

Superintendent's Report

September 11, 2018

Submitted by: Dr. Christine Perkins, Superintendent/CEO

LEARNING

CRESTON FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

ADAM ROBERTS ELEMENTARY

- Grade 6/7 (Mr. Hula, Mrs Walker, Ms Poznikoff, Mr Lauze) class heading for an annual hike at Ripple Ridge- top of the summit
- Grade 4/5 , Mrs. Doeleman) off to the Creston Museum for a mystery program
- Grade 4/5 class- Mrs. Doeleman off to Kokanee Creek for the fish program
- Also Mr, Blick planning our school orange Shirt day activities/ assembly for the 28th

CANYON LISTER ELEMENTARY

- New principal, Laury Carriere (formerly McPherson), now at Canyon
- Parent information/meet and greet: Wednesday, Sept 12th, 6pm-7pm in gym
- CLES family corn roast social: Wednesday, 26th Sept, 5pm-6.30pm

CRESTON HOMELINKS

N/A

ERIKSON ELEMENTARY

- New Principal to the school, Ken Wiens, this year.
- Wet lands project to going forward this fall. A lot of details are being worked out currently.
- With the evergreen technology plan the school is going forward with exploring and using google classrooms and chrome books.

PRINCE CHARLES SECONDARY

- Great startup. Wildflower was enthusiastically received at our opening assembly!
- Enrollment is up about 30 students from initial projections. Lots of newcomers to the Valley. Classes are full!
- 15 students from around the world are attending PCSS. This is our largest group to date.

WILDFLOWER CRESTON

- Successful transition of Wildflower Creston programing from Central Education Center to PCSS
- Successful expansion of the Wildflower program in Creston from one class to two classes. Now servicing more families in the Creston area.

- Exciting prospects with regard to programming potential and partnerships within the PCSS building and among the PCSS staff.
- Successful hire of second Creston Wildflower teacher - Juliet Chapman Band.

CRAWFORD BAY FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

CRAWFORD BAY ELEMENTARY-SECONDARY

- 88% participation rate in extra-curricular sports
- Numeracy exam results above the district and provincial mean
- Student musicians performed on the main stage at the Starbelly Jam this summer.
- Enrollment is up significantly

SALMO FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

SALMO ELEMENTARY

- The staff spent August 29 with Ailis Lawrence and Sandy Boscariol working on developing a the staffs knowledge with PBIS (Positive Interventions and Behaviour Supports).
- We will be working with Ailis Lawrence one day a week to continue to develop and support these skills throughout the school year.
- We are working with Salmo Secondary to coordinate our Indigenized Education from K - 12.
- Staff are very excited about the new school year and are grateful for the support and resources provided to the elementary school to assist with systemic change.

SALMO SECONDARY

N/A

KASLO FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

JEWETT ELEMENTARY & J.V. HUMPHRIES ELEMENTARY-SECONDARY

- Lakeside Learning Centre is now officially its own, Type 3, alternative school. This addresses concerns that came up in the last enrolment audit and may need some support to understand the details of setup, including myed.
- JVH grades 8-12 Career Education programming will be run as 11 full Thursdays of learning experiences, workshops, trips, etc. in which the regular timetable fully shutdown. We're also looking at developing a series of campus visits to three different cities - one for gr. 9, 10, and 11.
- No VP this year, which means some changes in roles and some new teacher leadership opportunities.
- New Student Leadership Facilitator Position of Special Responsibility has generated strong interest from teachers.

SLOCAN VALLEY FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

BRENT KENNEDY ELEMENTARY

- Community partnership to build pride and identify.
- In the spirit of place-conscious learning, we are excited about an upcoming community partnership with TELUS. In an effort to seek out a creative and youth driven solution to vandalism on TELUS owned buildings located throughout the Slocan Valley, TELUS has reached out to our school community for support.
- With the guidance of our new Aboriginal Success Teacher, students at Brent Kennedy, Mt. Sentinel, and Sequoia will experience working and learning in and with our local community. This partnership will provide an opportunity to enhance Aboriginal students' sense of belonging, pride, and identity and to improve connections between Aboriginal students, families, communities and schools. As our children and youth engage in learning more about the Sinixt history and culture, the Slocan Valley will come alive with art work that will authentically acknowledge, respect and honor our local First Nations.
- Summer Kick off to Professional Development
Teachers and Paraprofessional staff participated in one day of summer professional development to reconnect after the summer and to collaboratively set a focus for teaching and learning for the new school year. Highlights from the day include reviewing and revising the school's strategic plan, exploring the new District website, and planning for the opportunity to participate in a wide range of local professional experiences. Brent Kennedy is excited to Focus ... Learn.... and Excel ...
- Expansion of the Brent Kennedy Learning Centre.
Brent Kennedy Learning Centre provides an early literacy preschool and daycare along with before and after school programs. Site preparation was completed over the summer to add another building to the current facility. As the number of families accessing the Centre from our local neighborhoods and surrounding areas continues to grow, we hope to see continued growth in numbers of school aged children attending Brent Kennedy Elementary School.

