SCHOOL DISTRICT 57

Quarterly Newsletter
FALL 2026



A New Season of Learning

FALL 2026

SCHOOL DISTRICT 57 QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



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MESSAGE FROM DSAC

Welcome Back from the District Student Advisory Council - Written by Chair Max Newcomb and Vice-Chair Zahra Ngabo

A new school year is here, bringing with it new experiences, new challenges, and endless possibilities. The School District 57's District Student Advisory Council would like to share a warm welcome to all students new or returning.

Every September marks a fresh chapter. It's a chance to explore new interests, build meaningful relationships, and discover new ways to get involved in your school community. To our returning students, welcome back! We hope you are ready for a new year of learning, expanding your minds, and opportunities to make a difference. If you're a new student, welcome to School District 57! We aspire that your transition into this new school year is with ease and opportunities to grow and make a change. All of DSAC is excited to see what ideas and perspectives are brought this year from students across our district.

As for DSAC members and leaders, we are excited to bring student perspectives forward, create opportunities for collaboration, and celebrating the initiatives that make our district community unique. We strive to make a difference by using student voice, diving into the components and roles of a successful student advisory council, and much more. Our quarterly newsletter will continue throughout the year, with editions in October, December, March, and June. Each edition will offer a glimpse into the projects, events, and ideas in schools across our district.

Here's to a year of bold ideas, shared experiences, and opportunities to turn student voices into action. DSAC wishes everyone a rewarding and memorable 2026–2027 school year!

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the staff of SD57, it is my pleasure to continue to support the efforts of our District Student Advisory Council and the excellent publication of this newsletter on its quarterly schedule. SD57 schools, staff, and students do excellent work across many platforms and excel in so many varied areas.

Having the ability to highlight these efforts, activities and initiatives is a true success for SD57. My sincere thanks to our students, their teacher sponsors, and all of our staff and schools for the efforts you make to ensure our students are finding success and engagement in so many meaningful ways.

Jameel Aziz
Superintendent of Schools/CEO

Message from the Board Chair

Fall is always an exciting time in School District 57. From Prince George to Mackenzie to the Robson Valley, and all the other communities throughout our district, our schools are once again busy with students learning, reconnecting, and discovering new opportunities.

As a Board of Education, we are excited about the year ahead. Our focus is simple: students first. We want every student in SD57 to feel that they belong, that they are supported, and that they have every opportunity to learn and succeed.

Our Strategic Plan helps keep us focused on that responsibility. Excellence for Every Learner, Reconciliation in Action, Well-being and Belonging, and a Thriving Organizational Culture provide the direction, but the real work happens every day in our classrooms, schools, and communities.

We know that strong schools are built through strong relationships. We are grateful to our staff, families, and communities for their commitment to our students.

And to our students — this is your school year. Ask questions. Take some chances. Be kind. Work hard. Find something that excites you and know there are people throughout SD57 cheering you on.

There is much to look forward to this year, and we look forward to sharing the journey with you.

DSAC

DSAC Student Honoured at Centre Ice During Cougars Game

On October 24th, members of the District Student Advisory Council were recognized at centre ice during the Prince George Cougars WHL game as part of the organization's Community Heroes program. The program celebrates individuals who make a positive difference in Prince George through leadership, service, and community involvement.

Several DSAC students were invited to attend the game, joining fellow community leaders for an evening of hockey and recognition. The honour highlighted the valuable contributions that youth leaders make within their schools and across the district.

The recognition served as a meaningful reminder of the impact students can have when they use their voice, take initiative, and dedicate themselves to making their communities better places for everyone.



ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS







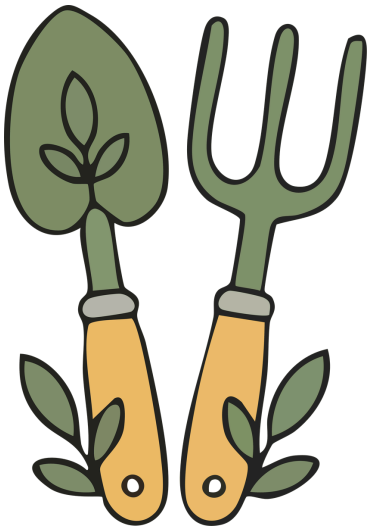


Spruceland Community School of the Arts' Universal Nutritious Food Project Continues to Flourish

Now in its third year, Spruceland Community School of the Arts' Universal Nutritious Food Project continues to connect students and families with healthy food, sustainability, and hands-on learning. What began as an initiative to build food literacy has grown to include an Indigenous plant garden, fruit trees, and 14 raised garden beds that have become a vibrant feature of the school grounds.

Supported by generous community partners, students participate in gardening and cooking clubs, composting programs, meal preparation, food preservation, and garden-based learning experiences. From growing potatoes and microgreens to enjoying soups made with local ingredients and creating garden-inspired artwork, students gain meaningful opportunities to explore food systems, Indigenous knowledge, and environmental stewardship.

The project has enriched both the school grounds and the learning experiences of students, inspiring families and community members alike to deepen their understanding of gardening, sustainability, and healthy living. SCSA is grateful for the support that has made this initiative possible and looks forward to its lasting impact on future generations.

