

# Superintendent/CEO Report for April 10, 2018

– submitted by Dr. Christine Perkins.

## LEARNING

### Family of Schools

#### *Creston Family of Schools*

Adam Roberts Elementary School (ARES)

- In April the public is invited to our weekly assemblies on Wednesday mornings. They are welcome at all our assemblies throughout the year. Ongoing volunteer opportunities include our breakfast program, reading with students, and involvement in PAC and their meetings.
- In May the public is invited to watch when our students perform at the focus on youth as well as see the art on display during this time. The youth powwow and the Creston valley track and field day are both in May that the public are invited to watch or volunteer at.

Canyon Lister

- CLES is hosting the CBEEN Risky Play workshop next weekend. We also have a performance from the Yo-Yo Guy that parents are invited to attend, as well as our PAC meeting next week.

Erickson

- Our “big news” is our recent grant approval, in excess of \$20,000. I have attached a copy of the press release we are working on.
- As far as upcoming events are concerned, all schools in Creston are looking forward to Focus Youth in the first week of May, as well as the Youth PowWow.
- At Erickson, we are excited to have the PAC Hot Lunch program starting up again next week

Prince Charles Secondary School

- Formal opening of HUB – April 19, 2018.

HomeLinks Creston – n/a

Wildflower Creston

- Wildflower Creston – On the dates of March 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> – the Creston Wildflower students participated in a school BC Heritage fair. Over the course of several months, as part of the homeschooling component of their program, the students research a topic in Canadian history and become experts in their field. A key objective of the project is to encourage students to become curious about Canadian history and to deepen their understanding of the present by engaging with and questioning the past. Topics this year include an exploration of: the draft dodgers, Canadian aircraft, Canadian pirates, local trapping lines etc... Each year Wildflower Creston has some students who qualify for the regional fair and in some years some students make their way to representing School District 8 at the provincials.
- Students that qualified for the regional fair this year from Creston Wildflower were: Alek Turner – Military aircraft from WWII; Clayton and Connor Palmer – The fur trade; Sierra Faulks – Canadian fiddle music.
- These students will be attending the regional heritage fair in Kelowna on Tuesday April 24<sup>th</sup>.

- Grace Dressel (Wildflower Creston) – was one of the finalists chosen to have her art work made into a postcard for the Wild Post Card Project through the Biodiversity Research Center of UBC. She was selected amongst hundreds of entries apparently. Pretty exciting. Her art work will be made into a postcard and sold to elevate awareness around the importance of preserving biodiversity globally.

#### ***Crawford Bay Family of Schools***

- Earth Day: Assembly- 11am, 20<sup>th</sup> April; community invited to garden work bee and seed sale 1-2pm.
- Popsicle Stick Bridge Building contest- Selkirk College Gymnasium, Castlegar, BC, in conjunction with the Regional Science Fair. Saturday April 14, 2018 from 11am to 4pm. This is put on by the Engineers & Geoscientists of BC, West Kootenay Branch. The purpose of this contest is to create the strongest bridge in competition with bridges created by same age peers from all over the Kootenays. Our Gr 2-3 students have been “thinking like an engineer” by studying famous and local bridges, examining the strength of certain shapes, designing using measurement and number sense, and lastly, working together to build the bridge itself. Sharon Inkpen (teacher) will be taking the 2 bridges to the competition for the testing and judging, and parents have been invited to attend if they wish.

#### ***Salmo Family of Schools***

##### Salmo Elementary

- Our good news over the break was to welcome back Casey Berk, who has been on a maternity leave. She has returned to a student support role and is assisting us with baseline work in preparation for the launch of our 5 year school goal.
- April is a bit slow for public events as May and June are very full
- Thurs Apr 5<sup>th</sup> we hosted John from Around the World Yoyos for a fun and educational 45 minute assembly which parents also attended.
- Thursday May 1 in the SES gym from 11-2:30 Night at the Museum Community presentation (SES primary inquiry project).
- Also, May 1 we are hosting our Facilities Review update meeting; prior to that we are hosting a meeting for all families regarding the new Grad program in the SSS Foyer
- The big excitement at SES is the Spring Concert, which will happen in the SES gym from 6-7 pm on May 10<sup>th</sup>.

