

Superintendent/CEO Report for March 13, 2018

– submitted by Dr. Christine Perkins.

LEARNING

Family of Schools

Creston Family of Schools

Adam Roberts Elementary school

- ARES brought in Ben Milkenson, author of Spirit Bear, on Feb 28th to talk with grade 4-7 students and staff. His focus was on anti-bullying and was well received. Students and staff from all three elementary schools in the Creston Valley got together that day to hear his talks.
- Artic Explorer John Dunn presented on his exploration of the artic. It kept the grade 5-7 students engaged.
- February we celebrated a reading month. This year the theme was the Olympics. Classes became countries and students could earn their countries Gold, silver or Bronze medals depending upon the amount of reading they did during the week. Our bulletin boards are now full of medals the students earned through the month.

Canyon Lister

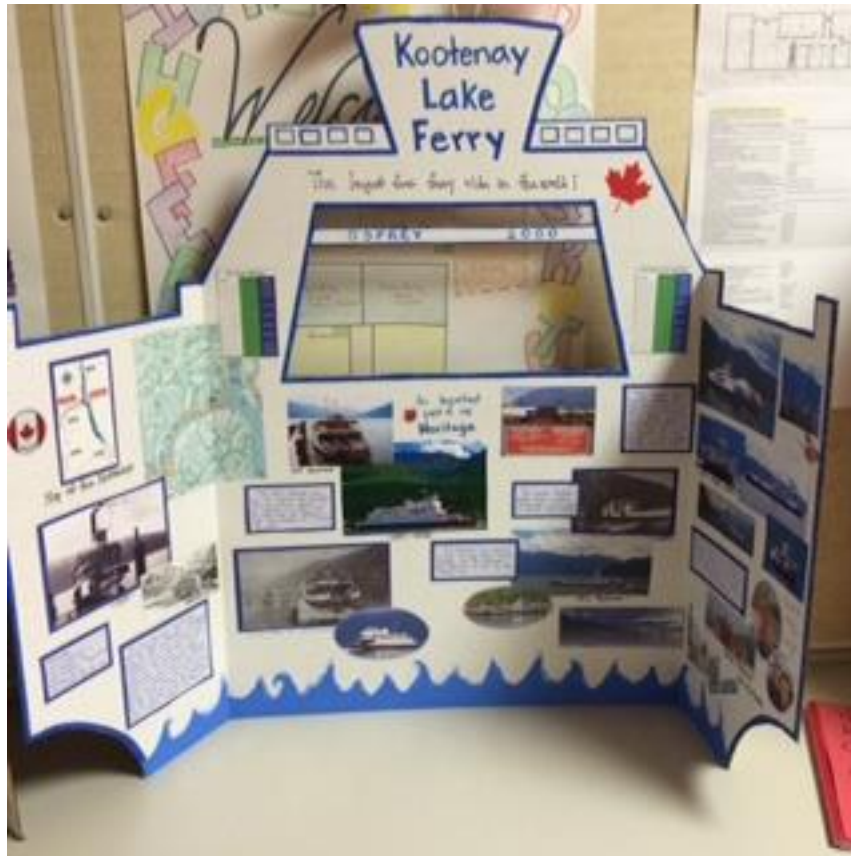
- Our entire school is working on a Reconciliation Blanket, with each person (student and staff) creating their own square, which will be quilted together over Spring Break. This quilt will then be used as part of The Blanket Exercise in April. Wonderful teachings and preparation went into this, and the results are already beautiful.
- Our Be the Change students are holding a Spaghetti fundraiser this Thursday to help build a school in Ethiopia. They are already over half-way to their fundraising goal.

Erickson

- Erickson Elementary received \$18,000 support from both Columbia Basin Trust and Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program for the Erickson School Wildlife Project and an additional \$3800 to contract the Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society to help deal with the weeds and invasive plants on the property.

HomeLinks Creston

- Creston Homelinks and Creston Wildflower ran another *Heritage Fair* on March 7th. This year record numbers of students from K-9 competed, (31 entries by 35 students). Eleven judges were selected from the community. Each student presented to two judges and answered questions asked of them. The judges were impressed with the quality of research the students undertook, their knowledge and their public speaking skills. Top entries will be competing in the Okanagan Regional Heritage Fair this April. Previously, two students from Creston Wildflower/Creston Homelinks were selected to attend the provincial completion. See one of the photos below.



Prince Charles Secondary School

- The HUB has been operational for three weeks and has been a “success” according to stakeholders.
- Our four Practicum students, three from WKTEP and one from VIU, have had a positive start.
- All six of our basketball teams have wrapped up positive seasons.
 - The Wilderness First Aid course, and our second AST level 1 were spectacular opportunities for our YETI students.
 - 100% of our Com12 students passed.
 - 98% of our English12 students passed.

