



# Superintendent's Report to the Board

Regular Board Meeting of February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019

## 12 Day International Winter Camp – Vanderhoof Schools

- 21 Students and two teachers from Yung Wing School Zhuhai in Guongzhou, China, were hosted by Vanderhoof schools and families from January 20 – February 1, 2019.
- We have heard back from this group that their Canadian winter experience memories and the new friends they made will last a lifetime.
- A very BIG THANK YOU to our Vanderhoof principals (**Mark, Libby, Stacey, Ken, and Denise**), teachers and host families that welcomed our guests. Also, a special THANK YOU to Ms. Charlene Sequin who stepped out of retirement to coordinate the camp.



## District Science Fair



- We had an excellent District Science Fair in Fraser Lake on February 13<sup>th</sup>. This year's fair had an incredible 99 total projects with 150 participating students in grades 4 – 11 from schools throughout the district.
- We have been working on increasing high school involvement over the last several years, and this year we had a dozen projects from students in grades 8 – 11. A big thanks to all those high school educators that helped to support high school students to get to the District Science Fair.
- A big THANK YOU to **Megan Boniface**, EBUS Vice-Principal, who helped to coordinate this year's fair and to her crew of helpers whom include **Mike LeDuc** (FLESS), **Nonie Little** (Head Judge – FLESS), and **Lisa Mason** (Decker Lake).
- We would also like to recognize and thank the many, many judges that came out for both the District Fair and

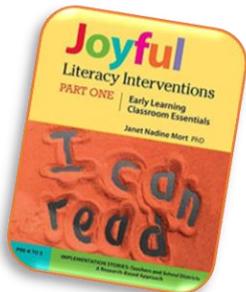
school fairs!

## UNBC – Faculty of Education / 'Koh-Learning in Our Watersheds' / Inheritors of the Future

- Drs. Shannon Wagner & Sue Crichton met with me, Mike Skinner, and Rhonda Togyi to provide an overview of the 're-visioned' teacher education program at UNBC.
- We are supportive and excited that UNBC is aiming to be the destination teacher training program for teachers who want to specialize in rural education.
- On the afternoon of February 25<sup>th</sup>, SD 91 and UNBC (Dr. Margot Parkes) officially launched our 'Koh-Learning in Our Watersheds' project. Although we have worked as partners on this work for the last several years, the recent announcement of an NSERC (Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council) grant will make this work more sustainable over the coming years.
- Dr. Vanessa Sloan Morgan joined FNEC to provide a report from the Fall 2018 Inheritors of the Future event at UNBC and to share the planning and recruiting underway for the second event in March 2019.



## Joyful Literacy – Janet Mort



- Janet and her colleague, Christi (Peace River South SD), worked with SD 91 teachers on Friday, February 8<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. This is Janet's second trip to SD 91 this year, and we are excited to host her again in April.
- Our work with Janet and her team is aligned to the Board's strategic priority of an improvement in literacy outcomes for all our students.



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## BC Tripartite Education Agreement Meetings



- **Leona Prince**, District Principal of Aboriginal Education, and I have spent many hours together this previous month visiting the 13 First Nation communities that are served by Nechako Lakes School District.
- Based on our conversations, we will be submitting a report by March 8<sup>th</sup> to the Ministry of Education outlining a summary of our conversations focused on the transportation of on-reserve aboriginal students to our schools.
- We also took this opportunity to discuss our Equity Scan project and an upcoming 'Student Voice' survey that we will be partnering with **Dr. Dustin Louie**, another SD 91 graduate we are proud of.

## Ministry Enrolment Estimates Submitted

- As required, we submitted our estimates of enrolment for SD 91 for the coming three years to allow the Ministry of Education to complete their budget estimations. Although enrolment this year declined slightly in Burns Lake, Fraser Lake, and Fort St James, Vanderhoof saw a slight increase and we expect this trend to continue for the next few years.

