

Superintendent's Report

October 9, 2018

Submitted by: Dr. Christine Perkins, Superintendent/CEO

LEARNING

CRESTON FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

ADAM ROBERTS ELEMENTARY

- Outdoor learning for several intermediate classes - community forests, learn to fish program on the Kootenay River (Old Ferry landing), Salmon run at Kokanee park, Annual senior class hikes on the Summit (before any snow!)
- Local area visits to support learning at the Creston Museum, Railway museum in Cranbrook
- Emphasized whole school celebrations and recognitions - Terry Fox Run, Orange Shirt Day
- Supported by district Pro D - several staff attending a variety of opportunities in September including workshops from our Innovative Learning Department (robotics, French, etc). Staff have been excited to attend and share out at the school. Brent Firsler has been supporting the grade 6/7 classes with the trades as students try their hand at electrical work!! Students are very engaged!!

CANYON LISTER ELEMENTARY

- As the only UNESCO member school in BC, we are committed to taking positive action in support of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Some this month are the following:
 - Signed up for and participating in Recycling BC's Waste Reduction Week (Oct 15th- 20th) with our Litter-less Lunch campaign.
 - Moving forward with our school greenhouse- plastic roof was put on by parent volunteers/BBQ by PAC to thank volunteers last week, and cedar has arrived for raised beds.
 - First meeting of the year held of the student *Be the Change* group, where we explored which areas we would be supporting this year through raising awareness and fundraising.
- New Twitter (@CanyonLister) and Instagram (canyonlister) accounts to go with our updated school website and school Facebook account.

CRESTON HOMELINKS

N/A

ERICKSON ELEMENTARY

- On Oct 26, 2018 we participated in the Terry Fox run, with all students doing an approximately 2 km walk/run.
- On Oct 26th we had an assembly for the students explaining the meaning behind Orange Shirt Day. Trustee Rebecca Hushcroft attended. Students were encouraged to wear orange on Friday the 28th.
- Cross country running has started for grade 4-7 students. Currently the athletes are scheduled to take part in 3 separate runs.

PRINCE CHARLES SECONDARY

- 24 students in our offsite Compass program.
- YETI enrollment and participation showing a huge increase in numbers.
- Full slate of Fall sports being offered, girls' and boys' volleyball and boys' soccer. Tournaments underway.
- The Hub at PCSS is participating in the IPSE Project in partnership with College of the Rockies (COTR) to provide practicum opportunities for a wide range of Human Service professions; nursing, HSW...
- Very positive feedback from students and staff for our new school schedule.

WILDFLOWER CRESTON

- A positive transition of Wildflower programming into the PCSS building. The staff are starting to explore collaborative relationships and utilization of space that may exist between the PCSS and Wildflower programs.

CRAWFORD BAY FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

CRAWFORD BAY ELEMENTARY-SECONDARY

- We have a Junior Girls and Junior Boys team registered in the West Kootenay Volleyball Playday series
- From now until mid-November with the playoff dates following
- One kindergarten student raised more money for the Terry Fox run than all members of the school combined! She raised over \$400 through her adult-sponsored FB page.
- Grade 12 student Jackson Wilkinson is undefeated in West Kootenays cross country! Makaylie Wilkinson came 2nd!

SALMO FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

SALMO ELEMENTARY

- Sept 20 combined an ice cream social and our Meet the Teacher event. It was a great way to come together to celebrate the start of a new school year.
- October is Safety Month! Students and staff are practicing a drill a week to ensure our community is ready in the unlikely event of an emergency.
- Thanks to Tony Musa and Martin Vanlerberg for running the Salmo Elementary Cross Country team. Our twice weekly practices are helping prepare for the elementary district runs.

SALMO SECONDARY

- We had a very successful Icebreaker day on Sept 12 where all students participated in team building and fun activities. A great culture building activity for our school, and a nice way to bring the incoming gr 7 (and new students) into our community.

- Thurs Sept 20 we hosted a “Meet the Teacher” night which was attended by approximately 60 parents and students. Lots of information for families, introductions of new and returning staff, an opportunity to mingle and ask questions.
- Sept 20 we also hosted a “welcome back dance” for all students, gr 7-12. Thanks to all the staff who volunteered their time to supervise and help out, including our great DJ Trestan Shunter who kept everyone going.