MT. SENTINEL SECONDARY

- Summer Pro-D days were a success in developing action plans related to the Strategic Plan & participating in the Mental Health Literacy Training
- Opening Day Assembly was full of good, positive energy from all who attended and recognition of all Staff.
- The New Student Orientation which included Parent Participation held before school started had 100% attendance and was well appreciated by the attendees.

W.E. GRAHAM ELEMENTARY-SECONDARY

- WEG starts off the year with an increase in student population. Up to 76 for sure. Looking at adjusting some of our classes as things settle in September.
- 16 kids in the VWP program who are on their first outing (bike trip) Friday, September 7th.

- Thursday, September 6th saw WEG kids involved in the “Amazing Race” VWP students led teams through 10 fun stations from learning about Fungi, loading a canoe, taking selfies, walking on stilts, rescue and carry skills. A fun start to the day!

WINLAW ELEMENTARY

- Winlaw Wild program - Students in all grades K-6 will be spending their Fridays outside the classroom - doing outdoor ed and place based learning
- Community Recess program - Parents will be volunteering time to come and run recess activities for kids - we will be starting with Lacrosse
- Enrollment up!! - 109 at this point - up 12 from last year

NELSON FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

BLEWETT ELEMENTARY

- Lindsay MacKay will continue as Acting Principal until the return of Mary Ann Gaschnitz.
- We are currently at full capacity at 159 students enrolled at Blewett School, with 31 Kindergarten students registered.
- Blewett School's annual Halloween night will be happening again - October 26, 2018. It's always a great school community event!

HUME ELEMENTARY

- The new school playground will be ready for the students by the time school is in session. Thanks to Joanne Beddoes, the school PAC and Matthew Gringras, one of our district carpenters for working so hard to get this ready for the students.
- The grade 5 class will be off to Kokanee Park for Forestry Day on September 26th . Forestry Day is an annual event for all grade 5 students in the Nelson FoS to participate in various activities and is run by the Ministry of Forestry, Lands and Resource Operations.
- The first full day of school at Hume will be the kick off for our year-long investigation of the core competencies. The students will be in grade groupings and will be investigating “The Power of “Yet.”” This investigation will help create vocabulary around the mindset for learning and will help the students reframe their thinking about not being able to do something, to not being able to do something “yet”. Using this vocabulary shift throughout the year will support the all the children's mindset for learning.

L.V. ROGERS SECONDARY

- Opening Day saw 800 students on the roster for LVR, with 65 international students this year. We had a large cohort of Grade 9 and a few international students join us for Orientation on Friday, August 31st, and a whole school assembly on Opening Day September 4th. Awesome students and staff - looking forward to a great year!

- REACH alternate school has now moved to its new location in the Nelson Central Education Centre. Travis and Karee Ann are looking forward to seeing their students this year in a large, bright, and welcoming space!
- LV Rogers in partnership with Selkirk College is introducing the new Trades Sampler program for a cohort of 16 students in Semester 2. Mr. Brent Firkser from Innovative Learning Services will be coordinating the program and supporting the students as they gain 20 credits for trades, Work Experience, and Graduation Transitions, and other workplace certifications.

REDFISH ELEMENTARY

- Our staff gathered for two days in August to work in an aligned Learner Citizenship Protocol. We haven't named it yet, but it is a growth mindset oriented code of conduct through the lens of the Core Competencies. More on this as it evolves.
- We have all felt well supported by our custodial staff, tech staff and maintenance staff - our school has been beautifully cared for and is ready for our students and staff on September 4th. It was a lot of work!
- One area of focus for Redfish for the coming years is to see how we can become a hub for the community. Some ways we are exploring is to have Community Care License for after school programming and to look at the feasibility of having a dedicated space for community use.

ROSEMONT ELEMENTARY

- Rosemont staff did summer pro-d on a book called Anxious Kids Anxious Parents and have created a school wide approach to easing anxiety in students and parents.
- Rosemont teaching staff will attend the EECOM conference together in October in Cranbrook. The conference centres around indigenous learnings and the environment.
- Rosemont is welcoming 35 new students to the school this September. There are 23 kindergarten students and 12 new students in grades 1 to 5.

SOUTH NELSON ELEMENTARY

- South Nelson hosted MyBlueprint professional development sessions in August. We look forward to further exploration of this e-portfolio platform.
- South Nelson held our annual Welcome Back to School Meet and Greet for our school community on our playground the morning of September 4, the first day of school.
- We will be participating in the annual Terry Fox Run.

