

Superintendent/CEO Report for December 12, 2017

– submitted by Dr. Christine Perkins.

LEARNING

Family of Schools

Creston Family of Schools

Adam Roberts Elementary school

- ARES Grade 7 boys went and helped with the community Christmas hampers.
- Grade ¾ and grade 4/5 classes are going and visiting the seniors in Swan Valley and Crestview senior homes.
- 7 students are being recognized for their Remembrance Day essays and posters they made for the legion at Wednesday's assembly.

Canyon Lister

- Two EA positions have finally been filled, given us full staffing for the first time all year.
- Our new Sensory Room is extremely successful and being well used.
- Our School-Wide Student Led Conference night has over 90% attendance by families. HUGE success!

Erickson

- Our PAC hosted a Turkey Bingo in November and will host the annual Turkey luncheon this Friday!! MMMM
- Science world presented to our students- it was FABULOUS!!
- **How₂Science:** Discover and practice the ways scientists observe, predict and test, with demonstrations that will have audience members spinning on platforms, launching rockets and riding hovercrafts. Recommended for grades K–3.
- **Earth, Wind & Science:** Explore the incredible weather events that occur within our atmosphere, with demonstrations such as the shocking Van de Graaff Generator, the mind-boggling Cloud in A Bottle and the spectacular Fire Tornado. Recommended for grades 4–7.
- And on the 12th of December the Holiday train will take 3 of our students and one teacher to ride into Creston from Kitchener. Tickets were complimentary from RDCK director Tanya Wall (Cabyon and Yaquan Nuki also had this opportunity).

Prince Charles Secondary School

- Both of the Senior Girls' and Boys' Volleyball Teams made the Provincials
- The School's Salad Bar program is well established and feeding more people on a weekly basis.
- The YETI program has been incredibly well received. Lots of good feedback from Students and parents.

HomeLinks Creston

- Two 2017 grads (2 out of 8 grads) received scholarships of \$1200 from the Ministry for being in the top 800 academic students in BC.
- Student who is doing her WEX 12 A at the Canyon-Lister Fire Hall (Junior Fire fighters program) just passed her air brakes exam and is now able to drive those big trunks and the fire truck.

- One student is on the Make a Wish Foundation has been awarded his dream trip to Hawaii. He is going with his mother.

Crawford Bay Family of Schools

- Strong Start, which had been without a facilitator for a while, has been revived and has been collaborating well with our primary classes and teachers: eg. local field trips, etc. So the good news is that we once again have a strong collaborative relationship with Strong Start.
- Having a Learning Support/Case Manager (albeit a tiny amount of FTE) for the first time this fall continues to make a significant impact on student learning: the amount of conversation regarding adaptations/strategies, the school-based informal assessments that can happen, and the collaboration between teachers has been wonderful to see. In this particular setting it is so impactful- we have 67-ish students, and almost a third have IEPs, so we have a disproportionately high number of students with special needs. Prior to this year I did Learning Support/Case Management/Academic Counselling/Careers and it works much better now.
- The amount of time I have been able to devote to instructional leadership this fall has increased substantially as a result of releasing the roles above (though I am still training the academic counsellor/careers person) and there is now much more conversation around instruction; more informal observations and presence (of me) in classrooms; me “guest teaching” to demonstrate techniques; and invitations to observe classes and provide feedback to improve classroom management, instruction, etc. So my focus has been able to shift in a good way.

Salmo Family of Schools

Salmo Elementary

- Monday Dec 11th at 6 pm is our family Just Dance and movie night in the gym.
- Tuesday Dec 12th at 1:15 pm in the SES gym the grade 5/6 classes are hosting an Innovators’ Convention. Students will be sharing their inquiry/Genius hour projects.
- The SES PAC hosted a very successful Book Fair in November. An incredible \$3800 in sales meant our school got over \$2100 in Scholastic rewards, including over \$1500 in books which went into circulation right away!

Salmo Secondary

N/A

Kaslo Family of Schools

J.V. Humphries and Jewett Elementary

- Intermediate Drama- the play opens Dec. 13th: A Fairy Tale Christmas Carol. This is only the 2nd year that JVH has had an intermediate drama programme (entirely outside of class hours) and it already feels like a tradition. The cast is very large, the parents highly supportive and Nancy Patience, the director, has created a powerful, inclusive momentum.
- Good energy in our staff meetings. Hearty conversations about growth and collaboration. An empowering openness that we are all appreciating
- Conversations with students while going through the Superintendent’s Forum Questions. Full discussions, lots of overlapping themes through the grades and some unique needs arising.

