



School District 8
Kootenay Lake

Superintendent's Report

June 23, 2020

Submitted by: Dr. Christine Perkins, Superintendent/CEO

Superintendent's Report

LEARNING

CRESTON FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

ADAM ROBERTSON ELEMENTARY

- Gr 7 celebrations planned for last week of June.
- Transitions to the high school underway for our vulnerable learners. This is supporting a challenge of change for some students.
- New routines of morning zoom announcements getting refined. This structure will continue into the next year.

CANYON LISTER ELEMENTARY

- Grade 7 farewell celebration planned for 23rd June, with a "reverse" parade. Students and families will proceed in a line in their cars into the school grounds, and staff will gather on the field to celebrate their achievements.
- Our Be the Change group has continued to be active through the pandemic and have recently been busy weaving plastic bags into mats to repurpose plastic.
- Our pilot Late French Immersion class is ready to start in September, with an experienced teacher hired.

ERICKSON ELEMENTARY

- A year end drive through farewell is planned for June 24. Students can drive through with their parents for a final goodbye to the staff and the school year.
- Many outdoor learning activities are taking place, including human sized snakes and ladders, exploring our wetlands and making bird houses.

PRINCE CHARLES SECONDARY

- There has been a consistent presence of our "vulnerable" students attending almost every day over the last month. Students and teachers have worked hard to get successful year-end results.
- Our virtual Grad ceremony was fantastic. It was a big undertaking involving a lot of people. The collaboration students; past and present, and a huge number of our staff was inspiring.
- Our Residential Construction class persisted through the challenges of COVID-19 and the majority of the students gained their ITA hours. Commendations to Shayne Ducharme, the teacher, and Brent Firkser for their collegial work with ITA to get the job done!

WILDFLOWER CRESTON

- On June 17th at 12 pm the grade 3-7 class celebrated our two Wildflower grade 7 students moving on to PCSS.
- It was great to welcome students back to their class in the month of June. Both classes spent lots of time outside and did some cool crafts which included weaving and painting birdhouses in the K-3 class.
- The Gr. K-3 class had a fabulous final day with the students which started with Linda F. making them eggs benedict followed by riding their bikes to Schikurski Park- a feat in itself with 3 kindergartens, a grade 2 and a grade 3 student. The K-3 class met most of their families down at the park and had a super fun, but tiring day!

HOMELINKS CRESTON

- Seven students fulfilled the necessary requirements for graduation and will be receiving their BC Dogwood certificates.

CRAWFORD BAY FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

CRAWFORD BAY ELEMENTARY-SECONDARY

- Really super to have students back in the school. The ones attending are immersed and learning well.
- Teachers continued to work hard to meet the learning needs of the students.

Superintendent's Report

- To wind up the year we held two virtual assemblies to wish our students well.
- The school staff along with parent and student input have developed a school mission statement: "Listen closely, Seek Truth, Walk Proudly, Share Love". It was a long process and we are delighted to say consensus was reached.
- We are very much enjoying our new Principal who visits weekly.

SALMO FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

SALMO ELEMENTARY

- Our Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser was a huge success! Our school community raised \$1,137.00. Thank you to all who supported this worthy cause!
- Our school will be finishing off the year with an Indigenous games day. The students and staff will participate in several fun and engaging activities while maintaining physical distancing.
- Our Grade 6 grads participated in a cavalcade around Salmo on June 19. We wish them well as they continue on their educational journey to Salmo Secondary!
- We are excited to have a new outdoor space for our students. It is called the MESH (Mobile Educational Support Hacienda). This tent provides the ideal learning environment for outdoor exploration and meaningful discussions. Students and staff have been enjoying outdoor learning not only in the MESH, but also in our gazebo and outdoor spaces in the community.

SALMO SECONDARY

- Gr. 7-12 onsite learning attendance has increased every week. We have up to twenty students attending each day. Many students have come in for targeted support to complete their courses.
- Daily whole group activities have been a highlight. The day begins and ends with a whole school (staff and students) circle which has enabled some very rich discussions.
- With the heightened awareness of racism, space has been created for students and staff to have conversations about this topic. Student perspectives on diversity and inclusion have been very rich.
- Grad 2020 was a huge success! Due to the small number of graduates, an in-person grad was held. It was an intimate ceremony with families. Grads appreciated the many video wishes and the teacher compilation of congratulations. Staff also sent them on their way with drumming the "travelling song".