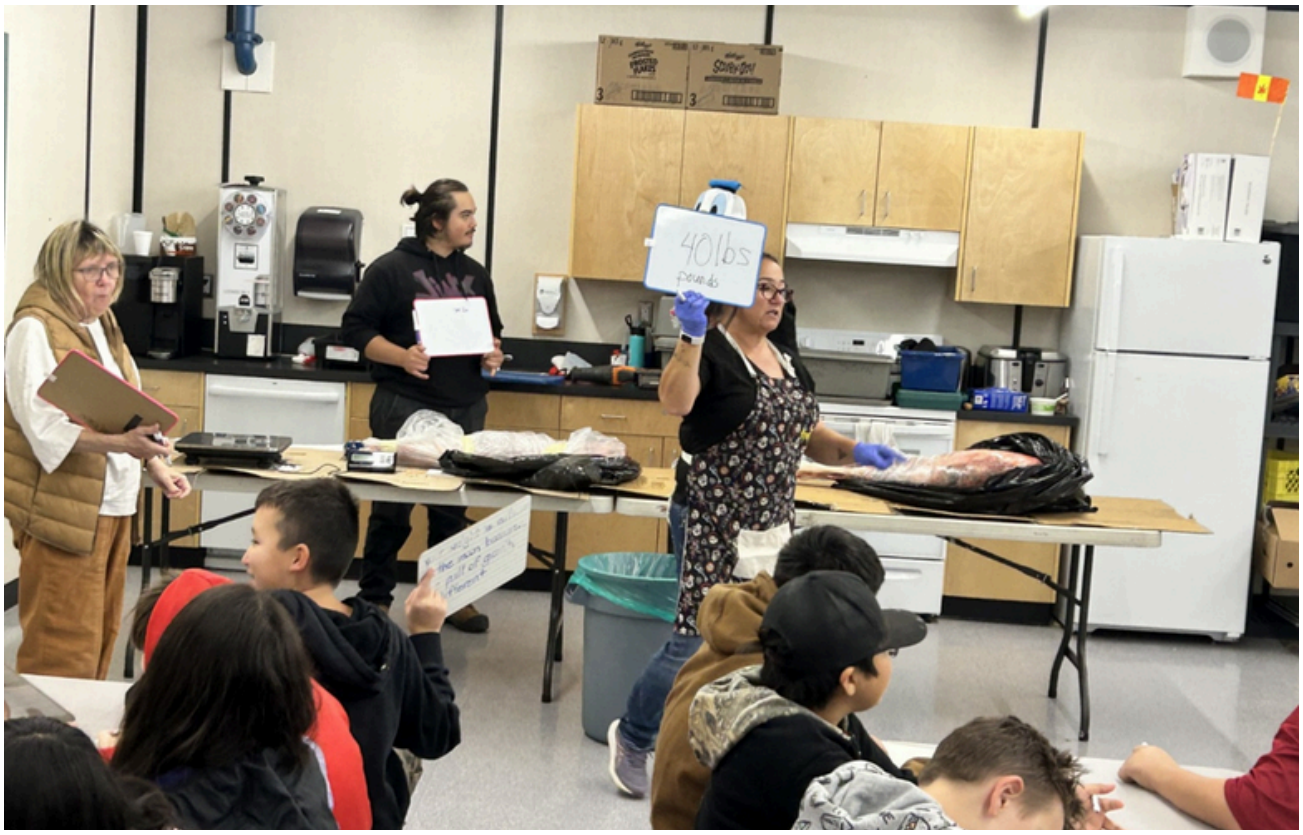


ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Nusdeh Yoh Students Connect Math and the October Seasonal Round

October's seasonal round focuses on hunting, and students at Nusdeh Yoh had a unique opportunity to connect this learning with their mathematics curriculum. After the school was gifted an elk, students applied their understanding of estimation, rounding, percentages, and fractions to a meaningful real-world task: determining how the elk would be processed.

Through this hands-on activity, students were able to see how mathematical concepts learned in the classroom can be applied in practical and culturally relevant ways. By combining learning about the seasonal round with problem-solving and mathematical thinking, students participated in an authentic learning experience that will stay with them for years to come.



ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

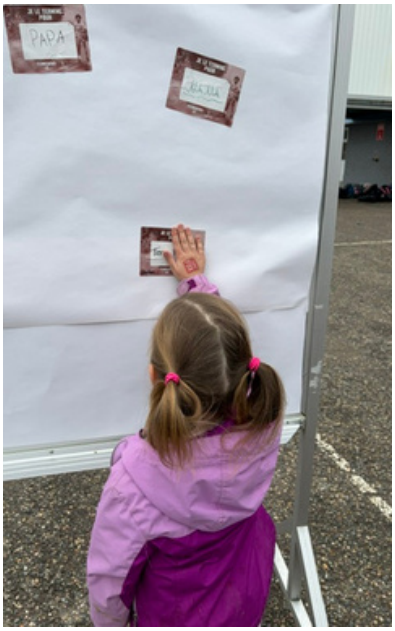
Lac des Bois Community Surpasses Terry Fox Fundraising Goal

On September 25, students and staff at Lac des Bois proudly came together to participate in the annual Terry Fox Run. The day began with a school-wide assembly in the gymnasium, where students learned about the inspiring legacy of Terry Fox and the impact of his Marathon of Hope. Following the assembly, the school community moved outdoors to the track to take part in the run.

Despite rainy weather and chilly temperatures, Lac des Bois students demonstrated remarkable determination, resilience, and school spirit as they ran together in honour of Terry Fox. Their enthusiasm and commitment reflected the values of perseverance and generosity that Terry's legacy continues to inspire.







IThis year, Lac des Bois set an ambitious fundraising goal of $2,000. Thanks to the incredible support and generosity of students, families, and staff, the school not only achieved its goal but exceeded it, raising an outstanding $3,200 for cancer research.

The Terry Fox Run remains a meaningful tradition that brings the school community together in support of a cause that touches many lives. Lac des Bois is grateful for the opportunity to honour Terry's memory while contributing to an important and lasting legacy.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who participated, donated, and supported this year's event. Your generosity and community spirit made this achievement possible, and we are incredibly proud of the entire Lac des Bois school community.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Learning and Growing in Nature at Pinewood

Pinewood students and staff make the most of their natural surroundings through regular outdoor learning experiences in the school's forested areas and nearby Ginter's Park. Thanks to a Learning by Nature Sparks Grant, students helped create a beautiful pollinator garden that was thriving with colour by the fall. Kindergarten students also explored their creativity by designing nature-inspired creatures from collected leaves. Adding to the school's vibrant culture, the Mighty Moose Drumming Club continues to share their talents at assemblies and special events.











ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Beaverly Grade 7 Students Put Design Skills to the Test

Beaverly Grade 7 students recently completed an exciting Outdoor Fort Design Challenge as part of their ADST learning. Guided by Ms. Van Vliet and IEW Ms. Jones, students worked in teams to design, build, test, and improve outdoor forts using natural materials.

Through the project, students developed skills in planning, problem solving, measurement, communication, and collaboration. A key lesson was the importance of creating a plan before building, as their drafts helped guide construction and overcome challenges along the way.

This hands-on learning experience connected ADST, Math, Outdoor Education, Indigenous Education, and Career Education while giving students the opportunity to create, collaborate, and learn through the design process.









ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Quinson Elementary
The Journey from Hide to Hands in Truth and Reconciliation

"I got it!" she shouted!

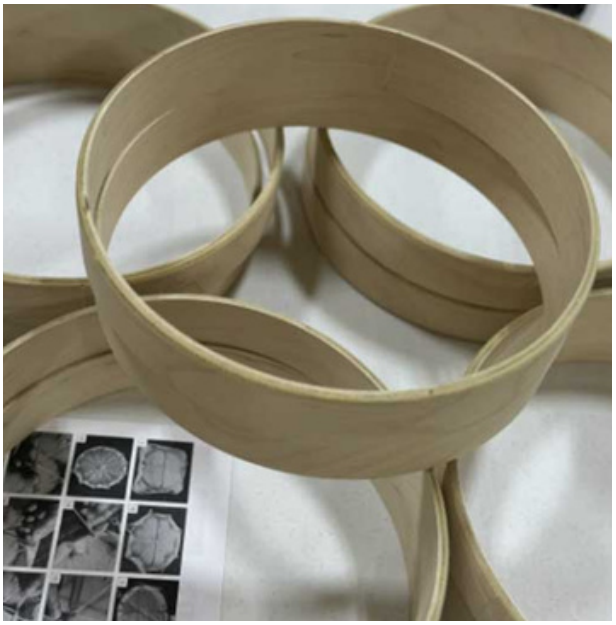
This was the moment Mrs. Franzmann shared her excitement when she was granted $60,000 from the Downie Wenjack Foundation to purchase and build 60 drums for Quinson Elementary.

The journey from the moose hide to the hands of our students spanned much of the 2023–2024 school year. When the drum kits arrived, extra care was taken to ensure that bringing this sacred element of Lheidli culture into our school was done with the time and respect it deserves. Elder Shana Labatch was invited to guide and teach all Quinson staff, sharing the history of drumming, its cultural and spiritual significance within the Lheidli Nation, and the protocols for honouring and showing gratitude to the animal that gave its life.

The lessons from this experience remain deeply valued by Quinson staff. Elder Shana shared the profound symbolism of drumming — its steady beat representing the pulse of life and the connection between the physical and spiritual worlds, mirroring the heartbeat of Mother Earth. Our drums are honoured and cared for during twice-weekly whole-school drum circles — held outdoors on the land when possible, or in the gym with nearly 100 students. They also hold a central place in significant events such as Orange Shirt Day, Remembrance Day, and Indigenous Peoples Day celebrations.

The drums have now become the heartbeat of Quinson.







SECONDARY SCHOOLS

McBride Students Rally for Terry Fox

On September 25, McBride Secondary proudly hosted its 2026 Terry Fox Run, welcoming the Grade 6/7 class from McBride Centennial Elementary to join in the event. Students and staff came together to celebrate Terry Fox's legacy of courage, perseverance, and hope while raising funds for cancer research.

Following the run, participants enjoyed a pizza lunch generously donated by the school PAC. The day also featured a fun fundraising activity, staff members Petra Herstik, Olivia Van Ryn, Megan Desfosses and Julia Rougeau volunteered as targets for a lighthearted challenge. Students who purchased tickets had their names entered into a draw for the opportunity to take part, adding excitement and enthusiasm to the event.

