

Superintendent/CEO Report for January 9, 2018

– submitted by Dr. Christine Perkins.

LEARNING

Family of Schools

Creston Family of Schools

Adam Roberts Elementary school

- Holiday door decorating contest went very well with great participation of staff and students.
- Both the intermediate and primary Christmas concerts went smoothly and were well attended by parents. Staff did a great job organizing it.

Looking forward to ...

- John Dunn is coming to do an Arctic explorer presentation for intermediate students of the Creston Valley in the beginning of February.
- Ben Mikaelson (author) is coming to present on Feb 28 on anti-bullying to Creston valley intermediate students and parents. This was instigated and is being organized by an ARES student with the help of staff.

Canyon Lister

- December highlight...Family Christmas Craft Night.

Looking forward to...

- Further development of Learning Commons/MakerSpace area, and winter ski trips.

Erickson – n/a

Prince Charles Secondary School

- There were Week-long Spirit Week activities, two major highlights were:
- YETI program: 14 students participated in CDN Avalanche Association Level 1 Skills Training, 6 of those completed the classroom and the two day field work component on the Summit, the remaining 8 students will do their two day field work in February.
- Junior Sciences: Grade 9 classes developed “Superheros” based on the Periodic Table. They were presented in-class and shared across all sections. Very creative and fun learning activity. Science 8 classes all participated in Science Olympics activities.

Learning Events coming up that we’re excited about:

- The Mathletes (students in senior math) meet regularly to prepare for a broad slate of Mathematics competitions in the new year.
- Planning for Aboriginal education excursions is ongoing. Senior grades will be traveling to the Okanagan to visit First Nations services provided at the post-secondary level. It is being planned for Junior grades to travel to Head Smashed in Buffalo Jump and St. Eugene Resort.

HomeLinks Creston

- One highlight Creston Homelinks will be participating in is the 3% project. Please see attachment. Jennifer Adams, secondary math and science teacher, is in charge of this project at Creston Homelinks.
- **“Important date: Monday February 5th at 10am**

- On this day a member of the 3% Project team will be coming to meet with our students (whole student body) to talk about what the 3% Project is and what their next steps as a student body are (which is to come up with an Action Project)”.

Crawford Bay Family of Schools

- Christmas Concert (with the K-2 students “singing” a song in sign language because one of the students is non-verbal)
- Aboriginal drumming performance by the Gr 2-5 students at the concert
- Celebration of Sandy Watson assembly- Sandy just retired after 31 years as secretary at Crawford Bay School- many students came forward to speak to share what they appreciated about her and what they would miss.

Learning Events Coming Up

Session 3 of Leading a Culture of Learning

Salmo Family of Schools

Salmo Elementary

- Salmo Elementary hosted a Family Movie and Just Dance event on Dec 11 which was attended by over 50 students and parents. This event is connected to our school objective of connecting with families and community and engaging them with us.
- Dec 12 in the SES gym the Gr 5/6 classes hosted an “Innovators Convention” as a summative sharing out of their Inquiry/Genius Hour project work. Classes, parents, and guests visited throughout the afternoon and kids shared their work.
- We are looking forward to beginning our Inquiry projects with the primary classes, as part of the Curriculum Committee Grant we will be applying for. Our Teacher Librarian Nadine Bouliane has been working hard behind the scenes to organize a framework to inject authentic, competency-based assessments into this work, and a collaborative structure for adults to help plan for learning in a way that is most efficient and effective. Her work organizing the “Do” will support what the teachers bring in areas the “Know” and “Understand”.

Salmo Secondary

- We had 80% participation from the student body in our winter activity days. Approximately 100 out of 130 students participating in some school-wide spirit activities. This is very good for SSS and demonstrates an increasing cohesiveness amongst the students.
- The Gratitude Tree “School Wide Project” – the is a project led as a Unit by Kim Eggert in her Grade 9/10 English class. The students spend the unit exploring concepts of happiness, gratitude, inclusiveness, compassion, empathy etc... It culminates with the class organizing for all the students in the school an opportunity to create little tiles, whereby they have written a short line about what they are grateful for in their lives. The tiles are then all hung on the Christmas tree located in the center foyer of the school. It is quite a powerful project and really brings the students and staff together into a moment of quiet reflection.

