



Volume 2025/26-1

September 11, 2025

Principal: Ms. Eleanor Giesbrecht

Admin. Assistant: Mrs. Heather Paulson

Office Hours: 8:00 AM to 12:45 PM & 1:15 PM to 3 PM

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

Decker Lake Elementary School

Principal’s Message

Dear Husky families,

Welcome back! Children are happy to be here and are quickly settling into school routines once again. If you are new to our school... we are glad you are here and have become a part of our school community. A special welcome to our kindergarten families. We look forward to getting to know you.

Welcome to Mrs. Beckie Watts who is joining our staff as a grade 2/3 teacher three days a week. Mrs. Watts brings with her many years of teaching experience and a love for reading and math.

We have a child who is allergic to bananas in our grade 2/3 class. Please make your child aware when you are packing their lunch, if a banana product is included, remind them to wash their hands after eating the item. It is essential that we do our best to keep our children with food allergies as safe as possible.

We will be hosting an Open House on Tuesday, September 16th from 5 – 6 PM. Please come visit our beautiful school and meet your child’s teacher and other husky families. DLES Handbooks will be passed out at the Open House this year. Our handbook is full of information pertaining to our school and includes important dates and policies.

The 2025 - 2026 school year brings with it a few changes for our children:

- Recess snacks will be eaten outside this year during recess play time. Since the pandemic children have enjoyed their snacks during instructional time. We are returning to enjoying our snacks as we did before the pandemic. Please pack snacks that are easy to take outside.
- Mrs. Paulson’s hours have been reduced this year. Our office hours are 9 AM - 12:45 PM and 1:15 PM- 3 PM.
- Bus books are completed in the office by 2 PM. Please do not phone in bus changes after 2 PM each day.
- Our newsletters will go home on the first Wednesday of the month this year.

Supervision starts when the first bus arrives in the morning at 8:15 AM. Please do not drop children off before then. 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. If you are picking up your child after school and letting them play, please remember they are your responsibility.

Wishing all of you a wonderful month ahead. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to phone or email your child’s teacher or myself.

Respectfully,

Ms. Giesbrecht
Principal - DLES

DLES Shares with Parents...

Mark your Calendar

September

12 Terry Fox Run 11:30 am-12 pm

15 PAC Meeting 6 pm

15 Cops for Cancer

16 Open House 5 pm—6 pm

18 School photo day

19 District Planning Day—No School

29 Orange Shirt Day

30 National Day of Truth and Reconciliation—No School

October

13 Thanksgiving—No School

22 Talk About Learning Time (Parent/Teacher Interviews) Early dismissal 11:47 am

24 Pro-D Day—No School

31 Hallowe'en

No School

Friday, September 19, 2025

for District Planning Day

No School

Tuesday, September 30, 2025

National Day for Truth & Reconciliation

No School

Monday, October 13, 2025

for Thanksgiving

No School

Friday, October 24, 2025 for

Provincial Pro-D

Friday,

September 29, 2025

Orange Shirt Day

Wear orange in support of Truth & Reconciliation

On Monday, September 29, 2025, Decker Lake will acknowledge and recognize the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation by wearing orange. Make our school and playground glow with orange!

Thank You Olivia!!!

You did a great job on keeping our flowers, trees & shrubs so beautiful all summer long!!! Our planters are overflowing with your care!!



Student Verification Forms will be sent home This Week!!!

It's time for the annual check on Student Verification Forms. Every child at Decker Lake Elementary will get one. 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, so 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.

Welcome back to Decker Lake Elementary Staff!!!

Ms. Eleanor Giesbrecht—Principal
Mrs. Heather Paulson—Administrative Assistant
Mrs. Wendy Shelford- Schneider— Gr. K-1
Ms. Eleanor Giesbrecht & Mrs. Beckie Watts—
Gr. 2-3
Ms. Elishia England— Gr. 4-5
Mrs. Monica Benoit— Gr. 6-7
Mrs. Shawnese Trotter—Librarian / French
Miss Stacey Lee—Resource & Social Studies
Ms. Vivian Eftodie—Custodian & Supervision
Mrs. Crystal Burleson—Custodian
Mrs. Jacqui Ahlbrand —Indigenous Education Advocate
Mrs. Cathy Blair—PAA & Supervision, Bus Supervision
Mrs. Karen Stevenson—PAA, Supervision, Meal Program & Reading Club
Ms. Carmen Woode— LSW
Mrs. Shelly Way—LSW & Reading Club
Mr. Trevor Moyah—Counsellor

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 Wednesday 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 new Instagram account is:

dles_huskies

Our Instagram account is private.

