

SCHOOL DISTRICT 57 QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



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SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the Senior Staff at SD57, it is my privilege to share our excitement for the publication of this first edition of the SD57 Quarterly Newsletter.

An item that began as an idea to share positive stories from our schools and across our SD has been embraced by our SD57 District Student Advisory Council and with some expertise from our outside publishing expert (special thanks to Nikta Boroumand and Maverick Design), we are on the cusp of having students ready to share stories of school, student and staff accomplishments across our SD57 region.

I am pleased to help support this initiative and am hopeful that this publication is well received and the efforts of our students and supporting staff are celebrated.

Our schools exist for student accomplishment, engagement and education. Being able to have our students engage and share with us regularly what is working, what is challenging and what we should look to address is a real strength of SD57.

I have been very pleased with the warm reception I have received here since arriving in April and look forward to further engagement with the community, schools, staff and of course, students.

SD57 is doing amazing things to better the lives of students and families each day and the opportunity to celebrate some of those successes is a benefit.

My best to all of you for 2025!

MESSAGE FROM SD57 CHAIR – CRAIG BRENNAN

On behalf of the entire SD57 Board of Trustees, we are pleased to see this SD57 Quarterly Newsletter initiative come to fruition. What is even more exciting is knowing that this is a student-led and managed production that will provide greater leadership opportunities to our students across our many communities.

The Board wanted to share information about our role in this first edition, so please find the information below to help your understanding of the role of publicly elected trustees in the BC school system.

Our congratulations to all involved in putting this edition together.



ROLE OF PUBLICLY ELECTED SCHOOL TRUSTEES

"There are seven trustees on the Board of Education, School District No. 57 (Prince George). One of the trustees is elected from the Robson Valley, and another from Mackenzie/McLeod Lake. The other five trustees are elected from the Prince George area. Governance is provided through the corporate entity of the Board of Education. Individual trustees do not have any authority to make decisions or take action."

Publicly elected school boards play an important role in school districts. Here are the key aspects of their role:

1. **Governance and Policy Setting:** Boards are responsible for setting and adjusting policies that guide the school district. They provide oversight to ensure that the district is meeting the needs of its learners and communities.
2. **Strategic Planning:** Boards create and adhere to the strategic plan, which outlines the priorities and goals of the school district. This plan is shared with the public and helps guide the district's work.
3. **Co-Governance:** Boards work with the Ministry of Education and Child Care to ensure the education system is aligned with broader educational goals and policies.
4. **Oversight, Not Management:** Boards do not engage in the day-to-day running of schools. Operational management is the responsibility of the district staff, under the supervision of the Superintendent of Schools.
5. **Collaboration with Staff:** Boards work with school district staff to ensure public and system needs are met. This teamwork helps maintain a focus on the well-being and success of students.

CURRICULUM AND INNOVATION

Building a Foundation in Literacy and Numeracy:

Developing strong literacy and numeracy skills is essential for academic growth and overall development. Engaging children in reading from a young age introduces them to a world of words, ideas, and diverse perspectives, helping them build language and critical thinking skills that support learning across all subjects. Inserting reading into your child's weekly routine at home creates an added layer of support in their development of these skills.

In addition, involving children in everyday math activities fosters a practical understanding of numbers, patterns, and problem-solving, making math feel meaningful and relevant. Together, early literacy and math experiences set children on a path of curiosity and confidence, giving them the tools they need to succeed in school and beyond. The following information provides some suggestions and ideas of how to support these subjects at home for elementary age children.

Why should I read with my child?

Boosts early literacy skills For example, reading together helps children recognize letters and hear the sounds in spoken words, setting a strong foundation for learning.

Helps children develop language and literacy skills Reading exposes children to new vocabulary, including words and phrases they may not hear in everyday conversation.

Builds background knowledge Reading a variety of books allows children to learn about different subjects, places, and ideas, giving them a broader understanding of the world around them. This can benefit them in all academic areas.