Slocan Valley Family of Schools

Brent Kennedy

- The student/staff/parent forum opened up some really great dialogue with the students at the grade 5/6 level about social/emotional and physical safety. Students are feeling empowered versus punished regarding some of the challenging behaviors we have been working through on the playground.
- Preparations for the winter concert are bringing students and staff together in collaborative and creative ways. We are looking forward to showcasing our musical and theatrical talents with song, dance and acting that will represent several different cultures from around the world.
- PAC Bingo Night was an excellent family evening out. This was a very well organized event that raised \$798.00 that will be used to help replace a much missed slide in the playground.

Mt. Sentinel

- We have a Nurse Practitioner (Lori Verigin) starting one day every 2 weeks in the New Year
- We hosted a Student Forum in conjunction with Cpl. Bellman on the topic of Fentanyl that was very well received
- Mt. Sentinel Jr Boys & Sr. Girls Volleyball teams qualified and competed at the Provincial Championships recently.

W.E.Graham

- Working on a three day a week Farm to school hot lunch program
- Getting ready for our big (200 people) annual Winter fundraiser/concert
- PAC helped support the purchase of a new PA system.

Winlaw Elementary

- Winlaw WILD program - Every Friday on a rotating schedule each class at Winlaw goes for Place-Based Learning opportunity in the outdoors. Last week the 5/6 class went snowshoeing at the Nancy Greene Provincial Park at the top of the Paulson Pass.
- 2) Kootenay Food - The school has completed two workshops hosted by Kootenay Food. The first was making Sauerkraut, using local cabbage from Crooked Horn Farm. The second was making Sausages. Students ground the meat, seasoned it and encased it. All the organic meat was donated by the Kootenay Coop. Both Sauerkraut and sausages will be served at our hot lunch program this week.
- 3) Last Wednesday we finished up our 6 week Multi Age Activity days (run on Wednesday PM). Activities in this round included: Meditation and Yoga, Gumboot Dancing, Felting, Painting, Coding, Logic Games and Pottery. There will be an exhibition of learning at the Christmas Concert where students can display some of their work.
- Bonus!!!! I have been the East and West Kootenay Zone Commissioner for Cross Country running for the past 15 years. Every year we head down to the Coast for Provincials with a team of the top Kootenay runners from Grades 8-12. Over the past 15 years we have slowly become more competitive at the Provincial level. This year for the first time in the history of the Provincial event a Kootenay runner took home top honours. Matti Erickson from LVR took home gold in the Jr. Boys (Grades 8-10) event.
- As a follow up, we are looking to host the Provincial race here to Nelson in 2020. There are more than 1200 runners, plus coaches and families that attend.

Nelson Family of Schools

Blewett Elementary

- 4 teachers now are using a “Blended Learning” model for math. A variety of stations – including a tech station – using Dreambox – a teacher station – an assignment station – a collaborative station – with the inclusion of one of our Learning support teachers on occasion to support – part of our RTI model
- Two of our teachers (classes) are working (collaborating) together to provide more students with ukulele instruction
- Liam Fitzpatrick (Aboriginal Education facilitator) is here again this week to continue his teaching of the ‘Medicine Wheel’ with a drumming component to all classes. The Grade Five class is working with him to create a medicine wheel mosaic that will be displayed in the school.

Hume Elementary:

- Lisa Backus prepped and toured the Hume School choir to Chako Mika Mall and to Broader Horizons/Lakeview Village to spread some Christmas cheer in the community!
- Our Grade 4/5 students just completed a 5-week, 1 hour/week Art Starts grant program involving a local writer and artist with a focus on poetry. All teachers involved thought this program was excellent and would seek the opportunity out again.

