

# Superintendent/CEO Report for February 13, 2018

– submitted by Dr. Christine Perkins.

## LEARNING

### Family of Schools

#### *Creston Family of Schools*

Adam Roberts Elementary school

- We had a snow sculpturing contest after the last big snow fall. There was a lot of sculptures build and cooperation happening.
- We just started our February reading month challenge. It is Olympic themed. Each student will be able to earn gold, silver or bronze medals for their country/class by reading.
- We also finished January off with a Jersey day where a lot of students and staff came to school supporting the colors of their favorite teams.

Canyon Lister

- Successful ski trips, including Kindergartens
- The Grade 4/5's tried out curling at the Creston Curling rink and LOVED it! They can't wait to go back.
- Amy Cross spent a day at our school working with 5 different classes teaching Metis culture and traditions.

Erickson

- Thanks to the PAC, Erickson students are once again able to experience skiing and snowboarding for a very reasonable cost, as we continue with our PAC sponsored Intermediate Fun Days.
- February means it Reading Month, with a great variety of activities designed to share the love of reading.
- Last week, thanks to the hard work of Janet Zarchukoff, our Aboriginal Support worker, we were treated to two days of a very extensive collection of Ktunaxa items and artifacts on display in the front lobby area. The display also included presentations and explanations of the different pieces from Wayne Louie, who did an amazing job of sharing his knowledge and expertise with students.

Prince Charles Secondary School

- The Residential Construction Program is underway with 13 PCSS students including one grade 11 student in the mix.
- The YETI program students have received various certifications through the course; chainsaw operator, Avalanche Safety and Wilderness First Aid.
- We have an ELL teacher.
- A new Counselor has been hired!
- First Nations Leadership BAA co-authored by Ki Louie.
- The HUB is ready to launch and we have received great community support.

HomeLinks Creston

- 3% project starts today.

#### *Crawford Bay Family of Schools*

- Evidence of a continued shift amongst our secondary students regarding post-secondary plans.
  - In previous years (when I arrived 2.5 years ago), many secondary students did not know what they wanted to do when they graduated, and would say something like they would figure it out later, etc., and then end up not doing any further training/education. After much focus on post-secondary options/more support the past 2 years (trades, college, university, and entering the workforce) I checked in with the secondary students last week again and every single one from Gr 10-12 knows (either vaguely or specifically) what they plan to do, and the number planning to go to university has risen hugely (without it being held up as more important or more highly valued than trades).
    - Gr 12s this year (4): 1 trades (just started Train in Trades dual credit at Selkirk), 1 college, 1 work, and 1 certs to enter a program the following year.
    - Gr 11s (5): Chem Engineering, Rural Pre-Med at Selkirk, Vet Sciences at Olds College, Military/Heavy Duty Mechanics, and an IEP student who will be staying an extra year to get an dogwood.
    - Gr 10s (7): 5 have specific/general plans for university programs, 1 looking at trades or uni, and one IEP student still exploring options for life after secondary school.
- Collaboration with our staff and staff at Wildflower to discuss best practice regarding multi-age classrooms in elementary and middle school, supported by the mentoring program and hopefully a curriculum project grant.
- Ongoing staff conversations about “who we are” at CBESS.
  - In elementary, it is much easier to define- staff are aligned in values, action, and PD focus in our nature-based approach to learning and it is working well.
  - In secondary, it is still much harder to define, particularly in light of the changing needs of our upcoming students. There is a shift happening towards more academic programming than what occurred in the past. Students are asking for more.

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

#### **Salmo Elementary**

- Feb 5 we hosted an evening Just Dance/Movie night at SES. Approximately 40 parents and students participated.
- Feb 2 was the third and last intermediate ski day at the Salmo ski hill. Around 100 kids got a chance to take part in this event
- Feb 1 Salmo elementary hosted the Story Theatre’s “Blueberries and Beads” day-long aboriginal learning event for all students K-6. Check out all the activities at SES on our [Facebook page](#)

#### **Salmo Secondary**

- Mid-January Salmo Secondary hosted the Workplace BC Find Your Fit exposition. We set up the gym to host elementary school students, parents, and the general community.
- Salmo Secondary hosted an evening at the Salmo Museum as a cumulative assessment for a multidisciplinary project. This open house was to celebrate student contributions to Salmo local history, highlighting the non-presented lives of the the Sinixt, Japanese, Chinese, and Italians of the Village.

- Many of the first semester Exploratory courses finished up with celebrations on the final day. Junior Outdoor Education built a sliding track and made hot chocolate at the elementary school, Photography hosted a gallery, and Girls Group volunteered at the Nelson Women's Shelter.
- Also, in the final week of January we hosted the SD8 Youth Symposium, followed by the Aboriginal Education Community Enhancement dinner. The dinner was a success, with 25-30 community members and students attending. The sentiment was very positive toward progressing our Ab Ed program at the school.