KASLO FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

JEWETT ELEMENTARY

- Student population increased.
Garden beds donated from Boards by George
- Many discussions about next year - ab-ed: tipi, drums, place based projects, etc.

J.V. HUMPHRIES ELEMENTARY-SECONDARY

- Secondary on-site learning in June: Dance 7-12 class, girls soccer fitness trainings, English 12 mock provincial exam with most students showing up to write and taking this very seriously in spite of it not 'counting' for grades, Green Team planting for seniors
- Primary Kaslo Scavenger Hunt - What to do over COVID? Learn about your community and solve one of Kaslo's biggest mysteries. The Primary 2 Class participated in the KASLO KAPER, a scavenger hunt that took them all over Kaslo trying to find clues to the whereabouts of GunPowder Gertie, Pirate Queen of the Kootenay's, treasure. Sadly, they didn't find the treasure but they learned about some places in Kaslo and their history
- Virtual Tour of Langham Cultural Centre featuring youth art - links to video at https://www.dropbox.com/sh/k6wmbptdwjmasg4/AADuQc0o-JPHU7VvVIQ72xFua?dl=0&preview=LanghamYouthShow_Final.mp4

Superintendent's Report

SLOCAN VALLEY FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

BRENT KENNEDY ELEMENTARY

- We welcomed back 82 children for Stage 3 in school learning. Daily "Morning Check In Station" was a good way to do both a health and social/emotional check-in! Our students were happy to be back for on-site learning with staff and their friends.
- Grade 6 students and families have been invited to attend an individual "Moving Up Ceremony" to reflect on their time in elementary school, for the staff to thank them for their contributions to a positive and healthy school culture, and to wish them well in their next steps of their learning journey in high school.
- Ms. Mann facilitated a virtual and on-site Gratitude Ceremony for both Mt. Sentinel and Brent Kennedy schools. This was a significant accomplishment made possible by our ever evolving technological expertise! Elders Donna Wright and Sandra Jacques joined Ms. Mann and From The Heart student leaders at Mt. Sentinel to share teachings about gratitude and to lead drumming and singing. The ceremony opened with outdoor singing of the Cree Healing song. The focus of our gratitude was to appreciate the efforts of our learners, all staff, including custodians, PAC, families and our community for participating and supporting learning, health and wellness during these unprecedented times. We also honored and celebrated leadership from students and staff and the many transitions that happen at this time of year. The ceremony closed with the Travelling Song.

MT. SENTINEL SECONDARY

- We have had approximately over 20 students a day taking advantage of coming into the school for their learning
- We are completing the final pieces of filming our "virtual" Graduation Ceremony that has involved a lot of work from our 2 Academy Teachers Jacy Schindel & Danny Leeming and all of the students from that program. The film will premiere on Friday June 26th at 7pm
- We have hung a 100ft. banner of all the Grads across the roof of the school recently.
- Our Gym floor is being redone with our logo being painted at center court.

W.E. GRAHAM ELEMENTARY-SECONDARY

- We have over 70% of our children coming into the school (spread over the week) so we are able to meet with many of our students in Phase 3. So great to see them. Most of them seem to have grown 3 or 4 inches!
- Planning year end events. Designing an event that help us to bring closure for our VWP students in a manner that respects social distancing.

WINLAW ELEMENTARY

- The online Winlaw School Talent Show was a huge success. The video can be found on the Winlaw School Website under the blog section or by clicking on the following link: <https://winlaw.sd8.bc.ca/blog/winlaw-talent-show>
- The New Playground is well on its way to being completed. Installation should be complete by the week of July 6th. A huge thank you to the SD8 Maintenance crew and to Winlaw School Playground committee who raised over \$40000 of additional funds and provided all the volunteers for the installation.

NELSON FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

BLEWETT ELEMENTARY

- We have welcomed back over 50% of our students for on-site learning. We can connect, share and reflect together - it is so wonderful to hear and see children in our building again!
- On Thursday, June 25th, we will be hosting a farewell zoom assembly to say goodbye to our Grade 5 students and any other families and staff members leaving Blewett. Our Grade 5s are busy preparing a highlight reel of special moments of their time at Blewett, along with advice for our Kindergarten students on how to have the best Blewett experience possible!

