



Volume 2025/26-6

February 2026

Principal: Ms. Eleanor Giesbrecht

Admin. Assistant: Mrs. Heather Paulson

Decker Lake Elementary School

Office Hours: 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM & 1:15 PM to 3 PM

Phone: 250-698-7301 Fax: 250-698-7349

Principal's Message

Dear Husky Families,

It is hard to believe that we are over halfway through our school year together. February is shaping up to be a very busy month here at DLES.

Kindergarten registration is open. If you live in our catchment area and you have a child starting school in September 2026, please come into our school office to register.

As a school community, we have been focusing on random acts of kindness this month. Staff have been sending hearts to the office with the names of children who have shown kindness to others. At the end of the month, we will draw several of these names from a basket and award prizes for kindness.

February 12th is our 100th Day of school. **HUSKIES** will be 100 days more **Honest, Unique, Successful, Kind, Inclusive, Encouraging and Supportive!** Hooray for 100's Day!

We are looking forward to the Green Thumb Theatre performing for us on Friday, February 13th. They will be presenting a play called *500 Words*.

Wednesday, February 25th is Pink Shirt Day (anti-bullying day). This is a day to celebrate kindness, caring and inclusion... the very things we celebrate every day at DLES.

February 26 and February 27 are *Share the Love Days* throughout School District # 91. On the morning of February 26th, all students will gather and listen to a presentation by Mischa Oak. Here is Mischa's message: *Joy in Difference: Being different and appreciating other people's differences is a joy, and it's important to celebrate and accept each other's differences across all ages. Instead of looking at others who are different from us as a problem, we can all look to each other for inspiration and for how to see the best in ourselves. Everyone's identity is different. Some things we will have in common with others, and others we won't. Differences exist in how we look, our families, what we can and cannot do, the stories of how we came to be here, and where we will all go in life. Our job in life is not to judge others, but to see the best in others. Everyone has dreams in life, and our job is to support people's dreams, be each other's cheerleaders, and not stand in their way. When you are a cheerleader for others, they will be cheerleaders for you too, and then we can all reach our full potential together and make the future of our dreams possible.* Feel free to check Mischa out at [https:// mischaoak.com/](https://mischaoak.com/).

Our school will be hosting a Science Fair on Friday, February 27th. Judging will take place in the morning. Parents and community members are welcome to come view projects in the afternoon from 1:00-2:00.

With much gratitude,

Ms. Giesbrecht

Principal - DLES

DLES Shares with Parents...

Mark your Calendar

February

- 4 Global School Play Day
- 6 **Pro-D— No School**
- 13 Green Thumb Theatre
- 14 Valentines Day 
- 16 **Family Day—No School**
- 17 PAC Meeting 6-7 pm
- 25 Pink Shirt Day 
- 26 & 27 Share the Love Days  
- 27 Crazy Hair Day 
- 28 Science Fair 

March

- 5 Learning Updates go home
- 10 Lockdown Drill
- 11 Talk about Learning Event & **Early Dismissal**
- 12 Ski Fest @ Omineca
- 13 Indoor Sports Meet
- 16-27 **Spring Break-No School**

No School

**Friday,
February 6, 2026
Pro-D Day**

No School

**Monday,
February 16, 2026
Family Day**

No School

March 16—27, 2026

SPRING BREAK!

Hello February

Let my cup overflow with



Love.
Hope.
Peace.
Kindness.
Success.
Positivity.
Gratitude.
Abundance.



Global School Play Day

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

Huskies participated in Global Play Day on Wednesday, February 4th. Global Play Day was initiated to remind us that unstructured, unplanned play is not only fun, but an important part of every child's development. Huskies enjoyed a day of choosing their own activities while building social skills, critical and creative thinking skills, and communication skills.



Miss England had her class write directions for making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. She then read the directions aloud as she followed the directions they had written. The class enjoyed watching but were

quickly reminded that directions should be clear otherwise you could be smearing your peanut butter onto the bag of bread!