Crawford Bay Family of Schools

- The new CBESS Gr 7-9 boys’ basketball team is flourishing and won a game against Castlegar at a 2 day tournament this weekend. This is aligned with our goal of expanding school sport this year.
- A group of girls who participated in a focus group with Raina from the Nelson & District Women’s Centre to give input on programming for their age group will be attending the upcoming retreat that they have organized (aligned with the input on preferred activities)- a nice follow through on the focus group for both parties. This is aligned with the goal of increasing leadership opportunities for senior girls.
- The once weekly Enrichment class for the Gr 7-9 cohort is working well. It is an intervention to directly teach skills to become self-regulated learners who can motivate themselves, start work independently, organize themselves for learning, use strategies to help focus, use appropriate classroom behaviours, etc. This is aligned with the goal of providing intervention strategies to support a cohort that has had great difficulty for

years with the aforementioned items, and who also had terrible Gr 7 FSA results this year.

- My favourite...weekly cookie sales by the K-2 class continue, meaning I get to eat very good chocolate chip cookies weekly, while the students learn math in a variety of ways: measuring, using money, etc.
- A Crawford Bay wetlands cross-curricular Gr 4-6 project was approved by the curriculum group and will receive funding to support it. This project is aligned with the new curriculum as well as the focus on nature-based/ outdoor learning in the elementary school.

Salmo Family of Schools

Salmo Elementary/Secondary School

- Exploratories: increased involvement (Students sheep feeding, boxing, Ju Jutsu, D&D) this term.
- Pink Shirt Day - multi week buildup of SOGI lessons to culminate in Pink Shirt Day / Black History Month presentation.
- LGBT and friends gathering to establish a support group.
- Grad Fundraiser at the Salmo Ski Hill.

Kaslo Family of Schools

Jewett Elementary and J.V.Humphries

- Project of Heart - The grade 10's along with the grade 5/6 class are working together on an art project that focusses on recognizing and remembering those who experienced residential schools. We'll have a tile display installed in the school from this.
- Gr. 9's and 2/3's Outdoor field trip up to the Nordic warming hut area between Kaslo and Sandon.
- Jewett and JVH gr. 2/3's sharing a Winter day with student pen pals - snowshoeing, a x-country ski through the wilderness, snow-fort building, snow painting, and a BBQ!
- Grade 12 student who we supported to be here this year from Manitoba - a shy, reserved young lady who has been connected to the Kaslo Youth Centre and is now doing her volunteer hours working with younger girls in the girls group....and loving it.
- Staff and students' contagiousness in joining Kaslo's new fitness centre outside of school and having a good time working hard at personal fitness.
- Secondary students sharing outside of school experiences at weekly assembly – Loran scholarship, SHAD leadership summer program, Class Afloat, YES camp.
- In addition, Ernie's progress since the dog sledding is like someone compressed the accelerator. Truly amazing. Lots of firsts, generalizing - apparently transference of skills shown at home to the school setting. Go, Ernie!



Slocan Valley Family of Schools

Brent Kennedy

- Talent Show on Thursday
- Swimming program started (All kids at BK get full Red-Cross Swimming lessons)
- Read-A-Thon put on by PAC makes enough money to support our on-line reading program for all kids in the school.
- PAC recently awarded \$5000 from RDCK to help replace our slide (sorely missed slide)
- Collaboration time provided inside of our time-table to allow for teacher teams to work together around Inquiry Learning.

Mt. Sentinel

- We started our second semester focus on our school culture/climate with an emphasis on our student classroom expectations and hallway behaviors outside of rooms. It also was a chance to develop some consistency in our practice with each other. Our Admin. team recognized the need for a greater visible presence around the school. As a result, the staff & students have noticed a markedly improved climate of respectful interaction in their classrooms and hallways since we have started this focus by all reports!
- Pink Shirt Day was a success with a student led assembly (30mins.) that included multiple speakers on the topics of anti-bullying behavior, inclusion, equality, racism, etc.. and a student written, directed and performed play about speaking up against bullying.

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.

- 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. VWP teacher is Sean Marechal; OELP teacher is Ben Porteous.

Winlaw Elementary

- Wrapping up the Social Justice/Protest Song Artstarts project. Final performance on Thursday.
- On Thursdays in Feb, we had a yoga instructor from the community come and work with our K-3 classes. Each class received a 45 min session during their PE block as well as capacity building time for teachers so that they could continue with some of the practices. There was a noticeable shift in student focus and engagement in academic block scheduled after the session. Students and parents have requested more sessions.