##### Salmo Secondary

- At SSS we have our PAC meeting this Wednesday and on April 21<sup>st</sup> we are hosting the Streamkeepers Society dinner here at the school. For May, we are hosting a grad information/transition presentation before we have our facilities meeting on May 1. We also have a school wide presentation on Psychosis April 9<sup>th</sup> that parents will be invited to.
- As for celebrations over the break, I had conversations this morning with our highest risk students and they had positive breaks and are keen to be back at school.

#### ***Kaslo Family of Schools***

##### Jewett Elementary and J.V. Humphries

- April 18 7 PM is the JVH Talent Show with performers from grades 4 through to recent grads. Organized by art and music teacher Rielle Oswald.

- April 26 6:30 PM at the Langham Cultural Centre is a showing of the film “Angst.” This is part of a collaboration between JVH and North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society. This event is part of an ongoing project with secondary students examining how anxiety impacts youth and includes an art exhibit of student work on the subject. EA Liz Ingles is the JVH part of the collaboration.
- May 24 6:30 PM 2 films. Grace Broadfoots’ grade 10 social studies class is organizing the showing of Indian Horse as a way to foster community conversations around Indigenous experiences and Residential Schools. The other is a showing of “Stories from Here” a SET-BC story project that Nancy Patience’s grade 4/5 class has made, with huge support from district Inclusion Services and Aboriginal Education staff.
- Spring Break good news: Zoe Dwyer, a grade 11 student who went to Oaxaca with Kathi Knapik spent a lunch hour showing Dan and me pictures from the trip. She said it was life changing and that she wants to give back by supporting this work in years to come.

### ***Slocan Valley Family of Schools***

Brent Kennedy

- April 20 – PAC Painting Night
- April 28 – International TableTop Games Day 10am – 2pm

Mt. Sentinel

- Public Event: Slocan Family of Schools PAC Meeting Apr. 19<sup>th</sup> 5:30 pm at WEG to discuss issues pertinent to all of our schools.
- Good News: PM (Performance & Media) Academy will be going on a field trip to Vancouver & Victoria the week of Apr. 24-29<sup>th</sup> visiting sites like Vancouver Film school & the Provincial Legislature.

W.E.Graham

- The Valhalla Wilderness Program just completed their 2nd winter trip of the year. The last trip saw the group ski tour 20 km into the backcountry in the Lemon Creek area. They made camp at 5800’ and thrived despite temperatures that ranged from a high of -18 to nighttime lows of -26. Over the 4 days the students ski toured both sides of the basin, used their avalanche training skills as well as their winter camping expertise. It is always amazing to talk to students who have challenged themselves beyond what most of us ever endure. VWP teacher is Sean Marechal.
- The Outdoor Educational Leadership Program also did a one-night winter camp in Slocan. The group slept in tents and snow caves and participated in a number of activities including meal planning and preparation, games and search and rescue instruction. OELP teacher is Ben Porteous.

Winlaw Elementary

- School Dance - April 13th - Lots of families attend
- Ready Set Learn starting on April 13th
- We have a steady stream of volunteers in the building - reading, field trips, Boys and Girls group
- Talent Show in May
- Slocan Valley Track and Field meet in May
- Good news would have been the Social Justice Presentation before the break.

### ***Nelson Family of Schools***

#### Blewett Elementary

- April – PAC meeting next Tuesday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.
- StrongStart every Thursday and Friday morning.
- May – we are hosting a day with Teddy Anderson – an Aboriginal Hoop Dancer – I will be inviting parents to the assembly in the morning.
- Good news over Spring Break – much of the snow has melted!!!! Kids are enjoying some Spring games.

#### Hume Elementary – n/a

#### LVR

- In the April Newsletter, PAC Parent Night Out for “Teaching and Learning with Digital Devices” 7 pm Tues April 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Good news is the Biology learning excursion to Mexico w Jeremy McComb, Rugby trip to Scotland, Margaret Saville to the Forum for Young Canadians—see “student celebrations” for more.