CURRICULUM AND INNOVATION

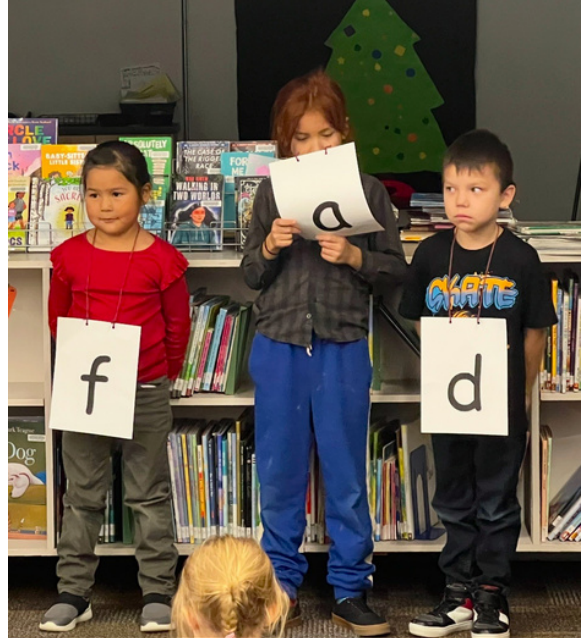
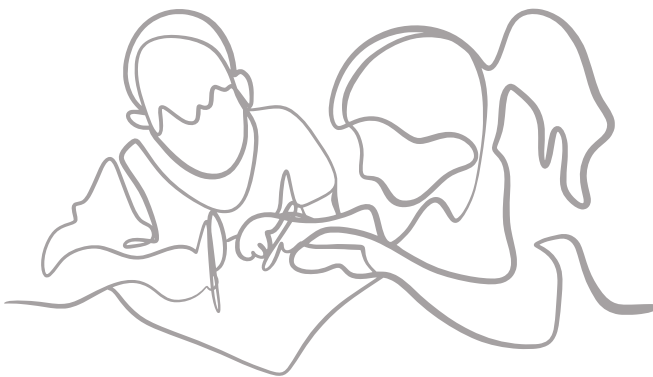
Offers “windows and mirrors” For example, some books offer a “window” into diverse cultures, helping children learn about the world beyond their own experiences, while other books serve as a “mirror,” reflecting their own culture and experiences, which can strengthen self-esteem.

Nurtures a love of reading When children are exposed to books and stories from a young age, they are more likely to enjoy reading as they grow older.

Promotes social-emotional development Reading aloud helps children develop social-emotional skills like empathy, understanding big emotions, and solving problems.

Strengthens family bonds Reading together is a wonderful way to bond. It provides a special time to relax, snuggle, and share a story.

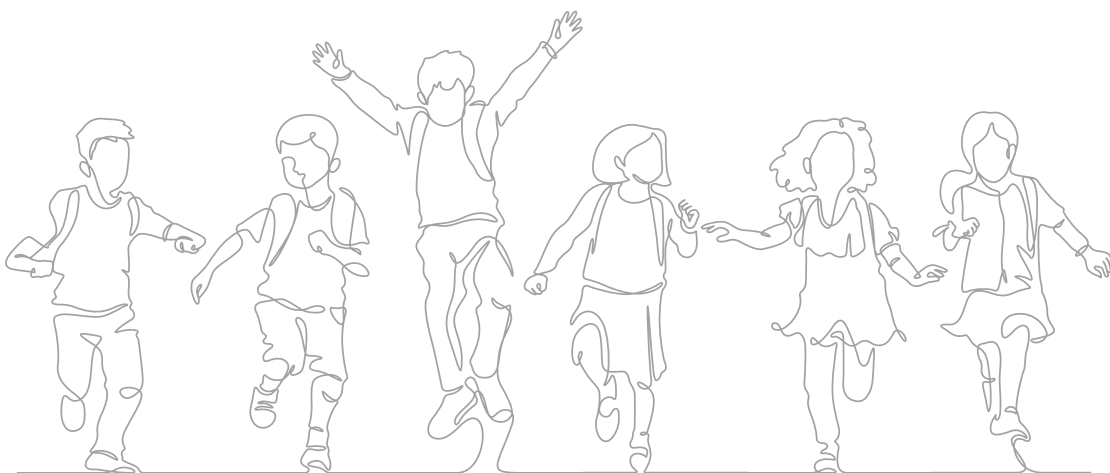
**For more information, visit
Reading with Your Child | Reading Rockets.**



ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Beaverly Comes Together to Create New Logo--We are the Beaverly Bruins!

The students, staff, and parent community of Beaverly Elementary turned a need for new school jerseys into an exploration of identity, culture, and democracy! Beaverly school needed new jerseys to wear during athletic events. The generous PAC at the school worked tirelessly to both fund and co-design new, beautiful jerseys (pictured on this page). The jerseys incorporate the Northern Lights, and the beautiful forest we are privileged to have surrounding the school. They also feature a rich blue color, that was chosen as the new school color during a student and community vote, where students learned about civic duties and voting processes. The Beaverly school community then set out on a journey to create a new school logo. Staff and community feedback were taken, students and staff submitted design elements, and talented Lheidli T'enneh artist, Clayton Gauthier, turned everyone's ideas into reality. The new stunning logo is pictured below. It is meant to represent the beautiful Lheidli T'enneh land the school respectfully resides on, rural elements, and character qualities one might associate with a Bruin, such as bravery, strength, and the importance of family and community.