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

#### Jewett Elementary

- To raise Global Awareness in our isolated corner of the world, we joined the WE Schools Movement. Our WE Club meets once a week to discuss ongoing issues, such as access to fresh water, poverty, education, to name a few. We have collected food for the local food bank, sold Rafiki bracelets to help women in rural Kenya support their families, promoted literacy by reading to our Strong Start students and stayed silent for a time to support those who cannot speak for themselves. We are excited to join with JVH for our own WE Day in May.
- At Jewett we are spending 2 hours every Friday learning to appreciate our beautiful outdoor classroom. Our first day was spent with a facilitator from the Winter Wildsight program. From identifying animal tracks in the snow to playing the Camouflage game, students enjoyed the quiet, snow filled classroom without doors. Other days include cross and downhill skiing, orienteering and tobogganing with our JVH pen pals.

#### J.V. Humphries

- Gr. 12 student, Jesalyn Tremblay, has won a \$100,000 Loran Scholarship after a very rigorous application process and many interviews, including a trip to Toronto this past week. (Her first trip on a plane!)
- Radio Free Kaslo ongoing interviews with students and staff.
  - Teacher Jill Holland - <https://rgmorse.com/.../02/radio-free-kaslo-february-2-2018/>
  - Student Tyler Hearne - <https://rgmorse.com/2018/01/19/radio-free-kaslo-january-19-2018/>
  - Student Jesalyn Tremblay - <https://rgmorse.com/2018/01/27/radio-free-kaslo-january-26-2018/>
- Next up, Teacher/Counsellor/Community Connector POSR Meleana Terlingen
- Programs & Projects page development on our website - <http://jvh.sd8.bc.ca/programsprojects/>. Aiming for at least one new addition each week and urging teachers to share.
- Strong mentorship of new teachers through teacher-developed program within JVH (and including CBESS), New Teacher Mentor POSR shared amongst five experienced teachers, district release time, school release time, and collaboration with admin.

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

#### Brent Kennedy

- We are preparing for our world famous talent show on March 15<sup>th</sup>
- Children enjoying our snow hills for sledding.  
Winter activities just wrapped up.

- Primary students enjoy snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, skating, and indigenous games. Intermediates ski at Red Mountain.

#### Mt. Sentinel

- Successfully completed 75% (approx..) of our Grade 12 “Capstone Projects” as the final part of their Grad Transitions course. We also would like to thank our School Community volunteers for participating as an adjudication panel and providing valuable feedback to our Grads.
- We have 26 students (multi-aged Gr.9-12) participating in our Performance & Media Arts Academy starting this semester.

#### W.E.Graham

#### Winlaw Elementary

- Artstarts grant received for "Protest Songs" lessons. So far we've had 3 sessions bringing in members of community to teach and learn about the old and new protest songs. Students are very engaged. Lots of cross-curricular opportunities
- Finishing up our Winter Activity Days = Students have been travelling to Hills Nordic Center and Whitewater ski hill for games, activities and lessons. Over 40 parents have been taking part in the program. This has been a great School Community event.

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

#### Blewett Elementary

- Four of our classes attended the Pirate Loppet x country event at Apex in January. Most other classes have also gone x country skiing.
- We had the Story Theatre group from Victoria present "Beads and Blueberries". An Aboriginal story combining the stories of Cinderella and King Lear. They then worked with our upper grades doing some literacy games.

#### Hume Elementary

- Our Kindergarten teacher Nashira Birch continues to bring outdoors in and take students outside for learning opportunities. She applied for and received a “GoGrant –getting classrooms outside” for \$250. With these funds she bravely took her Kindergarten class cross country skiing!! They were absolutely immersed in this new to them adventure!
- Last Friday our Grade 3 teacher, Mrs, Mushumanski hosted a social studies fair for families and Hume students. The class replicated many world monuments (Like Confederations Bridge) and needed to report the where it was located, who built it and why, when was it built and any other interesting facts around them. The models were incredible!!

#### LVR

- LV Rogers Debate Club Members head to the Provincial Law Cup Tourney
  - Junior Category: Harlan Hoffman- Miller / Jasper Anders 2. Michael Rhodes-Bliss / Josh Creak (Grade 9)
- LVR Boys’ Leadership Group held a successful Mentorship Afternoon with our Gr 9 Boys in January – conversations, getting to know each other, and be present as mentors for our younger students

- Planning 10 (Gr 11's) and HCE 09 student portfolio conferences keep improving! This year, quads of students respectfully listened to who they are, which competencies they are improving in, and what they hope to do in the future

#### Redfish

- As a school, we are planning our "Take Me Outside Day in the Winter" for end of February. This year, the Atlas students from LVR will be joining us to teach the children winter safety.
- The grade 5 students are in the middle of presenting their "Genius Hour" projects. We've seen projects about orca whales, solar power, using recycled materials to create a hot dog roaster- the list goes on.
- The leadership group of grade 5s are going to supervise Olympic-style sports at lunch. So far they've planned hockey, and luge.
- In the library, the teacher-librarian has connected the Olympics with book returns offering medals to classes who take out and return the most books. Her display also showcases the Olympic sports.

