

Superintendent/CEO Report for November 14, 2017

– submitted by Dr. Christine Perkins.

It has been a busy Fall with lots of great things happening for students. Thank you to all.

LEARNING

Family of Schools

Creston Family of Schools

- Principal Joanne Wilson to Erickson for 10 weeks while Rob Simpson helps with MyEd
- Initial conversations with PCSS around supporting a Youth Wellness HUB

Adam Roberts Elementary school

- We finished a month long PROPARD consult.
- We planted new trees in our new eco-space as we received a \$3000 grant from Trees Canada.
- We had a set BC day where a person from set BC came and worked with various classes on IPADS

Canyon Lister

- Our Sensory Room coming together finally
- Our new Maker Space being developed
- The use of our forest space for learning and exploration.

Erickson

- We finished a month long PROPARD consult
- We planted new trees in our new eco-space as we received a \$3000 grant from Trees Canada
- We had a set BC day where a person from set BC came and worked with various classes on IPADS

Prince Charles Secondary School

- The launch of the YETI program.
- Welcoming 8 new staff and the wonderful effect on school culture.
- The increase in the Academic extra-curricular offerings (Math and science contests) along with Athletics and Fine Arts extra-curricular programs. Staff are very heavily engaged in these areas.

Crawford Bay Family of Schools

- For the first time in many, many years, Crawford Bay has participated in sport tournaments- volleyball and track and field
- We have been working on shifting the culture of behavior at CBESS and on on self-regulation strategies.
- Opening of our Healing Drum (aka our Alvin drum) - This was part of the healing process for all of us- we built the drum on June 30th as a tribute to Alvin and this opening ceremony had a very profound effect on all of us and helped us to remember him and provide some more closure for all of us at school.

Salmo Family of Schools

Salmo Elementary and Secondary

- Halloween for Hunger food drive Oct 31; 1650 lbs of food collected for the food bank
- SSS Teepee raising and student learning opportunities Oct 25
- Primary teacher team to Redfish Oct 6

Kaslo Family of Schools

J.V. Humphries and Jewett Elementary

- Federal Ministry declined Bear Study over concerns (issues in past)
- Collaboration amongst staff, including new teachers working with experienced teachers through mentorship program;
- Range of authentic learning opportunities offered by staff and community members;

Slocan Valley Family of Schools

- Slocan After School Sports Initiative up and running for 2017-2018

Brent Kennedy

- Tech Club – Tech Club at BK is one of our students’ favourite clubs, where kids explore all things techy!
- Choir Started – Mrs. Johnson has started our Intermediate Choir!
- Band Shack Opens – Mr. Montgomery has started lunch hour jam sessions!

Mt. Sentinel

- Green Team made an informative Presentation to the Board on Oct.10th about the projects they have been a part of in making a difference to our school community (Valley)
- We successfully hosted the Post-Secondary Institutions here at MSSS on Oct. 18th for our Gr. 9-12 students
- Students Council successfully hosted a Gr. 7-12 Halloween Parade & Haunted House

W.E.Graham

- Laser engraving into wood and leather with Chris Butcher
- Bee hive installed in the grades 3-5 classroom
- We re-designed our library space – primary and intermediate reading spaces. Couches, colorful carpets and new books

Winlaw Elementary

- David Hatfield's presentation on Rites of Passage
- Halloween Howler - amazing community run event at the school
- Art Starts Grant - Poetry Alive

Nelson Family of Schools

- Paul Luke – new Vice-Principal for Trafalgar
- Teresa Keenan – Acting Principal for Hume Elementary
- Attended Remembrance Assembly at LVR

Blewett Elementary

- We have launched ‘Zones of Regulation’ school wide. Teachers and students are beginning to use the language and identify emotional states. – School Goal #2
- School Wide Write and Marking – teachers used a consistent theme and then afterschool last week – collaborated and worked together with at least a

partner to 'anchor' their papers according to the Performance standards and exemplars collected. School Goal #1

- On Oct. 27th the PAC was successful again in raising funds for school initiatives through their annual Halloween Party fundraiser. This event draws people from all over the community and even outlying communities and has been going on for more than 30 years.

Hume Elementary:

- Completed our 3rd annual Halloween for Hunger October 31st).
- Lisa Backus Music Teacher at Hume- prepped and hosted an extra-curricular choir group that performed with Norman Foote on October 29th at the Capitol.
- Melissa Woodward has started this year's drop in Love to Learn program for pre-school children.

