



Board Highlights for December 2024

Superintendent of Schools Report:

School/Student News

Winter themed activities and student artwork are evident through the schools during the month of December.

Don Titus Montessori students have been busy building gingerbread houses, participating in crazy sweater day, and hosting a turkey lunch for all students and families.



McLeod Elementary students have been taking advantage of the snow and are enjoying the days they can go cross country skiing.

Tumbler Ridge Senior Secondary students teamed up with the local bakery to bake and decorate gingerbread and cookies.



Students and staff at Dawson Creek Secondary School – South Peace Campus held a Fill the Bus campaign. They raised over \$10,000 in money and food donations for local families and food banks! That's impressive!!

Staff at Devereaux Elementary did Secret Spirit Days. It didn't take the students long to figure it out and they were excited to come to school each day to see what the staff were up to! The Spirit Days included Monochromatic Day, Anything But a Cup Day, Socks with Sandals, Mix-Match Prints, and Black-out Day.

Rik Leaf from Tribe of One visited many schools in the district where he led classes in music creation and video production. For over 25 years, Rik has led Creative Development Mentorship Projects in schools and Indigenous communities across Canada, where he engages every student and teacher in writing, performing, and recording an original song celebrating

community creativity. Check out the video that showcases the French Immersion Program at Ecole Frank Ross: [On Parle le Français Ecole Frank Ross School - YouTube](#).



Mr. Schild's class at Ecole Frank Ross is working on a numeracy project that tracks the weight and quantity of donations from classes in the school for to St. Marks Food Bank.



Primary classes at Canalta Elementary are engaged in literacy centres that are focussing on working memory skills. The Intermediate classes are working on letter writing and focussing on building vocabulary. The Intermediate students created story displays, and the teacher used AI to create movies from each project. The students were excited to see their stories come to life as a movie! Students also



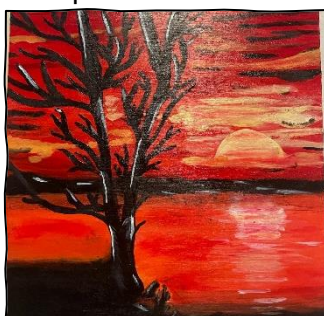
visited the City of Dawson Creek Council Chambers as part of their governance project.



The Tumbler Ridge Secondary School basketball team won all their games and took home 1st place in the basketball tournament held at Chetwynd Secondary. Senior athletes and Student Voice students hosted a Winter Formal for elementary students



where the students were divided up by grades to participate in the dance parties.



Art students in grades 10-12 were given the challenge of taking a famous piece of art and recreating it by changing something about it. The art pieces are just as amazing as the original!





Little Prairie Elementary students are having fun developing projects with electromagnetic magnets, static electricity and making slime! Of course the egg drop challenge is always a hit.



The students also had fun participating in winter themed activities like crazy sweater day and ice skating.



Kindergarten Registration

Starting January 7th, elementary schools will be accepting Kindergarten registrations for the 2025-2026 school year.

Reports from the Secretary-Treasurer:

Statement of Financial Information

The Statement of Financial Information (SOFI) Report was provided for approval. The annual report is required by all public institutions and publishes the names, salaries and related expenses of employees earning over \$75,000, vendors paid over \$25,000, and trustee income and expenses. The report is available for viewing on the school district website.

Capital Projects Update

Crescent Park Elementary School Expansion

The following activities have occurred since the November board meeting:

- Receipt of tender package from Engineer for the modular construction portion of the project for staff review.
- Posting of the modular construction project on BC Bid.
- Advised Ministry modular construction posted to BC Bid.
- Director of Operations and Facilities Manager quarterly meeting with City for projects update.
- Director of Facilities and Ministry scheduled project update meeting.

Dawson Creek and Tumbler Ridge Child Care Facilities

The following progress has been made since the November Board Meeting:

- A meeting was held involving Director of Operations, the Architect, and the Engineer to discuss foundation options for the project.
- For both childcare facilities, the draft Class A cost estimate for traditional stick-build construction is currently under review by the Architect and will be issued for review next week.
- The Class A cost estimate for the modular construction option is still being completed by the cost estimate consultant.

- Coordination of site conditions for both facilities with the City of Dawson Creek and the District of Tumbler Ridge is ongoing.
- Structural and civil engineering coordination remains in progress.

Next Steps:

- Review the final costing once it is received and integrate any necessary adjustments into the design plans.
- Continue with detailed design work to ensure all elements are resolved and ready for the next phase.
- Maintain open communication with city representatives to ensure regulatory compliance and alignment.
- Finalize the Class A cost estimates for both construction options.
- Confirm site-specific requirements, including fire hydrant locations, in coordination with the City of Dawson Creek.

Updates are posted on the district website at [Capital Projects | School District 59 \(sd59.bc.ca\)](https://www.sd59.bc.ca/Capital-Projects).

Trustee Items:

Upcoming BCSTA Events

Trustee Gulick presented the latest news and events from the BCSTA. Provincial Council in February will be held online. The AGM will be held in Vancouver from April 24-26, 2025.

SD59 Presentation to Tumbler Ridge Mayor and Council

Board Chair, Superintendent and Director of Instruction, Paul Chisholm attended the Tumbler Ridge Council Meeting on December 2, 2024 as a delegation to present information on teacher recruitment and retention and to provide information on the process of the hiring incentives provided to the district from BCPSEA.

Committee Reports:

Indigenous Education Councils

Both Councils gathered in December for their annual celebratory lunch/dinner.

Upcoming Dates:

Date:	Event:
December 23, 2024 to January 3, 2025	Winter Break – school are closed
January 22, 2025	Public Board Meeting – School Board Office – Dawson Creek
January 31, 2025	Non-Instructional Day – students do not attend school
February 17, 2025	Family Day – schools are closed
February 19, 2025	Public Board Meeting – School Board Office – Dawson Creek
February 26 & 27, 2025	Early Dismissal Days – students are dismissed 1 hr early