



Board Highlights for November 16, 2022

Superintendent of Schools Report:

School/Student News

Remembrance Day Assemblies were held at all schools across the District to honour those that gave their lives to serve our country and sacrificed for our freedom.

National Indigenous Veterans Day was also recognized on November 8th to honour Indigenous Canadians that serve in the military.



At Canalta Elementary a bulletin board at the front entrance honours relatives of students and staff who served or are serving in the Armed Forces. Ecole Frank Ross invited a war veteran to speak at their assembly.



Louis Riel Day was recognized at schools across the District on November 16th. This was a day for students and staff to reflect on the role of Louis Riel and his advocacy for the Metis Nation and the rights of Metis people. It was also a day where schools celebrated Metis culture.

DCSS-South Peace Campus held their first Student Mental Health Summit on October 27th. This full day event had students selecting sessions offered by clinicians, counselors and keynote speakers designed to increase their knowledge and understanding of mental health. Chetwynd Secondary School is in the planning stages for an event of their own in the new year.

DCSS-South Peace Campus students in Mr. Eagles' Robotics class are learning to build and code VEX robots. These not-so-simple machines are being programmed to complete simple and complex tasks.



At Little Prairie Elementary in Chetwynd, Mrs. Looby's grade 2-3 students were doing real world math in late October. The pumpkin math seemed to be a hit with students, not only for the learning, but also for the opportunity to get their hand sticky and gooey.

Mr. Kaschula (K), a student teacher at Crescent Park Elementary with Simon Fraser University's Pre-service Professional Studies program, is the recipient of the 2022 Emily Longworth Memorial Award. Mr. K is using the funds to facilitate a medicine wheel exploration unit and has created dream catchers with the grade 3-4 class.

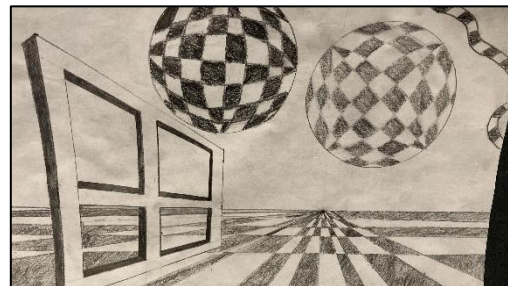


The students in Ms. Hollen's grade 6-7 class at Crescent Park have been learning about the global water crisis. This includes different country's minimal access to water, quality of water, and the consequences of not having water nearby. The students created presentations in an effort to help spread awareness. Students have also taken the initiative to fundraise and donate to *Change for Children* in order to help end the water crisis. The students have been collecting donations for over a week and are over halfway to their goal of \$500.



Students in Ms. Gowda's class at Ecole Frank Ross have been studying government. They had a visit from Dawson Creek's newly elected Mayor, Darcy Dober, where the class shared suggestions for improvements to the city. Students at Ecole Frank Ross have also been participating in a month of Wheelchair Basketball through a partnership with Northern Adaptive Sports. Along with students participating, the school hosted an evening event for families.

Students at Canalta Elementary School have been learning about the brain and geometric shaped art. The students are definitely working the different areas of the brain to create these impressive geometric shaped art projects!





Students at Don Titus Montessori School are busy in the kitchen. As part of the Montessori School philosophy, the students actively participate to prepare food to be shared with others in their classrooms. Students are developing real world skills as a result.



Students at Don Titus Elementary School also took part in a school Maker Day, where they were given a problem and had to use specific tools and supplies to solve it.



Secondary PE teachers and vice-principals from DCSS-SP, CSS, and TRSS took part in a Teacher Training Workshop from the Advanced Coronary Treatment (ACT) Foundation. The ACT Foundation is the national charitable organization dedicated to establishing CPR and defibrillator training programs free for students in high schools across Canada. High school teachers are trained as CPR and defibrillator instructors for their students. ACT Foundation has also launched a new Opioids Overdose Response Training as an enhancement to its already successful high school program. This one-day training provides instructor level training to teachers to update their knowledge and teach the Heartsaver level A with opioid emergency response to their students.

