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Volume 2025/26-2

September 25, 2025

Co-Principals: Mrs. W. Kelemen
Mrs. G. Moyah

Admin. Assistant: Mrs. J. Vossen

Francois Lake Elementary School

Office Hours: 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM

Phone: 250-695-6401 Fax: 250-695-6695

A Principal's Message

As the month of September draws to a near, I wish to thank the school family for their warm welcome to all new and returning students and for their dedication to student success. As a principal returning to Francois Lake Elementary School, I am grateful for all the little things folks do each day to make our school a warm and welcoming one.

This month, teachers have been busy getting to know each student and his/her strengths and stretches as a learner. Each learner will engage in goal setting as it relates to the core competencies outlined in the BC Curriculum. The three core competencies are: Communication, Thinking, and Personal and Social. Students develop skills in these three areas beginning at home which makes your support for their growing awareness, understanding and development of the Core Competencies crucial. When it works for you, please ask your child what goals they have set in these core competencies. Each term, students will update their goal and report on their success in relation to it.

In closing, the school is a bustling hub of activity from Open House, student photos, a fire drill, kindergarten assessments, reading assessments as well as the daily ebb and flow of a classroom schedule. I appreciate everyone's hard work to do their personal best.

Respectfully,

Mrs. Kelemen
Principal

Mark your Calendars!

(Dates & events subject to change)

September

29 (M) FLES Observes Orange Shirt Day

30 (T) Orange Shirt Day—No School

October

13 (M) Thanksgiving Day—No School

22 (W) Talk About Learning PM—Early Dismissal 11:53 AM

24 (F) Pro-D Day—No School

November

4 (T) Photo Retake Day

10 (M) Remembrance Day Ceremony—11 AM

11 (T) Observe Remembrance Day—No School

December

3 (W) Learning Updates go home

5 (F) Volleyball Tournament

22 to January 2—Winter Break—No School

January

5 (M) Back in school day

Picking Up Your Child During Class Time or Dropping Off Items For Your Child

We value our students' learning time in the classroom and we want the best education possible for each of our students. When parents go to the classroom to pick up their child or drop off items when classes are in session, it can be very disruptive for the rest of the class.

This year we are asking if parents wish to pick up their child from the classroom to **please come to the office**, let one of **our staff know who** you want, and to **please wait at the office** until we bring your child to you. If you wish to drop something off for your child, **please come to the office**, let one of **our staff know who the item is for**, and we will look after it for you.

Let's help preserve and protect all our students' education with as few interruptions as possible.

Thank you!



FLES Gets Photo Retakes!

Tuesday, November 4, at 9 AM, photo retakes will take place! We'll also have our class and panoramic school photo done. Send your beautiful little people to school all dressed up and ready for their super star moment!



The Story of Orange Shirt Day

The Legacy of the St. Joseph Mission (SJM) Residential School

Orange Shirt Day is a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission (SJM) Residential School (1891-1981) Commemoration Project and Reunion events that took place in Williams Lake, BC, Canada, in May 2013. This project was the vision of Esketemc (Alkali Lake) Chief Fred Robbins, who is a former student himself. It brought together former students and their families from the Secwepemc, Tsilhqot'in, Southern Dakeh and St'at'imc Nations along with the Cariboo Regional District, the Mayors and municipalities, School Districts and civic organizations in the Cariboo Region.

The events were designed to commemorate the residential school experience, to witness and honour the healing journey of the survivors and their families, and to commit to the ongoing process of reconciliation. Chief Justice Murray Sinclair challenged all of the participants to keep the reconciliation process alive, as a result of the realization that every former student had similar stories.

Orange Shirt Day is a legacy of this project. As spokesperson for the Reunion group leading up to the events, former student Phyllis (Jack) Webstad told her story of her first day at residential school when her shiny new orange shirt, bought by her grandmother, was taken from her as a six-year old girl.

