



Volume 2026/27-1

September 16, 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 3:15 PM

Phone: 250-698-7301 Email: deckerlake@sd91.bc.ca

Principal's Message

Dear Husky Families,

Welcome Back! We are so happy you are here! If you are new to our school... we hope you feel welcome and we look forward to getting to know you!

This year we welcome three new staff members to our team... Mrs. Goyal, Ms. Singh and Ms. Nicholas. Ms. Singh and Mrs. Goyal are both new to the area and we are delighted to have them here at DLES. Ms. Nicholas has moved from Francois Lake Elementary to teach here at DLES, and we are thrilled to have her as well. Welcome back Mrs. Shelford – Schneider ... we missed you! Welcome back Mr. Williams. Mr. Williams is returning after completing his teacher certification ~ congratulations, Mr. Williams!

The exterior of our building was painted over the summer, and we think it looks wonderful... we hope you do, too. Our summer custodial team cleaned so well over the summer that the inside of our beautiful building sparkles!

We are looking forward to a wonderful year ahead full of learning, kindness, friendship and inclusion.

With much gratitude and respect,

Ms. Giesbrecht
Principal - DLES

Supervision & Student Drop-off

Supervision starts when the first bus arrives in the morning at 8:16 AM. Please **do not drop children off before then**. If someone new is dropping your child off, please let them know the drop off time so that they do not drop your child off too early. If there is a field trip throughout the year and one of your children is on an early field trip, please do not drop other children off at the same time. If you are picking up your child at the end of the day, please do so by 3:15 PM. After school supervision is for bus students only. If you are picking up your child after school and letting them play, please remember they are your responsibility.

DLES Shares with Parents...

Mark your Calendar

September

- 21 PAC Meeting 6 pm
- 22 Fire Drill
- 22 Terry Fox Run 1:30 pm-2 pm
- 22 Open House 5 pm—6 pm
- 23 School photo day 📷 😊
- 25 District Planning Day—**No School**
- 29 Orange Shirt Day (at school) 🧡
- 30 National Day of Truth and Reconciliation—**No School**

October

- 2 Custodian Staff Appreciation Day
- 5 World Teacher Day
- 12 Thanksgiving—**No School**
- 21 Talk About Learning Time (Parent/Teacher Interviews)
Early dismissal 11:47 am
- 23 Pro-D Day—**No School**
- 31 Hallowe'en 🎃

No School

**Friday, September 25, 2026
for District Planning Day**

No School

**Tuesday, September 30, 2026
National Day for Truth &
Reconciliation**

No School

**Monday, October 12, 2026
for Thanksgiving**

No School

**Friday, October 23, 2026
for Provincial Pro-D**



Friday,

**September 29, 2026
Orange Shirt Day**

**Wear orange in support of
Truth & Reconciliation**





Orange Shirt Day

Huskies are encouraged to wear **orange** on September 29th to honour residential school survivors, and to remember the children who never made it home.

Thank You Shep Konkin!!!

*You did an amazing job
over the summer keep-
ing our flowers watered.
You did a great job!!!*



Student Verification Forms!!!

Verification forms will be sent home this week with every child at Decker Lake Elementary. Please make any changes, such as phone numbers, address, emergency contacts, custody, court orders, or alerts, etc., directly on the form, sign the bottom of back page for each child, and send it back to the school as soon as possible. We need a signed form for every child. Please ensure information is correct for each child. To ensure DLES protects your child properly, please ensure you send a copy of any court orders or other legal documents to the school.

Decker Lake Elementary Staff 2026-2027

Ms. Eleanor Giesbrecht—Principal/ Gr. 2-3 Teacher
Mrs. Heather Paulson—Administrative Assistant
Mrs. Wendy Shelford-Schneider— Gr. K-1 Teacher
Mrs. Beckie Watts— Gr. 2-3 Teacher
Ms. Samreen Singh— Gr. 4-5
Ms. Molly Nicholas— Gr. 6-7
Mrs. Shawnese Trotter—Teacher Librarian
Mrs. Sunidhi Goyal—Inclusive Education/Resource/
Prep Relief Teacher
Mr. Jordan Williams—Indigenous Education Teacher
Mrs. Cathy Blair—PAA/ Noon Supervision/ Bus Supervision
Mrs. Jacqui Ahlbrand—Indigenous Education
Advocate
Mrs. Karen Stevenson—PAA/ Lunch Supervision/
Meal Program Worker
Ms. Suzie Menzel—PAA/ LSW/ Early Intervention Worker
Mrs. Crystal Burleson—Custodian
Mr. Raymond Apinado—Custodian
Mr. Trevor Moyah—District Counsellor
Ms. Maddy Catford—District Speech & Language Pathologist
Ms. Sandy Haskett—District Occupational Therapist

Counselling Corner

Trevor Moyah is our SD#91 district counsellor and will be working in our school this year. Trevor will be at DLES on Monday and Friday mornings.

