

SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 83 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



Welcome to School . . .

Claire, Quinn and Sam are reminding you that it is time to head to school on Tuesday, September 4. This is a half day session with students dismissed, and buses returning home, three hours earlier than usual. As the new school year begins, Official Trustee Mike McKay, Superintendent of Schools Peter Jory and the entire staff of School District No. 83 (North Okanagan-Shuswap) wish to extend a warm welcome to students and parents!



Peter Jory
Superintendent/CEO



Carl Cooper
Assistant
Superintendent
(Instruction)

Ryan Brennan
Assistant
Superintendent
(Human Resources)



Introducing . . .



Carol-Ann Leidloff
Director of Instruction
(Student Learning)

Carol-Ann Leidloff, SD83's new Director of Instruction, is passionate about ensuring that all students have equal opportunities to experience success in school. Effectively meeting the diverse learning needs of all our students through an inclusive approach to learning is a priority for her and she looks forward to meeting the staff, students and parents of SD83.

Carol-Ann is passionate about student success, and has been actively involved in supporting Principals and Vice-Principals with their professional learning at both district and provincial levels throughout her career as a school leader. She is well-known throughout the province for her work on the BC Principals' and Vice Principals' Association Board of Directors, in addition to her contributions on many BCPVPA committees, some of which include the development of the Leadership Standards for B.C. Principals and Vice-Principals and Supervision For Learning committees.

She began her career in 1990 in Golden (SD6) working as both an intermediate classroom teacher and a teacher librarian. In 2000 she moved to the West Kootenays with her family, and continued her work as a classroom teacher for SD8 (Kootenay Lake). In 2003 she entered school leadership as the Principal of a K-10 rural school and has since been the Principal at both elementary and middle schools.

We have a Strategic Plan

The development and implementation of a District Strategic Plan is a key component in the District's commitment to improving the learning and working environment of students and staff, and a "lens" through which all district decisions will be made.

The strategic planning process, which was recommended by the Special Advisor, started in February 2017 with the support of the Public Consulting Group (PCG) consulting firm.

After much discussion with both staff and community, the School District No. 83 (North Okanagan-Shuswap) Strategic Plan focuses on three major goals, as well as strategies and ways of measuring whether we meet the goals. Work on various aspects of the Strategic Plan continues, with committees and working groups formed to tackle the strategies and measures for the goals. The Instructional Learning Team (which is in place to support educators in the areas of instructional practice and the renewed curriculum), communications, and the district wellness committee are examples. The complete Strategic Plan can be viewed on the district website at www.sd83.bc.ca.

Goal



Students First

Student success is our top priority every day

School District No. 83 believes, and research supports, that the most important factor in student learning and success is the belief and ability of teachers to support their students' learning.

Educational researchers such as John Hattie and others have long recognized that the most powerful way to impact student learning is to support teacher learning, and teachers' belief that they can make a difference for students.

With this in mind, budget decisions were made to provide support, learning opportunities, curriculum knowledge and resources for our district teachers in the form of a District Instructional Learning Team (ILT). This team of classroom teachers, provides curriculum support, co-teaching opportunities, resources, and insights to support our teachers so that they can support their students. This model has had great success in other districts in B.C. and will be one of the district's major drivers of new curriculum support and initiatives in our classrooms.

The district also continues to support a numeracy helping teacher program, which supports teachers in improving ways to teach the critical concepts in numeracy, and a district early literacy program, which provides increased and individual reading support to kindergarten and grade one students who are most in need of support.

This work is wrapped around the strong teaching going on in the classroom as well as some other supports and opportunities for our students, including:

- ✓ **Support for diverse and unique learners** - services to students with special learning needs in SD83 are based on the belief that all students can learn. It is understood that students with exceptionalities require differing degrees of support in order to participate in and benefit from their school program. The overarching goal for all students, with a dedicated focus for our students with exceptionalities, is to foster independence whenever possible. To allow students to do for themselves what they are able, empowers them to become competent and resilient community members. In SD83, our philosophy is based on the belief that all students should, whenever possible, receive their education in age-appropriate regular classrooms in their neighbourhood schools. School district staff, together with parents, work to determine the supports needed for successful inclusion.
- ✓ **Indigenous Education** - As well as providing direct service to students, SD83's Indigenous Education Department collaborates with Indigenous communities and Indigenous students and their families to strengthen Indigenous voice, presence and perspective in schools and classrooms across the district.
- ✓ **K-12 Music** - Research supports how critical music is to a child's development, and SD83 has music specialists which provide music instruction to all students in elementary school, and optional classes at the high school level.
- ✓ **Careers** - North Okanagan-Shuswap School District recognizes the need to provide students with meaningful, hands-on and engaging career explorations throughout their educational experience. For the younger students, we are offering Youth Discover Programs and at high school level Youth Explore Trades, Youth Train in Trades and Youth Work in Trades. More info at www.sd83.bc.ca/careers
- ✓ **French Immersion** - SD83 offers early (starting in kindergarten and grade one) French Immersion at Bastion Elementary and late Immersion (grade six) at Shuswap Middle School. Please contact Jared King at (250) 832-3741 for further information.
- ✓ **Early Learning** (0 to 5 years) - StrongStart programs for Early Learners, Early Years Fairs, Kindergarten Orientation, and Ready, Set, Learn events. For more info contact our Early Learning Co-ordinator Jen Findlay at (250) 833-2095 or visit our website at www.sd83.bc.ca.

Goal

2 Organizational Efficiency

Decisions and actions are clear, purposeful, and responsible

School District No. 83 believes its actions need to be consistent, ethical and transparent. Also, that resources are allocated responsibly, that there is student-centred thoughtful planning and decisions making along with clear communication about these decisions. Actions taken so far:

- ✓ **Improved** reporting to parents on student progress
- ✓ **Modernize** policies to reflect current operating standards
- ✓ **Communication**, Equity, Budget and other stakeholder committees providing regular input to district
- ✓ **Transparent** and inclusive budget process
- ✓ **New** school and district websites
- ✓ **Policy** in place to guide incoming Board of Education
- ✓ **Transportation** review



Goal

3 Culture of Health & Wellness

Students and staff are healthy, and connected to the learning community

School District No. 83 believes in supporting wellness in our students and staff.

Wellness is the foundational building block of learning and personal success in our schools. Within the school district's student achievement plan, the third goal has inspired many conversations at the classroom, school and community level with respect to enhancing student health and wellbeing.

The district's healthy schools coordinator, itinerant elementary counsellors, school counsellors and helper staff, in tandem with school based teams, have worked closely to support our vulnerable learners who often struggle with wellness. This important work has rippled throughout the district to develop a broader understanding of highlighting healthy eating, active living and positive social-emotional relationships for all students and staff.

A **major initiative** this year was the Wellness Centre, which opened at Salmon Arm Secondary. This is a school-based community collaboration which enhances health and wellness services to students. Since its opening this spring there has been an overwhelming response from students and overwhelming support from the community partners!

Funding for the medical equipment, Wellness Centre Coordinator and OPTIONS for Sexual Health has been provided by the Shuswap North Okanagan Division of Family Practice. The following community partners are also contributing to the Centre: CMHA – Shuswap Revelstoke, Interior Health Mental Health and Substance Use and Public Health, OPTIONS for Sexual Health, MCFD-CYMH, SAFE Society and SD83.

In 2018, School District No. 83 also developed a **wellness committee**

whose focus is on improving the mental wellbeing of staff and students. The first initiative of this committee will be to implement a **mental health literacy project** developed by Dr. Stan Kutcher (www.teenmentalhealth.org) whose mission is to provide School District 83 staff and students with a solid understanding of mental health and mental disorders, decrease the stigma of mental illness, and enhance help-seeking efficacy for staff and students.

To kick off this initiative, SD83, DPAC and Community partners will be hosting a screening of the movie "Angst: Raising awareness around anxiety". Angst features candid interviews with kids and young adults who suffer, or have suffered, from anxiety and what they've learned about it. The film includes discussions with mental health experts about the causes of anxiety and its sociological effects, as well as help, resources and tools.

NEW TO THE DISTRICT?

