



Volume 2025/26-5

January 7, 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

Dear Husky Families,

Principal's Message

Happy New Year! We are glad to have our Huskies back at school. We missed them over the break.

We finally have enough snow to play in. Please ensure your child comes to school each day dressed appropriately for the weather. If your child needs winter gear (hats, mitts, snow pants), please reach out to your child's teacher or the school office and we will see that they receive what they need to enjoy our winter weather.

Grade 4 and 7 students will be completing a Student Learning Survey in the coming weeks. Students will be asked to give feedback about their learning experiences at DLES as well as questions about belonging.

FSA results are in for grade 4 and 7 students. Booklets and results will be sent home with students by the end of the week. Please review your child's results. If your child needs extra support in any area of learning, please reach out to your child's teacher about ways to help at home.

If you are planning to be a volunteer at our school in any way this year (coaching, field trips), you will require a Criminal Record Check. Please drop by our school office for more information.

Wishing all our Husky families a fabulous and safe month ahead. We are grateful to have you as members of our school community, and we hope you feel welcome.

With much gratitude,

Ms. Giesbrecht

Principal - DLES

DLES Shares with Parents...

Mark your Calendar

January

30 Mix & Match Day

February

4 Global School Play Day

6 **Pro-D—No School**

12 Green Thumb Theatre

14 Valentines Day

16 **Family Day—No School**

25 Pink Shirt Day

26 & 27 Share the Love Days

27 Crazy Hair Day

27 Science Fair



No School
Friday, February 6, 2026
Pro-D Day

No School
Monday, February 16, 2026
Family Day



The Giving Basket

In Ms. Vivian's Memory



Elizabeth Fry Society greatly appreciated your Giving Basket donations of toques, mitts & gloves!!



The Link Food Hamper

Encouragement Draw

Results

The lucky winners of the 2 gift baskets were:

Lilly Dell

Emery Keeler

Runner Up Gifts:

Griffyn Germaine

Archer Gibson

Azariah Desjarlais

Sylar Abietkoff

Logan Way

Thank you to DLES PAC for providing prizes and organizing with The Link donations!!!



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"One month, you're king of the mountain.
The next month, you're a puddle."

Global School Play Day

Wednesday, February 4, 2026



Global School Play Day is observed annually every first Wednesday in February and this year it will be held on February 4. This holiday promotes the importance of unstructured, regular play for children. The campaign was started by a group of six educators in 2015. They realized that playtime for children was decreasing both at home and in school, leading to negative consequences for the children's development. They immediately took action and initiated Global School Play Day, with over 65,000 children participating in its very first year.

DLES will be participating this year!!

Students are encouraged to bring board games, or other games to play with others.

Devices, such as mobile phones, tablets, game systems and laptops are not allowed.

Spirit North will be here to encourage outside physical play, so make sure your children are dressed appropriately (hats, gloves/ mitts, winter jacket, snowpants, and winter boots).

LETS HAVE FUN TOGETHER!!!



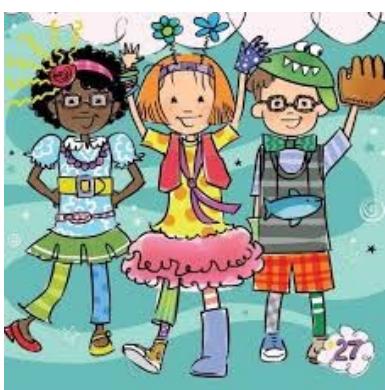
Christmas Concert

We had a lovely Christmas concert on Thursday, December 18th. We were so happy to see so many of you here to enjoy our concert.



Mix & Match Day

Friday, January 30, 2026



Basketball Coach Needed!

We are in need of a basketball coach (or two) for our grade 6/7 class who would like to participate in the school district basketball tournament in March. If you are interested in coaching, please let us know. Coaches will need to have a criminal record check completed beforehand.



Staying healthy during flu season in Northern Health communities
Flu Season is here

Levels of influenza are rising in Northern Health, especially among children. Influenza (the flu) is an infection that mainly affects the nose, throat, and lungs. It is caused by influenza A and B viruses which spread every year from November to April. H3N2 is the main type of influenza virus that is spreading this year, and it can cause more severe illness especially in children and older adults. This makes it extra important to be protected from influenza this season.

Signs and symptoms

Infection with influenza can range from mild to severe. Common symptoms include:

- Fever
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Body aches
- Extreme tiredness
- Cough, sneezing, runny nose
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea

Getting sick with influenza can also lead to serious diseases, like pneumonia (which affects the lungs), and life-threatening complications.