TRAFALGAR MIDDLE

- Trafalgar students and staff will be at Kokanee Creek Park on Sept. 20th to kick off our PBS program for the year "we are here to build each other up." Team building games and activities.
- Trafalgar is going digital and every homeroom class will be using My Blueprint for career and digital portfolios.

- Trafalgar students and staff were selected to complete a three year project called “Project Wet” through Wild BC.

WILDFLOWER NELSON

- Has successfully landed on the 2nd floor of the Central Education Center. Thank you to all the SD8 maintenance staff who worked so diligently in helping to move materials and set-up the learning spaces to receive the students Sept. 4th, 2018
- Wildflower Nelson is in the midst of many transitions - expansion of the middle school program (18 new families), 8 new staff members (60% staffing change), re-location of school to 2nd and 1st floors. A big focus for us this year will be building community and relationships throughout the school.
- Wildflower Nelson is in the midst of many transitions - opening of a second classroom, addition of one new teacher, and a re-location to PCSS. A big risk for the Wildflower community, but one with the potential for long-term sustainability and resilience.

ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

- September 27th, grade 5 Indigenous students from various schools in the district beginning the Ministry of Forests Day at Kokanee park with a traditional hand drum song.
- Aboriginal Education welcomes Ministry of Education staff, Caleb Child and Dr. Scott Benwell on September 19th, to begin concrete conversations on strengths and barriers impacting Aboriginal student achievement.
- The month of September, Aboriginal Education staff welcome all students who self-identify as Aboriginal within our district: Status, Non-Status, Metis and Inuit students. ABED supports are in addition to all supports offered within schools, supporting Aboriginal students on the pathway to graduation. New families and students are welcome!

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM

- Our overseas staff and travelers have returned to us and are pumped about their experiences in China. We will meet Sept 11 and 18th to debrief and plan for school and community presentations by the students.
- Our homestay application goes on line for the first time ever through our True North database.
- We currently have 99 students in 7 of our district schools and the countries represented are Austria, Brazil, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, China, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland = 74.4 FTE

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

- Mental Health Literacy training for school staff began on August 28, 29 and 30. Included PCSS, Mt. Sentinel, LVR, Winlaw, JVH, and Crawford Bay. The content of this training is the only Canadian evidence based material that improves mental health literacy for teachers and students.
- On Sept 20 Shelley Moore will be working with school teams comprised of administration, learning support, classroom teachers, and education assistants, on the topic of inclusion.

- Salmo Elementary is in the process of becoming a positive behavior intervention and support demonstration school, within our School District. This will be supported through our inclusion support teachers. The school will develop a positive school code, monitor behavior trends, and provide a system of consistent reinforcement, while delivering appropriate tiered support.

INNOVATIVE LEARNING SERVICES

- August 29th: MyBlueprint training workshops for teachers sponsored by ILS and hosted at SNES. 30 teachers attended the morning session for grades 6-12 teachers and 8 teachers attended the afternoon session for grades K-5 teachers. This training is intended to support classroom teachers for teaching K-12 Career Education and eportfolio implementation. SD8 has purchased a district license for myBlueprint.
- September 7th: “Building Thinking Classrooms” workshop facilitated by renowned Peter Liljedahl, PhD. 40 teachers attended the workshop. SD8 invited neighbouring districts to attend and we had representation from SD10 and SD20.
- Staffing: ILS has hired Monica Doyle as a District teacher leader. Monica’s portfolio will be comprised of Early Learning, Primary Years, and K-9 curriculum, assessment and reporting. Monica also brings a strong background in teacher professional development from her many years of representing the KLTF on the District professional development committee. ILS has also hired Shannon Ellis as secretary for the department.

ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE

SECRETARY-TREASURER

- Early July new Secretary-Treasurer/CFO, Michael McLellan, assumed his position.
- Issue new BMO Purchasing Cards, which will give SD8 1% cash back on any spending, and make accounting simpler and streamlined for all personnel using the P-Cards, including Trustees, Directors, PVPs, Secretaries and Finance Dept. staff.
- New accounting procedural improvements now being implemented.

HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES

- We have posted and filled approximately 250 postings for teachers and CUPE staff since mid-May.
- We have approximately 165 TTOCs on our list and several new CUPE casual EAs.
- Our new Health, Wellness and Safety Officer, Russell Warwick, has fully assumed his role and is working closely with staff throughout the District in these areas.

OPERATIONS

- 8 new buses added to the Transportation fleet
- Wildflower program in Creston has expanded and relocated to PCSS
- DESK, REACH and Wildflower programs in Nelson have been relocated to new spaces

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- Launch of Helpdesk system to streamline response to technology challenges. District wide launch on Aug 20
- Upgrade of network and cameras at JVH including an access point in every classroom to provide better wireless connectivity. Completed Aug 22
- Install of audio and video systems in 8 new busses in time for the start of the school year.