Welcome! Register at your neighbourhood school as soon as you can. Late registration is on **Tuesday, August 28, 2018**. If you are registering a middle or secondary school student please contact the school as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made for course timetabling.

If you aren't sure which school your children should attend, the school district operations department will be happy to help at (250) 832-9415 or you can check on our website (www.sd83.bc.ca) by clicking on the school bus and following the on-line instructions!

KINDERGARTEN

Parents of registered kindergarten students will be notified by their child's teacher about when he/she will begin classes as students start on a gradual basis. Please check with your neighbourhood school if you have any questions.

REGISTRATION FOR 2019

Do you have a child who will be starting kindergarten in September 2019?

Registration for kindergarten September 2019 will be on Tuesday, October 9, 2018 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at elementary schools throughout the district.

Registration for early and late French Immersion and the Outdoor Learning Program will also be held on this date.

EARLY LEARNING (0 TO 5 YEARS)

Please check the school district's website (www.sd83.bc.ca) or contact Jennifer Findlay, Early Learning Coordinator, at (250-833-2095) for information about early learning initiatives including: StrongStart; Ready, Set, Learn; Kindergarten Orientation & Transition; Early Learning Fairs; and more!

EMERGENCY CONTACT

If there is any type of emergency, the contact information on file with the school is how the school or district personnel will try to reach you. **Please** ensure this information is correct and up-to-date. In most circumstances you can do this yourself, anytime something changes, through Parent Connect <https://cimsweb.sd83.bc.ca/SchoolConnect/ParentSignone.aspx> or you can contact your child's school to update the information. Thanks!

PLANNING AHEAD?

A calendar will be coming home with your child once school starts, however here are some dates you may want to know.

The first non-instructional day is Monday, Sept. 17.

Christmas Vacation is Dec. 24 - Jan. 4 and Spring Break is March 18 - 29, 2019.

And, just in case you were wondering, the last day of school for students is Thursday, June 27, 2019.

New board to be elected in October

Do you want to be a school trustee and help lead and oversee our valuable investment in our children and public education?

A new five member board of trustees will be elected for School District No. 83 (North Okanagan-Shuswap) on October 20, 2018.

Nomination packages are now available and will be accepted from September 4th to 4 p.m. on September 14th.

Please email chief electoral officer Carrie Pratt at cpratt@sd83.bc.ca or deputy electoral officer Veronica Deacon at vdeacon@sd83.bc.ca for further information.

Support Available

North Okanagan-Shuswap School District offers many programs to support students. These services include:

- ✓ Distributed Learning (EOP)
- ✓ Education Assistants (EAs)
- ✓ Educational Support Workers (ESW)
- ✓ Elementary Itinerant Counselors
- ✓ English Language Learner Support
- ✓ Gifted Programming support
- ✓ Healthy Living Coach for Drug and Alcohol Challenges
- ✓ Healthy Schools Co-ordinator
- ✓ Hearing Resource Teacher
- ✓ Instructional Support Program
- ✓ Learning Resource Teachers (school-based)
- ✓ OT/Physiotherapy
- ✓ Teacher of Visually Impaired
- ✓ Self Regulation Co-ordinator
- ✓ School Psychologists
- ✓ Speech/Language Pathologists

Online learning

The North Okanagan Shuswap is proud to offer a Distributed Learning program option for students in Grades 9 through 12.

Please check out the offerings at the EOP website at <https://eop.sd83.bc.ca>

School Bus Riders . . .

Watch for this important postcard in your mailbox in late August!

Animal name of bus

Step Location

Student's morning route number

Time bus leaves stop location

Student's afternoon route number

Time of drop off at stop

If there is an address in this field student is required to transfer buses at this location in AM

If there is an address in this field student is required to transfer buses at this location in PM

The Board of Education of School District 83
P.O. Box 100
Salmon Arm B.C. V1E 4K2
(250) 832-9415
www.sd83.bc.ca

Check your bus stop location
This major change in bus stop information for the 2017/2018 school year. We ask that you please advise your child to be at the assigned bus stop 5 minutes prior to the scheduled time.