Looking forward to ...

- The ongoing work of students and staff in launching our school wide inquiry projects across grades and subjects.
- The work of staff and students as they work to create portfolios and tangible projects that express the learning they are engaged with through the inquiry process. Ultimately, culminating in a student celebration of learning in May.

Kaslo Family of Schools

J.V. Humphries and Jewett Elementary

- Intermediate Play week of December 11th, followed by Family Craft & Caroling night on December 20th, where Homelinks, homeschoolers, and JVH students all danced together while families sang Christmas carols.
- Gr. 12 student, Jesalyn Tremblay, made it to the final round for the \$100,000 Loran Scholarship. She is now in the top 80 of 4000 applicants and will be going to Toronto for the final round of interviews in February.
- (Almost) full staff Christmas party and celebration of long-term custodian, Ingrid Hartung's retirement. Great stories from her decades of work!!

Looking forward to ...

- ArtStarts' Artist in the Classroom project – 'River of Wonder' – in grade 2/3 classroom.
- SET-BC project with students working with Aboriginal storytellers to learn Ktunaxa stories about our area and then write their own stories.
- 'Community Connector' POSR continuing to develop inventory of individuals and organizations to connect with for citizenship and learning projects.

Slocan Valley Family of Schools

Brent Kennedy

- Very successful Christmas Concert – feedback from the community was very positive about the time and effort made by staff and students to host an engaging and entertaining concert that was inclusive by celebrating cultures from around the world. For example – one class shared songs, dance and a piñata from Mexico. I was so impressed to see the piñata integrated into classroom activities the next day – the last day before the break! The children were actively engaged in learning while also having fun!
- The Brent Kennedy School property is something to celebrate and appreciate every day. The 10 acre property is an absolute gift and provides tremendous opportunities for play, curiosity, physical activity, creativity and imagination and is "gold mine" for true outdoor education opportunities. The majority of the children are active outside daily during their short and long recess breaks. They enjoy the rail trail for DPA; build fortes in the forest; have two incredible play grounds; play soccer in the sunshine, rain and even snow; and are now building snow fortes, snow-people and will be able to finally enjoy sliding with the PAC donated "sliders."

Looking forward to:

- Over the past few years, Brent Kennedy parents have asked for more support with the transition from Grade 6 to high school in Grade 7. As a Family of Schools, we will be working with Safe School Coordinator, Scott Rothermel to host a parent night (one potential focus area may be Digital Safety). In addition, Mt. Sentinel students who participated in the Red Cross Healthy Relationships Training will be called upon to assist in providing whole day leadership and empowerment training for all of the grade 6 students in the Slocan Valley Family of Schools. The primary focus is to create and maintain a safe and healthy school culture and climate by building pro-social skills, knowledge and healthy habits and attitudes with our younger students – our future leaders! Date to be announced – sometime in January!

- Winter Activities and Learning - On January 17, 24, 31, and February 7th students in Kindergarten to Grade 4, will be participating in Skating, Indigenous Games, Cross Country Skiing and Show Shoeing. Grade 5/6's will be snowboarding and skiing at Red Mountain.

Mt. Sentinel

- We had Scott Rothermel present his "Digital Safety Presentation" to all of students – very well received!

Looking forward to ...

- We are having our Nurse Practitioner – Lori Verigin starting here at MSSS for a half day every second week.
- We are also having our Art Therapist – Sabine Fleschutz start Tuesday's at Sequoia & here on Fridays every week.

W.E.Graham – n/a

Winlaw Elementary

- Exhibition of Learning at our Christmas Concert. Very well attended.