The school set a fundraising goal of $250 for the Terry Fox Foundation and was thrilled to surpass it, raising an impressive $292.85.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to our PAC and everyone who contributed to making the day such a success. Through their generosity and school spirit, students demonstrated the power of a community coming together to support an important cause.







SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Under the Sea: Duchess Park Theatre Company Prepares for a Spectacular Little Mermaid Production

The Duchess Park Theatre Company hit the ground running in September as they are preparing to present Disney's The Little Mermaid from April 13-17th!

During the first six weeks of school 55 cast members learned choreography and music for the group dance/music audition followed by countless solo auditions that kept the students and directors late into the evening! The cast list went up two weeks ago, we had a giant cast and crew read through and now blocking for Act 1 is in full swing!

Our amazing 38 student crew also came together and have been learning about theatre safety, tool maintenance, pulling out set pieces, measuring actors for costumes and more! With 13 teachers working together as part of the Production Team, this year's show is going to be better than ever!

Tickets officially go on sale in February, but early bird sales will happen at the Duchess Park Craft Fair Nov 21-22nd. Tickets are going to go fast...so DO NOT WAIT TO BUY TICKETS! They are $20 for adults and $10 for students, with a half price matinee on the Saturday. Come join the Duchess Park Theatre Company this spring as we take you on a journey UNDER THE SEA!



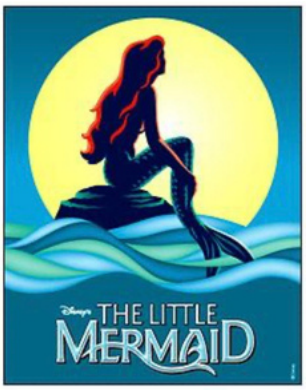












SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Duchess Park Truth and Reconciliation Assembly

On September 29, the Duchess Park school community gathered for our annual Truth and Reconciliation Assembly, creating an important opportunity to listen, learn, reflect, and deepen our understanding of reconciliation.

We were honoured to welcome Lheidli T'enneh Elder Minnie Bjorklund, along with presenters Bryant Doradea, Kahiwyn, and Naneek. Each shared their truths and perspectives on Truth and Reconciliation, providing students and staff with an opportunity to hear directly from Indigenous voices and consider the role we all have in moving reconciliation forward.

A special part of the assembly was a performance by the Duchess Park Drum Group. The group performed DAKELH K'UNA, a song written by Francois Prince of the Nakazli First Nation in Fort St. James. The performance brought students together through song and provided a meaningful moment of connection during the assembly.

Bryant Doradea concluded the gathering with a powerful performance of his original rap, "Often." Through music and storytelling, his performance offered a memorable conclusion to an assembly centred on listening to truth, recognizing lived experiences, and continuing the work of reconciliation.

Truth and Reconciliation is not limited to a single day or assembly. It requires ongoing learning, reflection, relationship building, and a willingness to listen. Events like this provide our school community with opportunities to learn from Indigenous Elders, speakers, artists, and knowledge holders and to consider how each of us can contribute to reconciliation in meaningful ways.

We extend our sincere gratitude to Minnie Bjorklund, Bryant Doradea, Kahiwyn, and Naneek for sharing their voices and experiences with our school community, and to the Duchess Park Drum Group for helping make the gathering meaningful and memorable.







SECONDARY SCHOOLS

PGSS Raises $1,000 for Terry Fox Foundation

On September 25, Prince George Secondary School students and staff came together at Masich Place Stadium for the annual Terry Fox Run. Organized by the PGSS Leadership class under the guidance of Mrs. Bernard, the event brought the school community together to honour Terry Fox's legacy of perseverance, courage, and hope.



While participants were met with cold temperatures and steady rain, the challenging weather did little to dampen their spirits. Students embraced the conditions with enthusiasm, recognizing that Terry himself faced countless obstacles during his Marathon of Hope and never let adversity stand in his way. By braving the elements, PGSS students demonstrated the same determination and resilience that Terry exemplified more than four decades ago.



