary.
 - December 6th: Faye facilitated a full day workshop with intermediate teachers from the east side of the district. Teachers observed Faye and Danielle Sonntag as they co-planned and co-taught a writing lesson in Ms. Sonntag's grade 4/5 classroom. They then spent the afternoon debriefing the morning lesson, discussing strategies and ideas that they could implement in their own classrooms.
- The Leadership Development series, facilitated by Directors D. Holitzki and N. Ross is underway. This year, all principals and vice-principals are participating in this series. In addition, we have 10 teachers in SD8 who are taking part in the Aspiring Leaders Program. This program is designed to build leadership capacity at all levels in our District.
- Provincial Career Education Conference Nov 19 & 20: Innovative Learning supported secondary counsellors and career education teachers across our district to attend this conference in Vancouver. 3 of our teachers - Claire Hewson (Mount Sentinel School), Jenn Kidd (LVR) and Brent Firkser (ILS) each presented at workshops during the conference. Their workshops were very well-received and have served to put SD8 on the forefront of innovation in Capstone and Trades Training in BC.

ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE

SECRETARY-TREASURER

- Finalized floor plans for renovation of Nelson's Central Education Centre for new School Board Office
- 2019-2020 budget process consultation has begun! - seeking and receiving input on how to improve the budget process.
- GL Coding review and upgrade project is 50% complete.

- Updated Schedule for Long-range Facilities Planning Meetings (12 Meetings, 2 in each Family of School, Starting Jan-June 2019)
- Updated Schedule for Budget Process (12 Meetings Jan- June 2019)

HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES

- Very successful Job Fair in Cranbrook, put on by the College of the Rockies. Target audience was support staff, and there were over 30 presenters there. HR attended with Transportation and several potential candidates for positions are interested.
- HR attended Kootenay Career Development Society meeting this week, in order to collaboratively plan for recruitment in the area. Potential plans include hosting a regional job fair in the Nelson area with KCDS and other recruitment possibilities.
- HR onboarded 6 EAs and 1 TTOC this week, and are planning for interviews for more TTOCs in early January.

OPERATIONS

Asbestos Management Program

- All District sites have draft asbestos inventory reports completed and copies have been sent to site Administrators
- Majority of District sites have labelling in place identifying asbestos containing materials
- Once labelling is complete District will receive final asbestos inventory reports

Brent Kennedy Elementary School

- New well drilled Aug 2017 - confirmed @ 50 gpm
- Design of required treatment plant is complete (site work to be completed by SD staff)
- Awaiting permit approval by Interior Health
- Expected to be completed and in service for September 2019

Central Elevator project

- Expected completion of main shaft and roof by Dec 14/18
- Completion of project estimated to be March 15/18

District programs

- Creston Ed Center - flooring has been replaced in HomeLinks and Inclusive services areas, construction of office space scheduled start of Dec 11/18
- Central School - construction of departmental offices underway, flooring replacement of main corridor scheduled for Dec 17/18 through Jan 7/19

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- Network wiring upgrade complete at Redfish Elementary. This will boost access and speed to the internet.
- Replacement of the PA system at Hume School.
- Implement new Distribution Points at ARES, Canyon Lister and PCSS to assist in remote imaging of computer

ENGAGEMENT & RELATIONSHIPS

BCSSA - The members of the Districts' senior team continue to meet with their Mentors province-wide. The net BCSSA event does not occur until April 2019.

BCPSEA - Three members of the District Team attended advanced training for upcoming Bargaining (late Spring 2019) in Cranbrook. Bruce McLean, Joanne Beddoes, and Ben Eaton attended. BCPSEA also did some introductory training with new Trustees at the recent BCSTA Conference. A further joint conference between BCSTA and BCPSEA will be held in January for Senior District Staff and all Trustees.

BOARD OF EDUCATION - Trustees Trenaman, Lang, Chew, Gribbin, along with Secretary-Treasurer McLellan, and Superintendent Perkins attended the BCSTA Fall Academy from November 29 - Dec. 1. During the Academy the BCSTA signed an updated memorandum of understanding between BCSTA and the Ministry of Education as part of BCSTA's academy program. The MOU acts as an agreement on collaboration, cooperation and communication between both organizations.

DEEPER LEARNING DOZEN - Preparations are underway to onboard PVPs, the education Committee of the Whole, all ahead of the 2019 Education Symposium.

DIRECTORS & SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM - We are finalizing details of our January to June 2019 programming in all areas: Inclusion, Indigenization, International, DL, Human Resources, Information Technology, Operations and Finance. Once the New Year begins, the focus turns to the 2019-2020 school year.

HOLIDAY MESSAGE to ALL - (posted on our website) As students and staff at Kootenay Lake School District gear up for the holiday season this month, it is certain that the joy and excitement this time of year brings will fill our school and office hallways. December is a month also filled with many multicultural observances and celebrations. We celebrate diversity and inclusiveness in our learning environments and encourage everyone to use the holiday celebration time with friends and family to build understanding and awareness of the traditions and beliefs of others.

A sincere thank you to all of our teachers, administrators and staff that work daily to ensure the success of all of our students. Thank you for all that you do, and may you enjoy this special time of year together with friends and relatives.

Holiday celebration events and activities are occurring at our schools throughout the District, be sure to check the Calendar of events or contact your school directly.

A warm thank you to Wildflower Creston Students Isis Gidney (Grade 6), Sam Bailey (Grade 2) and everyone involved who helped coordinating the radio ad at Juice FM.

Schools will be closed from December 24 until January 4, with classes resuming at all schools on Monday, January 7, 2019.

LEADERSHIP TEAM (PVPs) - Principals and Vice-Principals are working on the School Plans, their own Growth Plans, some have been recently evaluated, and all have been working on gathering baseline Data for future school and District goals. All PVPs are getting ready to support their own staffs with upcoming Winter Concerts and celebrations.

PARENTS (PACs) AND DPAC - Director Eaton reported out at the November DPAC meeting. Parents are reminded that they can call or Zoom into DPAC meetings and that they are open to all PACs in the District for representation.

SELKIRK COLLEGE - discussions are underway for summer professional learning opportunities for our teachers in August of 2019.

SCHOOLS - Many of our schools have begun, and continue, to present their annual Winter concerts. A complete list can be found on the website.

STUDENTS - All students have now either led Student/Parent/Teacher conferences, written FSAs and/or had their Fall Report Cards sent home. If Report Cards have not been received, parents are encouraged to contact the school Principal.

Over the past month we collaborated with the Playmor Junction Big Band on an Educational tour of Slocan Valley, Trafalgar and LVR, and Kaslo schools in order to promote Music Education. We thank the members of Playmor Junction Big Band for their willingness to travel and present for our students, parents, and communities.

WKTEP (West Kootenay Teacher Education Program) - We are currently in conversations about professional development offerings for the summer of 2019.