Nelson Family of Schools

Blewett Elementary

- We had a wonderful Stop Bullying assembly. Students participated – Kindergarten – ‘How to fill someone’s bucket’ and a Chant from the Story of Howard B. Wigglebottom Learns About Bullies/Pay It Forward Skit from Gr. 3 and 4 students/Gr. 5 students did some really amazing poems from the Bully/Bystander and Bullied perspectives. We have included some in our newsletter for March.
- Our PAC has supported bringing in Slava – a well-known dance instructor in Nelson – do to dance sessions with all classes for 4 Thursdays. We are half way through. Amazing!!
- Winter activity choices this year - Skiing/Snowboarding/Climbing/Snowshoeing/Gymnastics/Skating – two more Wednesdays to go.

Hume Elementary

- Grade 5’s left for a 3 day ski at Red Mountain. This is organized by teachers, Les Chirico and Kelly Anast. This is a 2 night 3 day trip. Grade 5’s are the only class that does an overnight trip. They were pretty eager at 6:50 am when they left this morning (Monday March 5).
- Grade 2/3 class run by Fay Wheeler hosted a Medieval Day last Friday. This was a culminating activity following a study about Medieval times. Students and staff dressed the parts for the day, hosted a banquet feast (potluck), entertained royalty (head table chosen by random – everyone got to be part of the table at some time in the day). The entertainment were skits, poems, dances, magic tricks etc. performed by the students. After the feat they took to the gym for medieval games!! Prior to this, students created their own castle project at home with their parents/family. These were outstanding and built memories for the whole family! Students shared their projects with incredible enthusiasm and ownership for their learning. Special thanks to Fay Wheeler and Mary Defeo (EA) for their talents in making this day come alive for the students!
- All classes have been a part of many physical activities throughout February. These include grade 1 and 3 swim lesson (sponsored by our PAC), cross country skiing for

Kindergartens, and grade 3's; curling for grade 2's, downhill skiing grade 4 and 5's!! It's been beautifully busy!!

- Our Hume PAC has secured several grants along with their fundraising. We are hoping to buy an extension on to the playground structure in the front of the building. Part of some long term planning around beautifying our playground and providing new opportunities for play.

LVR – n/a

Redfish

- Grade 5 group have presented their "Genius Hour" projects to the parents and to the school. There was everything from one child's passion for Orca whales to the history of cars to solar power to how to build a catapult to an explanation of anti-matter via a Youtube video starring a dragon. The students were so proud during their presentations and they inspired the rest of the students in the school as well. Shout out to Mrs. Sarah Goggins for working hard with her grade 5 class.
- Our Friendship Assembly on Feb 28 featured the different ways music is taught by Mrs Allison Ferraro. The whole school ended the assembly by singing the "Respect" song led by the grade 5 crew.

Rosemont

- Rosemont hosted the first annual Stuffy Olympics where students worked in small, multi-age groups to design and build "snow vehicles" for their stuffies. We raced them down an officially marked slalom course in our school forest and then analyzed and reflected on the results. Not a single stuffy vehicle made it to the bottom of the course so students were busy trying to figure out the science behind their failures. Not a single student was phased by the lack of success.
- Staff have submitted a curriculum project to continue to work on indigenizing our school. We are working with Kathryn McCooeye of Four Nations Coalition of Indigenous Medicine and have gathered professional learning resources for 'teacher exploration boxes'. We have more questions than answers and are excited about our journey to find those answers.

South Nelson- n/a

Trafalgar – n/a

Wildflower - Nelson/Creston

- The Nelson Middle School program just finished their annual community engagement project called *Heartbeet!* The project typically runs during the month of February as many of the local food cupboards are running low following the Christmas period. On February 14th, the Wildflower students positioned themselves at the local Nelson Co-op. The students ask clientele going into the store for food and/or cash donations to go toward making an authentic borscht recipe. On February 16th the students worked as a group to make the borscht using the ingredients donated along with some purchased ingredients. This year the students raised approximately \$150.00 and gathered enough produce to make 20 quarts of borscht. At the end of the day, a small group of students made a delivery to the Nelson food cupboard. The project is well-received each year and the borscht flies off the shelf. There are many wonderful skills that are developed through this project, along with the development of an awareness and appreciation for those in our community that rely on such services.

- Wildflower Creston – On the dates of March 7th and 8th – 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.