Looking forward to:

- ArtStarts grant on Protest Songs
- Winter activity days

Nelson Family of Schools

Blewett Elementary

- Before Xmas we had our annual Gingerbread house decoration day – multi-age groups with lots of icing and lots of candy!!
- In January – our gr. 5's are doing coding with the Innovative services staff this month

Hume Elementary – n/a

LVR

- LVR Variety Show afternoon of Thursday, December 21, 2017 and ensuing festivities (Christmas in the Courtyard with Boys Leadership Group) was a big success! Thank you to our teacher leaders Graeme Marshall and Jackie Zelt and staff supports (and Staff Band) for an amazing afternoon (see attached photos)

Looking forward to ...

- Find Your Fit (ITA Trades) Career Exploration Days on February 22nd and 23rd hosted by LV Rogers Secondary.

Redfish

- Christmas concert was a big success with huge attendance at both the afternoon dress rehearsal and evening performance. It is always wonderful to see the students rise to the challenge of performing. Such great life skills!
- On the last day of school, the whole school population trekked into the spawning channel property to acknowledge the shortest day of the year and to make a wish for the new year.

Looking forward to:

- Going deeper with our water theme by (among many things) cross-country skiing in our field and our community. The PAC fundraised two years ago to purchase new cross-country ski equipment for the students in grades 2 and above.

- Collaboratively planning our water activities for the whole school. The intention of the staff is to incorporate multi-age learning activities tying in the theme of water to the curriculum. We'll be working on the details of this in the next couple of months

Rosemont – n/a

South Nelson

- Happy New Years! South Nelson's highlights for December included our concert "A Christmas to Remember" written and conducted by our music teacher Carmen Giffen and the Candy O'Gram fundraiser for BC Children's Hospital organized by our student council.
- In January, our four Grade 3-5 classes will begin an Artists in the Classroom grant program with local artists Natasha Smith and Rayya Leibich called "Poetry Alive" which integrates story-telling, visual arts, and writing inspired by the artists Hundertwasser and Austin Kleon. We also look forward to our Winter Activity program which includes down-hill skiing, snow-boarding, cross country skiing, curling, skating, indoor soccer, and gymnastics.

Trafalgar

- The Trafalgar students and their families provided Christmas Hampers to five of our families who could use some extra support at Christmas. Hampers included gifts, toiletries, a wide range of food items, Christmas dinner and baking, winter hats, mitts, socks and other needs as identified by the families. This is an annual project that seems to grow a little more each year – our families are so very thoughtful and generous in their donations!

Looking forward to ...

- 18 Brazilian students have arrived at Trafalgar. They'll be with us for the next three weeks and will be learning English, learning about Canadian culture, and attending classes with our Grade 6 and 7 students, and enjoying all that winter in Nelson has to offer.

Wildflower

- New Principal, Sacha Kabalis and Dr. Perkins to meet with PAC; staff retreat upcoming.

Aboriginal Education

- Highlight #1 from 2017– Co-facilitating "Traditional Acknowledgement Lesson Plan" with Trafalgar grade 8 class, co-facilitated with the Aboriginal Ed teacher – Jeff Yasinchuck, Aboriginal Enhancement Coordinator – Danica Lee, Principal – Carol-Ann Leidloff, and grade 8 teacher – Katie Comrie. In this lesson, students first create their own unique and creative "territories" and then explore what it is like to have territories overlap. They then take a look at a large sized map of the 4 territories within SD8, and begin to understand how over time, these territories were used and shared. The final step of the lesson is for students to each sign a card for the 4 nations, acknowledging the traditional territory.
- I chose this as a highlight because this lesson is a genuine teaching and learning experience for all of us, as we all begin to understand the traditional territories SD8 rests on. As part of the new year, ABED goal's is to grow relationships with the 4 territories and share this learning across the district, in a respectful way. A big thank you to Selkirk College for sharing the teachings of the territories, which they have learned through respectful relationships.