Trevor will be working alongside staff and students in the school in a variety of ways. These may include helping to facilitate programs in the classroom, working with small groups on topics such as dealing with anxiety or building healthy relationships, as well as individual counselling.

If you have any questions or concerns or would like your child to be able to access support through our school counsellors, please contact Eleanor Giesbrecht at 250-698-7301.

In addition, if you are looking for longer-term individual support for your child, please contact:

Carrier Sekani Family Services
Phone: 250-692-2387 (Burns Lake)

The SD#91 Counselling Team also has a website with resources for students and their families available at <https://nechakowellness.wixsite.com/sd-91-counselling>



Decker Lake Elementary

is on Instagram!!!

Our Instagram account is:

dles_huskies

Our Instagram account is private.

Followers will need to be given
access to join.

**OUR SCHOOL IS HOSTING AN
OPEN HOUSE!!!**

Tuesday September 22, 2026

5 pm—6 pm

It is a time for families to visit our
school, meet their child's teacher and
tour our beautiful building and property

Bus Changes

Bus books are completed in the
office by 2 PM. If you must change
your child's end of the day bus
routine, please phone the school
office by **2 pm** and we will **try** to
accommodate the change. If you
phone after 2 pm, there is **no**
guarantee the change will be made.

Parent reminder!

Only school related
items can be
brought to school.
Knives, lighters, nail
clippers, etc., **MUST**
stay home.

Nut & Banana Aware!!

We have no known nut allergies at
our school, but we do have children
who are allergic to bananas in our K/1
& grade 2/3 class. Please make your
child aware when you are packing
their lunch, if a banana product is in-
cluded, remind them to wash their
hands after eating the item. It is es-
sential that we do our best to keep
our children with food allergies as
safe as possible!

Talk About Learning

Wednesday, October 21, 2026

Please call the school office at 250-698-7301 to book an
appointment with your child's teacher.

Appointments are available from 2 pm—6 pm

Volunteering @ DLES

If you are planning to be a volunteer at our school in any way
(coaching, field trips), you will require a **Criminal Record Check**.

Please drop by our school office for more information.



School Picture Day!!

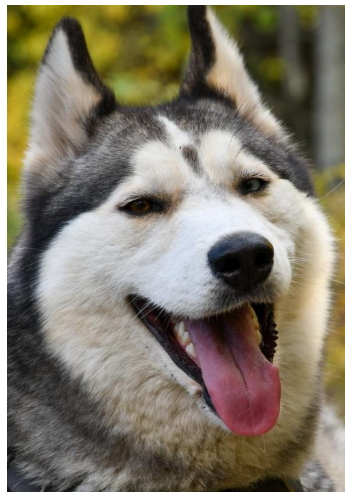


School pictures are scheduled for
September 23rd starting at 9 AM for
K-7 Huskies.

Preschool pictures will start at 8:45 AM.

Scent Sensitive!!

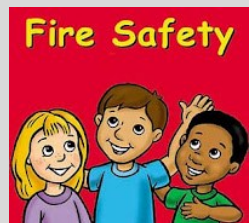
DLES is a scent sensitive environment. Please be aware that
many items such as perfumes, colognes, and essential oils may
result in strong reactions for some of our Huskies and staff
members who have scent sensitivities or allergies. Please help by
ensuring that scented products stay at home and don't come to
school.



First Fire Drill

We will have our first fire drill on
September 22nd. During this drill
Huskies will practice how to safely
exit the building in case of a fire.

We will have emergency drills
once a month
throughout the
school year.



PAC Post...

Decker Lake Elementary Parent Advisory Committee

The DLES PAC will hold their first PAC meeting in our school
library on

Monday, September 21st from 6-7 PM.

PAC meetings will be held on the third Monday of the month
this year with a few exceptions. Meeting dates will be
included in monthly newsletters.