Aboriginal Education

- The Enhancement Renewal Process is well underway! We have had parent/community consultations with Slocan, Salmo, and Kaslo (Tuesday, March 6). At JVH, in Kaslo on Tuesday night, we had representation from new teachers, practicum teachers, parents, grandparents, and students! Dinner was lovingly created by a father: a traditional stew, fruit crumble, and bannock. The evening was warm, well attended, and inspirational!
- On Curriculum day on Friday, March 9, ABED invited two teachers from SD44, North Vancouver to come here and share their experiences, stories, and lessons on Indigenizing Curriculum. Hosted at Ainsworth Hot Springs, owned by the Lower Kootenay Band, over 50 staff sat together to hear high impact practices: a full year of SS9 framed on the theme of Reconciliation, A school walk of Reconciliation, Partnerships with local nations and knowledge keepers, teaching from a “relationship and land based centre”, specific tools of FP Principles of Learning and explicit language and modelling of what it means to be an ALLY to Aboriginal Education. New teachers, practicum teachers, ABED staff, and teachers from across the district K-12 were fueled up to continue this work.
- Gail Higginbottom – Feb. 26 – attended Aspiring Aboriginal Leaders with the BCSSA (visit #2), to continue to investigate leadership, build a BC network, share in conversations, and learn specific tools from “Dimensions of Practice” to guide ABED in SD8.
- Feb. 21 – SD8, ABED, came together as an ABED team to discuss and learn together. A few themes from the day: self-care from and Indigenous lens, circle work, collaborating on 3 year goals, building meaning in the audit paperwork process.
- Pow wow planning and Youth Conference planning – well underway! We look forward to these great district events after spring break.

Independent Learning Services

- Response from Deanna Rumohr (Psychologist)
 - I am currently in the beginning stages of my research for my dissertation. I am conducting the research at ARES entitled: All These Deadlines and I Don't Know Where My Homework is: A Direct Measure of the Impact of Organization Skills Training on Assignment Completion Rates on 3rd, 4th and 5th grade General Education Students. (Deanna J Rumohr)
- Response from Amber Gamache (Teacher of Deaf and Hard of Hearing)
 - Deaf and Hard of Hearing teachers across the province are planning a camping trip in May to McQueen Lake (Kamloops area). This will connect deaf and hard of hearing students from grade 4 and up from across the province. Many fun activities planned including meeting a Deaf professional hockey player.

- Response from Cari Julien (OT)
 - I continue to support a student with high needs and her family to acquire funding from Cops for Kids and to work with a dietician and the At Home Program to trial an organic feeding formula that has been recently approved by Health Canada to aide this child in gaining weight. This accomplishment will also free up time for the mom as she currently makes all of her child's feeding formula.
 - With that same child Sofeya, Shannon and I are working together collaboratively with SET BC kits to determine how to best engage her, support her visual intake as she is diagnosed with Cortical Visual Impairment, and elicit communication through choice.
- Response from Ailis Lawrence (Inclusion Support Teacher)
 - Here is an upcoming highlight: The inclusion services team will be taking three elementary school students with complex needs dogsledding in Salmo on February 22nd. We plan to go sledding and then meet in one of the classrooms at Salmo Secondary where the student will be able to watch footage of their experience (assuming all of our cameras and technology work well).
- Response from Shannon Carter (SLP)
 - A student with complex needs at Blewett who uses technology (SET BC voice output system) to communicate is turning 10, next week. He recently used his device independently to ask a question. This is the first time in his 10 years that he has been able to ask a question!!!! Can you imagine any other student being unable to voice a question for that many years?? This opens up his world and is really exciting! Huge props to his school based team for working so hard at implementing the use of his communication device.

Innovative Learning Services

- Our after school 'Get With the Programming' sessions for Grade 5-6 teachers are finished in the Nelson family and almost finished in the Creston family. These action-packed, hands-on afternoons were well received, and the participant feedback forms indicate a high level of enthusiasm and appreciation for the new learning. Teachers learned low tech and higher tech ways to integrate computational thinking and coding into the curriculum and walked away with ideas and tools for immediate integration into the classroom. The sessions are followed up with classroom support from Brent and Vanessa, our Innovative Learning Services teachers, who are in classrooms co-planning and co-teaching to help teachers increase their comfort level with new tools. A 'Maker Space' event was also held for our teacher librarians, and again at the Curriculum Day so all teachers have an opportunity to learn and grow with design thinking, robotics and computational thinking. This series of events has been co-sponsored by the Ministry's Coding initiative and our district. The multiple access points and classroom support has been highly impactful and appreciated by teachers and students alike.
- Four schools sent teams to the Literacy Summit in Vancouver in February. Schools were chosen to attend based on their literacy results – the intent of this session was to create consistency in language and professional learning for schools in the area of early literacy.