How influenza spreads

Influenza spreads through coughing, sneezing, close contact, and by touching surfaces with influenza germs and then touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.

Who is at higher risk?

Some people are more likely to get very sick from influenza. This includes:

- Adults over 65 years old
- Children under 5 years old
- People who are pregnant
- People with chronic health conditions

Vaccines are the best protection from the flu

Influenza vaccine is the safest and most effective protection from influenza. It's free for everyone 6 months and older in BC. You can get it at health units, pharmacies, or some doctor's offices. Even though this year's vaccine isn't a perfect match to the H3N2 influenza virus, it still helps prevent severe illness and hospitalization and protect against other types of influenza viruses.

- Register and book online through the BC Get Vaccinated system or by calling 1-833-838-2323

Other ways to stay healthy

- Keep sick kids home until they feel better
- Wash hand often with soap or sanitizer
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow
- Throw away used tissues right away
- Clean and disinfect surfaces that are touched often
- Wear a mask if you can't avoid others while sick

These measures also help prevent illness from other viruses, such as COVID-19, RSV, and parainfluenza.

If your kids get sick

Have your kids stay home, rest, and avoid close contact with other people until they feel better and their fever is gone. Call your health care provider if your child has a health condition that increases their risk of getting very sick, or if they are very ill (such as having trouble breathing, chest pain, or signs of dehydration like dizziness, extreme sleepiness, or not peeing much).

Helpful links
[Book your vaccine](#)
[Health Link BC](#)
[Common Childhood Diseases: Quick Guide](#)


Sincerely,

Dr. Jong Kim, MD
MSc FRCPC
Chief Medical Health Officer
Northern Health

Dr. Rakel Kling, MD
MSc MPH FRCPC
Medical Health Officer, Northern Interior
Northern Health

Dr. Raina Fumerton, MD MPH FRCPC
Medical Health Officer, Northwest and A/Northeast Northern Health

Dr. Trevor Cormier, MD FRCPC
Medical Health Officer
Northern Health

Dr. Diana Bark MD MPH FRCPC
Medical Health Officer
Northern Health



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

“Decker Lake Elementary School Parent Group”



PAC Meeting

Monday,
January 12, 2026
6:00 pm— 7:00 pm
In the DLES Library

REMINDER!

Please call by 2:00 PM if you will be changing your child's after-school-to-home arrangements. Calls too close to bus time, can not guarantee they can be changed in time before their bus leaves!



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.

Grades 4-7

Science Fair

Friday,

February 27, 2026

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



HERITAGE GALLERY

540 Highway 16 West,
Burns Lake, BC V0J 1E0
Mon—Fri, 8 a.m.—4 p.m.

Hope Meets Action

*Echoes Through
the Black Continuum*

Pictured: "Old Teepee." Photograph
by Mrs. R. Maynard, circa 1880s.
Royal BC Museum and Archives.

A Travelling Exhibition

Presented by
 ROYAL BC MUSEUM

In partnership with
 BC Black History Awareness Society
OUR ROOTS OUR REEF

DEC. 1, 2025

- FEB. 18, 2026

NO ADMISSION!

This exhibition is made
possible with assistance
from Heritage Canada's
Museum Assistance Program



520 Highway 16 West, Burns Lake, BC V0J 1E0 Email: ldmuseum.society@gmail.com

Junior Youth Engagement

Open to youth ages 8-12

Every Tuesday

3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Foundry Burns Lake
686 McPhail Rd
Burns Lake

To register, email:
Cindy Robinson crobinson@csfs.org
Aly Nickolichuk anickolichuk@csfs.org



CARRIER SEKANI
FAMILY SERVICES

Beading Group

Elder Youth Mentorship Beading Program
teaches children and youth basic beading and
sewing techniques. Light snacks provided.

8-18 years old
Every Wednesday
3:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Foundry Building
696 McPhail Rd
Burns Lake, BC

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



CARRIER SEKANI
FAMILY SERVICES

Senior Youth Engagement

Open to youth ages 12-18

Every Friday

3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Foundry Burns Lake
686 McPhail Rd
Burns Lake

To register, email:
Cindy Robinson crobinson@csfs.org
Aly Nickolichuk anickolichuk@csfs.org



CARRIER SEKANI
FAMILY SERVICES



Board Biz...



Superintendent's Report to the Board

Superintendent Anita McClinton presented her [Monthly Report](#) at the Regular School Board Meeting on Monday, December 15, 2025.

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



School Board Meeting

Monday, January 19, 2026
6:30 pm

Virtual Meeting
via MS Teams

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
hsliver@sd91.bc.ca

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...!