KASLO FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

JEWETT ELEMENTARY

- Jewett School received a \$1000 grant from the Canada Post Community Foundation for upgrades to our Library.
- Jewett School is continuing and extending our *Take Me Outside* Fridays with a 5 week program called Little Mountain Chickadee. So far we have built an outside shelter, did a Macro-Invertebrate study. This week is The Incredible Water Journey.
- Our Observation Bee Hive is buzzing. Students are working with the Beekeepers Association and fundraising for our WE Schools Initiative to raise awareness of the plight of the Honey Bee.

J.V. HUMPHRIES ELEMENTARY-SECONDARY

- Strong and collaborative staff very committed to learning and supporting students.
- ‘Student Leadership Facilitator’ Position of Special Responsibility.
- Use of LINKS funding to create one day per week Youth & Family Worker CUPE position to support students’ mental health.
- Career Education 8-12 programming as 11 full days (approx. once per month) programming to get students out into the world, working on authentic projects, and bring in presenters/workshops. First date was Sept. 27.

SLOCAN VALLEY FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

BRENT KENNEDY ELEMENTARY

- StrongStart will be coming to Brent Kennedy school this fall!
 - In partnership with W.E. Graham Community Services, we are in the process of advertising and interviewing for the position of a program facilitator.
 - The program will start in early November on Monday’s
- Orange Shirt Day
 - A very successful Orange Shirt Day assembly was thoughtfully organized and facilitated by Aboriginal Education Success Teacher, Ms. Andrea Mann. A special thank you to Danica Weager for also working in partnership with Ms. Mann to help our school community understand what Orange Shirt Day means and how we can work together, everyday, to “hold each other up” and to bring awareness about the strength and resilience of Aboriginal cultures.

- Learning Outdoors in our Community
 - Three primary classes visited Kokanee Creek Park to learn about the Kokanee Fish Life Cycle. They came back to school inspired to write and draw about what they learned. Our grade 5's participated in Forestry Day and helped open the day drumming and singing the welcoming song with Gail Higgenbottom.

MT. SENTINEL SECONDARY

N/A

W.E. GRAHAM ELEMENTARY-SECONDARY

- First week long Outing for the Valhalla Wilderness Program. All children returned very happy with their trip. A big conversation was about the wind. Apparently, one of the nights had some very strong winds and the kids were huddled in their tents.
- Our OELP Outdoor Education Leadership Program (Grade 6,7,8) went on their first overnight camping trip at Roseberry Provincial Park. They had to do all of the camping on their own. And for the most part, all tents were set up, and they were able to feed themselves and stay warm (it was close to 0 that night). They did two day hikes around the valley as well.
- Grade 3-6 Class had their Harvest Moon Luncheon. Each child was responsible for part of the meal. They made some amazing squash soup! Earlier in the week they attended the Forestry Day at Kokanee Park.
- Kindergarten - Grade 2 class took their first outing to Kokanee Park where they visited the spawning channel and also hiked to the waterfall!
- Busy Outdoor Learning at WEG!

WINLAW ELEMENTARY

- Over 200 students signed up for the Winlaw School Cross Country event on Oct 2nd. Great way to bring together our Valley Schools.
- Multi-Age activities starting up. Wednesday afternoon we split the school into 7 multi-age grouping. Each group focuses on a Project focused around the new Core Competencies. We finish the projects with an exhibition of learning at the Christmas Concert.
- Winlaw PAC - We had over 15 parents at our first PAC meeting - lots of great ideas and many new faces.

NELSON FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

BLEWETT ELEMENTARY

- Blewett School held a school-wide Terry Fox run on Sept. 24th at Lakeside Park and raised \$204.00 for the Terry Fox Foundation.
- The Grade 4/5 Class is taking part in the Nelson Public Library Reading Challenge again this year. Blewett School holds the title of Reading Challenge Champions from last year!

