



Board Highlights for November 2024

Superintendent of Schools Report:

School/Student News

Schools are privileged to host Remembrance Day assemblies to honour those who have served and those who continue to serve our country. This is a special and truly heartfelt occasion for students, staff, and family participation. Students engage in the assemblies by sharing stories, poems, artwork, and leading the moment of silence.



A Soldier's Life

This war is so slow
 My friends lay down, row by row
 Their lives gave to our freedom

But as I lay in this trench
 My heart wrenches that I may be next
 And I shake at that thought

I fear that I won't make it back home
 And that I will pass in these trenches alone
 But even if I do

I may pass soundly because I know
 That my country may go on
 Because of my sacrifice

And I may be gone
 But I will never be long forgotten



Gave Their All

By Morgan

In trenches deep, where dirt and sorrow lay,
 Trumpets sound on Remembrance Day,
 Lonely wives with hearts that ache
 Remembering soldiers' final wake.

Flags draped in colors, a nation's pride,
 Flutter softly where heroes died.
 Sadness whispers through the pines,
 Arching for those lost in time.

Soldiers brave, despite their fears,
 March into battle with silent tears,
 Strength in weakness, honor in plight,
 Guided by valor, they face the flight.

In memories etched upon history's page,
 We honor their sacrifice, from age to age,
 For in the echoes of trumpets' call,
 We remember those who gave their all.



Tumbler Ridge Secondary Students enjoyed hands-on learning with the culinary program offered through Northern Lights College. These dishes look delicious!



As part of a career class presentation, grade 9 students presented on “Things that are important to you.” Jeffrey Giesbrecht had very compelling reasons why his dirt bike was his favourite thing!

Congratulations to the five Grade 11 students from TRSS that will be attending the BC Youth Parliament session in Victoria at the legislature building from December 27th to 31st. The students will develop public speaking skills and gain knowledge about parliamentary procedure. The Board is proud to have these students represent the District.



Thank-you to the Rotary Club of Dawson Creek for supporting school hot lunch programs.

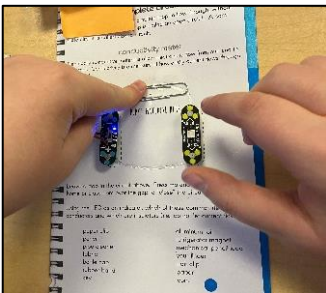




Halloween activities are always fun for students, but the staff have just as much fun coming up with creative costumes too!



Canalta Kindergarten students had fun carving pumpkins while learning about science and numeracy!



Mrs. Nilsen's grade 6-7 class at Canalta Elementary is learning about circuiting and coding as part of the Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies (ADST) curriculum.

Devereaux Elementary's Grade 1- 2 class are learning about healthy eating. The students are studying Canada's Food Guide and looking through local flyers for healthy food choices.



As the volleyball season ends, students across the district were excited to participate in their final tournaments. Special thanks to the Fort Nelson School District for sharing their charter bus with TRSS to travel to a tournament in Mackenzie.



It takes a lot of help to organize and host a volleyball tournament. Shout out to these grade 8 & 9 students at Central Campus for their commitment!



Louis Riel Day is celebrated on November 16th to commemorate the life of Louis Riel, a Métis leader and political figure that led a protest against the Canadian government's encroachment on Métis rights. The District Resource Centre has lots of relevant learning activities and resource books to engage in student learning around Louis Riel Day.



The new student mural at Parkland Elementary School is stunning. It incorporates local agriculture with unique geographic land formations.



Montessori Program Review

The Superintendent will be initiating a review of the Montessori program being offered at Don Titus Elementary School. The program review is in follow-up to the review completed in 2018-19 at which time a recommendation was implemented to conduct a review of the program every five years. The intent of the review is to ensure that the Montessori program is operating in accordance with Montessori principles. As a school of choice with a Montessori program, it is important that the Board of Education have the confidence in supporting and recognizing that the program is authentic and sustainable.

Reports from the Secretary-Treasurer:

Appointment of Auditors

The Board of Education extended the service agreement for audit services with Sander Rose Bone Grindle LLP, now named Eclipse LLP, for an additional 2 years.

Student Symposium

A student symposium was held on October 30th at McLeod Community Hall. The symposium was part of the Board's budget engagement process. Students from all three high schools attended and participated in four discussion topic sessions: Technology, Cultural Responsiveness, Advocacy, and Engagement, and ended the day completing a budget simulation exercise.

Capital Projects Update

Crescent Park Elementary School Expansion

A project rendering showing the school exterior is posted at the school along with the floor plan and site plan. Discussions have been held with the engineer regarding the tendering process for the modular construction and work to be completed on the front of the school. Tenders are expected to be posted on BC Bid in early December and awarded in early January 2025. Updates are posted on the district website at [Capital Projects | School District 59 \(sd59.bc.ca\)](https://www.sd59.bc.ca/capital-projects).

Dawson Creek and Tumbler Ridge Child Care Facilities

The project team has received drawings and preliminary cost estimates from the architect. Updates are available on the district website at [Capital Projects | School District 59 \(sd59.bc.ca\)](https://www.sd59.bc.ca/capital-projects).

Trustee Items:

Upcoming BCSTA Events

Trustees attended the BCSTA Academy held in Vancouver from November 21-23, 2024.

Lisa Beare (MLA from Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows) has been appointed as the new Minister of Education and Child Care. Beare's previously served as Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport, and Minister of Citizens' Services. Beare's also has public education experience serving as a board member when she was elected to the local school board in 2014.

Trustee Code of Conduct

The Board of Education completed an annual review of its Trustee Code of Conduct policy on November 6, 2024.

Committee Reports:

Indigenous Education Councils

Dawson Creek and Chetwynd Indigenous Councils held their annual Enhancement Agreement meetings. School principals, coach mentors, and parent representatives attended the meetings to develop and share the school goals for this year. Trustees and Senior Leadership Staff were also in attendance for these meetings.

Policy Committee

The following policies are being circulated for feedback:

- 4270 District Scholarship Awards
- 4330 Early Dismissal of Students

Feedback will be accepted until January 3, 2025. Please email feedback to cfennell@sd59.bc.ca.

All school district policies can be viewed on the school district website at: [District Policies | School District 59](#).

Upcoming Dates:

Date:	Event:
December 2, 2024	Non-Instructional Day – students do not attend school
December 18, 2024	Public Board Meeting – School Board Office – Dawson Creek
December 23, 2024 to January 3, 2025	Winter Break – schools and Board Office are closed
January 22, 2025	Public Board Meeting – School Board Office – Dawson Creek
January 31, 2025	Non-Instructional Day – students do not attend school

School District No. 59 (Peace River South) is honoured to have been nominated and chosen as the recipient of the Inclusive Workplace Award at the Dawson Creek Community Awards Gala.