Expanding Youth

This program includes a variety of crafts, seasonal outdoor activities, collaborating in cultural activities, learning opportunities, and occasional out of town excursions.

Ages 12-18
Every Friday
4 - 6 pm
686 McPhail Drive
Burns Lake

To register, email:
 Cindy Robinson, crobinson@csfs.org
 Aly Nickolichuk, anickolichuk@csfs.org
 or stop in at Foundry Burns Lake



Igniting Youth

This program includes a variety of crafts, seasonal outdoor activities, collaborating in cultural activities, learning opportunities, and occasional out of town excursions.

Ages 8-12
Every Tuesday
4 - 6 pm
686 McPhail Drive
Burns Lake

To register, email:
 Cindy Robinson, crobinson@csfs.org
 Aly Nickolichuk, anickolichuk@csfs.org
 or stop in at Foundry Burns Lake



Whu Neh Nee (Wise Ones) Study Group

Tutoring, tools for success

Open to High School Students

Every Thursday
Starting December 4, 2025

3:30pm - 5:00pm

Foundry Burns Lake
 686 McPhail Road
 Burns Lake

To register contact Tania:
 (250) 251-7012 or email
tcunningham@csfs.org



Cultural Night

Learn basic beading and sewing while sharing cultural knowledge and traditions. Light snacks are provided.

8-18 years old

Every Wednesday
3:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Foundry Building
686 McPhail Dr
Burns Lake, BC

To register, contact:
 Gloria Gerow,
ggerow@csfs.org
bl_ys@csfs.org



Board Biz...



Superintendent's Report to the Board

Superintendent Anita McClinton presented her [Monthly Report](#) at the Regular School Board Meeting on Monday, January 19, 2026.

You may find it under the Latest News heading at www.sd91.bc.ca or on our [Board of Education Updates](#) page.



Proposed Policy Update

The following draft policy is currently open for public feedback **until 4:30 p.m. on Friday, February 13, 2026.**

[Policy 101.1.1 – Trustee Elections – Bylaw](#)

Members of the public are welcome to review all the information, including how to provide feedback, on the [SD91 Policies and Regulations webpage](#).



School Board Meeting
Monday, February 23, 2026
6:30 pm

School Board Office
Vanderhoof, BC

Important Public Attendance Notice:

Members of the public are invited to attend Regular Meetings of the Board of Education.

Due to limited space and seating availability, please request your seat in advance if you wish to attend in person.

Alternatively, members of the public may attend this meeting virtually through Microsoft Teams. To take advantage of this online attendance option, please visit www.sd91.bc.ca/meeting-information for the Teams link.

To view the meeting agenda, please visit www.sd91.bc.ca/board-agendas-and-minutes.

Contact:
 Heather Silver
 Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
 250-567-2284 ext. 9003
hsilver@sd91.bc.ca



Feeding Futures – Nechako Lakes: January Update

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Happy New Year!

The year 2025 was exciting for school food programs throughout the country. While programs are still young in development, it is inspiring to hear about food programs in each school district. Each one has unique challenges and opportunities. The news of the *National School Food Program* becoming permanent led to meetings with stakeholders from coast to coast to learn, collaborate and plan for the future of school food in Canada.

Following the news, and stories of 2025, the year 2026 brings excitement for the longevity of school food programs. Locally, the school districts along Highway 16 have been collaborating since the beginning of *Feeding Futures*. The collaborative work has led to key initiatives for the upcoming year to enhance school food programs throughout the Highway 16 corridor:

- The Ministry of Education and Child Care has awarded a procurement grant. The funds from this grant will be used to determine the resources, opportunities and needs to develop a feasible food distribution route which benefits and connects the Highway 16 school districts, including Haida Gwaii.
- The Public Health Association of BC (PHABC), Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction and the Ministry of Agriculture have each awarded grants to plan a networking event, which is taking place in April. This event is being planned with Farm2School BC. It will bring stakeholders of the Northern B.C Food System together to create new connections and potential distribution pathways for our regionally produced/processed products.