The event was more than just a run; it was an opportunity for students to reflect on the impact one individual can have on the lives of others. Through fundraising efforts and community support, PGSS staff and students raised an impressive $1,000 for the Terry Fox Foundation. These funds will help support cancer research and continue Terry's dream of finding a cure for cancer.

The success of the Terry Fox Run highlights the generosity and school spirit of the PGSS community. Thanks to the hard work of the Leadership students, the support of staff, and the participation of students across the school, the event served as a meaningful reminder that even small actions can make a big difference. PGSS is proud to continue supporting Terry's legacy and contributing to a cause that has inspired Canadians for generations.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

CHSS Outdoor Learning at Shane Lake

Students from College Heights Secondary recently spent a day at Shane Lake developing leadership, teamwork, and outdoor education skills through a variety of hands-on challenges.

During the hike to the lake, students practiced travelling together as a group, with senior students taking turns leading while others focused on supporting the pace and needs of their classmates. Along the way, they searched for geocaches and learned about local plants, including Devil's Club and Old Man's Beard, exploring their traditional uses and significance within First Nations cultures.

At the picnic area, students worked together to build a fire using natural materials and basic outdoor skills. After several unsuccessful attempts, they adjusted their approach, learned from their mistakes, and eventually succeeded in creating a steady fire to cook lunch. The activity reinforced the value of persistence, problem-solving, and teamwork.

Following lunch, students faced the challenge of raising a large tarp shelter over the picnic area. Working in small groups, they used knots, rope systems, communication, and creative thinking to overcome limited tie-off points and successfully elevate the shelter. The accomplishment was met with excitement and a strong sense of pride.

Students also enjoyed fly-fishing throughout the day. One highlight came when a young boy visiting the lake showed interest in the activity. Several students took the time to share their knowledge, answer his questions, and demonstrate fishing techniques, showing kindness and leadership in the process.

The day provided countless opportunities for students to apply classroom learning in a real-world setting. We were proud of their perseverance, cooperation, and willingness to support one another while embracing every challenge the outdoors presented.





SPORTS

DP Todd Jr. A Boys Claim Kodiak Classic Championship

The DP Todd Jr. A Boys Volleyball team team captured the Kodiak Classic championship with an impressive victory over the College Heights Secondary Jr. A Boys in the tournament final.

Both teams entered the championship game after strong performances throughout the tournament, setting the stage for an exciting all-Prince George showdown. The final featured intense competition, with both teams displaying determination, skill, and teamwork in front of a supportive crowd.

DP Todd rose to the occasion when it mattered most and delivered a strong team performance to secure the victory and earn the Kodiak Classic title. Their championship run reflected the dedication and hard work the team has shown throughout the season.



The CHSS Jr. A Boys also demonstrated tremendous effort and resilience throughout the tournament. Reaching the championship game is a significant accomplishment and speaks to the growth and competitiveness of the program.

The Kodiak Classic once again showcased the high level of junior volleyball talent in Prince George, with both schools representing their communities with pride, sportsmanship, and determination.

Congratulations to the DP Todd Jr. A Boys on their tournament championship and to both teams for an outstanding weekend of volleyball.

SPORTS

Condors Capture Kodiak Classic Crown

The Duchess Park Secondary Junior A Girls Volleyball team showcased its skill, resilience, and teamwork on its way to a championship victory at the Kodiak Classic, defeating the DP Todd Trojans in the tournament final.

After navigating a competitive field throughout the weekend, the Condors earned a spot in the gold medal match where they faced a determined DP Todd squad. The final featured strong rallies, impressive defensive plays, and momentum swings that highlighted the talent of both teams.



Duchess Park found its rhythm early, using consistent serving and strong communication to gain an advantage. While the Trojans continued to battle and kept the pressure on throughout the match, the Condors responded with steady play in key moments, demonstrating the composure that had carried them through the tournament.