- Our secondary schools also sent math teachers to work with Jo Boaler in Richmond last month. Jo Boaler is a well-respected presenter, researcher and publisher in the area of mathematics – and the growth mindset that supports students in being successful K-12 in their mathematical development.
- Following these events, participants presented back at their school staff meetings, at the Leadership meeting, and at the District Curriculum day. The positive impact of these opportunities for our teachers is clear when listening to them share their learnings and the changes they are making in their practice as a result of their attendance as a team at these sessions.
- The funding assigned by the Board of Education for capacity building and professional learning opportunities is appreciated and is making a positive impact across the district on students and teachers.

International Program

- Student Exchange and Mobility Award. You have been awarded the amount of **\$15,025.60**.
- Our outgoing student GIE Oaxaca trip, under the direction of Kathi Knapik, will depart for Mexico on March 15, 2018, for their service learning trip with 8 students and 3 adults, 1 teacher – Kathi and 2 volunteers. The purpose of the trip is to build a home and a water filtration system for an impoverished family who has shown entrepreneurial initiative to sustain their home and secure a plot of land. One family collected plastic containers and used the containers to make various articles for sale which included insulation and other ingenious devices. The students will return on March 29th and will be forever changed in ways that a textbook would not be able to accomplish. We wish the group safe travels and the best of luck with their building projects and building relationships with our Mexican neighbors.
- The international program has received a whopping 25 applications for our outgoing trip to India next December from domestic students and 13 for our Fuzhou China trip. We will extend our applications for the Fuzhou trip until the 15th of April in hope of encouraging 20 students to go to China as the agent has requested more students this year. Please spread the word to any students you have or know in grade 9-11 to email Sandy Prentice their interest in this trip of a lifetime. The cost for the Fuzhou trip will be subsidized by some government funding which was awarded to us recently.

Technology – Interviews for new Director of Information Technology are completed. The successful candidate will receive the offer and, if accepted, should begin mid-April.

RELATIONSHIPS

BCSSA – We are taking our 8 years plus Administration team to hear formative assessment expert Dylan Wiliam on April 6. He will be sharing techniques and strategies to help improve student learning through assessment.

Committees of the Whole – monthly attendance and participation

Directors & Senior Leadership Team – Budget meetings for 2018-2019 are well underway, 2 year Calendars go to the Board this month, and if approved, on to the Ministry. The Strategic Plan development is underway with a DRAFT document out in April, and moving and transition plans for CEC, DESK, REACH and Wildflower continue.

Leadership Team (PVPs) – Aspiring Leaders program underway; 8 plus heading to Dylan William above; and continued work on Strat/School plans. Budget plans being taken into consideration.

Ministry of Education –

Spring Visit

- Ministry continues to suggest a Spring visit to SD8. No firm date.

Trades and Technology

- The Ministry of Education, The Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills & Training, and The Industry Training Authority (ITA) are pleased to advise support to your school district in the following fiscal allocation amounts:
- Confirmed: 2017/18 fiscal (ends March 31, 2018) - \$110,807
- Approved, subject to ITA receiving the annual performance report by October 31 of each year and available funding: 2018/19 fiscal (ends March 31, 2019) - \$79,581

WKTEP – offering summer program in Special Education; a second cohort of Masters’ program next year, and looking to second an instructional leader for the next year

Parents (PACs) and DPAC – Visit with Erickson’s DPAC planned for next week – ahead of Spring Break.

Superintendent Lunches at Schools – Crawford Bay and Salmo Secondary hosted the Superintendent’s Luncheon. Superintendent attended LVR’s staff meeting in March.

Selkirk – District group in beginning stages for upcoming Fall joint “K-12/Post-secondary Transitions” conference with Jan Unwin and SD 51, 8, 10, and 20 at Mary Hall in Nelson.

Students – Student presentation to Superintendent at LVR staff Meeting re: “Assessment Week”. Establishment of Student Trustee process is underway for district.

ENGAGEMENT

Citizenship

The citizens of Creston are enthusiastically engaged with the Board of Education regarding the future of their students and their education. All efforts are being appreciated and are being listened to.

ASSAI

We have additional funding available for ASSAI programming through a partnership with the Ministry of Children and Family Development. – from Ministry of Tourism, Arts, and Culture.

Resilience

Pink Shirt and Black History Month were a success. The HUB’s soft opening in Creston has gone well. More and more students are accessing services each day.

ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE (FACILITIES, OPERATIONS, TRANSPORTATION AND BUSINESS)

Human Resources – Still trying to hire and Executive Assistant for Senior Staff and the Board. Beginning to take a look at Bargaining timelines, staffing for next year (April postings).

Secretary-Treasurer – Annual Budget process is underway.