Superintendent's Report

HUME ELEMENTARY

- We have a "Drive by" welcome to kindergarten event planned for Thursday/Friday June 18-19 to welcome our 39 new kindergarten students. The teachers will stand outside the catwalk door to give the families a goody bag with fun things to do over the summer as well as the documentation we hand to families.
- The Hume PAC have supported families in the area with a generous donation to our food program. Social equity is a big piece of the PAC's goals.
- To send off the grade 5 group in a good way, the teachers are preparing to have each student share a memory of school via Zoom and Screentastic. This will be shared in "real time" with the class and families and then recorded.

L.V. ROGERS SECONDARY

- Cavalcade was a huge success, with smiling faces despite the rain--the broader community showed up along the route to cheer the Grads on (see news articles [here](#) and [here](#)). The virtual ceremony was filmed on June 12th for release at the end of the month. LVR will also be hosting an in-person (and up to four family members) 2 day event Graduation processional in the LVR courtyard with a Hollywood themed decor on Wednesday, June 24th and Thursday, June 25th. Students will receive program recognition for the Aboriginal Education Program, French Immersion, and Consolaire Francophone. Thank you to our parents for their support!
- LVR has partnered with Selkirk College to offer two CoVid-19 Resiliency entrance scholarships with \$500 each! Scholarships will be distributed at the Graduation Processional Celebration -- all students who applied for Type 1 scholarships will receive one in this very special year; we wanted to ensure as many grads as possible are recognized and receive support for their post-secondary education.
- Creativity abounds during this phase of remote learning at LVR! Foundations Dance program students under the direction of Ms. Jennifer MacMillan have created this dance montage, "Separate, Together" ([click here](#)). Student Locke Finley shows his strumming lute and alderwood boxes created with teacher Mr. Arran Wilkin (see below).



REDFISH ELEMENTARY

- Class celebrations happening next week from Ice Cream on the field to a day at Kokanee Park for our senior class.
- PAC Accounting Club holding a sale of Redfish clothing next week as a time to fundraise for families receiving grocery cards and to say goodbye.
- Working with Operations to plan for an awesome garden project that is just getting going now and will grow and grow over the next years.

ROSEMONT ELEMENTARY

- Preparing to wrap up our year with a digital celebration.
- Onsite students have been planting our community garden.
- With smaller numbers onsite, students and staff are learning about mountain biking and bike maintenance.

Superintendent's Report

SOUTH NELSON ELEMENTARY

- It has been heart-warming to see over 60% of our students return to learning on site over the last three weeks with smiles, laughter, and loving learning back together. We are very grateful to Trafalgar for sharing their outdoor space with us. We give a huge shout out to teachers Marchello Piro and Stacey Proctor for inviting South Nelson classes over to do woodworking and foods outdoors.
- We had a wonderful Welcome to Kindergarten Drive By event on June 12th! Parents and children were delighted to meet our Kindergarten team and receive a gift and information and activities.
- We will honour and celebrate with our Grade 5's during a Zoom meeting on June 23rd in the morning. We thank teacher Leanne Douglas for producing a beautiful slideshow sharing many memories of the past year. In the afternoon students will walk, bike, or drive by to receive their certificates and gift from their teachers. On the last day of school we will hold a Zoom whole school meeting to recognize our Student Leadership, PAC, staff who are leaving and retiring, and say good-bye to all.

TRAFALGAR MIDDLE

- Trafalgar Middle School hosted a grade 5 orientation at site, on Friday, June 19th. There were two sessions, one in the morning and the other in the afternoon as well as some small tours. There were five activities that students rotated through to get to know their teachers and new school. The participation rate for the orientation was 86% of prospective Grade 6 students. A big shout out to the parents for dropping off and picking up their children.
- A number of Trafalgar students, under the tutelage of Mr. Bendig, completed an outdoor wall mural in support of LGBTQ and Black Lives Matter. Not only is the mural aesthetically pleasing but draws attention to important social justice issues.
- Grade 8 teachers will be posting a digital "yearbook" of the Grade 8 students' time at Trafalgar, on the School website, to acknowledge the growth, achievement and accomplishments of the future Grade 9'ers over the last three years.