#### Rosemont

- Just completed a multi-age bird feeder design and build project, the birds in the Rosemont forest are very happy lately!
- All classes have been working with Liam Fitzpatrick on abed drumming and music
- Grade 4 students have been re-writing the first peoples principles of learning into student friendly language

#### South Nelson

- Kallie Badry, Grade 5 student, won the Selkirk College GLOWS Contraption Contest in January The challenge this year was to design a way to create or save energy thereby creating more energy for all. She called her idea, the Ski Tracker which is a fit bit like device that would fit into your ski boot. The energy absorbed from your body every time you move is stored in the Ski Tracker. The Ski Tracker could then be plugged into things that require energy.
- Intermediate students are loving the Poetry Alive ArtsStarts program with local artists Natasha Smith and Rayya Liebich! This is fabulous integration of visual art, poetry, and writing.
- Physical Activity is soaring this past month at SNES! We had another successful whole school Winter Activities program offering downhill skiing, snowboarding, cross country skiing, skating, curling, gymnastics, and soccer. In addition, our Grade 4/5 class and Grad 1/2 class participated in the Nelson Nordic Ski program for elementary age children for the last four weeks. We also had skipping classes with national level athlete/coach Thomas Cunningham!

#### Trafalgar – n/a

#### Wildflower

- What if kindness and compassion were taught in schools just like math and reading? What if kids were taught how to pay attention not only to lessons, but also to their own emotions? What if we all took steps to improve well-being in our lives and communities? The Kindergarten and Grade 1 class has started an exploration of mindfulness through the Kindness Curriculum developed by the Center for Healthy Minds. This is timed with "Random Acts of Kindness Week" (Feb.11-17) and "Valentine's Day". So far the students have initiated a Peace Table in the classroom for conflict resolution and through story

- writing they are gaining deeper insights into their needs. They are exploring the needs of the characters they create through their stories and how they get their needs met.
- One of the grade 2-6 classes has just begun a big inquiry project on being an informed BC citizen. They will be connecting to the new curriculum by investigating different areas of the province. This is part of a larger project, that will expand outward, in which students will begin to discuss and explore what it means to be a globally aware citizen.
  - Another grade 2-6 class is wrapping up a two-week project whereby students formulated inquiry questions about space. They then grouped themselves thematically based on similar topics. Finally, they have developed mini-science fair displays to teach their classmates about what they have learned—topics included: the solar system, constellations, black holes, and dark matter....

### **Aboriginal Education**



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- C-Bay - Having the Ab Ed Advisory meeting at CBESS this round was lovely. It was great to see familiar faces out here.
- CBay - New connections made with Ktunaxa Kinbasket Child and Family Services Society (learning about services available and conversations about what they can bring up to CB)
- CBay - Having a student apply to the Verna J. Kirkness UBC Engineering camp (5 days, all expenses paid trip to UBC to work in the engineering lab with staff and learn more about the field- targeted to Gr 11 aboriginal girls interested in engineering as a career...my daughter!)
- C-Bay - Finding out the Selkirk Ab Ed liaison team can come out to high schools to present information on programming and funding to aboriginal students.

### **Independent Learning Services**

- On January 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> Traumatic Events Systems (TES) Training was led by Kevin Cameron at the Kimberley Conference and Training Centre. Over 100 participants from throughout the East and West Kootenays were in attendance which included 30 SD8 staff comprised of PVP, teachers and counsellors. Participants were introduced to a deep understanding of school systems including adults, students and community in response to traumatic aftermath. This training will greatly assist in our ability to respond during times of crisis and trauma response. This training was also attended by Jennifer McCrea, Assistant Deputy Minister: Learning Division, who graciously and unexpectedly offered to pay for Mr. Cameron's fees and travel expenses.
- On January 31<sup>st</sup> in Creston and February 2<sup>nd</sup> in Nelson were two capacity building dates. The focus was on the use of ABA (Applied Behaviour Analysis) techniques to promote the power of relationships for helping children learn. Attended by classroom teachers, case managers, EAs and PVP.
- On Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup> (School Based ProD Day) POPARD consultant (Provincial Outreach Program for Autism Related Disorders) provided Social Skills training. The focus for the day: How do we support our students who lack the skills to successfully engage with their peers during non-structured social times? This training was held in Creston and video conferencing was made available in Nelson. Attended by classroom teachers, case managers, EAs and PVP.