The championship performance was the result of a complete team effort. Contributions came from across the lineup, with players stepping up in crucial situations and supporting one another from the first serve to the final point. Their ability to stay focused during long rallies and capitalize on opportunities proved to be the difference in the match.

For the Condors, the Kodiak Classic title is a reflection of the hard work, dedication, and growth the team has shown this season. Meanwhile, DP Todd's strong showing throughout the tournament underscored the strength of the program and set the stage for future success.

Congratulations to the Duchess Park Junior A Girls Volleyball team on capturing the Kodiak Classic championship and to both teams for delivering an exciting and competitive final that showcased the outstanding volleyball talent developing in Prince George schools.

SPORTS

Condors Shine at DP Todd Invitational

The Duchess Park Secondary Senior Girls Volleyball team captured the championship at the DP Todd Invitational, defeating the College Heights Secondary Cougars in an exciting tournament final.

After a strong weekend of competition, the Condors earned their place in the gold medal match through consistent play, strong serving, and solid team defense. In the championship match, Duchess Park demonstrated its depth and composure, working together to overcome a determined College Heights squad and secure the tournament title.

TThe final showcased the talent of both teams, with lengthy rallies and competitive play throughout the match. Duchess Park's ability to execute in key moments and maintain pressure from the service line proved to be the difference.

While the Condors celebrated the championship, the Cougars also enjoyed a successful tournament run, advancing to the final and competing at a high level all weekend.

Congratulations to the Duchess Park Senior Girls on winning the DP Todd Invitational and to both teams for representing their schools with skill, sportsmanship, and determination. The tournament provided an excellent showcase of senior girls volleyball in Prince George.



SPORTS

College Heights Claims Jon Bragg Invitational Championship

VOLLEYBALL

The College Heights Secondary Senior Boys Volleyball team captured the championship at the Jon Bragg Invitational with an impressive three-set victory over the DP Todd Trojans in the tournament final.

After a strong weekend of competition, the Hawks entered the championship match ready to take on a talented and determined DP Todd squad. The final showcased the athleticism, teamwork, and competitive spirit of both programs, with long rallies and momentum swings keeping spectators engaged throughout the match.

College Heights displayed exceptional composure and consistency, controlling key moments in each set and applying pressure from the service line while delivering strong defensive play. Their disciplined approach and balanced team effort allowed the Hawks to secure the match in straight sets and claim the tournament title.

The championship victory reflects the hard work and dedication the team has shown throughout the season. Players contributed across all facets of the game, demonstrating strong communication, relentless effort, and a commitment to supporting one another on the court.

Congratulations to the College Heights Senior Boys Volleyball team on their Jon Bragg Invitational championship and to the DP Todd Trojans for an outstanding tournament run. The final was a great showcase of volleyball talent in Prince George and highlighted the competitive excellence of both programs.





SPORTS

College Heights Jr. B Girls Crowned Champions at the Kodiak Classic

The College Heights Secondary Junior B Girls Volleyball team delivered a strong performance at the Kodiak Classic, defeating Burns Lake in an exciting match. The Cougars showcased excellent teamwork throughout the contest, combining consistent serving, strong defensive play, and effective communication to gain the advantage.

Burns Lake challenged the Cougars with spirited play and competitive rallies, but College Heights remained composed in key moments. The team demonstrated resilience and determination, working together to extend rallies and capitalize on scoring opportunities.

The victory reflects the growth and commitment of the Junior B Girls program. Every player contributed to the team's success, whether through strong play on the court or encouragement from the bench. The win was a rewarding result for a group that continues to develop its skills and confidence with each tournament.

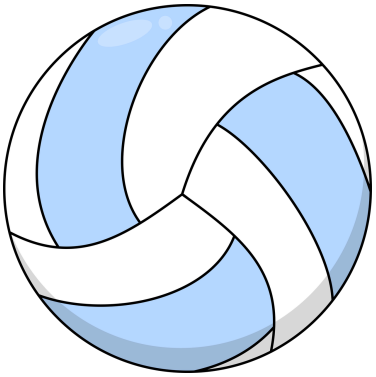
Congratulations to the College Heights Junior B Girls Volleyball team on an excellent performance at the Kodiak Classic and a well-earned victory over Burns Lake. Their effort and sportsmanship were a great representation of the Cougar program.