These initiatives will positively impact the food programs within the Nechako Lakes school district.

In Focus - Feeding Futures Guiding Principle

Feeding Futures has five guiding principles. Each newsletter will focus on one. The focus this time is:

"Flexible, adaptable and respectful of local contexts."

This guiding principle acknowledges the uniqueness of each school district and each school. Food programs at each school do vary as a result.

- Grassy Plains and Francois Lake schools have access to groceries via a partnership with *The Link*, which delivers items from the *Fresh for Kids* program every Monday.
- All other schools have access to food through a pre-existing distribution route using Shopper's Wholesale. This supplier was used by some schools prior to *Feeding Futures*, and expanded as it was able to service all the schools.
- Schools like Evelyn Dickson, Grassy Plains, William Konkin and Decker Lake offer lunch in collaboration with the PAC. Programs may be daily, weekly or bi-weekly.
- Francois Lake, Mapes and David Hoy offer food items through a central, accessible fridge, which can have an assortment of items.
- Decker Lake and William Konkin elementary schools have a daily sign-up for lunches.
 - WL McLeod, Sinkut View, Evelyn Dickson, and Fraser Lake Elementary-Secondary School and Babine Elementary-Secondary School offer a pre-ordered, paid and plated lunch.
 - Lakes District Secondary, Nechako Lakes Secondary and Fort St James Secondary offer a concession with a daily lunch entrée and selection of sides usually including a fruit and vegetable.
- Mouse Mountain offers a daily salad bar.



Other items

Schools are always looking for new recipes and meal ideas. If you have one, please share. Recipes of interest include: pasta dishes, stir-fries, and vegetarian options.

Kind regards,

Robyn Turner-Klopper, RD

Food Programs Manager, School District 91 – Nechako Lakes



DLES PAC would love for you to look us up & join us on Facebook!

"Decker Lake Elementary School Parent Group"



PAC Meeting

Monday,

February 17, 2026

6:00 pm— 7:00 pm

In the DLES Library



Instagram

Decker Lake Elementary

is on Instagram!!!

Our new Instagram account is:

dles_huskies

Our Instagram account is

private.

Followers will need to be

given access to join.

100th Day of School!!!

February 12, 2026

HUSKIES will be 100 days more:

Honest

Unique

Successful

Kind

Inclusive

Encouraging and

Supportive!

Hooray for 100's Day!

**Pink
Shirt
Day!!!**

**Wednesday,
February 25,
2026**



NECHAKO LAKES SCHOOL DISTRICT

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION SEPT 2026



****NEW DATE for 2026****

Registration Opens:

February 2nd

Registrations accepted for children born in 2021

Parents/Caregivers can register at their local catchment school office

QUESTIONS:
CONTACT YOUR LOCAL SCHOOL OFFICE



Houston requested that we share this fundraiser for their safe grad!! Looks like it could be a fun Family Day activity!!

HOUSTON SECONDARY SCHOOL SAFE GRAD FUNDRAISER

FAMILY DAY FEB 16, 2026

HOUSTON SECONDARY SCHOOL GYM, PRESENTED BY:

LEAPS & BOUNCE

11AM-2PM - 11YRS & UNDER

Kids aged 5yrs & under must be accompanied by an adult

\$10

Admission



Concession Items

- Hot Dogs \$3
- Treat Bags \$3
- Popcorn \$2
- Pop/water \$2



3PM-7PM - 12YRS TO ADULT

Got a beef to square up? Take it out in the ring and challenge your friends!