Followers will need to be given
access to join.

OPEN HOUSE!!!

Tuesday September 16, 2025

5 pm—6 pm

Please come visit our school and meet your
child's teacher and other Husky families!

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!

Parent reminder!

Only school related
items can be
brought to school.

Knives, lighters,
nail clippers, etc.,

MUST stay home.

On **September 4th**, Decker Lake students enjoyed workshops with
a **three-time Canadian National Dance champion**,

Karima Essa

Vancouver's very own **Bollywood star!**

Many thanks to the **Lakes District Arts Council** for providing our
school with this amazing and fun learning experience!!



PAC Post...

Decker Lake Elementary Parent Advisory Committee

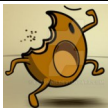
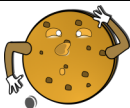
Next meeting Date: **Monday, September 15, 2025 @ 6pm**
at DLES Library

Allergy Alert!!

We have a child who is allergic to
bananas in our 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!

It's Snack Time!!!

Recess snacks will be eaten outside this year during
recess play time. Since the pandemic children have
enjoyed their snacks during instructional time. We are
returning to enjoying our snacks as we did before the
pandemic. Please pack snacks that are easy to take
outside.



New Office Hours!!!

9 AM - 12:45 PM and 1:15 PM- 3 PM.



SPIRIT 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

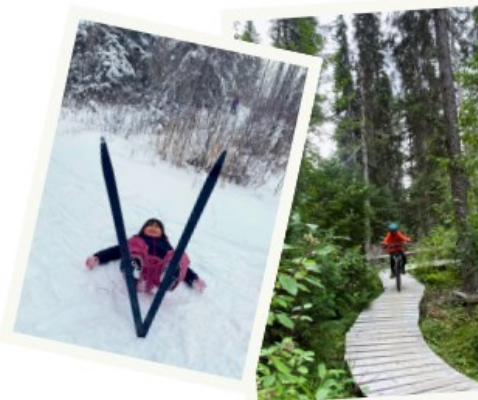
Our coaches are certified to teach the sports we bring to the schools. To ensure we are providing the most relevant programming possible, we host co-creation sessions with community members, teachers, and students in order to listen and work together to build programs that reflects your unique values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

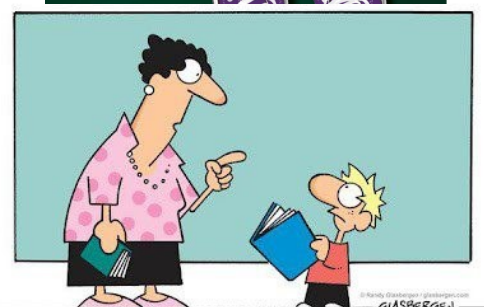
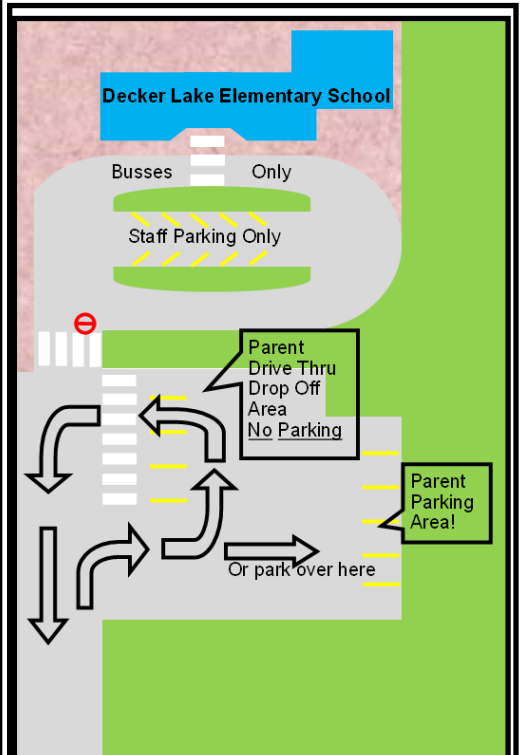
www.spiritnorthxc.ca/community-application



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.