AM Bus Stop: 21111111
PM Bus Stop: 21111111
WATERSHED BOUNDARY (SALMON RD)

TO THE PARENTS/GUARDIAN OF STUDENT
Address: _____

If your child is an eligible bus student, and you haven't received a card by late August, please call out transportation department at (250) 832-9415 to register for the bus!



M.V. Beattie students took part in an Outdoor Awesome, an all day outdoor learning event put on by school district and community outdoor experts

Outdoor learning is growing

Outdoor Learning continues to grow in our school district with an ever increasing numbers of teachers embracing this inquiry-based and experiential way of learning, embracing the academic and health benefits of time spent outdoors as well as shaping a new generation of citizens that are ecologically aware.

A highlight of the year was the approval and registration for the new Outdoor Learning Program at South Canoe School. This K-6 program begins in September. Widespread community and district support for the value of this type of learning helped move the program forward. Students will spend a majority of their school hours in nature, learning the same ministry-mandated curriculum through inquiry-based and experiential learning styles.

Here are just a few of the activities that took place in SD83 schools:

- ✓ **Outdoor Awesome** - This whole day event in the outdoors were offered to two more schools this year, facilitated by teachers and outdoor specialists in the community. The whole of Falkland Elementary and the intermediate classes from M.V. Beattie each enjoyed a day in a nearby forest, investigating skulls, playing sensory games, doing nature-inspired writing, and building shelters.
- ✓ **180 children from four schools** participated in field studies and planting at the hummocks along the Salmon Arm Bay foreshore. This multi-year community collaboration project helped restore and diversify habitat along the foreshore trail and was sponsored by the Salmon Arm Bay Nature Enhance-

ment Society and the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation.

- ✓ **The new Grade 10 E.C.O.** program kicked off in January at the Jackson campus. Students collaborated with numerous community organizations to learn more about the interconnectedness of earth's systems. Hiking, mountain biking and skiing were some of their modes of transportation – learning in motion!
- ✓ **Six Outdoor Learning-focused** professional days were offered to teachers this school year exploring themes such as writing, phenology and entomology. This included a well-received pro-d series on Outdoor Learning where a group of 15 primary teachers gathered in the Fall, Winter, and Spring to deepen their knowledge and share their experiences. Instructional leadership teacher Emily Styles partnered with Indigenous helping teacher, Mishel Quaal to offer participants a framework that incorporated Outdoor Learning with Indigenous perspectives and practices throughout the series.
- ✓ **As one of many outdoor programs** at Hillcrest, Grade Two teachers organized a full-day of cultural immersion and celebration at Splat-sin Center and the Shihiya Outdoor Classroom. Elders and community members from Splat-sin and Neskonlith teamed up with district staff to share stories, games, dancing, crafts, and food with the students.
- ✓ **Armstrong Elementary School** culminated a three-year program as a "Wild School" with a huge celebration of outdoor learning delivered by 40 adults for 270 children! Over these 3 years, staff participat-

- ed in several workshops including: Project Wild, Project Wet, Project Learning Tree, Get Out Doors, and Below Zero. They took the children on numerous field studies to a variety of locations with the help of Go Grant funding from the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation. A tremendous amount of equipment was purchased and organized to help with outdoor learning. All of this was working toward their school goal to "provide more opportunities for students to learn outside". An outdoor classroom and an additional outdoor study area was developed in the Adventure Playground and is being very well used.
- ✓ **Sorrento Elementary** participated in the launching of an initiative to get more B.C. schools using B.C. Parks as outdoor study areas. Two classes from this school engaged in field studies at Roderick Haig Brown Park recently re-named Tsútswe-cw Provincial Park. They planted trees on decommissioned trails, played outdoor games, studied first peoples, and went on an interpretive walk with Park Rangers. Sorrento Elementary will be participating in the Wild School Program next school year.
- ✓ **Bastion Elementary** built an outdoor classroom in their school's forest to further support learning throughout the seasons. This was funded by the Shuswap Community Foundation and the PAC.
- ✓ **1,113 students** have or will benefit from the proceeds from Jim Cooperman's book, 'Everything Shuswap', which raised \$8,845 to support classes visiting various outdoor locations in and around our watershed.