



January 1, 2019

EDUCATION TOPIC

Connection to Land and Place

Four questions guided Four Directions Secondary School's inquiry, supported by an Inquiry and Innovation funding grant, during the 2017-2018 school year. Four Directions teachers **Jordan Smith**, **Courtney Bruin** and **Courtney Markin**, together with their students, provided an overview of the program's success in exploring the four topics: How do food decisions affect our well-being in all areas of our lives? How can traditional methods of subsistence be preserved over time? What can we learn from Indigenous peoples to help us conserve and restore B.C. salmon?

[Read more.](#)

Literacy in Kamloops

Fiona Clare Link coordinator presented a cheque for \$51,488 from Decoda Literacy Solutions Society. The organization matched local fundraising efforts to support literacy throughout the region. January is Family Literacy Month in Kamloops and **Clare** outlined the many events throughout the community to promote family literacy and to encourage all family members to Unplug and Play (January 26 to February 2). The 10th Annual Heap the Honda Children's Book Drive runs until January 26. [Read about more literacy events.](#)

PUBLIC INQUIRIES, PETITIONS AND WRITTEN PRESENTATIONS

BC Heritage Fairs Society

Mary Compone and **Karl deBruijn** recognized the school district for its long-standing support of Heritage Fairs provincially and nationally. Of the 13 regions in the province that participate in the program, SD73 remains sole school district supporting the initiative, the others are supported through local museums. The delegation will return and present a formal request for support at an upcoming board meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Kindergarten and Schools of Choice Registration

Neighborhood and Schools of Choice throughout the district will be registering kindergarten students.

- Schools of Choice registration begins January 28 and runs until February 1. The School of Choice Info session was January 16.
- Neighborhood Schools registration begins February 11. Kindergarten Roundup Information Night will be February 28 at the Henry Grube Education Centre.

Out-of-Province Field Trips

Sa-Hali Secondary

Twenty-one grade 9 to 11 students from **Sa-Hali Secondary** will participate in an exchange with students from Berlage Lyceum School in Amsterdam. The Dutch students will be in Kamloops from April 8 to 12 with SD73 students visiting Amsterdam September 23 to 27. The purpose of the exchange with Berlage Lyceum, also a UNESCO school, is to network internationally on issues pertaining to climate change, water use, sustainability and global citizenship.

NorKam Senior Secondary (Update)

The trip to Wales for 12 Biology 12 students that was approved by the board in June 2018 and scheduled for June 2019 is being postponed to June 2020. Once dates have been reset NorKam will seek re-approval from the board for the students to study marine biology and ecological field work at the Dale Fort Field Centre.

David Thompson and Westsyde Elementary Schools

The board approved proceeding with the consultation process to redraw the David Thompson Elementary catchment area and reopen Westsyde Elementary School for September 2019 as recommended in the Long-Range Facilities Plan. David Thompson is currently at 100% capacity and is one of the smallest schools in the district with 400 students. There are challenges to accommodate learning assistance spaces, interdisciplinary team meetings and for regular access to common areas such as the library and gymnasium in the school. Next steps include meeting with the parent community on January 30, 2019 at 7 pm, and apprising the current tenants of Westsyde Elementary of the impending changes.

CHAIR REPORT

Dugout Canoe Project

Nearly 100 people checked on the progress of a dugout canoe being carved at the Brocklehurst Middle School during one of the school's two Aboriginal dinners it hosts each year. As of the November 27, 2019 dinner the canoe was nearing completion.