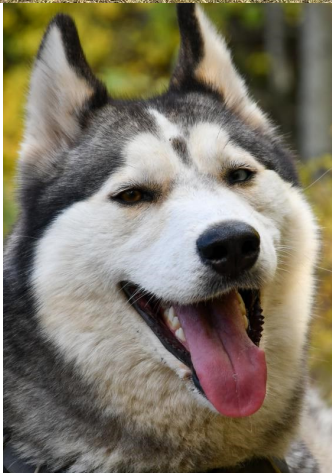
The bus lane is NOT for parent or staff use. It is strictly for bus use and emergency vehicles only. It is NOT for student drop-off. It is to be always kept clear. The staff parking lot is for staff only. Please do not drop your children off in the staff parking lot. Please drop your children off in 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"



SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 91 (NECHAKO LAKES)		
2025/26 SCHOOL CALENDAR		
2025	Tuesday, September 2	First 1/2 Day of School for Students
	Friday, September 19	District Planning Day
	Tuesday, September 30	National Day of Truth and Reconciliation
	Monday, October 13	Thanksgiving Day
	Friday, October 24	Pro D Day – Provincial
	Tuesday, November 11	Remembrance Day
	Friday, November 21	Pro D Day
	December 22 – January 2	Winter Break
2026	Monday, January 5	Schools Reopen
	Friday, February 6	Pro D Day
	Monday, February 16	Family Day
	March 16 – March 27	Spring Break
	Monday, March 30	Schools Reopen
	Friday, April 3	Good Friday
	Monday, April 6	Easter Monday
	Friday, April 24	Pro D Day – Zone
	Friday, May 8	Pro D Day – District
	Monday, May 18	Victoria Day
	Thursday, June 25	Last 1/2 Day of School for Students
	Friday, June 26	Operational Day



SCHOOL DISTRICT 91 NECHAKO LAKES
School Board Meeting
Monday, September 15, 2025
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

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).



APPROVED 2025-26 DISTRICT CALENDAR

Approved by the Board of Education for School District No. 91 (Nechako Lakes)
on Monday, March 18, 2024

www.sd91.bc.ca

JULY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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SEPTEMBER						
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NOVEMBER						
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JANUARY						
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MAY						
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AUGUST						
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OCTOBER						
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DECEMBER						
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FEBRUARY						
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APRIL						
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JUNE						
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28	29	30				

GOVERNMENT APPROVED HOLIDAYS:

July 1	Canada Day
August 4	BC Day
September 1	Labour Day
September 30	National Day for Truth & Reconciliation
October 13	Thanksgiving
November 11	Remembrance Day
December 25	Christmas Day
January 1	New Years Day
February 16	Family Day
April 3	Good Friday
April 6	Easter Monday
May 18	Victoria Day

START & END DAYS

September 2	Opening Day (morning only)
June 25	Closing Day (morning only)
June 26	Operational Day (no students)

EXTENDED BREAKS:

Summer	July 1 - August 29
Winter	December 22 - January 2
Spring	March 16 - March 27

PRO-D & PLANNING DAYS

September 19	District Planning Day
October 24	Provincial Pro-D Day
November 21	Pro-D Day
February 6	Pro-D Day
April 24	Zone Pro-D Day
May 8	District Pro-D Day

BOARD MEETING DAYS

September 15	Vanderhoof
October 20	Fort St. James
November 17	Virtual via Teams
December 15	Vanderhoof
January 19	Virtual via Teams
February 23	Vanderhoof
March 30	Fraser Lake
April 20	Virtual via Teams
May 25	Vanderhoof
June 22	Burns Lake

SPECIAL RECOGNITION DAYS

February 25	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
TBA	Share the Love Day/Week
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...!



Terry Fox Run

September 12, 2025 11:30 am to 12:00 pm

Donations are being accepted until Friday, September 26 to raise funds for cancer research.

T-shirts are available for order until Friday, September 12. **Contact: Ms. Stacey Lee**





"I'm not a quitter."

2025 is 45 years since the courageous young man, Terry Fox, ran across Canada after losing his leg to cancer. His legacy still lives on as Decker Lake will again hold our annual Terry Fox Run on Friday, September 12, 2025, at 11:30 AM. Parents and caregivers are welcome! All funds raised go to cancer research.

Thank you, Terry! Your determination inspires us still!