

SCHOOL DISTRICT
#83 SCHOOLS

GRAD
EVENTS



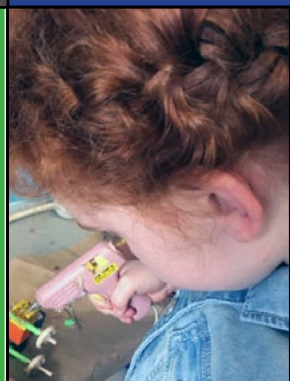
National
Skills
Canada
medalist

Dance
team
wins



Aboriginal
Education

Maker
Day fun!



June 21, 2017

STAYING CONNECTED

~ A message from Official Trustee Mike McKay ~

To North Okanagan-Shuswap School District Community Members:

As we approach the end of June, I know that this bulletin is arriving along with many other end of the school year communications. It is a busy time in our district and I want to acknowledge all of the efforts of staff and communities to work together on behalf of students and their learning. It is important to recognize the extra efforts going into making June extra special for learners – whether it is grad transitions, elementary school sports days, musical and dance performances, or presentations of culminating projects by groups of students.

Looking back over the year since I was appointed Official Trustee, we have dealt with several significant issues, processes and decisions in order to create well-aligned, sustainable and transparent governance and operational norms. Many areas were identified in the Special Advisor's Report made public last June. The 42 recommendations in that report have been a reference for senior staff and for me over the past 12 months and we have made significant progress in a number of areas. More work is planned over the summer and in the coming school year.

In addition, the district has addressed issues related to school organization/grade configuration, space challenges, program needs, transportation and other matters. In all of that work, we are guided by a clear understanding that each decision impacts available resources; therefore, our focus must remain on students and on maximizing available funds to provide programs and services that have a positive impact on the life chances of every youngster.

Year-end is a time to offer thanks and good wishes. First, I want to share my appreciation to members of the communities throughout the school district for your engagement in the processes over the past year and for the honest and thoughtful perspectives you shared with me on a number of topics. People everywhere are passionate about the quality of their education system and School District #83 is no exception. There were some difficult decisions over the past 12 months and I was grateful for the respectful dialogue we were able to have throughout the various consultations.

I also am thankful for the engagement and advice offered by members of the Partner Group Table. That group is made up of the District Parents' Advisory Council, and representatives from our local First Nations, students, employee groups, and district staff. Your

~ Continued ~

Exploring
Art



A.L.
Fortune
grad



Sandbag
to help
community



Students
sharing
learning

IAP
Canada
band wagon
tour



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authentic and thoughtful input throughout the year was most helpful. You represented your constituents well and collaborated deeply and you have helped to shape a positive and optimistic narrative as we move forward.

Finally, at year-end, we acknowledge and say a special thank you to members of the school district family who are leaving – either to retirement or to new adventures in our sector. In staff rooms and departments around the district, colleagues are bidding farewell and good wishes to colleagues who are moving on. I have worked closely with two of those people: Superintendent Glenn Borthistle and Director of Human Resources Kyle Cormier. Each of them has played a key role in the work we have done over the past year and I am grateful for their management and leadership efforts. Superintendent Borthistle had a chance to make some farewell comments at the June Board meeting and he spoke with passion and humility about his deep and long relationship with the school district.

New Superintendent/CEO Peter Jory will be moving to the school district in the summer ahead of his starting date of August 1. I look forward to working with Peter and with the senior team. Change always allows for opportunity to look with fresh eyes at system design, at issues, and at making sure that the road ahead is one that benefits students now and well into the future.

Best wishes to you and your families for a safe and happy summer.

Respectfully,

Mike McKay

Mike McKay, Official Trustee

Questions? Feedback? Please send me an email at trusteefeedback@sd83.bc.ca