



Board Highlights for January 2024

Superintendent of Schools Report:

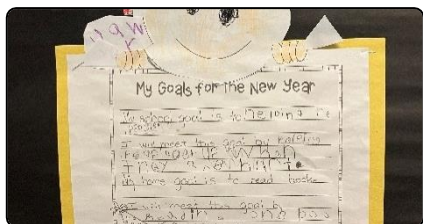
School/Student News

Grade 1 students at Little Prairie Elementary are learning some engineering skills!

Little Prairie students also had fun participating in their winter celebration. The public health nurse visited the school to talk about germs.



Students at Devereaux Elementary School are enjoying basketball season and the inside days during the cold weather snap!



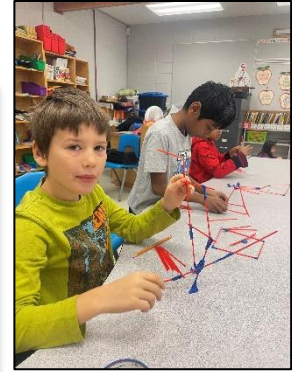
Learning at Canalta Elementary School continues to be fun. Grade 1 students are setting goals and students are writing about “snow many ways to be kind” and posting their kind notes on the welcome bulletin board at the entrance of the school. English Language Learners are working hard on their English Language Vocabulary.



Moberly Lake Elementary students are focused on their reading skills. The students also enjoyed swimming at the local recreation centre in Chetwynd.



Grade 1 students at Don Titus Montessori school have been practicing their literacy skills and grade 5, 6, 7 students are working on STEM projects.



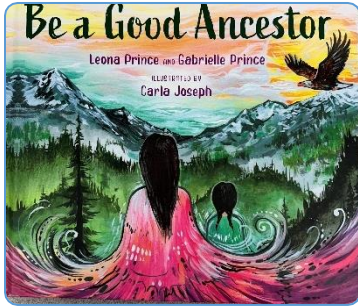
Students at Tumbler Ridge Secondary School are creating some amazing artwork. The students also enjoyed a visit with the Mayor of Tumbler Ridge and local MLA Mike Bernier who were invited to visit the school's fish farm.

McLeod Elementary School is excited to be awarded two grants (Shell - \$20,700 and Northern Health IMAGINE Community Grant - \$10,000) to purchase new outdoor sports equipment. The IMAGINE Community Grants exist to support projects that address community-led health and wellness initiatives while improving the well-being of all Northern BC residents. As part of the IMAGINE grant, reporting will be completed over three years to provide statistics on student wellness activity.



The school was able to update their cross-country ski equipment, curling equipment, and skating equipment including helmets.





Crescent Park Elementary students are celebrating their learning with class presentations. Mrs. Bricker's grade 3/4 class studied the book *Be a Good Ancestor* and shared their learning. Ms. Graham's Kindergarten class had a presentation about various jobs in healthcare and animal care fields. Students learned about all these careers and parents came in to be patients so the students could practice their learning and make presentations.



Parkland Elementary students were excited to conduct the egg drop test. Students built egg-saving containers and then dropped them from a height to see if their engineered containers held up!

Tremblay Elementary School had their first visit to Bear Mountain Ski Hill! Thank you to the ski hill for working so hard to make sure as many students as possible have the opportunity to experience skiing.



The District is please to announce Ann Sherk has been appointed as the Principal of South Peace Elementary School and Caron Myint has been appointed as the Principal of Peace View Elementary School.

Student Voice Initiatives Follow-up

The student voice student group completed an environmental scan and presented their findings and recommendations to the Board in June 2023. Since then, the student voice group prioritized their recommendations and costing was completed by the Director of Operations.

The three priority initiatives that students would like addressed are: connectivity (technology), washrooms and lighting. A full report is available in the January board meeting package.

Northern Teaching Practicum Incentive

The Northern Recruitment and Retention Pilot working group is collaborating with the Ministry of Education and Child Care to launch the Northern BC Rural Practicum Placement Awards. The \$8,000 incentive will be available to teacher candidates that complete a practicum in identified Northern School Districts. Funding for the incentive is provided through the Stronger BC Future Ready Action Plan. The program is being delivered as a pilot starting in the spring of 2024.