Helping Students Become Confident Writers at École College Heights

Writing is a key skill that helps students express their thoughts, think critically, and succeed in all areas of learning. At École College Heights, we're dedicated to supporting every student in becoming a confident writer. Our approach is grounded in using data to guide our teaching and improve student learning. One way we put this into practice is through teacher collaboration. Our teacher book club, focused on *Powerful Writing Structures* by Adrienne Gear, brings together 15 teachers from both the English and French Immersion tracks, along with our principal and support teachers. We meet regularly to explore practical and effective strategies for teaching writing. In these meetings, teachers share examples of student work, brainstorm ideas, and plan lessons together. By focusing on the specific needs of students, we're able to select the most effective teaching strategies for each class.



The book club also gives teachers a chance to learn from one another and grow as professionals. By aligning our work with the school's literacy goal, we ensure our strategies are purposeful and effective. This teamwork helps make sure every student receives the support they need to strengthen their writing. At École College Heights, we believe that when teachers collaborate, it makes a real difference in student success. Supporting our teachers ultimately helps all of our students thrive.

Blackburn Remembers

On November 8th, we held our Indigenous Day of Remembrance Assembly. 11 students participated in an interview style reflection on "Who" "Why" and "How" we remember, "Why" we were a poppy, as well as "How" we can demonstrate respect for our veterans. Our Ceremony opened with Grade 4 student, Kadex Leighton, acknowledging our local Territory in Dakelh and recognized his Tsimshian Ancestors for his Indigenous Heritage. Mr. Mansell, our Grade 4/5 teacher played "The Last Post" and "Reveille" and we observed 2 minutes of silence. We recognized 6 Canadian and/or Indigenous Heroes, including Mary Greyeyes Reid, Francis Pegahmagabow, Billy Bishop, Leo Major: "The One-Eyed Ghost," and Tommy Prince. We learned that one of our staff members' ancestors was a member of the "Devil's Brigade" with Tommy Prince in WWII.



ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Malaspina Elementary hosts the Earth Rangers School Assembly

Malaspina Elementary was honored to host the Earth Rangers School Assembly, sponsored by Canfor. This engaging and interactive presentation educated students about the challenges facing animals and the environment. Using a science-based approach, the Earth Rangers highlighted the importance of conservation, biodiversity, and sustainable living, inspiring students to take action in protecting wildlife and their habitats.

In addition to the assembly, Malaspina participated in a battery collection initiative through Earth Rangers. Students, parents, staff, and community members worked together to collect used batteries, which were placed in designated Recycle Battery boxes at the school. These were then shipped to Recycle Canada at no cost to the school, thanks to Purolator. Impressively, the school gathered 26 boxes of batteries during the campaign!

This initiative was an excellent learning opportunity, teaching students about environmental stewardship and sustainable practices while making a tangible impact. Congratulations to everyone at Malaspina for their efforts and dedication to protecting our planet!



Peden Hill Elementary hosts Cougars Hockey Team Players

Peden Hill Elementary had the honor of hosting players from the Cougars Hockey Team at a recent schoolwide assembly. The players shared valuable lessons with students, emphasizing the importance of overcoming challenges, maintaining healthy habits, eating well, and getting quality sleep. They also inspired students by sharing their personal stories and journeys to becoming elite athletes.

The assembly concluded with an exciting shootout between Peden Hill students and the Cougars, followed by an autograph session. A heartfelt thank you to the Cougars for their visit and for inspiring our students!



ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

McBride Centennial

On November 28, 2024, McBride Centennial was filled with warmth, laughter, and community spirit during the Pancake Breakfast with the RCMP, Ambulance Services, Volunteer Fire Department, and Robson Valley Community Services. This much-anticipated event brought together students, first responders, and community members for a morning of delicious food and meaningful connections.

The photographs from the event capture the joy and camaraderie that defined the morning. Students had the chance to engage with local heroes who serve and protect their community, creating moments of inspiration and gratitude. The presence of the RCMP, Ambulance Services, and Volunteer Fire Department provided not only a glimpse into their roles but also fostered a sense of unity and appreciation among attendees.

Special thanks go to Robson Valley Community Services and all involved in making this event possible. The pancake breakfast was a perfect example of how shared meals and meaningful interactions can strengthen community bonds, leaving everyone with full hearts and fond memories.