Parents MUST sign the liability waiver and provide contacts for emergency purposes.

www.Jeepsandbounce.ca or find us on Facebook Leaps and Bounce

100% OF ALL PROFITS GO TO 2026 SAFE GRAD

Out-of-Catchment Applications

Will be accepted

March 9– May 15, 2026

If your child has already been approved in the past for out-of-catchment with DLES, that student is already approved and you will not need to submit again.

Grades 4-7

Science Fair

Friday,

February 27, 2026

1 pm – 2 pm

Everyone is welcome to come admire the hard work our Grades 4-7 students have put in for our Science Fair!





BUSES CANCELED PROTOCOL AT DLES

When the buses are cancelled in the morning, they do not run in the afternoon. This is a SD91 protocol.

Please follow the instructions listed below when you arrive at DLES at 2:47 pm to pick up your child:

1. Park in the parent parking lot (do not park in the staff parking lot or in the emergency lanes at the front of the school).
2. Exit your vehicle and check in with the supervisor on duty who will be standing near the crosswalk.
3. Give the supervisor your name and let them know who you will be picking up.
4. The supervisor will radio another supervisor at the front of the school who will let your child know you are here. Students will be held up by the school door until the supervisor radios.
5. Wait for your child to come to you.

Thank you for your patience during this process. We need to ensure that your children are safe and that things are carried out in an orderly fashion.



SOGI

Myths vs Facts

Myth: Are schools teaching or encouraging kids to identify as transgender or become homosexual?

FACT: SD91 is not "teaching" 2SLGBTQIA+ topics, nor are we "encouraging" (or discouraging), or "glorifying" sexual orientations or gender identities. The intent is to have everyone feel as though they are reflected in the curriculum and school life. Teachers are NOT directing students to develop a particular set of beliefs but are rather building an understanding that we can treat people with respect regardless of our differences.

Myth: Teachers are disrespecting parents rights and religious freedoms.

FACT: We respect a parents rights to establish their own family values. However, it is the responsibility and role of public education to be inclusive and reflective of all members of the society we serve.

Myth: SOGI123 is a curriculum that promotes specific sexual orientations or gender identities

FACT: SOGI123 is a resource, not a curriculum. It helps educators ensure that ALL students, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, feel safe and respected.

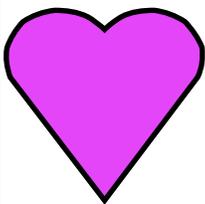
Myth: SOGI123 undermines parental rights and harms children.

FACT: Research consistently shows that schools adopting SOGI-inclusive practices reduce bullying, improve mental health outcomes, and foster a safer environment for all students.

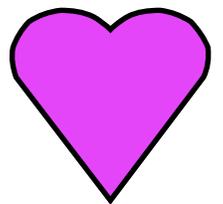
Sources:

Chan, Alex Siu Wing, et al. "Diversity and Inclusion: Impacts on Psychological Wellbeing Among Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Communities." *Frontiers in Psychology*, vol. 13, Apr. 2022,

Educator Perspectives on the Implementation and Impact of SOGI 123 in British Columbia Schools | Stigma and Resilience Among Vulnerable Youth Centre (SARAVYC). 22 Aug. 2023,



Share The Love Days!!!



Thursday & Friday,

February 26 & 27, 2026

Thank you to our maintenance department for keeping our grounds safe and our walkways cleared.

We appreciate you!



Are you a parent or caregiver in B.C. with a dependent child? You could save up to \$1,250/month on child care!

The Affordable Child Care Benefit helps families reduce the cost of licensed or registered child care.

Benefit amounts are based on:

- Your family income
- Your family size
- Your type of care arrangement

Use the Affordable Child Care Benefit Estimator to see how much funding you may be eligible to receive by visiting gov.bc.ca/ChildCareBenefit

Contact us

Child Care Service Centre

Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m – 4:30 p.m PT

Toll-free

1-888-338-6622 (option 1)

Fax

1-877-544-0699

Mail

PO Box 9953 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9R3

More info



gov.bc.ca/ChildCareBenefit

Affordable Child Care Benefit

Helping families with the cost of child care

The Affordable Child Care Benefit is a monthly payment from the Government of B.C. that helps eligible families with the cost of child care. The amount you receive depends on your family's income, size, and the type of care your child receives.