- 41 Grade 1-5 students have been practicing hard at lunchtimes for the upcoming SD8 cross-country meets. Go runners!

HUME ELEMENTARY

- Grand opening of the playground was on Thursday, Sept 27. The playground was funded by the PAC and the students are enjoying it immensely. Special thanks to Matthew Gringras who prepared the site.
- Service is alive and well at Hume with over \$1000 raised for Terry Fox this month. Coming up, the fourth annual Halloween for Hunger food drive takes place during the day on October 31st. Each class is responsible for an area of the Fairview neighbourhood and the community has begun to anticipate the food drive by dropping off things at the school.
- The Nelson Firefighters will be onsite on October 11th to support fire safety week.

L.V. ROGERS SECONDARY

- LV Rogers Secondary was the recipient of a \$25,000 scholarship fund from The Kootenay Advocacy Network, which has provided a \$1000 scholarship to LVR over the years. Chair Vince DeVito, a well-respected community business owner and parent, presented the cheque to Principal Tamara Malloff at a celebratory evening with several community agencies and parents of students with special needs in attendance. The society has formally disbanded, and funds were distributed to several community and educational organizations. The scholarship fund will go to students pursuing post-secondary primarily in the area of special education.
- LV Rogers Secondary fall sports programs are in full swing! The Field Hockey Team won the South Okanagan Field Hockey Tournament this past weekend against formidable opponents. LV Rogers is proud to have an integrated team of several international and domestic students playing a sport they love.
- Classes at LV Rogers had the opportunity to participate in a Reconciliation activity on Orange Shirt Day that included thoughtful responses to what reconciliation meant to them. The wall outside of our AbEd Room was papered in orange with the statements on display. AbEd students served fried bread and bannock. Many thanks to our AbEd team including Jesse Halton, Toni Appleby, and Ryan Oliver.

REDFISH ELEMENTARY

- We had our Orange Shirt Day gathering out in our field where all students offered corn and a good intention, then we sang the Travelling Song to help our good intentions on the journey as we join in Reconciliation
- We have invited all of this year's WKTEP teacher candidates to our Fall into Nature Day. All of our students will go through stations to where they will practice learning outside in a safe and engaged way.
- Our grade 4/5 class is gardening every week at a community garden. After they have worked for about 90 minutes, they have a talk from a local expert on gardening. Our students have learned all about tomatoes, how fertilizers work, the range of root vegetables and seed saving.

ROSEMONT ELEMENTARY

- Working on a plan for an outdoor classroom, meeting with a rock supplier to discuss the first phase of flagstone for a seating circle
- Principal Mushumanski is the honorary chair of the Nelson Committee on Homelessness's Homelessness Action Week on October 8 to 12.
- Rosemont staff are working on some anxiety workshops for parents based on a bookstudy they did during the summer time.

SOUTH NELSON ELEMENTARY

- Gr. 4/5 classes have been focusing on Forestry Days, inviting guests in to the school and enjoying culminating activities at Kokanee Park.
- Gr. 2/3 class went to the Chamber of Minds for one of their "Walking Wednesday" destinations.
- Gr. ½ and 2/3 have been learning about the life cycle of salmon sparked by a visit to Kokanee Park. A number of buddy-learning opportunities have resulted from that initial joint venture.

TRAFALGAR MIDDLE

- Trafalgar computer lab has been de-commissioned and we have added to our laptop fleet two new chrome labs. The labs are now in heavy use and teachers are moving towards using the G-Suite features.
- We had a very successful Terry Fox run on Sept. 24. All students participated, with some even completing a 5km run. The event ended with cookies and milk at the finish line.
- Orange Shirt Day awareness was well represented. All teachers engaged students in provocative and moving lessons throughout the week to raise awareness. The whole school assembly was a success and included a reconciliation drumming circle.

WILDFLOWER NELSON

- Transition of programming has gone well and classes are underway. A big focus for Wildflower in the 2018-2019 is "Building a Community" as we navigate new staffing, new students, new programming, and a new floor.

ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

- We are finalizing #'s of students in the district who will be enrolled in the Aboriginal Education Supports available at schools. This year, all schools have a new format for the Aboriginal School based action plans, which align with District goals and District Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement goals, and District Aboriginal department goals.
- The total # of students with ancestry K-12 in the district this year is 969. Not all students with ancestry choose to enroll in the additional supports available at their schools.
- Orange Shirt Day was honoured across the district with assemblies, school displays, and honest reflections and learnings at all levels of the district.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM

N/A

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

- We are working hard on organizing a great Pro-D opportunity (Oct. 19th) regarding all components of Down Syndrome.
- Speech and Language in Creston has begun using the Integrated Listening System program to determine the application of its benefits on school age children with severe apraxia (oral motor speech planning) and severe phonological skill deficits. Once we have the data to show its use with children in connection with speech and literacy skills, perhaps OT and SLP staff can extend its use at more schools to assist learning with children in Tier 2 and 3 (1:1 assist).

The program incorporates the theories of neuroplasticity by using auditory stimulation with motor sequencing activities to improve/increase neuro connectivity in the brain. This can be practiced with content (speech therapy, OT and literacy objectives) specific lessons while headphones are stimulating brain function with music. Very interesting and kids seem to love it.

- School district 8 and 20 are gathering students from 5 different districts and taking them to Revelstoke on Sept. 18th to ride the Mountain coaster. Research shows that same age peer connections is one of the best ways to increase identity as a deaf or hard of hearing child. It increases intrinsic motivation and self-esteem. It opens conversations and teachable moments up for self-advocacy, direct lessons on the anatomy of the ear, reading audiogram reports, and sharing experiences and strategies for how to be successful in the classroom. This adventure will teach lessons on new vocabulary, language, math and science and will introduce and continue friendships.

INNOVATIVE LEARNING SERVICES

- Sept 21st District Professional Development Day: We had over 340 participants at the ProD day in Creston, including 58 WKTEP teacher candidates and staff from Yaqaan Nukiy School. The Superintendent opened with an overview of “All things New” in our District followed by an awesome day of professional learning from renowned speakers: Leyton Schnellert, Faye Brownlie, Carole Fullerton, Kyra Garson, and Vanessa Wolff.
- Sept 27 & 28: Glenda Hanna, Ph.D. facilitated 2 workshops for Teachers and PVP’s on “Youth Safe Outdoors”. Staff from school districts 10, 20, 5, 6 and 51 also attended.
- Oct 3 & 4: Salmo Secondary School hosted 2 inspiring days of professional learning from Dr. Linda Kaser and Dr. Judy Halbert on *Creating a Growth Mindset Culture* in schools.

ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE

SECRETARY-TREASURER

- Auditors Report has been Submitted to the Ministry of Education
- Classroom Enhancement Fund Report has been submitted to Ministry of education
- We welcome back Penny bush to the Finance Department.

HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES

- 1701 Snapshot day was September 28 and files were due to the Ministry on October 5th. HR and other departments will be analyzing the data and will provide details to the board once the information is finalized
- New Teacher Orientation day is on October 17, in both Creston and Nelson, jointly presented by the KLTF and by SD8
- Fall Celebration is on October 10 at the Prestige Nelson, for ALL staff, from 4pm to 7pm

OPERATIONS

- Driver training session on September 21, 2018 with presentation by SafeSchools coordinator, Scott Rothermel
- New clerical assistant Stacy Finley (assisting with the transportation department)
- Operations ProD session October 19, 2018 including the annual school bus rodeo.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- Successful launch of Helpdesk system
- Upgrade of network plan completed for PCSS and Redfish
- Reimage of LVR lab with new imaging solution.

ENGAGEMENT

BCSSA - Our Senior team, supported by school teams, attended the Kootenay-Boundary BCSSA Fall Chapter Meeting which featured **A Morning with David Istance**, *co-author Teachers as Designers of Learning Environments: The Importance of Innovative Pedagogies, OECD*.