Southridge - Helping Prince George Families Through the Salvation Army

This holiday season, Southridge Division 14 and 15 students are working with the Salvation Army to support their Adopt-a-Family Program, which provides holiday assistance to over 300 local families.

Here's how we'll be contributing:

December 13: Preparing Donations

Group 1 (Wish Center Team): Led by Mr. Clough and a group of parents, this team will:

Organize toys and clothing donations by age and gender. Clear space in the common area to facilitate donation handling. Begin setting up the "storefront" for distribution. Decorating the waiting area where families can learn about and access support services as needed.

Group 2 (Food Bank Team): Led by Mr. Bellavane and parents, this team will assist with food hamper preparation. Bellavane and his crew work to build food hampers for approximately 300 families using donated food from various Prince George stores

December 16: Donation Reception

Students will help in two shifts:

Morning: A Southridge staff member and 6 students receive and organize incoming donations.

Afternoon: Another 6 students take over to continue this work.

December 17 & 18: Wish Center Support

Southridge students walk parents through the Wish Center Store and help them to select gifts and clothing for their children.



Spruceland Community School

Spruceland Community School of the Arts is proud to lead innovative food initiatives that support equity and strengthen our school community. This year, we have been awarded three significant grants—\$10,000 each from the Rotary Club, Canada School to Cafeteria, and the Jays Care Foundation—to create meaningful food-related opportunities for our students and families. Additionally, we recently received a generous donation of fresh produce from Desert Hills, further fueling our mission.

With these resources, we plan to revitalize our Indigenous Courtyard Garden, plant fruit trees, and install twelve raised garden beds at the front of our school. We aim to provide families with fresh, nutritious food and offer instruction on essential culinary techniques such as canning and dehydrating. These efforts are part of our broader goal to establish a universal healthy food program, ensuring equitable access to nutritious meals while equipping students with sustainable life skills, particularly vital in addressing food challenges in the North.

Through these initiatives, Spruceland is fostering a community rooted in equity, health, and sustainability.



SECONDARY SCHOOLS

DP Todd Diversity Club

What: Started as a small group of students last year interested in promoting diversity in the school. It expanded into a larger group of students who get together during diversified learning time on Wednesdays to plan events and develop awareness, informational posters. Each student in the group wears a special lanyard that identifies themselves as peer support in the school. Students can ask them for help or guidance, and it is geared towards helping our younger students feel connected. The lanyards are beaded orange and were sourced from a small, local business. The group is planning 4-5 opportunities for the students to try diverse foods this year. Mango Lemonade (Botswana/Zimbabwe) was prepared by the group and served November 14th.

When: Wednesdays 2pm; events at other times

Who: Open to any student wanting to join. Currently there are 20+ students involved. Mrs. Cawsey (teacher sponsor)



Duchess Park Leadership

In the spirit of giving and true leadership, the students of Duchess Park Leadership have embarked on a heartwarming initiative that highlights their dedication to making a difference and bringing joy to those in need.

This holiday season, Ava Haight, Emma Haight, Ethan Sybrandy, Ella O'Brien, Niko Santos, and Max Palmer led a Christmas toy fundraiser, raising funds to purchase gifts for children in the pediatric ward at UNHBC. With the support of their Leadership classmates, they carefully wrapped each gift and will deliver them to UNHBC in mid-December.

This initiative exemplifies the values of compassion, empathy, and leadership that we strive to instill in our students at Duchess Park. It reminds us that even small acts of kindness can have a profound impact on the lives of others, especially during the holiday season. Their commitment to spreading joy inspires us all.



SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Mackenzie Secondary School

Living in a rural community presents unique challenges when it comes to attending competitions, but the unwavering commitment of our teachers and coaches ensures that our students continue to excel. This year, Mackenzie Secondary School (MSS) had the privilege of hosting two remarkable tournaments.

The Sabres' Slam Invitational, held on September 27–28, was an exciting event, with Mackenzie's team securing an impressive second-place finish after a thrilling final against Fraser Lake. Then, on November 15–16, MSS welcomed 11 teams from across the North Central Region, ranging from Fort Nelson to Valemount. While Mackenzie's team faced a tough quarterfinal exit, the McBride girls' team, consisting of just seven players, earned a well-deserved spot at provincials.

These successful tournaments were made possible through the generous support of our community sponsors, whose contributions allowed us to host an outstanding experience for all participating teams.