- **#2:** At Red Fish Elementary School, to end the winter concert, the entire school sang the Travelling Song! Students and staff, led by their principal, Janene Bate-Stein began with traditional protocol acknowledging the origins of the song, singing with strong and unified voices. As a parent in the gym, this warmed my heart. As principal for Aboriginal Education, this was a symbol of true reconciliation and the good work in Indigenizing SD8.

Learning Events for early 2018:

- Gail Higginbottom – presenting at WKTEP on Indigenizing Curriculum – Jan. 10
- Gail Higginbottom and Danica Lee – Co-facilitating the Blanket Exercise for the School Board – Jan. 17
- Gail Higginbottom – leading an “Indigenizing Curriculum” full day Pro-D for SD8 staff – Feb. 1

Independent Learning Services – n/a

Innovative Learning Services

- South Nelson and LVR will be partnering up to run a project through the provincial ‘Growing Innovations’ project, an initiative designed to support rural schools in innovation and collaboration. Congratulations to Lori Jones and Denise Currie for receiving funding for their project entitled *Integrated ADST: Innovative Student-Powered Implementation of Tech/Design*. Denise and Lori are creating student collaboration and mentoring between their classes and will be working with other teachers across the province in this network of shared learning.

Looking forward to...

- We welcome Naomi Ross into our department. Naomi brings a K-12 experience and a strong foundation in learning across the spectrum. We look forward to sharing Naomi’s strengths with our school staffs in implementation of the new curriculum.

International Program

- Four international students on the LVR Sr. Girls volleyball team contributed to the zone championship attained by this team.
- We celebrate the academic achievements of our international students for first semester November reports showing 80% of students achieving 76% or higher in academic course work.
- IP will say goodbye to students who finish their graduation requirements with us at the end of January. This is an incredible achievement in a second language.
- For the first time ever, IP enrollment at LVR has been maximized and students requesting to extend their second semester with us have been put on a wait list.

Technology – IBM Gap Analysis – update to Board given – document released late January 2018

RELATIONSHIPS

Aboriginal groups – Gail and I to tour regional bands in January/February re: Memorandum of Understanding (Building Relationships).

BCSSA – Christine’s mentor, Anne Cooper, retired Superintendent (Revelstoke) and co-author of BCSTA HUB presents to Board.

BCSTA – See above and attending BCSTA AGM in late January.

College of the Rockies – Dual credit programs coming this Spring. Carpentry about to start at PCSS in February.

Committees of the Whole – monthly attendance and participation

Directors & Senior Leadership Team – Getting ready for Budget meetings, Calendar meetings and Strategic Plans for next three years.

Leadership Team (PVPs) – have been explicitly asked to align School Plans with Board goals, and to provide measures and evidence over time moving forward.

Ministry of Education – have confirmed a Spring visit to SD 8 – to be confirmed early February.

Parents (PACs) and DPAC – attending Wildflower PAC on January 10.

Schools – having lunches with Salmo Secondary, Kaslo Family of Schools and Crawford Bay Family of schools in January/February.

Selkirk – working on creation of Dual-credit courses for 2018-2019

Students – working on offering new BAA courses at all secondary schools for Fall 2018

ENGAGEMENT

Citizenship – Calendar Committee meeting with stakeholders on Friday, January 12.

Resilience – CBT Social Grants have been moved to Spring 2018. PVPs have been encouraged to apply. Several school-based and district teams ready for return to school dealing with deaths in Slocan.

ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE (FACILITIES, OPERATIONS, TRANSPORTATION AND BUSINESS)

Human Resources – Chris Mieske began his first day in Admin as Acting VP at Salmo Elem/Sec. yesterday. Said the day 3 was “wildly different”. He had nerves going in but described them as “meaningful nerves”. Sacha Kabalis began at Wildflower as Acting Principal and wrote a lovely welcome letter to his parents and students. Naomi Ross began as District VP with Lorri and her Learning Team. Ed Nielson was back from Egypt and completed his first day of his return to WE Graham.

Secretary-Treasurer - looking forward to Talking Tables on Feb 20 to kick off budget as well as the F&O COW’s student symposium on Jan 31 where students will be discussing budget