New Office Hours!!!

8:30 AM - 12:00 PM and 1:15 PM - 3:15 PM.



SPRIT NORTH OVERVIEW



WHO WE ARE

Spirit North is a national charitable organization that collaborates with Indigenous communities to provide land-based sport and play activities. Our shared vision is to improve the health and well-being of Indigenous youth, empowering them to become unstoppable in sport, school, and life.

REGIONAL COORDINATOR

Contact: **Rachelle van Zanten**

✉ rachelle@spiritnorthxc.ca

☎ 250-692-0642

📍 Burns Lake, BC

🌐 spiritnorthxc.ca

SEASONAL PROGRAMS

We provide seasonally-appropriate programming that brings children and youth outside to learn, play, and have fun!

Following are some seasonal program examples:

- **Fall:** Scavenger hunts, shelter building, plant identification, fire building, soccer, lacrosse, baseball, on-school-property trail building and maintenance, biking, archery.
- **Winter:** Cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, snow games, winter shelter building, fire building, scavenger hunts, archery.
- **Spring:** Trail hiking and running, shelter building, fire building, trail building, baseball, biking.
- **Summer:** Mountain biking, canoeing, soccer, baseball, lacrosse, shelter building, plant and tree identification.

CO-CREATION

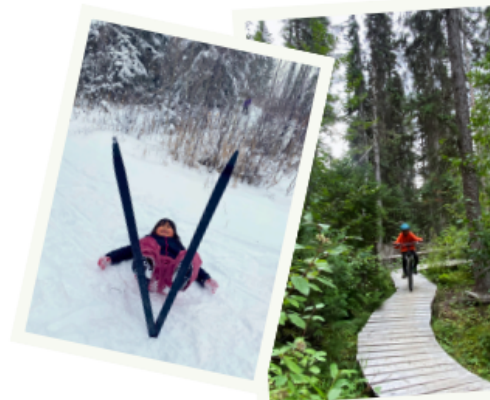
Our coaches are certified to teach the sports we bring to the schools. To ensure we are providing the most relevant programming possible, we host co-creation sessions with community members, teachers, and students in order to listen and work together to build programs that reflects your unique values and needs.

INSURANCE

Spirit North carries \$10,000,000 of Commercial General Liability insurance with Lloyds of London.

All sports and activities offered in Spirit North programs are listed specifically in the insurance policy.

If a school requires to be listed as a named insured on the Spirit North policy, please contact us.



OUR SHARED VISION

We are using the power of sport to support social change through access to opportunities that inspire and uplift, today and tomorrow.

We believe sport has the potential to create formative change in lives by improving participants' mental and physical well-being. In partnership with communities, we remove barriers so that all Indigenous youth can participate.

Along the way, new skills and life lessons are gained as are positive connections with themselves, school, their communities and the land.

The result: happier, healthier youth participating in a more fair, equitable and just society.

PROGRAM COSTS

Spirit North covers the cost of the Community Program Leaders who run and facilitate the programs. We have a small budget for snacks and program supplies. We have funding to assist in securing programming equipment and materials with program sustainability at front of mind.

School or communities would be required to cover the costs of extra snacks, bulk purchasing equipment, and transportation. Spirit North's team is here to help estimate the costs, and the equipment would be delivered within the next season of running programs. We will be with you every step of the way!

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO
BEING OUT ON THE LAND
WITH YOU SOON!**

**APPLY FOR SPIRIT NORTH
PROGRAMS IN YOUR COMMUNITY**

Spirit North applications are live and you can find them at the link below or by contacting your regional coordinator.

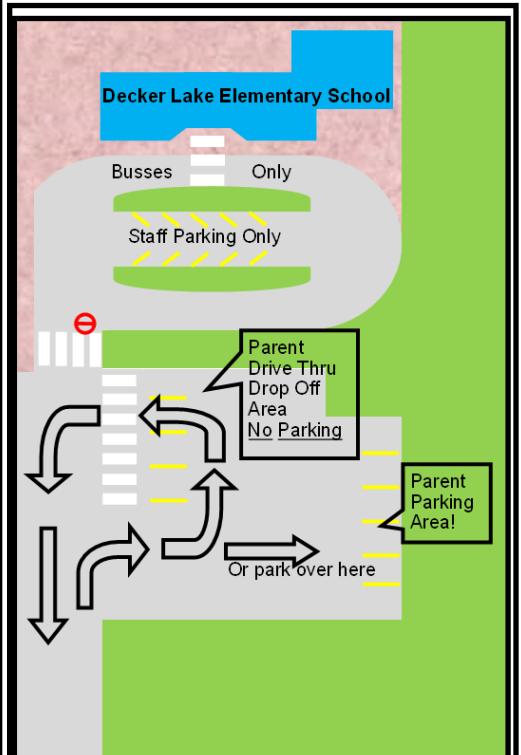
www.spiritnorthxc.ca/community-application