LVR

- **LVR Athletics Teams** are doing an *amazing* job: Boys Soccer Team (Kootenay Zone Champions), Girls Field Hockey (going to Provincials in Surrey Nov 7th), LVR Swim Team (5 students going to Provincials), Sr Girls and Boys Rugby Teams as part of regional cohort (Provincial U-18 Tourney Champs 1st/2nd place in Kamloops), and Girls Volleyball (currently undefeated in regional tourneys—will go to provincials) – appreciate dedication of coaches, students, volunteers/parents
- **Youth Health Action Team**, with Kathy Centrone's support, has secured preliminary approval for a YMCA Youth Exchange Canada twinning with AY Jackson Secondary School in Toronto – the purpose is to build leadership skills, citizenship, and a reciprocal understanding of how to address local health and wellbeing challenges from diverse perspectives.
- **LVR Mathfest** was brilliant this year – teacher Deb Naka gave full ownership to the students who provided a two-day experiential series of workshops/booths to South Nelson, RedFish and Blewett elementary schools and including local WKTEP and UVic teacher candidates. Mathfest topics included Topology, Cryptology, Game Analysis, Origami, and Fractals. It is also designed to help students make mathematical connections to Art, Architecture, Music, World Population Statistics, Science, Medicine, Nature and History—and to enjoy math!

Redfish

- The annual Family Fun Night raised \$6000 for the school. The money will go towards literacy and outdoor learning.
- Creation of a three-day a week hot lunch program serving 50-100 students.
- Students and teachers have been working and learning outside multiple times per week. It can be science, nature journals, math- the teachers have been taking the children outside for any number of reasons.

Rosemont

- Halloween for Hunger: Rosemont students canvassed the neighbourhood and gathered over \$1500 in food items for the Nelson Food Cupboard.

- Awesome response from staff and students for our lockdown drill on November 2. Five officers from Nelson City Police helped with the drill.
- Teaching staff professional development trip to the PSA Super Conference and Museum of Anthropology in Vancouver. An excellent team-building trip with renewed energy for collaborative teaching activities and strategies for helping our most challenging students.

South Nelson

- **Grand Opening of the Natural Playground** - We had an assembly to thank the PAC Playground Committee and representatives from many of the funders including SNES PAC, SD#8 Board of Education, City of Nelson, Columbia Basin Trust, RDCK, McNally Excavating, Coast Timber Frame and Log, Georama, and CC Sushi.
- **Hallowe'en for Hunger campaign** - In joining with Hume Elementary and Rosemont this became a city wide campaign to collect food for the Nelson Food Cupboard. Collectively all three schools raised \$5, 500- SNES raised \$1750!
- **Teachers participated in our School-Based Professional Development session** on Playground Inquiry as part of our School Improvement Plan. Our question/goal is: *Will using school-wide inquiry projects centered on our new natural playground increase students' critical thinking skills?*

Trafalgar

- PBS program – Corn Roast, School Spirit Days, School Dance, smile cards
- Changes in bussing practices at the end of the day have increased student safety and reduced behavior management challenges.
- A team approach to addressing anxiety that includes awareness and education, alignment with the new PHE curriculum, classroom teacher referrals for counselling including art therapy group sessions, art therapy open studio at lunch hours - NCS, individual and group support through Staci – Rae Brown (CYMH)

Wildflower Nelson:

- Seedlings class (K/1) has hosted 2 SNES K/1 classes for afternoon tea and sharing about all they have learned while studying bees.
- Math buddies: As part of our ongoing growth plan Math goal this year, Barb's elementary multi-aged class (grades 2-6) are working with Laurryn's Seedlings class (K/1) on math concepts through playing simple games involving cards, dominoes, dice and counters.
- Great Shake-out day: as part of the learning around earthquakes, the Seedlings class had a scientist facilitate a discussion about fault lines, earth, rocks, lava, rifts and ridges. They baked cookies to demonstrate tectonic rifts which are found on the surface of the cookies just like on the surface of the earth, and were able to identify all sort of examples of tectonic rifts in nature around us. They watched a short PBS video as well which was really informative: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pypd_yKGYp

Aboriginal Education

- Gail Higgenbottom, DP of AbEd spoke to DPAC at October meeting

- Updated and developed new AbEd handbook
- AbEd Team Meeting – at Ainsworth
- AECEC Meeting at PCSS
- Bob Adams is raising the Metis Flag at City Hall in Nelson on November 16th at 11:00 am.