#### Redfish

- Spring break Circus camp at Redfish was wonderful. The camp organizer Blayne has offered to come back and spend the day at Redfish teaching all the students circus tricks.
- Coming up: The older students will be hosting their parents for student-led conferences during early dismissal days. Good celebrations of hard work.
- The community at large will be invited to the opening of the outdoor classroom space currently being constructed in the Redfish Creek spawning channel parking lot. This was funded from CBT, RDCK and a lot of parent fundraising. I’m not certain of the exact date in April, but it will involve cake!
- April 16<sup>th</sup>: Pro-D day at Redfish regarding Indigenizing the Classroom with Four Nations Coalition and CBEEN. This workshop has attendees from across our region including community educators. One of the activities we’ll be doing is demonstrating how to create classroom spaces using the principles.

#### Rosemont

- We held BC Student Voice West Kootenay forum on April 6. 24 secondary students from 7 different schools attended the forum. They learned about distracted driving and what the youth of today can do about this fairly new problem.
- Staff are embarking on a curriculum project on indigenizing the school and our practices. Each participating teacher will work through resources and ideas found in discovery boxes put together by the principal and the AbEd teacher.

#### South Nelson

- We have two confirmed public events coming up: South Nelson Elementary School PAC Meeting April 10, 2018 6:30-7:30 in our library.
- Touchstones Museum April 12, 2018 5:30-7:00- The families of our intermediate students are invited to the display of our ArtsStarts Poetry Alive projects.
- We are also tentatively booked for a whole school movie night on April 27th.
- Our good news for spring break is that the editor of the Nelson Star, Bill Metcalfe, did a whole page report with photos from our last Family Jam night which was a resounding success!

#### Trafalgar

- Trafalgar's VP, Paul Luck, and four boys from our Boys Club Network Chapter have been invited to Vancouver (all expenses paid!) to attend a special dinner at the home of the UBC President, Dr. Santa Ono, Monday May 7th. What a great opportunity for our boys.

#### Wildflower

- For Wildflower we have a monthly school wide assembly in which we invite parents, grandparents, siblings etc...
- We have one scheduled on April 19<sup>th</sup> and May 17<sup>th</sup>. The assembly is entirely student run – technology set-up and emcee's. Generally, each class shares something they have been working on – inquiry projects, art, poetry, community service projects, individual celebrations etc...
- Looking to June the staff is hoping to do a larger school wide celebration of learning for the entire school community. As well, each term each class does a sharing out of learning to their specific families. This is generally an evening event and one where parents have an opportunity to get a more intimate look at the learning their child has been engaged with for the term. It most often coincides with the delivery of final assessments (report cards) for the term.
- Our PAC meetings are also open to parents. We have one scheduled on April 11<sup>th</sup> and May 9<sup>th</sup>. The second Wednesday of each month.

**Aboriginal Education** - *Honouring Our Elders* film festival on April 13 in Creston at PCSS. We have an upcoming meeting with Okanagan Tribal Council on April 30.

#### Independent Learning Services

- Intensive Behaviour Intervention Training in Creston starting April 9<sup>th</sup>
- BCCASE Spring Conference April 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>
- Regional VTRA Level 1 training April 26<sup>th</sup>
- Mandt Training – Dates to be confirmed
- Mental Health Literacy Expert Trainer Institute May 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>
- Distributed Learning Compliance Audit – Week of May 14<sup>th</sup>
- SD8 gathering for students with Down Syndrome their families and staff – May 31<sup>st</sup>
- Regional VTRA Level 2 Training June 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>

#### Innovative Learning Services

- Innovative Learning Services is exciting to host the G-Suite summit on April 14-16. Beginning with a social on Saturday night with our keynote speakers, and then into two full days of professional learning around current topics in the new curriculum, this promises to be an exciting event – both for our staff and for others in the region. At this point we have approximately 150 registrants for the event, to be hosted at LVR.
- As part of our Leadership development program, a team of principals attended the BCSSA conference last week, working with Dylan Williams on increasing the success of students. Williams spoke passionately about how our students need our best RIGHT NOW if we want our communities to be healthy and democratic. He brought research and evidence to the group about what is and is not currently making an impact on learning, and challenged us to reflect on our practice. He concluded with the importance of professional learning – collaborative, focused, job-embedded and continuous – as our responsibility to ensure that our students are receiving the best, every day. Our team returned with a

renewed commitment to work together as the senior PVP team to lead conversations with colleagues and staffs.