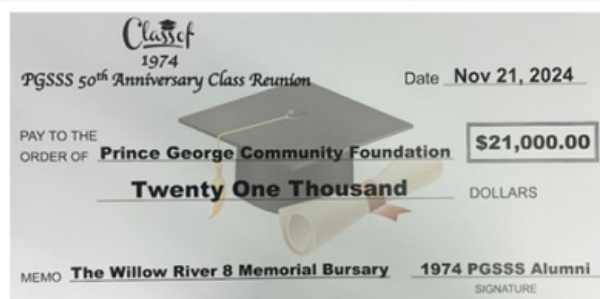


PGSS Class of 1974 Establishes Memorial Bursary

This year, the Prince George Secondary School (PGSS) alumni group, the "PGSS Class of 1974" (formerly Prince George Senior Secondary School), commemorated their 50th anniversary with a meaningful initiative. Beginning in January 2024, the group undertook a fundraising campaign to establish the "Willow River 8 Memorial Bursary" in memory of eight students who tragically lost their lives in a canoeing accident on Willow River in 1974.

On November 21, 2024, several members of the Class of 1974 visited PGSS to present a cheque for \$21,000 to Principal Randy Halpape. This contribution marked the launch of a bursary fund managed by the Prince George Community Foundation. The fund will provide an annual bursary of \$674 in perpetuity to a graduating PGSS student.

The bursary will be awarded to a student who demonstrates outstanding leadership in school or the community, is pursuing post-secondary education, and has financial need. This enduring tribute reflects the alumni group's commitment to supporting future generations while honoring the memory of their classmates.



INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

Student letter to Lighthouse Organization

Dear Lighthouse Organization for the Blind,

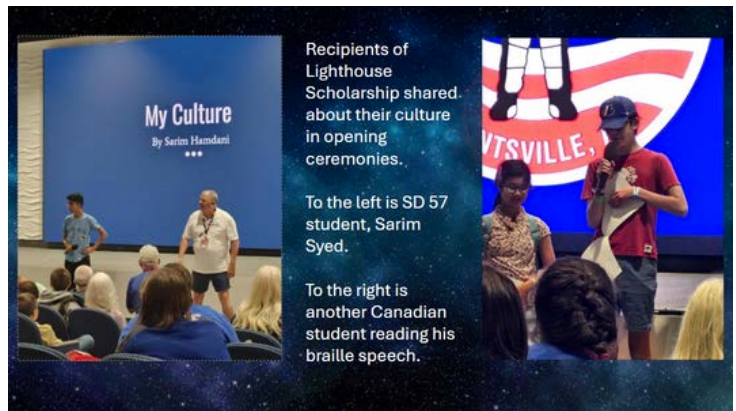
I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for the incredible opportunity to attend the US Space Camp. Experiencing the Space and Rocket Center was truly amazing. I learned so much and was fascinated by the models of shuttles and rockets.

Being in an environment with others who share similar challenges was a first for me, and it was incredibly relatable and supportive. The camp's adaptations, like large print and clear directions, were perfect for my needs.

I gained valuable knowledge about space programs like Mercury, Gemini, and the upcoming Artemis program. Learning about past astronauts and the benefits of space travel for life on Earth was inspiring. The guest speakers provided excellent advice on overcoming daily challenges as a visually impaired person.

Thank you once again for this spectacular opportunity. I hope to return next year.

Kind regards, Sarim Hamdani



Recipients of Lighthouse Scholarship shared about their culture in opening ceremonies.

To the left is SD 57 student, Sarim Syed.

To the right is another Canadian student reading his braille speech.

Student knows the view from Space Camp will change the way he sees the world

CHRISTINE DALGLEISH
CHRONIC

Sarim Syed, a Grade 8 College Heights Secondary School student, is going to change the world. Just ask any educator who has had the pleasure of teaching him. Sarim is going to Space Camp for Interested Visually Impaired Students at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama from Oct. 6 to 10.

Sarim was diagnosed at three years old with cone dystrophy, a visual impairment that designates him as legally blind.

"Throughout the whole time I have been at school I have required certain things which would help me grow, especially academically," Sarim explains. "As soon as I came to Canada I required these things in order for me to learn - to complete my school work and be involved with people."

Sarim lived in the United Arab Emirates and made the move to Prince George seven months ago. Soon after he started at College Heights Secondary, Sarim met School District 57 Braille transcriber Irene Siemens who was able to get items Sarim needed to succeed like enlarged print text books and work sheets.

"Miss Irene told me and my parents about Space Camp," Sarim says. "I'm very excited to accompany Sarim to Space Camp," Siemens says. "I am just excited Sarim has the opportunity to experience it and I know the program will be better having him in it."