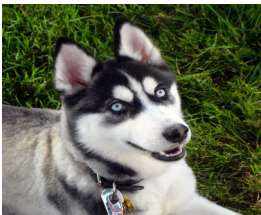
Attention Parents, Guardians & Caregivers!!!

When dropping off your children, please follow the above diagram for their safety! Have your child cross at the crosswalk after checking both ways, or walk with them to the school entrance.

The bus lane is NOT for parent or staff use. It is strictly for bus use and emergency vehicles only. It is NOT for student drop-off. It is to be always kept clear. The staff parking lot is for staff only. Please do not drop your children off in the staff parking lot. Please drop your children off in the designated area. We appreciate and thank you for respecting this school district policy.



"It's called 'reading'. It's how people install new software into their brains"



DLES School Code of Conduct for Students



It is expected that students will:

Respect the rights of others within the school community including peers, staff, parents, and guests.

Work to the best of their abilities with the goal of always improving.

Follow the directions of school staff. Speak to the Principal if you have concerns or questions about directions from staff.

Respect the school building, equipment, and the property, including property of others. Students (or their parents) may be held financially responsible for repairs or replacement of property purposely damaged.

Respect the diversity of our school community and the BC Human Rights Code which prevents discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, gender, age, mental or physical disability.

Always conduct themselves in a safe and responsible manner.

Not threaten, harass, bully, intimidate or assault, in any way, any person within the school community. This includes cyber bullying.

Not be in possession of any object that, in the opinion of the Principal, is potentially dangerous. This includes any weapons, legal or illegal, including replicas/imitations.

Not be in possession or under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or other banned items.

Not be in possession of or use tobacco, drugs or vape type products in school buildings, on school trips or on school property.

Not be in possession of a cell phone in school buildings, on school trips or on school property.

Follow specific rules for travelling on school buses.

At DLES, we believe that children and adults have the right to work in a safe, respectful environment and have the responsibility to behave in a cooperative and courteous manner.

As a member of the DLES school community, our basic rights and responsibilities include:

- the right to work in a safe, respectful and productive environment
- the responsibility to respect myself – to care about my learning, my environment, and my safety (always make safe choices, always do my best, clean up after myself)
- the right to be treated with respect – to be free from discrimination
- the responsibility to be respectful to others - to be considerate of others' personal feelings and property (be polite, wait my turn, treat others with respect, be honest, tell the truth, be kind)

Visiting DLES

When visiting our school, please remember that all doors are locked except for the front door. **Please sign in and out at the school office.** Please do not go to classrooms without checking in at the office first!!

Note from School District

School District No. 91 (Nechako Lakes) does not provide accident insurance coverage for student injuries that occur on school premises or during school activities.

You may purchase coverage for your child at www.insuremykids.com or by calling toll free at 1-800-463-KIDS (5437).



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 91 (NECHAKO LAKES)

2026/27 SCHOOL CALENDAR

2026	Tuesday, September 8	First 1/2 day of school for students
	Friday, September 25	District Planning Day
	Wednesday, September 30	National Day of Truth and Reconciliation
	Monday, October 12	Thanksgiving Day
	Friday, October 23	Pro D Day – Provincial
	Wednesday, November 11	Remembrance Day
	Friday, November 20	Pro D Day
	December 21 – January 1	Winter Break
	Monday, January 4	Schools Reopen
	Friday, February 12	Pro D Day
2027	Monday, February 15	Family Day
	March 15 – March 29	Spring Break (includes Easter)
	Tuesday, March 30	Schools Reopen
	Friday, April 16	Pro D Day – Zone
	Friday, May 14	Pro D Day – District
	Monday, May 24	Victoria Day
	Tuesday, June 29	Last 1/2 day of school for students
	Wednesday, June 30	Operational Day

APPROVED 2026-27 DISTRICT CALENDAR

Approved by the Board of Education for School District No. 91 (Nechako Lakes) on Monday, June 23, 2025.