**Innovative Learning Services** n/a

**International Program** n/a

**Technology** – Interviews for new Director of Information Technology will be held February 21, 2018.

## **RELATIONSHIPS**

**Aboriginal groups** – Gail and I met with Colville Tribal Council members at the Salish School in Spokane. We have an upcoming meeting with Osoyoos Indian Band.

**Arts Educators** – Director Fehr and I met with district Arts Educators to discuss all things music, dance, art, drama, etc. and begin a plan for an upcoming Arts Festival in the District – Love of the Arts – next year.

**BCPSEA** – Attend Symposium with Trustee Huscroft. Congratulations to her as she was elected to the BCPSEA Board of Directors.

**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.

**College of the Rockies** – Carpentry has started at PCSS in February. We are in negotiation around other dual credit programs.

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

**Directors & Senior Leadership Team** – Planning underway for Budget meetings, 3 year Calendar setting (currently posted for public consultation); Strategic Plans for next three years (underway at all locations), and Transition plans for CEC, DESK etc..

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

**Ministry of Education** – have confirmed a Spring visit to SD 8. Recent email saying they have not forgotten us and will be in contact shortly. (Accidentally, announced a new school in “Winlaw” – meant “Winfield – SD 23!”).

**Parents (PACs) and DPAC** – Attended AbED Enhancement dinner in Slocan; S/T Morris presented at last DPAC on budgets.

**PVPs** – Huge **CONGRATULATIONS to Principal Carol-Ann Leidloff** who received recognition as one of Canada’s Outstanding Principals for 2018. Principal Leidloff will be heading to Toronto at the end of the month to participate in and celebratory dinner with all other nominees and a week of professional learning with the Rotman School of Business.

**Superintendent Lunches at Schools** – January 19 with Kaslo Family of Schools; and on February 1 with W.E. Graham Staff. Crawford Bay and Salmo Secondary are upcoming.

**Selkirk** – working on creation of Dual-credit courses for 2018-2019. Met to discuss presentation re: Selkirk College’s Special Ed transitions for our district students; Adult programs; and Upgrading - presentation to district PVP Team upcoming.

Met with Principal Maloff and the Trades, Culinary Arts, and Music program leads and Dean Bidart re: dual credit programs for LVR.

**Students** – New BAA course – Aboriginal Leadership - co-developed by Kai (Creston) and Allister (Kaslo) at some secondary schools for Fall 2018; other BAAs being updated to present to Board; participated in “Strategic Doing” organized by S/T Morris at Salmo Secondary.

**WKTEP Consortium** – all four area Superintendents presented as part of a forum to promote our district(s). We discussed Teaching and Learning and how it relates to the Board Goals.

## ENGAGEMENT

### Citizenship

- Attended LVR Grad Transitions interviews.
- Celebrated the New Year with approximately 55 Creston and area staff. Great turnout! Thank you to Trustee Trenaman and Nazaroff for attending.
- Presented to LVR PAC. Thank you to Trustee Maslechko for his support.
- Thank you to S/T Morris and Trustee Lang for excellent “Strategic Doing” day in Salmo. Great to see so many students involved and engaged in creating projects that will, hopefully, assist us in the budgeting process.
- Calendar Committee completed DRAFT 3-year calendar.
- Welcomed our new potential French Immersion families at an information evening on January 31.
- Attended Selkirk Annual Rotary International Dinner.
- Have booked Omari Newton in February. He will be visiting 7 of our schools from Slocan, Nelson to Creston – offering students and staff a Canadian perspective on Black History Month.

### Resilience

New HUB at PCSS is having “soft opening” February 14 and 15. Formal opening dates, later in the Spring.

Our Safe School Coordinator has been quite active in Creston area.

Speaking of resilience – the Creston Education Centre staff were highly professional upon receiving the news the centre would close in June. Thank you to Trustee Huscroft for attending. Thank you to all our Creston Administrators – they announced the news in a timely fashion to all their staff before it became public to the media.

Reminder that February 28 is “Pink Shirt” day. The 2018 focus is Cyber-bullying.

*“In today’s digital world, it can be impossible to escape online bullying, whether it takes the shape of harassment, spreading rumours, sharing embarrassing information or threats. This year, Pink Shirt Day is encouraging others to combat cyberbullying by thinking twice before posting something negative, and instead using the internet to spread kindness - because we know that Nice Needs No Filter!”* <https://www.pinkshirtday.ca>

## 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); repositioning of some Admin (Superintendent).

**Secretary-Treasurer** - looking forward to Talking Tables on Feb 20 to kick off budget. Ran an excellent student symposium on “Strategic Doing” on Jan 31. Teams of Trustees, Admin, and students are off doing their projects and will report in at 30, 60 and 90 day intervals.