

## OCTOBER 2024 SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

### COMMUNITY WIDE Updates

#### **Orange Shirt Day**

Thank you to all of our staff and students across the district for focussing on important awareness and learning toward Truth and Reconciliation on Orange Shirt Day. Across our district there were Orange Shirt marches, gatherings with community and food and other cultural events. The sea of orange on this day reminds us all that Every Child Matters and we have much work to do to reconcile this.

#### **Elementary Sports' Day**

A big shout out to the elementary sports' committee and the community volunteers for organizing a great Soccer Day across the district. We look forward to hearing about the future events!

#### **October is Foster Family Month**

The Provincial Director of Child Welfare reminded all of us that October is Foster Family Month in BC. I would like to recognize the importance of fostering caregivers and share gratitude for those families.

### STRATEGIC PLAN Updates

#### **Teaching Past the Cycle of Trauma**

Thank you to Dr Erika Chang who spent the Implementation Day on September 20th leading us through research and trauma informed practices to support our students. Twenty five of our staff members have signed up for Dr Chang's ongoing series this school year.

#### **Compassionate Systems Learning**

We will be hosting a two-day learning event, April 2nd to 4th, 2025, focussed on exploring the 'Compassionate Systems Leadership Framework.' In addition to school and district leaders, we will be extending invitations to community partners.

#### **Literacy Support**

Campbell River teacher, Christine Fraser, will be joining us from October 15th to 24th, 2024 to support our teachers in using the Fountas and Pinnell literacy assessment for students in grades 2 to 4. Teachers will be provided with TTOC coverage for the day so they can complete the assessments and spend some time looking at the results. Christine will be coming back to support further literacy planning in February and May.

#### **Literacy Inquiry Project**

We have started our year long inquiry project focused on writing strategies in the primary classroom with Lisa Thomas from the Provincial Outreach Program for the Early Years. Lisa will be back for another two visits this year.

#### **Early Learning Forum**

Planning has already begun for an Early Learning Forum on February 28, 2025. Thank you to Leighann Rodgers for her ongoing leadership with so many early learning and literacy opportunities across our district.

#### **Changing Possibilities for Young Learners**

Changing Possibilities for Young Learners is launching on October 18, 2024. Our district will be working with Randy Cranston throughout the school year to focus on social emotional well being in the classrooms.

**Surrey Book Club**

Five teachers have signed up for the literacy book clubs in partnership with the Surrey School District. Those will be getting started in November, 2024.

**Foundation Skills Assessments (FSA)**

It's almost time for our students in grades 4 and 7 to complete the FSAs. The administration window runs from Oct 1st to Nov 8th, 2024. These assessments include literacy and numeracy skills with three different "levels" of questioning. While these assessments are not appropriate instruments to determine a summative standing of a child's literacy or numeracy performance, they are critically important snapshots in time of how each individual student and groups of students across the province are developing. These assessments are used formatively to help drive our instruction forward with more precision. Thank you to the parents for understanding the importance of your child's participation and to the teachers for administering these assessments. I am impressed by the increasing participation rates in our district over time.

**SCHOOL DISTRICT MANAGEMENT Updates****1701 and 1601 Processes**

The 1701 and 1601 processes are the data collection and submission processes school districts use to report student enrolment and other important information to the Ministry of Education and Child Care. I'd like to thank all of those staff involved in completing this time consuming and detailed process for our district.

**FIPPA Training**

Privacy training and awareness helps employees identify personal information, understand their privacy obligations, and are an important part of breach prevention. Haida Gwaii School District employees with access to student or employee personal information are required to complete FIPPA training and the final test. Thank you in advance to everyone for completing this online training by November 30th, 2024.