WILDFLOWER NELSON

- We have had 50% of our student population engaged in school during the month of June. Depending on the day we have had anywhere from 20-50 students on site in Nelson.
- Each of the classrooms K-9 hosted simple end of year celebrations and graduations for students transitioning to the next classroom.
- Two of our Ab Ed students completed their drum making activity, which was facilitated by Jenna Hopper via Zoom as a support through the continuity of learning program throughout the months of April-June.
- A huge congratulations to our grade 8 and 9 students transitioning up to LVR next year.
- The Grade 7-9 class hosted a graduation ("Rite of Passage") on Tuesday, June. 16th along with an outdoor celebration of learning showcasing a part of their Freedom Project. Staff and families had an opportunity to walk around the outdoor area to take in the art work of some of the students.
- Taya Joyce-McLeod (student in the K-2 class) held a plant sale at Lions Park on Saturday and raised over \$100 for homeless people in our community. I have attached a picture of some of the Seedlings students purchasing plants from her stall!
- The Seedlings students have been working on a weaving project over the last month. Students choose a place in nature that was special to them, and represented the natural elements of that place (water, rocks, sand, trees etc.) with different colours of yarn and ribbon into their project. It was a meaningful way to incorporate Indigenous Ways of Knowing into our learning, and the students were so proud of their finished projects!

Superintendent's Report



ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

- **ABED Grad Honouring:** Each high school ABED team created personal touches to graduation with a gift from the ABED Department, as part of a district wide continuity of the Aboriginal Grad Honouring Ceremony. For example, the LVR Aboriginal Education team followed protocols and teachings and gifted all ABED students with Eagle Feathers. The LVR and District ABED team drummed the *Travelling Song* to honour all students on their journeys. As well, at Creston Homelinks, graduates from Lower Kootenay Band and their families worked with the Aboriginal Academic Success teacher to personalize a family meal and a photoshoot celebration!
- **Food Equity:** Trafalgar Middle School administration, counsellor, EAs and Aboriginal Education supports recognized the need to support priority families with food supports during the pandemic. After spring break, the team worked collaboratively to identify and communicate with families who might benefit from a food equity program. Families had the option of pick-up or home delivery to ensure the program was as barrier-free as possible.
- **Equity Scan Data:** At the year end ABED team meeting, the district ABED team shared data from the Equity Scan. We discussed the need to continue to amplify student voice and parent/community voice. We will continue this important leadership next year.

DISTRIBUTED LEARNING

- DESK staff are busily preparing for another busy summer season, as one of the few Distributed Learning programs in the province to offer courses throughout July and August.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM

- Successfully managing to safely get students home, through all the airport and flight closures and cancellations. It was compounded by the global response to the closure of nations.
- Completion of the "Fit to Fly" quarantine plan for students entry into Canada in September. This was done in collaboration with Selkirk College and several local businesses.
- Virtual graduation of seven international students in the class of 2020! Congratulations to them AND all our 2020 graduates.
- As the District Principal of International Education, I want to say a sincere thank you to all our school teams, homestay families, senior management and especially the International Program team for keeping the well-being of students in the forefront of their minds and for the perseverance to manage ever changing problems during this time. It all speaks to the tremendous heart of our organization.

Superintendent's Report

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

- Meet a Mighty Woman series has continued this month, with our Vision Support Teacher, Sofeya Devji working with students from School District 8, School District 5, School District 27, and School District 20 to introduce students to role models who have vision challenges or who are blind. Students are able to interact via Zoom with role models, ask them questions, and gain valuable information about navigating the world with a vision challenge.
- Our Inclusive Education staff have reviewed approximately 60 student files in preparation for the 20/21 school year. By reviewing the files at this time of the year, we are able to help students and their families make transitions into school, from school to school, and out into the world.
- Inclusive Education would like to give a huge "Congratulations!!" to all students who have graduated from SD8 this year - we are very proud of each of you!!
- Finally, Inclusive Education says a fond "farewell" to 2 of our staff: District Inclusion Support Teacher, Sandy Boscarior, is retiring after a long career in education. Department Clerical Support, Donna Skopac, is retiring after a long career in education as well. We wish them all the best in the future and many exciting adventures to come!