LVR

- Nelson History Mural installed at LV Rogers Multi-Purpose Room - This project began by initiating reflective and critical conversations with youth about the role of history in our community. We began by unpacking local history and sharing our personal stories. As a group we looked at and discussed the current exhibition at Touchstones Nelson, Museum of Art and History called, “River Relations” as well as the permanent collection in the museum. Through various collaborative drawing and designing activities, we designed a mural that highlights various local natural specimens that have been impacted by colonization and/or have significant importance locally. We represented the landscape and how it has changed over time. Along with Selkirk College students, Gr 11 LVR student Mikaela Rubak-Mazur was involved. Thank you Amber Santos, community artist for supporting this endeavor.
- Media Arts Stairwell Mural Solution by LVR Students - Two students, Amelia Ford and Soleil Babcock are also addressing the challenge of some homophobic graffiti by designing a positive community mural in the Media Arts stairwell. Thank you to Mr. Joyce and the SD8 Maintenance Department for their support. AND... there is a new Library Mural Designed by LVR Student Bethany Pardoe. Thank you to Ms. Martin, our teacher-librarian for supporting this initiative!
- LVR Community Building with the Arts “A Night of Music” Band Concert and LVR Variety Show - Come on out to LVR's "A Night of Music" on December 14, 7pm to celebrate jazz and concert music in the Christmas season at the LVR Gymnasium, 1004 Cottonwood St., Nelson, BC. This year the bands are gearing up for a national festival in Toronto in May 2018 so it will be a special night in celebration of music within our community. Come out and show support for the school band programs. Staff and students will be participating in an afternoon Variety Show on Thursday, December 20th from 12:30 onward. We’re looking forward to several great acts and an afternoon of community building!

- LVR Debate Team Rocks the Kootenay Regional Debate Tourney - The LVR Debate team debated really well at the Kootenay Regional Debate Tournament December 9th in Castlegar at SHSS. Senior Student Coach Margaret Saville has done a great job in preparing the students – several of which came home with medal placement.

Redfish

- A local restaurant is now providing hot lunch three times a week at a reasonable cost for the students. There is a varied menu and he cooks them at his restaurant and serves it warm to the students.
- Redfish Nature Guide is published and available soon for purchase. This was a project directly connected with the school goal of improving non-fiction writing. (Christine and Lorri have copies)

Rosemont

- Nelson's rock star, Johnny McCuaig, will be coming to Rosemont to sing Christmas song on the last day of school.
- Local families and organizations have stepped to make the winter holiday a little brighter for Rosemont families with donations of grocery gift cards and gifts for students who need it the most.
- PAC is making gingerbread houses with the entire school on Wednesday, December 20. Come join the sugar rush!

South Nelson

- Our school placed in the Top 10 across Canada in the CBC Canadian Music Class Challenge for the second year in a row with their performance of Northern Lights by the group Jerry Cans from Nunavut!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2jTqadcgIZE&list=PLwz1WTRJS24JUVxVPxNI9jQ9u2g7rR5eG&index=134>
- Susan Milner, retired professor from University of Fraser Valley, visited South Nelson two times in November teaching students math games and puzzles.
 - promotes sequential and spatial reasoning
 - encourages resiliency, understanding of information, and being willing to start over.
- Brent Firkser, new Curriculum teacher with Innovative Learning Services, has worked in a number of classes over the past 2 weeks teaching about robotics as part of the new ADST curriculum.
 - working collaboratively with teachers...
 - inspiring students to think creatively and computationally.

Trafalgar

- Students led conferences were really successful. Students shared their portfolios with their parents and then met with their classroom teachers to discuss their learning and goals for the rest of the school year.
- Scott Rothermel (Safe Schools) has spent time at Trafalgar. He's done Internet Safety presentations for our Grade 7 and 8 students and was so well received that our parents wanted a similar presentation. As a result we hosted a parent presentation on Internet Safety last week. Parents were really appreciative and asked many great questions.
- Vazzy spent a week in our school working with our French Immersion students. Our students learned a great deal about French language and culture, participated in a

variety of cultural events, and culminated with a performance for their parents on the final day.

Wildflower

- Students in Emily's multi-age (grade 2-6) classroom presented their Sphero project at a recent assembly. The students had programmed Sphero robots to travel through an obstacle course consisting of landmarks based on the 7 wonders of the world (ie: France Eiffel tower, Egyptian sphynx & pyramids, etc.). The Spheros were on loan from the Innovative Learning Department.
- Students in Laurryn's Seedlings (grade K/1) class are working on the ADST curriculum by creating menorahs for the winter season. The students are learning how to sand, hammer nails, and screw bolts into a wood block which will be used as the base for each menorah.

Aboriginal Education

- Dance Locale – a partnership between the Capitol Theatre and SD8, highlighting Indigenous Dance and song. Students from across the school district shared cultural teachings and the theatre was sold out!
- Dinner at LKB – a dinner in partnership between Lower Kootenay band and the PCSS to honour Aboriginal students and families from the local nation. Elders from the nation were there, as well as several staff from PCSS.
- FNEESC – annual BC Aboriginal conference for professional development in Aboriginal Education. There were about 15 staff in attendance this year.