Denise Perry, Sarim's teacher of students with visual impairments, got involved and soon Sarim was registered for the camp where students from around the world will come together during a weeklong adventure that includes accessible challenges involving space science, math, aviation and simulated space



Visually impaired eighth grader Sarim Syed, 13, is extremely happy for the chance to attend Space Camp and see what a group of like-minded teens can achieve.

and aviation missions. Perry has been sending students to the camp since 1995 and hopes to send more students from SD57 in the coming years with Sarim leading the way. "Sarim has received the Lighthouse Vision Scholarship that covers his tuition and air travel," Perry said.

Sarim still has to raise \$2,500 to cover all other expenses.

"It's important for Sarim to attend Space Camp because everyone who attends is visually impaired - so that's the norm," Perry said.

"That's so important because right now he's one of so few - we have 22 visually impaired students in School District 57 but they are in all different schools. The camp changes their sense of themselves and offers them the chance to do things that others can do."

Sarim said he is happy and excited to attend Space Camp. "I feel like science and math are a foundation to go into different branches of education and explore other things but what I will mainly focus on is Space Camp will be science as you can definitely use science as a way to help other people who are visually impaired. I want to help other people in the world who are struggling."

It's a great source of frustration for visually impaired people, Sarim explains, not to have access to resources that are easily available to those who are sighted. He can't see what we see and raising awareness about what it means to be visually impaired is a priority for Sarim.

"When you can't have access to computers and other resources

and you find out there's a place with all these resources that you can experience to their full potential it's something to look forward to," Sarim says. "I've always been fascinated with space travel and the way space travel is coordinated so when I found out about Space Camp I had a lot of expectations about seeing some historic things and experiencing things to their full potential according to my visual impairment."

Sarim's future is based on helping humanity in some capacity. "I definitely see a career using physics or science to benefit society," Sarim says.

"I really want to use it to help people who have similar struggles like me or something that benefits the world as a whole to help people less fortunate."

The Space Camp program can be accessed by the same student over several years and each year is more educationally intense. The camp creed is "just because I can't see the stars, doesn't mean I can't reach for them" and Sarim is embracing the opportunity.

"Knowledge is the gateway to success," Sarim says. "Gaining knowledge is something that can change your perception of how you view the world. I would definitely love to go to the space camp over the years to gather more knowledge and use it to benefit not only me but those around me."

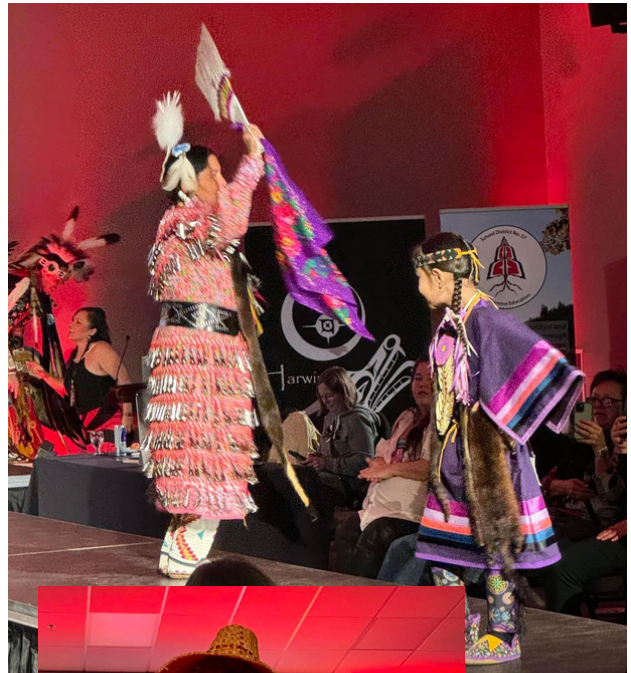
To donate to Sarim's adventure, send a cheque to College Heights Secondary School, 6180 Donatoni Blvd, Prince George, BC V2N2Z4 c/o Belinda Rappell. Mark cheque payable to College Heights Secondary, c/o Belinda Rappell. Also mark cheque with allocation: Space Camp for Students with Visual Impairments. Cash or debit donations can also be made in person at the school's office.

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

Indigenous Fashion Show

On November 15, 2024, the Indigenous Education Department of SD57 proudly hosted its inaugural Indigenous Fashion Show—a vibrant celebration of art, culture, and fashion. This initiative, proposed by Harwin Elementary staff members Marnie and Larissa, brought together models from Harwin Elementary, Nusdeh Yoh Elementary, Ron Brent Elementary, Duchess Park Secondary, post-secondary institutions, community members, and Lheidli Elders.