In addition, the meeting included presentations by:

- **Pat Duncan, Superintendent of Learning:** Ministry Updates re: Learning Progressions, K-9 Reporting Pilot, Provincial Assessments, Grade 10-12 Curriculum
- **Duncan Whittick, CBEEN and our KBEE - Environmental Education Update**
- **More David Istance**, *Teachers as Designers of Learning Environments: The Importance of Innovative Pedagogies, OECD* - What does deep learning look like?
- **Leyton Schnellert, UBC, Academic Advisor, UBC-West Kootenay Teacher Education Program and Eleanor Rix Professor of Rural Teacher Education:** *Teacher Education and School District Collaboration: How Do We Support leadership and innovation from pre-service teaching to K-12?*

DIRECTORS & SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM - Education-portfolio Directors have been assigned “Mentors” through BCSSA this year. In addition, all Directors have been given clarity around roles and assigned areas of focus. The Senior Leadership Organization Chart has also been updated.

LEADERSHIP TEAM (PVPs) - The Leadership team are on-boarding all new teachers, welcoming new families to their schools, gathering data for Ministry collection, and ensuring all our children are settled in. Superintendent led discussion and modelling around Progressive Discipline. Other work involved a presentation from the Transportation department, and all things HR, Financial, and Inclusion needed for start-up.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION - September has been busy with Back to school, finalizing hiring, Data collection, signing on for Ministry Literacy Assessment, Early Years Reporting, promotion of New Curriculum, and supporting upcoming Trustee Elections.

PARENTS (PACs) AND DPAC - Superintendent presented an overview at DPAC of Year 1 and beginning of Year 2 to 18 plus parents present plus 4-6 on the phone. Guest speaker was Parent Advocacy specialist, Susan Wilson. Names have been gathered of PAC Chairs and all have been invited to attend DPAC. In addition, parents are all invited to a Parent Night Out. For information check our new website and the link: <https://www.sd8.bc.ca/announcement/parent-night-out-october-18th>

SUPERINTENDENT TOURS AT SCHOOLS - Superintendent has been to all Creston, Crawford Bay, Kaslo, Salmo, and Slocan Families of Schools. Visits to Nelson Family of Schools will take place in October.

SELKIRK COLLEGE - Superintendent met with Pat Bidart from Selkirk College re: signing a MoU in order to move forward with more Dual-credit programs.

STUDENTS - Connections have been made with our new Student Trustees, students involved in inquiry projects at Salmo Secondary, and several of our new International students.

WKTEP (West Kootenay Teacher Education Program) - The WKTEP Fall Symposium was held with regional Superintendents and UBC. In addition, the Superintendent was able to see new teacher candidates from WKTEP in situ with our students at Mt. Sentinel Secondary. Thank you to all teachers who hosted. It was a wonderful experience.

RELATIONSHIPS

DISTRICT - We celebrated and remembered:

September 28 - **Orange Shirt Day** (Sept. 30) - Orange Shirt Day is a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission (SJM) residential school commemoration event held in Williams Lake, BC, Canada, in the spring of 2013. It grew out of *Phyllis' story* of having her shiny new orange shirt taken away on her first day of school at the Mission, and it has become an opportunity to keep the discussion on all aspects of residential schools happening.

The date was chosen because it is the time of year in which children were taken from their homes to residential schools, and because it is an opportunity to set the stage for anti-racism and anti-bullying policies for the coming school year. It also gives teachers time to plan events that will include children, as we want to ensure that we are passing the story and learning on to the next generations.

Orange Shirt Day is also an opportunity for First Nations, local governments, schools and communities to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come.

<http://www.orangeshirtday.org/>

October 5 - **World Teacher's Day** - Thank you to all our highly-qualified and talented teachers. We appreciate your hard work and dedication each and every day.

In 1994, UNESCO inaugurated October 5 as World Teachers' Day to commemorate the joint UNESCO and International Labour Organization's (ILO) signing of the *Recommendations Concerning the Status of Teachers*.

World Teachers' Day represents a significant token of the awareness, understanding and appreciation displayed for the vital contribution that teachers make to education and development. On October 5, along with over 100 countries around the world, the Canadian Teachers' Federation and its Member organizations across the country celebrate World Teachers' Day through a public awareness campaign that highlights the contributions of the teaching profession.

<https://www.ctf-fce.ca/en/Pages/Events/WTD.aspx>