Independent Learning Services

- Maria Morley (Physiotherapist) and Cari Julien (Occupational Therapist) started a kindergarten transition group in Creston with their Early Intervention Contract.
- Cari Julien started a new vision and learning program with the Wildflower K/1 class with teacher Laurryn.
- SLP (Lisa Tremblay) and Sofeya Devji have been working on an Aboriginal storytelling project with JVH, the AB Ed department and SET BC.
- Independent Services has started a Resource Library so the Inclusion Support Team can now borrow and share.
- Speech Therapy in Creston (Steve Pierson/Christine Bourgeois) are doing an aboriginal speech and language program (Moe the Mouse) in every preschool in Creston (3 schools).
- Shannon, Rachelle and Catherine Seminuk worked with the Provincial Inclusion Outreach Program to create a program that will help to foster independence for a student with significant physical needs.

Innovative Learning Services

Verbal report by Lorri Fehr – Director of Innovative Learning Services at Board meeting

- Coding Training
- Early Years Training
- Interviewed for Innovation Team leaders – two teachers hired; DVP closes today (Trustee needed to help interview)

International Program:

- Largest international student enrollment in the district to date – 85 FTE meaning 131 students registered in 11 of our schools from 15 different countries around the world.
- An increase in the numbers of students attending our ambassador club at LVR from 1st year – 5, to this year 51 students (domestic and international) WOW
- Board presentation Nov 14, 2017, the two outgoing July 2017 trips to China for domestic students and staff – one to Fuzhou China and the other one to Beijing China
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RELATIONSHIPS

BCPSEA

- Attended BCPSEA HR Symposium: Insight and Opportunity – Human Resources in Education

Directors & Senior Leadership Team

- Waiting for Gap Analysis to hire Director of Information Technology.
- In meantime, have Principal Rob Simpson working on brining district MyEd up to speed.

Kootenay Boundary Zone

- Attended Fall Kootenay Boundary Zone meetings with Directors Eaton, Fehr and Holitski

Leadership Team (PVPs)

- Worked together to forge new path forward – Future of Learning (more in Goals presentation)

Ministry of Education

- Attended 1st meeting of all 60 Superintendents and MoE
- Attended MoE Meeting/BCSTA meeting with Secretary-Treasurer Morris and VC Suttie

Parents

- Met with Parent Advocacy outgoing Chair – Sheri Walsh and in-coming Chair Sonja Thoma.
- Met with Slokan parent over District Communications Strategy
- Attended Brent Kennedy PAC

Rural Schools

- Attended Rural schools meeting in Vancouver at invitation of Pat Dooley and Dr. Leyton Schnellert

Senior Leadership

- Still having some hiring difficulties in HR and Innovation. Posting out for DVP – Learning.

Students

- Would like to propose Student Trustees
- Student Forums at every school underway
- Encouraging Student Leadership Councils/Courses at each school

ENGAGEMENT

Citizenship

- Met with Ktunaxa Elder Chris Luke
- Met with DP Gail Higgenbottom and Chief and Council of Lower Kootenay Band
- Met with DP Gail Higgenbottom and Team Leader Becky Coons – Ktunaxa Kinbasket Child and Family Services
- Met with Brad Pommen – Nelson Tech Club, KAST, and MIDAS
- Met with DP Gail Higgenbottom Selkirk College President & CEO – Angus Graeme
- Met with UBC Deans and WKTEP partners (Kootenay Boundary Superintendents)
- Met with WKTEP Team re: future of our relationship (SD8 and WKTEP)
- Met with Selkirk re: future of our relationship (SD8 and Selkirk); Toured Castlegar site
- Participated in Gonzaga/BC Education Advisory panel
- Media (see update)

Mental Health

- Creston in discussions to set up Youth Mental Health HUB in PCSS

Resilience

- Great BC Shakeout (October 19)
- Interior Health Teleconference
- David Hatfield – mental health, boys' groups, resilience, #metoo
- PVP group viewed Redford film "Resilience" followed by discussion on ACEs
- Trustees (today) will view Redford film "Resilience". ACEs inventory to be emailed.

FACILITIES, OPERATIONS, TRANSPORTATION AND BUSINESS

- Met with Creston CEC interest group with Secretary-Treasurer, Trustees, and Vice Chair Suttie
- Nelson Family of Schools Meeting
- Slokan Family of Schools Meeting

- Informal meeting with Ministry and advocacy for Capital projects

Technology

- IT Gap analysis to take place prior to Winter Break; report in December
- Director of IT to be posted in December for a January start

Human Resources

- CEF – signed off on documents Class averages 15 at K; 17 at Gr. 1-3; and 21 at all other.
- Six classes over: LVR = Art (31), Music (36), PE (33) and Pl. 10 (39); PCSS = Music (33); Trafalgar = Music (32)
- Monthly KLTF phone conference
- Several Admin changes over next 10 weeks. Most will return at end of January.
- Michael Hurley Acting Director of HR