SPORTS







Condors Capture STKR Tournament Championship

The Duchess Park Secondary girls volleyball team continued its strong season with a championship victory at the Shas-Ti Kelly Road Tournament, defeating the College Heights Secondary Cougars in the gold medal match.

The Condors displayed outstanding teamwork and consistency throughout the tournament, earning their place in the final against a talented College Heights squad. The championship match featured competitive rallies and strong play from both teams, but Duchess Park's steady serving, defensive coverage, and execution in key moments helped secure the title.

While the Condors celebrated the tournament championship, the Cougars also enjoyed an excellent weekend of volleyball, advancing to the final and demonstrating their skill and determination throughout the event.

Congratulations to the Duchess Park girls volleyball team on capturing the STKR Tournament crown and to both teams for showcasing the high level of volleyball talent within Prince George schools.

SPORTS

Condors Earn Statement Win at TRU Howlers Tournament

The Duchess Park Secondary girls volleyball team delivered an impressive performance at the TRU Howlers Tournament, defeating Kelowna Secondary in a hard-fought match against one of the province's top programs.

The Condors showcased their depth, determination, and teamwork throughout the contest, matching Kelowna's intensity with strong serving, disciplined defense, and consistent play at the net. Long rallies and momentum swings highlighted the competitive nature of the match, but Duchess Park remained composed in key moments to secure the victory.

The win was a testament to the growth and hard work of the Condors, who continue to establish themselves as a team capable of competing with some of the strongest programs in British Columbia. Contributions came from across the lineup as the team worked together to earn a memorable result on a highly competitive stage.

Congratulations to the Duchess Park girls volleyball team on an outstanding performance at the TRU Howlers Tournament and a well-earned victory over Kelowna Secondary.



SPORTS

Cougars Rise to the Challenge Against Duchess Park

The College Heights Secondary Junior A Girls Volleyball team earned an impressive victory over Duchess Park Secondary, proving that persistence and confidence can make all the difference.

Facing a talented Condors squad, the Cougars battled through a closely contested match filled with long rallies and momentum swings. Rather than backing down when challenges arose, College Heights continued to push the pace, staying aggressive from the service line and competing for every ball.

As the match wore on, the Cougars found their rhythm. Strong communication, timely defensive plays, and a determined effort across the court helped College Heights gain the upper hand and secure the win.

The victory was a rewarding result for a team that continues to grow each time it steps on the court. By overcoming a strong Duchess Park program, the Cougars demonstrated both their potential and their ability to compete with some of the top teams in the region.

Congratulations to the College Heights Junior A Girls on an excellent performance and a well-earned victory.



SPORTS

Condors Soar Past PGSS at the College Heights Tournament

The Duchess Park Secondary Senior Girls Volleyball team delivered an impressive performance at the College Heights Secondary tournament, earning a hard-fought victory over Prince George Secondary School.

Facing a determined PGSS squad, the Condors competed with confidence and intensity throughout a closely contested match. Long rallies and momentum swings kept the contest exciting, but Duchess Park remained poised under pressure. Strong serving, consistent defensive play, and effective communication helped the Condors maintain their focus and capitalize on key opportunities.

As the match progressed, Duchess Park found its rhythm and began to dictate the pace of play. The team's commitment to every ball, combined with strong teamwork across the court, proved to be the difference as the Condors secured the victory.

The win was a rewarding result for a team that continues to develop and improve with each competition. By defeating a talented PGSS team, the Condors demonstrated their skill, determination, and ability to compete at a high level.

Congratulations to the Duchess Park Senior Girls on an excellent performance and a well-earned victory at the College Heights Secondary tournament.




SCHOOL DISTRICT 57