INNOVATIVE LEARNING SERVICES

- SD8 has received MOE funding for the upcoming 2020-21 school year to continue a second year of a collaborative initiative in the Salmo community entitled "Strengthening Early Years to Kindergarten". The goal of this project is to create smoother transitions for incoming kindergarten aged children and their families.
- SD8 has received MOE funding for the 2020-21 school year to continue a regional collaborative initiative entitled "Changing Results for Young Children". This initiative connects Early Childhood Educators working in SD8 communities with classroom primary teachers.
- Javier Gonzalez, Coordinator for School Mental health and Addictions has been focusing on SD8 staff wellness sessions which are ongoing. He has also been planning with Counselor teams for a better way to support Social Emotional Learning in 2020/2021 as well as preparing workshops for professional development in 2020/2021.
- Brent Firkser, District Curriculum Support Teacher has been transitioning Trade students back into classrooms, as well as preparing Youth Train in Trades students for the transition to college. Brent has also been working on the Youth Trades website, and the Work in Trades and Work Experience application evaluation packages.
- Vanessa Finnie, District Curriculum Support Teacher has been working on putting together Resource Kits for Elementary Schools which will be distributed next fall. Those kits include Math manipulatives, Reading assessment kits, and Kindergarten Welcome bags.

ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE

SECRETARY-TREASURER

- School Trust Fund Internal Audits completed for 13 Schools
- 2019 Carbon Neutral Action Report completed
- 5-Years Supplemental Capital Operations Plan Drafted

HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES

- A multi-year 'People plan' was developed.
- Return to work for employees during the pandemic.
- Staffing for the next school year completed.
- The first batch of CUPE Leadership program graduated
- Ebike program launch dunder wellness initiatives
- Leadership competencies developed
- Improved communication with all staff.
- All staff meetings initiated.

Superintendent's Report

OPERATIONS

Operations -

- Summer work schedule established
- Mechanical upgrade project out for tender
- Roof Replacement for Winlaw Elementary scheduled
- Flooring projects scheduled across the district

Transportation -

- Bussing students during COVID 19 **photos to follow
- Welcome back video was a success
- More students riding every week

Custodial -

- Work schedules / planning for summer work
- Team refresh and rejuvenate zoom session with Javier

Have a great summer!

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- The Information Technology team has moved into their new spaces!!



- Completion of year 2 of the technology enhancement initiative has seen network upgrades at almost all district locations and increased availability of technology for students (approaching 2 students per device, district wide)

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 - Completed internal financial audits and internal academic audits at all secondary schools with exception of LVR - still in process.

BCCPAC - <https://bccpac.bc.ca/> - please check the website often.

Superintendent's Report

June 30 - the deadline for members to apply online for Gaming Grants for \$\$ in Fall 2020. [Gaming Grant Applications](#)

September 1 - Membership Fees are due by Sept 1, the start of the 2020-21 year. Renew online now!

Please mark your calendars for next year's AGM and Conference - April 30 to May 2, 2021. The Fall SUMMIT is yet to be determined due to COVID-19.

BCCPAC is monitoring information daily from the government, Provincial Health Officer and the Ministry of Education. We are exploring the feasibility of holding a parent education event in the fall in conjunction with our DPAC Summit....stay tuned.

The first DPAC meeting will be September 17, 2020. (More info to come in September)

BCSSA - (BC School Superintendents' Association) Superintendent Perkins is now the regional representative and Director for Kootenay-Boundary School districts. The summer BCSA conference will be virtual.

BCSTA - Planning for Academy 2020, which is scheduled to run from November 26 - 28, is currently underway. More info to come.

BCPSEA - The BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) - The Fall Symposium is scheduled for November 2 -3, 2020 at the Coast Coal Harbour Hotel, Vancouver, BC.

CAPSLE - The Canadian Association for the Practical Study of Law in Education 2021 conference - Rivers of Change: Trans Canada Trends in Education Law will be held from May 2-4, 2021. More info to come.

DIRECTORS & SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM - Thank you all for a great year.

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

GRADs - Congratulations, Class of 2020! You are truly one of a kind.

LEADERSHIP TEAM (PVPs) - Thank you all for a terrific year.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION - The Ministry of Education continues to monitor COVID-19 and will, under the leadership of Public Health, determine what stage school start-up will be in September. Details will be announced in mid/late August.