Step 1

Eligibility

You might be eligible if:

- You are a resident of British Columbia
- You are a Canadian citizen, permanent resident of Canada, Convention refugee or a person in need of protection
- Your child attends an eligible type of child care
- You meet the income requirements, generally earning less than \$111,000
- You (and your spouse) have a qualifying reason for requiring child care:
 - Working or self-employed
 - Attending school
 - Participating in an employment program
 - Looking for work (only one parent or guardian)
 - Living with a medical condition that interferes with your ability to care for your child
 - Your child is attending a licensed preschool program
 - Your child care is arranged or recommended by a Ministry of Children and Family Development or Indigenous Child and Family Services Agency social worker
 - Your child care is arranged or recommended by a staff member authorized by an Indigenous authority to provide child and family services under Indigenous law

Step 2

Gather required documents

- Apply for funding before the end of the month in which you need child care. For example, for child care starting September 1, apply by September 30
- A copy of one piece of government-issued identification is required for each family member
- If you have a spouse, they must complete portions of the application too
- Your child care provider needs to fill in and sign the child care arrangement form
- Once you start, you will have 60 days to submit your application and supporting documents
- You may be asked to provide supporting documentation to support your reason for requiring child care

Step 3

Submit the application

Families can apply:

- Online through MyFamilyServices.gov.bc.ca
- By mail or fax - download and complete the form, then submit it

Step 4



Wait for approval and confirmation

Step 5

Benefit applied to child care fees

If approved:

- Your child care provider will submit monthly claim forms
- Families pay any remaining balance after the benefit is applied

Step 6

Renewal and updates



Benefits must be renewed upon expiry, usually every **12 months**

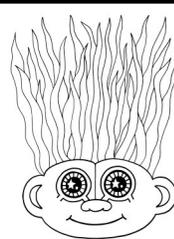
Important!

- Keep your contact information up to date and immediately report any changes that could affect your eligibility
- Not reporting changes could mean losing your monthly benefit or having to pay back money. Report all changes to basic information, income, or child care arrangements

Affordable Child Care Benefit

Crazy Hair Day!!!

Friday,
February 27, 2026



Mrs. Watts was injured during skiing last week but found an easy way to travel through the school thanks to the Grade 2/3 class who took very good care of her!!!



Thank you, Mrs. Reed and Anthony, for making us hot lunch last Wednesday. We appreciate you.!!!



Thank you to our DLES PAC for the yummy hot chocolate on World Ski/ Snow Day!!!



Student Learning Survey 2025/2026

The Provincial Student Learning Survey is unique in its scope, size and usefulness to schools. It gathers information from parents/guardians/caregivers, teachers, and students on topics related to school environment, safety, and achievement. The information is used for planning in individual schools and provides a district and provincial perspective.

Early in 2026 the Student Learning Survey will be administered to students in grades _____, their parents/guardians/caregivers, and all school staff. We encourage parents/guardians/caregivers to participate in this survey, as the results are important in identifying and celebrating current strengths, as well as determining where the school needs to focus improvement. The surveys contain standard questions for the Province – in addition, questions from the school and/or district that focus on local conditions or issues may be included.

The survey can be completed electronically and can be accessed on the Internet at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/support/student-learning-survey>. Any computer or mobile device with an Internet connection can be used, and access to the e-survey is simple and secure. The survey can be accessed through the link and by clicking on Take the Survey. On the login page, click on the Parents icon, and then select the school district and school name where your child attends school. Provincial, District and School Reports for previous years can be viewed at the same site under the *Results* section.

The e-survey site will be open until May 1, 2026.

If you have any questions, please contact the school at 250-698-7301