K-12 Student Reporting

Student reporting is the assessment and communication of student learning, traditionally done through student report cards. The way teachers and schools communicate student learning is shifting and parents/guardians will see the use of the Provincial Proficiency Scale for reporting in grades K-9. The introduction of the Provincial Proficiency Scale is to provide a clear understanding of what students can do now and areas of future growth, the use of the scale will also provide consistency in reporting in schools across the province. More information on how reporting on student learning is changing can be found in the [Brochure For Families](#).

Strategic Plan and Operational Plan Update

The Strategic Plan is an over-arching plan that identifies priorities and goals for a four year period that supports the boards values of inclusion, equity, effective communication and positive culture within school communities that focus on student learning. The Strategic Plan is supported by the Operational Plan that sets actions for each goal and assigns timelines and fiscal responsibility (if required). The district is currently in year three of a four year Strategic Plan. The Superintendent provided an update on the actions identified for year three and any that are being carried over from the previous years. In 2023-24 the board will start the process of developing a new four year Strategic Plan. The process involves environmental scans and consultation with staff, students, parents, community stakeholders, Indigenous communities, and other partners. The current Strategic Plan and Operational Plan are available for viewing on the school district website at: <https://www.sd59.bc.ca/district/achievement>.

Before and After School Care Program at Pouce Coupe

The YMCA is accepting registrations for the Before and After School Care Program being offered at Pouce Coupe Elementary School. The program allows students to be dropped off before school starts and stay after school ends, easing the transition between care and school for parents/guardians. Contact the YMCA for registration information.



Indigenous Education Councils Update

The Superintendent provided an update on the activities of both Indigenous Councils (Chetwynd and Dawson Creek). Feedback was received from the Ministry regarding the district's Equity Action Plan that was submitted at the end of last school year. The Ministry is mindful of the challenges the district is facing due to recruitment and retention and the absenteeism of staff and students during the pandemic and commends the district on the accomplishments of striving for equity and the actions being implemented to address the gap in equity due to the challenges of the recent years. The Ministry also was supportive that the district has a dedicated professional development day with an Indigenous Education focus.

Field Trip Request

The Board gave approval of intent to proceed with planning to DCSS – Central Campus for the grade 8 and 9 French Immersion field trip to Quebec in May/June 2023.

Reports from the Secretary Treasurer:

Multi-year Financial Planning Update

The Secretary Treasurer updated the board on the multi-year financial planning requirements as directed by the Ministry of Education and Child Care. The board has met the policy requirement for financial planning by developing two new policies (Policy 5005 Financial Planning and Reporting and Policy 5010 Accumulated Operating Surplus). In 2023-24, boards are recommended to complete a Multi-year Financial Planning Report that will accompany the preliminary budget. There is an expectation that this requirement will be phased in over the next few years.

Trustee Items:

Trustees were appointed to committees and school liaisons for the 2022-23 school year.

Upcoming Dates:

Date:	Event:
November 25, 2022	Non Instructional Day – students do not attend school
December 14, 2022	Regular Board Meeting – Dawson Creek
December 19, 2022 - January 2, 2023	Winter Break – schools are closed
January 18, 2023	Regular Board Meeting – Dawson Creek
February 3, 2023	Non Instructional Day – students do not attend school
February 15, 2023	Regular Board Meeting – Dawson Creek
February 20, 2023	Family Day Holiday – schools are closed

Thank-you Canadian Natural



Canadian Natural supports school meal programs with a \$10,000 donation.

Members from Canadian Natural presented the cheque to trustees from the Board of Education, staff and students. The donation will be used to support meal programs at schools in School District No. 59 (PRS). This support will reach the communities of Dawson Creek, Chetwynd, and Tumbler Ridge.