



## Board Highlights for March 2024

### **Superintendent of Schools Report:**

#### **School/Student News**

Science World has been on the road! The **On The Road** program brings fun, high-energy live demonstrations and activities to communities all around the province that pique science curiosity, boost science literacy and inspire future science and technology leaders. With support from the provincial government and donors, *they are able to offer free school visits* across British Columbia, reaching more than one million students in grades K–12 since 2005. Thanks Science World and donors for providing this experience to our students!



#### **Science is happening all over the district!**

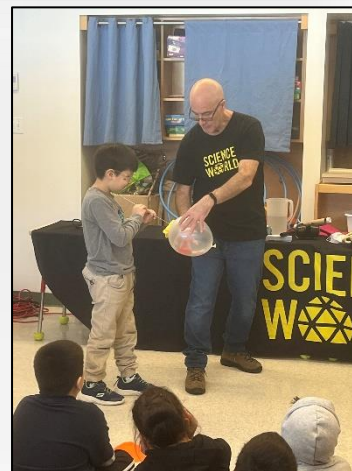
Students at Canalta Elementary are testing different liquids with litmus paper in their own science labs.



Students in Biology 11 at Dawson Creek Secondary School – South Peace Campus created 3D cells.



Students at the Central Campus are using candy to represent all parts of a cell.



Student helpers in the library at Chetwynd Secondary School helped to create and take care of a living wall.



Canalta Elementary students are learning coding using *Scratch* - the world's largest coding community for children that uses a simple coding language that allows students to create digital stories, games and animations.

Grade 7 students at Little Prairie Elementary are learning about careers. The students went to the local Northern Lights College Campus to check out the Youth Explore Trades (YETS) program. The YETS program introduces students in grades 10-12 to five trades including, but not limited to, Carpentry, Mechanics, Plumbing, Electrical, Professional Cook, and Welding. The program is a way for students to explore multiple trades and pick up valuable skills in the process. The program is a partnership between the Ministry of Education and SkilledTradesBC, designed to give students 120 hours of hands-on experience.



Basketball season is in full swing at most schools and community firefighters and paramedics joined in on the fun – a 17-year tradition at Crescent Park Elementary School! The grade 8 boys basketball team at DCSS Central Campus wanted it on record they beat the firefighters and paramedics by 1 point! Central students showed great leadership by volunteering to keep score and time at the elementary basketball tournament.

Students at Ecole Frank Ross are researching famous artists.

Students and parents also enjoyed the annual Tombola festival. The event is a fundraiser organized by Canadian Parents for French. Students and families look forward to the event each year.

Moberly Lake Elementary held their 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Trapper Days. The students learned skills to survive in a northern climate, how to pound nails to build a cabin, designed cabins with pretzel sticks, went ice fishing, learned how to track and identify animals and then participated in the popular animal scavenger hunt!





This term, Windrem Elementary has been focusing on inclusion and diversity. The grade 3/4/5 class has been learning about Ramadan and exploring individuals' differences and similarities.



School District staff have been participating in career fairs throughout the region. The district is hiring positions in all areas, including student summer positions. Employment postings can be viewed at [School District 59 \(Peace River South\) - Job Posting \(sd59.bc.ca\)](https://sd59.bc.ca).

### Field Trips

The Board granted approval in principle for Dawson Creek Secondary School – South Peace Campus to proceed with planning a French Immersion international field trip to France in the spring of 2025.

The Board also granted final approval for Dawson Creek Secondary School – Central Campus to proceed with the French Immersion field trip to Quebec in June 2024.

### 2023 Adolescent Health Survey

The McCreary Centre has released the 2023 Adolescent Health Survey. The survey is administered province wide to students in grades 7-12 and provides data of youth health trends, emerging issues, and risk and protective factors for healthy development. The McCreary Centre provides school districts with individual reports specific to their district and also publishes a provincial report available at [Home | McCreary Centre Society \(mcs.bc.ca\)](https://mcs.bc.ca).

### 2024-25 School Calendar

The board approved the school calendar for the 2024-25 year. The calendar lists the first and last day of school, break times ("not in session" days), term & semester dates, non-instructional days, and early dismissal days for parent/teacher interviews. The final calendar can be viewed on the district website at [2024-2025 School Calendar | School District 59 \(sd59.bc.ca\)](https://sd59.bc.ca).

### *Reports from the Secretary-Treasurer:*

#### 2024-2025 Budget – Draft 2

The Secretary Treasurer presented the second draft of the 2024-2025 budget for which the board gave the first of three readings of the budget bylaw in the March board meeting. The Secretary Treasurer will continue to develop the budget in consultation with district staff and the board, with the balanced budget and staff recommendations to be presented in the April 24<sup>th</sup> board meeting. In its deliberations the Board will take into account the January 24<sup>th</sup> strategic

plan and budget consultation information, the opportunities for focus presentation by staff, the enhancing student learning report and other district data to align financial resource allocations with SD59’s learning and strategic plan goals and priorities. Budget information can be found at [Financial Information | School District 59 \(sd59.bc.ca\)](https://www.sd59.bc.ca/Financial-Information).

**Committee Reports:**

**Indigenous Education Councils**

Trustee Jones reported on the latest Indigenous Education Council meeting held in Dawson Creek. Council looked at the How Are We Doing (HAWD)? Report and heard about the graduation stories of students that did not graduate. The Council received an update on the planning for the District’s Truth and Reconciliation focused professional learning day scheduled for April 29, 2024.

**Upcoming Dates:**

Date:	Event:
March 18 – 29, 2024	Spring Break – schools and Board Office are closed
April 1, 2024	Easter Monday Stat – schools are closed
April 24, 2024	Public Board Meeting – Dawson Creek
April 29, 2024	Non-Instructional Day – Students do not attend school Truth and Reconciliation Pro-D day.
May 15, 2024	Public Board Meeting – Tumbler Ridge
May 20, 2024	Victoria Day Stat – schools are closed



The Board of Education toured Tremblay Elementary School before they attended the board meeting on March 13<sup>th</sup>. The tour was led by grade 7 students, Ember Avey and Justine McLaren who were great school ambassadors and proudly showed off their school and student accomplishments to the trustees. Thank-you.