The event took place at the main hall of Uda Dune Baiyoh – House of Ancestors and commenced at 6:30 p.m. with captivating drumming performances by students from Harwin and Nusdeh Yoh in the foyer. Assistant Superintendent of Indigenous Education, Pam Spooner, served as the evening's emcee, skillfully guiding attendees through a program that included a welcome and land acknowledgment by Cadence and Leighton Auger, alongside Lheidli T'enneh Elder Darlene McIntosh. Highlights of the evening included a rendition of "O Canada" by Harwin drummers, fashion showcases, dance performances, singing, door prizes, and more.





Indigenous Fashion Show

Guests were treated to an array of stunning designs by artists such as Tribe North, Jean Baptiste, Stephanie Patrick, Crystal Behn, Vince Prince (in traditional regalia), and many others. A silent auction successfully raised funds for bursaries to support Indigenous students in SD57, while thoughtfully crafted gift bags containing medicine and tea were presented to all attendees, participants, and contributors.

This remarkable evening was made possible through the dedication and collaboration of many individuals. A heartfelt Mussi Cho to everyone who contributed to its success!



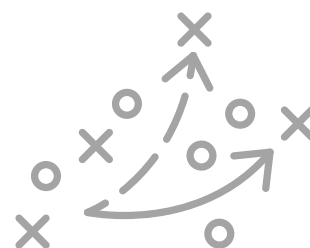
SPORTS

College Heights Secondary
Sports Update

It's been an outstanding season for College Heights Secondary athletics! Our football team had an incredible run, winning the **PG Bowl** and making it to the **Semi-Finals** at **BC Place**, showcasing their dedication, teamwork, and skill. Special congratulations to our **Provincial All Stars**—**Dillon Piddocke (#12)**, **Aidan Smith (#11)**, **Dray Barclay (#69)**, and **Zach Loewen (#2)**.

Our **Girls AAA Volleyball team** also had a phenomenal season, capturing **1st place in Zones** and finishing an impressive **5th at Provincials**, solidifying their place among the top teams in the province. Meanwhile, our **Boys AA Volleyball team** earned **2nd place in Zones** and finished **10th at Provincials**, marking a strong and competitive showing on the provincial stage.

Congratulations to all our athletes and coaches for their hard work and achievements this season—you've made College Heights Secondary proud!



SPORTS

DP Todd Secondary

The DP Todd Secondary girls' team had an outstanding season, capturing the AA zone championship title with a win over STKR. They traveled to Brentwood Bay from November 27 to December 1 for the provincial tournament, where they finished 12th out of 16 teams. Entering the tournament ranked 14th, the team improved their ranking by two places. They played a hard-fought game in the round of 16 against the eventual provincial champions, followed by a strong playoff win, and ultimately ended their run with a narrow three-set loss to secure 12th place.

Congratulations to the players and coaches for their incredible effort and dedication!

**Duchess Park Secondary**

The Senior Girls volleyball team from Duchess Park Secondary had an outstanding season, earning silver at the AAA Zones and exceeding expectations at the AAA Provincials, where they secured a silver medal after entering the tournament ranked 9th. Maggie Malfair and Bella Saro were recognized as first team all-stars, while Rielle Hamilton was named Top Tournament Libero for the entire event. The Senior Boys also showcased their talent, becoming AA Zone Champions and achieving an impressive 7th place finish at the AA Provincials. Congratulations to both teams on their remarkable accomplishments!