Enrolment Limits for Don Titus Montessori

To help ensure students have access to attend their identified catchment area school, class size limits have been set at Don Titus Montessori school, a school of choice. The intent is for the school to have a few seats open for new student enrollment for families moving into the school's catchment area throughout the year.

2024-25 School Calendar-DRAFT

The 2024-25 proposed school calendar was developed in accordance with the requirements of the School Act and in consultation with Peace River South Teachers Association. The calendar

reflects the current collective agreement language around the start, end and break times with special approval for the two-week spring break.

The school calendar regulation requires that a Board must make publicly available the draft school calendar that it proposes to submit to the Minister. A consultation period is required to allow for the public to provide input on the school calendar before it is adopted by a Board of Education and submitted to the Ministry of Education. The deadline for submission to the Minister is March 31st.

Feedback must be made in writing to Jan Proulx (japroulx@sd59.bc.ca) before March 1, 2024 to be considered.

International Field Trip

The Board granted final approval to Dawson Creek Secondary School for the international field trip to Europe from March 18 to 29, 2024. The final itinerary involves students traveling to Berlin, Amsterdam, Ypres, Vimy Ridge, Paris, Normandy, and London where they will take part in guided visits to historically significant sites connected to world wars such as concentration camp memorials, museums, cemeteries, and palaces. The students will also participate in a panel discussion related to the Cold War and visit significant venues such as the Eiffel Tower, Westminster Abbey and more.

Reports from the Secretary-Treasurer:

Financial Report for December 2023

The Secretary Treasurer presented the monthly financial report.

A new format for the monthly financial report was presented. The reporting compares actual expenditure categories to budgets with a focus on the budget remaining for the rest of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. The new format provides more detail to the Board around revenues, expenses and school budgets. Over time the reports will also evolve to a comparison to previous year.

2024-2025 Budget – Draft 1

The Secretary Treasurer presented the first draft of the 2024-2025 budget.

The Secretary Treasurer reviewed the budget cycle and the steps in developing a budget. The budget is developed considering enrolment projections, revenue assumptions, adjustments to accounting treatment, expense assumptions, and existing surplus and reserves. The budget must also consider risk and other unexpected conditions such as enrolment changes, contract changes, projects, interest rate changes etc. The Secretary Treasurer will be incorporating three-year projection modelling which will assist in forecasting for future budgets and connect resource allocation to the strategic plan.

Committee Reports:

Indigenous Education Councils

Trustee representatives for the Indigenous Education Councils reported on the latest news from the Education councils. Both Education Councils reviewed Indigenous student data from the How Are We Doing (HAWD) report. The annual report is specific to Indigenous students in BC

and school districts can access data specific to their district. The report is used to identify success as well as identify areas for growth. Councils also discussed the changes in the budget process.

The Indigenous Education Council in Chetwynd had a presentation from Windrem Elementary grade 7 students who shared how their mentorship program with Chetwynd Secondary School is helping students feel confident and comfortable with the transition into the high school. Council also reflected on the enhancement meeting that was held in November.

Policy Committee

The Board of Education approved circulation of draft changes to Policy and Regulation 2150 Trustee Roles and Responsibilities* for review. *Included in the revision is a name change to Policy and Regulation Trustee Code of Conduct. The policy can be viewed at [Latest News & Announcements | School District 59 \(sd59.bc.ca\)](https://www.sd59.bc.ca/Latest-News-Announcements).

Feedback will be accepted in writing to cfennell@sd59.bc.ca until March 11, 2024.

Policies can be viewed on the school district website at [District Policies | School District 59 \(sd59.bc.ca\)](https://www.sd59.bc.ca/District-Policies).

Upcoming Dates:

Date:	Event:
February 2, 2024	Non-Instructional Day – Students do not attend school
February 19, 2024	Family Day Stat – Schools are closed
February 21, 2024	Public Board Meeting – Dawson Creek
February 28 & 29, 2024	Early Dismissal Days for Parent/Teacher Interviews (students are dismissed 1 hour earlier)
March 4, 2024	Non-Instructional Day – Students do not attend school
March 13, 2024	Public Board Meeting – Dawson Creek
March 18 – 29, 2024	Spring Break – schools are closed
April 1, 2024	Easter Monday Stat – schools are closed