## Ministry Assessment Webinars

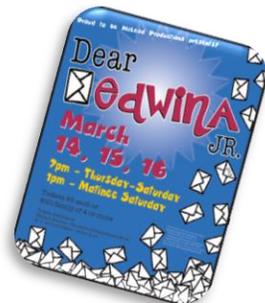
- The second of three Ministry of Education webinars focused on assessment within the context of the redesigned curriculum; and, facilitated by Tom Schimmer, was offered to all of our high school teachers from 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm on Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>. Principals have shared that these webinars have been well received by secondary teachers.

## Ministry Meeting for Superintendents, Secretary Treasurers, and Board Chairs

- Darlene, Steve, and I just completed two days of meetings with the Ministry of Education and were provided with updates from Ministry representatives on:
  - BC Tripartite Education Agreement
  - Funding Review – next steps (*I will be participating as a member on the Online Learning Funding Review working group*)
  - Enhancing Student Learning Framework
  - Early Childhood Learning
  - Truth and Reconciliation
  - Children in Care
- In addition, SD 91 was one of four school districts invited to share a short presentation on Mental Health Initiatives in our school district with a specific focus on our post-wildfire strategies.

## Dear Edwina – A Proud to be WL McLeod Production

- WL McLeod will be presenting their 11th musical production, Dear Edwina, from March 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>. These shows have been a huge hit with visiting schools and of course all the McLeod students and parents who participate. Principal **Libby Hart** is an integral part of these productions and personally sends a warm invite to our trustees to attend.





## Mental Health Initiatives

- We received some additional funding from the Ministry of Education to focus on Mental Health Initiatives for the remainder of this school year.
- Claire is leading this work and has planned for some work in each of the following areas:
  - Completion of the MDI (Middle Years Development Instrument) which will help provide baseline data specific to our strategic priority of Social Emotional Well Being
  - Continued support to schools and teachers involved in the Mental Health Literacy Project (Dr. Stan Kutcher)
  - Planning for a Middle Years Learning Event with Dr. Nancy Doda

## Ski & Snowboard Zone Championships

- Teams from FSJSS, LDSS and NVSS all competed in the Zone Ski and Snowboarding Championships. We are really proud of our teams and individual athletes, many of whom will be heading to the provincial championships in Smithers beginning March 4<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to our school coaches (**Pat & Patti Dube, Sarah Grill, Chris Greenaway, Martina Jones, Tyler Clark, Jeff Bennett**) who spent countless hours with our students to get these great results!
- Here are the results for our school teams (who will also be joined by individual athletes from NVSS at the provincials):



- **Girls Snowboarding Results:**
  - #1- Lakes District Secondary
  - #2- Smithers Secondary
  - #3- Fort St. James Secondary

- **Boys Snowboarding Results:**
  - #1- Smithers Secondary
  - #2- Lakes District Secondary
  - #3- Fort St. James Secondary

- **Girls Skiing Results:**
  - #1- Fort St. James Secondary
  - #2- Smithers Secondary
  - #3- Duchess Park Secondary

- **Boys Skiing Results:**
  - #1- Smithers Secondary
  - #2- Fort St. James Secondary
  - #3- Duchess Park Secondary



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## Single A Basketball Zone Championships

- The zone championships just wrapped up this previous weekend, and SD 91 athletes had a great tournament with NVSS coming out as zone champions.
- Thank you to our coaches:
  - FSJSS – **Carrie Constantine**
  - FLESS – **Bill Evans**
  - LDSS - **Deirdre Kennedy**
  - NVSS - **Vaughn Mueller, Debbie Montgomery, Julia Steinbach, Jordan Andres** (Manager - **Gracie Schneider**)
- TEAM RESULTS:
  - # 1 - Nechako Valley Secondary
  - # 4 - Fraser Lake Elem./Sec.
  - # 5 - Lakes District Secondary
  - # 8 - Fort St. James Secondary

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## SD 91 in the NEWS

- [Decker Lake Kids Explore Science](#)
- [WKE Celebrates with Pancake Breakfast](#)
- [Nechako Lakes Graduation Rates on Rise](#)
- [Fort St. James Scholarship Winners](#)
- [Vanderhoof Scholarship Winners](#)