



School District No.59 (Peace River South)

Board Highlights for December, 2023

Superintendent of Schools Report:

School/Student News

All schools have been busy holding concerts, turkey dinner events, carnivals, and organizing holiday games and crafts for students. Many schools also participated in fundraising for holiday food hampers and gifts for families.

Don Titus Montessori students in grades 5,6,7 worked with the Chetwynd Christmas Bureau to make Christmas food hampers for families.

For the month of December, Dawson Creek Secondary School students were challenged to raise money for Christmas hampers. Staff and students rose to the challenge and raised \$3347 and in conjunction with Dawson Creek charities 34 food hampers will be delivered to families. On top of the staff and student fundraising, Trent Lindberg donated \$7,000 and Lawrence Meats donated 40 turkeys! Thank you for your generous donations.



Chetwynd Secondary School and Windrem Elementary School have been joining together for team building activities. This is a great opportunity for the older students to be mentors for the younger students. This month they creatively built snowmen without snow!

Chetwynd Secondary School also hosted a basketball clinic for Moberly Lake Elementary students. CSS is doing an amazing job of connecting with the younger students at the elementary schools.



Devereaux Elementary students in Ms. Cork's class are looking for Gingerbread men! Through an ADST project, the students are building traps to catch the gingerbread men that ran away!





École Frank Ross Elementary School has been busy with holiday activities including a door decorating contest and winter solstice soirée with crafts, outdoor activities, singing, snacks and drinks.

All French Immersion teachers participated in the continuation of the professional learning series facilitated by SFU's Bureau of Francophone and Francophile Affairs with Shauna Néro. The focus on foundational oral language development continued as well as sessions on written expression and assessment in the FI classroom.



Crescent Park held their Christmas concert at Unchagah Hall and the halls at the school are lined with some amazing artwork.

Tremblay Elementary school hosted a turkey dinner lunch and took advantage of the warm weather to play a soccer game outside.



At Canalta Elementary School, students read the book *Métis Christmas Mittens*, a story focusing on Métis culture and the tradition of making mittens for loved ones. The students then stitched their own set of mittens.

Canalta students participated in a fun activity – “What do we have in common?” The students paired up and interviewed each other to learn more about each other and write about what their similarities.





The Skills Exploration class at Dawson Creek Secondary School – South Peace Campus built three sheds for the skills exploration program. The sheds will be sold to help raise funds for the materials.

The South Peace Aquatics team is holding a ‘Sponsor a Swimmer’ fundraiser. The school held a door decorating contest and talent show and students made Christmas cards for seniors at Rotary Manor.

Sam’s Kitchen, a restaurant in Dawson Creek, invited a group of students to the restaurant to celebrate the holidays and enjoy a free meal. Thank you for your hospitality Sam and staff!



Ministry of Education and Child Care Updates

Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration will open on January 8th, 2024 at all elementary schools in the district. Children must be five years of age by December 31, 2024 to be eligible for Kindergarten registration.

Mental Health Crisis and Suicide Prevention Helpline

There is a new national helpline specific for mental health crisis and suicide prevention. The service is accessible via call or text to 9-8-8 and is available 24/7/365 and offers trauma-informed and culturally affirming support to anyone who is thinking of suicide or who is worried about someone they know.

Volleyball Provincials – Thank-you

The AAA Girls Volleyball Provincial Championship was hosted by Dawson Creek Secondary School – South Peace Campus from November 29th to December 3rd. The tournament was held in the Memorial Arena where the ice surface was transformed into three volleyball courts with the help of the City of Dawson Creek and School District No. 59 (PRS) maintenance staff. The venue allowed for all teams to compete in one location which created a true championship atmosphere. The Superintendent thanked everyone involved in organizing and hosting the event, it was a great opportunity for Dawson Creek Secondary School to host the provincial event.

Reports from the Secretary-Treasurer:

Statement of Financial Information Report

The Statement of Financial Information (SOFI) report is complete. The annual report is required by all public institutions and publishes the names, salaries and related expenses of employees

earning over \$75,000, vendors paid over \$25,000, and trustee income and expenses. The report is posted on the district website at [SOFI Report 2023 | School District 59 \(sd59.bc.ca\)](https://www.sd59.bc.ca/sofi-report-2023).

New Spaces Child Care Application Update

The Secretary Treasurer informed the Board that the ChildCareBC's New Spaces Fund applications submitted last January are moving to the next phase of the approval process with the Ministry. The applications were submitted for childcare centres in Tumbler Ridge and Dawson Creek at Tremblay Elementary School.

2024-2025 Budget Process

The Board approved the 2024-2025 Budget Process as presented by the Secretary Treasurer. The timeline includes consultation and engagement opportunities and three readings of the bylaw in three separate meetings. Follow [Financial Information | School District 59 \(sd59.bc.ca\)](https://www.sd59.bc.ca/financial-information) for more information and to follow the budget as it develops.

Committee Reports:

Indigenous Education Councils

Both Indigenous Education Councils participated in the SOAR process for the development of the new strategic plan. Councils held their annual celebration gathering on December 5th, 2023.

Upcoming Dates:

Date:	Event:
December 25, 2023 - January 5, 2024	Winter Break – Schools Closed
January 8, 2024	First day back from winter break
January 24, 2024	Public Board Meeting – Dawson Creek
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

Wishing everyone a joyous holiday season!



See you in the New Year!