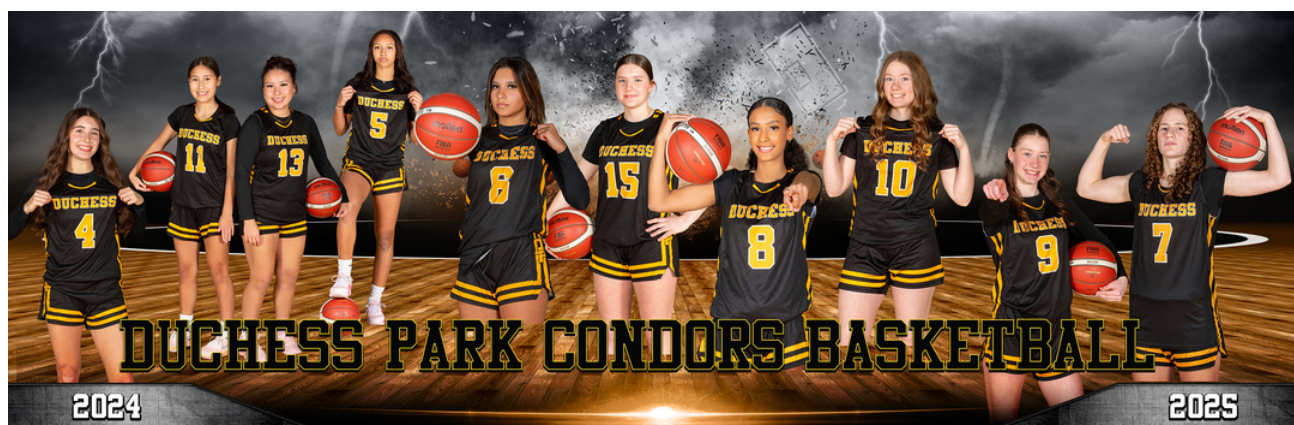




Duchess Park Condors Triumph at Tsumura Invitational

One of the year's first and most anticipated tournaments, the Tsumura Basketball Invitational brings together 64 of B.C.'s best boys and girls basketball teams at the Langley Events Centre. As the tournament moves into its second decade, the goal remains to showcase the best of B.C. basketball through two 16-team brackets over two weeks of play—featuring both powerhouse programs and rising teams making a name for themselves.

The Duchess Park Secondary Senior Girls Condors soared to victory at this prestigious event, defeating the Notre Dame Jugglers 66-51 in an exciting final match. The Condors showcased their skill, determination, and teamwork throughout the competition, with impressive victories over Johnston Heights (72-51), Walnut Grove (88-27), and Vernon (51-50) leading up to the finals. Standout player-of-the-game performances came from Mercedes Black, Emily Clarke, Naiha Manhas, and Zahra Ngabo, who capped off the tournament by being named MVP for her outstanding contributions throughout the event. The Condors' achievement is a proud moment for Duchess Park Secondary and an inspiration for athletes across the district.



GREETINGS FROM DSAC

We are pleased to connect with you through this edition of the District Newsletter. As dedicated student leaders, we remain steadfast in our commitment to representing our peers, sharing important updates, and advocating for the diverse needs of students across our district.

This year, DSAC is proud to introduce our new leadership team, focused on advancing the interests of students throughout the district. Naiha Manhas from Duchess Park Secondary serves as chair, with Keziya Cunningham from Shas-Ti Kelly Road Secondary as vice-chair. We are also joined by Wajih Mansour and Alaina Skelly, student representatives from College Heights Secondary and Shas-Ti Kelly Road, respectively, who contribute to the District Parent Advisory Committee. Newsha Novinchehr from Prince George Secondary and Chayina Kitchen from DP Todd Secondary represent DSAC on the district's Equity, Diversity, Belonging, and Inclusion Committee, while Phina Hwang from College Heights Secondary serves as our member at large. Together, our leadership team is committed to effecting meaningful change and ensuring the voices of students are heard across the district.

A significant achievement this year has been our continued participation in the international student welcome event. For the second consecutive year, DSAC had the opportunity to collaborate with School District 57, the College of New Caledonia, and the University of Northern British Columbia. This event allows us to connect with international students, helping them feel welcomed and supported as they integrate into our school communities.

Moreover, DSAC has made significant strides in broadening representation across the district, particularly in rural areas. We are pleased to announce the inclusion of three members from Valemount Secondary, who have recently joined our monthly meetings. Their involvement strengthens our ability to address the unique challenges faced by rural communities. This expansion is a key part of our ongoing effort to ensure that all students, regardless of their location, have a voice in the decisions that shape their educational experience.

This year DSAC teams includes:

Chayina Kitchen, Isaiah Hyun, Parker Dial, Charlize De Villa, Zelalem Tsega, Vritika Kalen, Naiha Manhas, Lily Watchell, Zahra Ngabo, Max Palmer, Emily Clarke, Niko Santos, Jivanna Stussi-Bird, Maya Duncan, Alaina Skelly, Keziya Cunningham, Braden Porter, Lucille Thomas, Phina Hwang, Areebah Khalid, Wajih Mansour, Riya Mehanger, Martina Pagnotta, Newsha Novinchehr, Emily Wall, Cailyn McKeown, Fred Langlais, Gage Siegel, Sofia Langlais, Grace Palmer, Rachael Markham, Gwenelen Hanson, and Rozina Shaw. These students represent a wide range of schools, including DP Todd Secondary, Duchess Park Secondary, Shas-Ti Kelly Road Secondary, College Heights Secondary, Prince George Secondary, Mackenzie Secondary, and Valemount Secondary.



