









October 17, 2023, Superintendent's Report

1. Schools recognize National Day for Truth and Reconciliation:

Leading up to September 30th, each school in the district spent time engaging in various learning activities to recognize the importance of Truth and Reconciliation. This learning holds significant importance to fostering understanding and empathy, and deepening our appreciation for the history, culture, and experiences of Indigenous peoples. Activities included:

-  Elders and Knowledge Keepers sharing wisdom and cultural activities
-  Reading and writing activities on related topics to Truth and Reconciliation
-  Class presentations from Indigenous Support Teachers
-  Truth and Reconciliation through language revitalization
-  Orange Shirt Day related activities
-  Integrated student and staff created activities that included Indigenous art, math, language, history, and culture through the curriculum

2. Green Thumb Theatre Entertains and Educates Elementary Students :

Elementary schools were treated to Green Thumb Theatre's performance of *Mixolydian* by Ashley Cook in the first week of October. Ashley is Métis and Saulteaux and was a member of Green Thumb's inaugural Playwrights' Gym program in 2021. Her play *The Mixolydian* follows an 11-year-old Métis/Anishinaabe girl named Bellevue on a journey through the woods as she reconnects with her language and culture with help from her "imaginary friend" – a shapeshifter named Thomas, and ancestor Nokomis.

This funny, poignant piece, punctuated with music, was performed at Burton Elementary, Nakusp Elementary, and Lucerne Elementary. Following the performance, the theatre held a workshop for intermediate students, and they were taken through a series of drama games and activities that safely and creatively took them out of their comfort zone and provided a great hands-on experience with drama and provided exposure to the performing arts.

3. September Professional Development Day Focuses on Numeracy and SEL:

The September 22nd professional development day in the district saw teaching and educational support staff focus on numeracy and social and emotional learning.

Numeracy expert Donna Morgan held an engaging half-day workshop for staff that focused on various ways to engage students with math processes at all grade levels and provided numerous takeaways around the BC numeracy curriculum. Ms. Morgan will also be working with teachers throughout the year on developing numeracy routines that support fluency and develop competencies, and assessment practices that will help meet the needs of all learners.

The second half of the day, staff were treated to an energetic social and emotional learning workshop by Sheldon Franken. Sheldon is a school counsellor and SEL expert who integrates outdoor and hands-on activities to teach social and emotional skills. Over the past three years Sheldon has built “SEL Bins” for each school full of games, tools, resources, and literature and he spent the time showing staff how to use the materials in the bins to enhance students’ abilities to regulate, connect, understand their emotions, and build resilience.

4. New District Website Launched

The district is pleased to announce the launch of a new website. Both the district and school websites are now aligned in appearance and have an updated look. The site aims to enhance communication and accessibility for all our stakeholders and will serve as a hub for important information and resources. The website incorporates a user-friendly interface, allowing visitors to navigate through sections easily. It is optimized for different devices, ensuring a seamless experience whether accessed from a desktop computer, tablet, or smartphone. There are still some aspects under construction, and we will be completing all sections over the coming months.

5. Draft Strategic Plan Requires Feedback:

After a year-long consultation process, the district is pleased to unveil the Board’s draft five-year strategic plan. The plan will be shared with each school community, staff, and students for feedback and there will also be an online feedback option on the district website from October 18 – November 2. The Board will consider all input and feedback before adopting the final plan at the November regular meeting. A subsequent annual implementation plan will then be developed, and regular progress reports will be provided.