Independent Learning Services

- Darlene Jamin, audiologist, Angela Wallenius, hearing resource teacher in SD 20 and Catherine Seminuk are getting all of our students together on November 30th for our annual Super Ear Group. Our students will learn how to properly clean and take care of their hearing aids and use their FM systems. In the afternoon we will play games and decorate ear cookie models to review the anatomy of the ear and students will review the etiology of their hearing losses. Connecting with same age peers increases confidence, intrinsic motivation, and self-advocacy skills. When students accept themselves for who they are and know they are not the only ones who wear hearing aids (often there is one student in a school with hearing aids), they are able to articulate what they need to be a successful learner. This is also a great way to get parents to connect.

Innovative Learning Services

- Vanessa and Brent have begun the work of getting into schools to work with computational thinking and to support teachers in their shift to the new curriculum
- We welcome Naomi to our department
- The ProD committee met to begin planning for September's Professional development day.
- Schools are completing the MDIs this week, which will provide us with information on how well our students are doing on important protective factors for mental health and wellbeing.

International Program

- We have a new process at LVR for student acceptance and dismissal – something for everyone.

- International students just finished the student forum survey and one of the top items they stated that they would keep if everything changed tomorrow was their good teachers.
- Our Global Intercultural Experience Course made a recent trip to Calgary to learn how to make water filtration systems for their trip to Oaxaca in March when they will build a shelter – small home from recycled materials with a good water filtration system for an impoverished family.

RELATIONSHIPS

BCSSA – attended Fall Conference (as well as Mentor Day) - George Couros – technology; Kris Magnusson “Reimaging Careers; Doctors of BC (ACEs); Dr. Gwen Point (T and R); Fasi Salberg (Update on Canada and Finland and their place in the World); A Post-Secondary perspective featuring 4 post-sec programs: Camosun College, BCIT; Kwantlen Univ., and UBC.

BCSTA – attended Trustee Academy with S/T and four Trustees – strong focus on Mental Wellness, SOGI, and Student Voice

College of the Rockies – Met with Norma Sherret (Head of Health and Human Service programs) and Heather Hepworth (Acting VP Academic and Applied Research) re: PCSS Youth Wellness HUB, dual credit programs for PCSS and COTR, and EA practicums in Creston.

Committees of the Whole – monthly attendance and participation

Directors & Senior Leadership Team – Deep Dive on Ministry Data (presentation at Board Meeting) with Senior District Staff

Kootenay Boundary Zone – four Superintendents (SD 8, 10, 20, and 51) met with Selkirk College to make plans for common professional learning day in October 19 of 2018: *Transitioning Together* will feature Jan Unwin, from Ministry of Education and Ministry of Advanced Education Superintendent of Graduation and Student Transitions as our Keynote (Friday, October 19 at Selkirk College).

Lower Kootenay Band – attended annual dinner at Lower Kootenay Band in Creston. Approximately 40 in attendance – half from PCSS and our district.

Leadership Team (PVPs) – weekly teleconference calls and monthly Leadership meeting; sessions with WKTEP and Selkirk College to update Admin. On programs and offerings to our staff upcoming; interviews for Wildflower

Ministry of Education – spoke to Minister of Ed. – sent informal email re: capital projects; and extended invitation to visit SD 8 as requested by him (at BCSTA Academy)

Parents (PACs) and DPAC – Ben Eaton and Sandy Boscarior spoke at DPAC meeting; attended Salmo Elementary PAC; discussions with many parents individually

Rural Schools – received grant for *Integrated ADST: Innovative Student-Powered Implementation of Tech/Design*; with teacher-leaders Denise Currie, Lori Jones, and Monica Doyle which will involve following schools and organizations: South Nelson Elementary, L.V. Rogers Secondary, Nelson Tech Club and Invited Schools: Hume Elementary and Rosemont Elementary.

Schools – have held Superintendent pizza/potluck Luncheons with LVR staff, Mt. Sentinel staff, PCSS staff, and Salmo Elementary staff; attended ATLAS presentation at LVR.

Students – participated in surveys/forums at schools; Gail and I participated in *Dance Locale* (a celebration of Aboriginal Dance with students and teacher from Wildflower

ENGAGEMENT

Citizenship – attended, with S/T, City of Nelson annual reception

Resilience – Creston Youth Mental Health Hub outline included in December Board meeting agenda

FACILITIES, OPERATIONS, TRANSPORTATION AND BUSINESS

Technology – IBM Gap Analysis – interviews complete, awaiting result

Human Resources – Deanna has returned (gradual return to work); hired new District receptionist