www.sd91.bc.ca

JULY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

AUGUST						
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

GOVERNMENT APPROVED HOLIDAYS	
July 1	Canada Day
August 3	BC Day
September 7	Labour Day
September 30	National Day for Truth & Reconciliation
October 12	Thanksgiving
November 11	Remembrance Day
December 25	Christmas Day
January 1	New Years Day
February 15	Family Day
March 26	Good Friday
March 29	Easter Monday
May 24	Victoria Day

SEPTEMBER						
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OCTOBER						
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

START & END DAYS	
September 8	Opening Day (morning only)
June 29	Closing Day (morning only)
June 30	Operational Day (no students)

NOVEMBER						
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29	30					

DECEMBER						
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27	28	29	30	31		

EXTENDED BREAKS	
Summer	June 29 - September 4
Winter	December 21 - January 1
Spring	March 15 - March 29

JANUARY						
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31						

FEBRUARY						
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

PRO-D & PLANNING DAYS	
September 25	District Planning Day
October 23	Provincial Pro-D Day
November 20	Pro-D Day
* February 12	Pro-D Day (new date as of August 2026)
April 16	Zone Pro-D Day
* May 14	District Pro-D Day (new date as of August 2026)

MARCH						
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28	29	30	31			

APRIL						
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25	26	27	28	29	30	

BOARD MEETING DAYS	
September 22	Vanderhoof
November 17	Vanderhoof
December 8	Vanderhoof
January 19	Virtual via Teams
February 23	Virtual via Teams
March 30	Fraser Lake
April 20	Fort St. James
May 18	Vanderhoof
June 22	Burns Lake

MAY						
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30	31					

JUNE						
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

SPECIAL RECOGNITION DAYS	
TBA	Share the Love Day/Week
February 24	Pink Shirt (Anti-bullying) Day
April 28	National Day of Mourning for Workers Killed or Injured on the Job
May 5	Red Dress (MMIWG2S) Day
June 21	National Indigenous Peoples Day

Instructional Non-Instructional Vacation Period Statutory Holiday



Medication Forms

Has your child developed a new condition such as:

- Asthma
- Allergies

Or any other condition that requires a medication? Please contact the school office and we will help you with documentation.

Decker Lake Wants YOU...

School District 91 and DLES have opportunities available well-worth checking into! Try considering a career change or a location change and spend more awesome time with your kids while investing in their futures. Your schedule could be aligned with your kids which means they'd be in class on time, at school every day, and they'd benefit from your commitment to your job. Check out "Join Our Team" on SD91.bc.ca. Just a little thing to think about...!



2026-2027



Terry Fox Run

September 22, 2025 1:30 pm to 2:00 pm

Families are welcome to join us!!

Donations are being accepted until Tuesday, September 29th to raise funds for cancer research.

T-shirts are available for order until Tuesday, September 22.

*See order form below. Contact: Ms. Molly Nicholas

TERRY FOX SCHOOL RUN



TERRY FOX SCHOOL RUN

Run Organizer Instructions - Collecting Tshirt orders from students and/or staff

Step One: Fill in your order due date and instructions regarding payment below.

Step Two: Copy and distribute this form to students/staff to collect orders.

Step Three: Once you have collected all orders, enter the total # of each size on the attached bulk order form for your record, and then submit order online at terryfoxschoolrun.org/shop.

STUDENT ORDER FORM 2026 TERRY FOX T-SHIRTS

Orders Due Date: Sept. 22, 2026

Payment Instructions: Cash or cheque

Parents/Caregivers: Complete the section below and return to your child's teacher with payment as per instructions indicated.

Shirt Colour/Language: Grey/English or French, 100% cotton crew neck tee

(All sales are added to your school's fundraising total.)



Student Name:

.....

Teacher Name:

.....

Room #/Grade:

.....

Youth Shirts \$25	Qty (ENG)	Qty (FR)
6X (XS) W: 16"/L: 20.5"		
8 (S) W: 17"/L: 22"		
10 (M) W: 18"/L: 23.5"		

Total enclosed \$

Adult Shirts \$30	Qty (ENG)	Qty (FR)
Small W: 18"/L: 28"		
Medium W: 20"/L: 29"		
Large W: 22"/L: 30"		
XL W: 24"/L: 31"		
XXL W: 26"/L: 32"		