### **International Program**

- We have 12 students and 2 chaperones accepted through our application process for India. Our friends from India will be in the district from June 26th - July 10th and then our district group will travel to India December 1 - 15th.
- We have 20 students selected for Fuzhou China and 3 Chaperones. This group leaves for China July 14th and returns July 28th.
- Our Oaxaca team have returned from Mexico having built two homes and two water filtration systems for 2 impoverished families. What an incredible life changing experience for everyone.

**Technology** – New Director of Information Technology, Nick Howald begins at SD8 on Monday, April 23, 2018.

### **RELATIONSHIPS**

**BCSSA** – We took our 8 years plus Principal team to hear formative assessment expert Dylan Wiliam on April 6. He shared many techniques and strategies to help improve student learning.

**BCSTA** – Conference and AGM at end of April.

**Committees of the Whole** – monthly attendance and participation.

**Directors & Senior Leadership Team** – Planning underway for Budget meetings, 2 year Calendar finalized by MoE; Strategic Plans for next three years (underway at all locations), and Transition plans for CEC, DESK etc. all underway.

**French Immersion Teachers** – meeting set for May.

**G-Suite Summit** – to be held at LVR on April 15 (Sunday) and 16 (Monday Pro-D Day).

**Kootenay Boundary Leadership team** – Conference on May 1 and 2 at SD 51.

**Leadership Team (PVPs)** – Aspiring Leaders program underway; 8 plus heading to Dylan Wiliam April 6; and continued work on Strat/School plans.

**Ministry of Education** – has confirmed a Spring visit to SD 8. We speculate either prior to, or just after, April 30 as that is the date of the Provincial **Budget Review Meeting with Ministry of Education** to be held in Nelson at SD8 Board Office.

In addition, Minister Michelle Mungall presented at PCSS Social Studies class and took a tour of PCSS HUB on April 4 and met with Superintendent.

**Okanagan Tribal Council** – May meeting to be confirmed.

**Parents (PACs) and DPAC** – On-going communication with all Wildflower and Homelinks PACs during this time. Meeting with Slocan Valley PAC (All) on April 19 at WEG. Safe Schools speaking at DPAC in April. BCCPAC AGM is May 4 – 6 at Pacific Gateway in Richmond. Theme this year is *Human Rights*.

**PVPs** – Audit Training with Joanne Armstrong from the Ministry on April 11. Finalizing School Planning Frameworks to align with all partners. Meetings to be held with Senior Team in April/May ahead of actual School Planning Day.

**Rural Schools Meeting** – in Vancouver April 18.

**Salmo** – Family of Schools Facilities meeting May 1.

**Superintendent Lunches at Schools** – April 4 at both CEC and Canyon-Lister; International on April 23; and ARES on April 25.

**Selkirk** – work continues on creation of Dual-credit courses for 2018-2019 in areas of Trades, and hopefully, Culinary Arts, and Music program for LVR in 2019/20.

**Students** – New BAA courses are to be presented to the Board in May. Opportunities to be part of Student Councils and run as Student Trustees are being put forward. Yes to Know Y2K Conference in Castlegar May 1 and 2.

## **ENGAGEMENT**

### **Citizenship**

- Schools have begun to get the word out re: opportunities for Student Trustees.
- Schools have been encouraged to form School Councils for next year (if they do not have one already).

### **Resilience**

- New HUB at PCSS is having a “formal opening” on April 19, 2018. Everyone is invited.

## **ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE (FACILITIES, OPERATIONS, TRANSPORTATION AND BUSINESS)**

**Human Resources** – n/a

### **Secretary-Treasurer**

- This month the District bade a fond farewell to Cora Leduc, Accounts Payable Clerk. After 24 years of exemplary service and dedication to students through staff and suppliers, Cora decided to retire to enjoy her family, including grandchildren, and to travel. Always the professional, Cora insists she is just a phone call away if we need any help. However, the District is in good hands with Cora’s replacement Rosanne Winter.
- Rosanne hails from Edson, Alberta, our third Albertan recruit in the finance department, where she worked extensively in the accounts payable role for Grande Yellowhead School Division. SD8 welcomes Rosanne and is confident our new employee will provide great service to staff members and suppliers in SD8.