ENGAGEMENT

BCSSA

- Senior Education team attend Summer Academy in Kelowna in August. Opportunity to network at the provincial level and hear a variety of speakers on current education topics.
- New members: Naomi Watts, Rob Simpson, Gail Higginbottom and Sandy Prentice were recognized and welcomed.
- Excellent on-board and collaboration time for Superintendent to hold discussions about year ahead with team and for team to hear directions from Minister of Education.

DIRECTORS & SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

- New people on Senior Leadership Team.
 - a) Secretary-Treasurer Michael Price McLellan
 - b) Acting Director of Instruction: Innovative Learning - Naomi Ross
- Superintendent established role descriptions for 2018-2019 school year w/ input. (to be distributed)
- Realignment of Exempt Staff. (to be distributed)

LEADERSHIP TEAM (PVPs)

- Held annual Summer start-up at Ainsworth Hot Springs Board Room - owned by Ktunaxa - excellent Indigenous place-based start to 2018-2019. Superintendent review of all things “new” and set direction for 2018-2019: Focus, Learn. Excel.; Overview of Admin. Manual; overview of Start-up at schools. Thank you to Brent Cross and Samara Shaw.
- New PVPs (summer hires):
 - c) Acting Principal - Trafalgar - Paul Luck
 - d) Acting Vice-Principal - Trafalgar - Dawn Snell
 - e) Vice Principal - - LV Rogers - Aubrey Pender-Mitchell
 - f) Principal - Crawford bay - Erin Gibbs
 - g) Principal - Salmo Elementary - Jann Schmidt
- Return of Principal - Kim Jones - South Nelson; Thank you to Acting Principal Monica Doyle (now part of District Innovative Learning Team).

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Highlights include:

- Roll-out of New Curriculum for Gr. 10
- Roll-out of Literacy Assessment
- New Reporting Model Pilot K-9

- Mental Health Supports for Students province-wide, as well as, training for all staff on Mental Health Literacy.

PARENTS (PACs) AND DPAC

First DPAC meeting to be held on Wednesday, September 26th, 6pm at the Nelson School Board Office
Teleconference available - please email us to get directions sd8dpac@gmail.com

DPAC presents K-16 - Talking to parents about the New Curriculum and Post-Secondary Transitions with Jan Unwin - Superintendent of Graduation and Student Transitions - Ministry of Education and Ministry of Advanced Education at Mount Sentinel Secondary school at 6 p.n. Thursday, October 18. FREE. Everyone Welcome.

SUPERINTENDENT LUNCHEAS AT SCHOOLS

Superintendent was able to have lunch or breakfast with all schools prior to end of 2017-2018 school year. Conversations were most insightful and helped form basis of professional learning and other district changes for 2018-2019 school year. Thank you to all for your input.

SELKIRK COLLEGE

2018-2019 will see launch of Trades Sampler program with LVR and Selkirk College.

Selkirk College and surrounding Kootenay District co-hosting professional learning on Friday, October 19 at St. Mary's Hall and LV Rogers.

STUDENTS

Have **Student Trustees** interviewed and ready to serve from four high-schools. First meeting is tonight!

Welcome to:

- Angus Kirkpatrick - JVH - Kaslo
- Jace Lamoureux - JVH - Kaslo
- Rowan Medhurst - Crawford Bay
- Liam Borhaven - Crawford Bay
- Eden Solarik - LV Rogers, Nelson
- Olivia Kettle - PCSS - Creston

WKTEP (West Kootenay Teacher Education Program)

Superintendent and Acting Director of Innovative Learning met with new cohort of student teachers. Welcomed them to District and gave brief introduction to School District 8 as well as invitation to participate in up-coming professional learning in Creston on September 21.

RELATIONSHIPS

DISTRICT START-UP

The entire District Team has been out this week visiting and welcoming students, staff, and parents back to all of our Families of Schools.

A huge thank you to our CUPE staff, Director of Operations, Bruce McLean, our Technology Team and Director of Information Technology, Nick Howald, and our Manager of Transportation, Janet Wall.

These three departments were in full swing over the summer preparing for Fall. Our schools and school properties look fantastic. Many new tech changes have taken place behind the scenes. In Transportation, we were ready to go for school pick-up on opening day with 8 new busses added to the fleet.

A special thank you to all of our summer students who also assisted in preparations for Fall.

We thank Sotropa Communications and the team: Jeff, Nathan, and Eden for your expertise and collaboration with our Tech Team in the successful and on-time launch of our new logo and website.

Please see our new website for all of our latest news. <https://www.sd8.bc.ca/>

Welcome back to all.