The annual Orange Shirt Day on September 30th opens the door to global conversation on all aspects of Residential Schools. It is an opportunity to create meaningful discussion about the effects of Residential Schools and the legacy they have left behind. A discussion all Canadians can tune into and create bridges with each other for reconciliation. A day for survivors to be reaffirmed that they matter, and so do those that have been affected. Every Child Matters, even if they are an adult, from now on.

The date was chosen because it is the time of year in which children were taken from their homes to residential schools, and because it is an opportunity to set the stage for anti-racism and anti-bullying policies for the coming school year. It is an opportunity for First Nations, local governments, schools and communities to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come.

It all started in the Cariboo, and as a result, School District No. 27 was chosen by the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) to pilot curriculum changes for all Grade 5 and Grade 10 students reflecting the residential school experience, which have now been implemented province-wide.

Source: [Orange Shirt Day - Orange Shirt Society](https://orangeshirtday.org/orange-shirt-day/#story) <https://orangeshirtday.org/orange-shirt-day/#story>

On Monday, September 29, we are asking families to send their students to school wearing orange—an orange T-shirt, orange jacket, any other orange clothing article.

THANK YOU to all the parents who came to our annual Open House on September 18, 2025, to meet new and see-again our staff who took their personal time and stayed to meet with you, our parents!

And an additional **THANK YOU** to Leona Prince and Nyree Hazelton who, between Open House time and PAC meeting, made a small presentation to everyone there!



FLES Participates...



Francois Lake students participated in our annual **Terry Fox Run** Thursday, **Sept. 12** at **2:00 PM**. They were awesome and definitely did their part! Families can continue to donate online at <https://schools.terryfox.ca/FrancoisLakeElementary>

AND a HUGE THANK YOU to **Mrs. Osmond** for her Generous gift of ice cream sandwiches for all the students.



FLES starts with the letter "F" ... for fun!



New Secret Beach Adventures!



Meet Nyree Hazelton. She is a parent here at FLES and is one of our elected school district trustees. She is part of the corporate Board of Education, responsible for establishing local priorities, setting policy, approving budgets, and ensuring student achievement and community needs are met. While Nyree brings our unique community perspective to discussions, the board as a whole makes decisions and is accountable to the public.

Trustee Nyree Hazelton's key responsibilities are:

Community representation - being the voice of our community within the school system.

Board governance - contributing judgement and experience, and supporting collective board decisions.

Policy and budget - setting policies, approving budgets, and planning for success and learning environments of students.

Accountability - keeping the board accountable to the public for delivery and quality of education in our district.

Advocacy - ensuring our district's needs are heard by the province so our priorities are considered in broader educational policies.

If you'd like to chat, contact her at nhazelton@sd91.bc.ca.



Francois Lake Informs...

Our New Administration

- ★ Mrs. Wendy Kelemen—Co-Principal
- ★ Mrs. Ginger Moyah—Co-Principal

Our Returning and New Staff

- ★ Mrs. Velvet Hogarth—Grades 4, 5, 6, & 7
- ★ Miss Molly Nicholas—Grades K, 1, 2, & 3
- ★ Ms. Sam Osmond—Supervisor & Custodian
- ★ Mrs. Lana Coulson—Learning Support Worker
- ★ Mr. Wyatt Helgesen—Learning Support Worker
- ★ Ms. Janice Babych—Food Worker
- ★ Mrs. Jean Vossen—Administrative Assistant



Where's My Child?

We do our best to ensure all of our students are safe and accounted for.

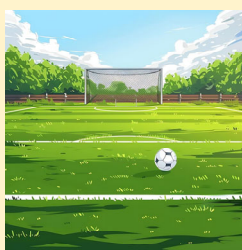
To keep your child safe, when there are changes in bussing plans or your child is getting picked up, we need to hear directly from you.

Please contact the school by 2 PM if your bus student is getting picked up.

Please note, your emergency contact is for emergencies when we can't reach you — the parent or guardian.



Our first **Fire Drill** took place Tues., Sept. 23 at noon. Our school was fully cleared out in 2 minutes 45 seconds!!! Well done, **Falcons!!!**



Board Biz...



VIRTUAL CLEARING HOUSE

Setting up a home office?
Creating a homework space? Need a bookshelf?
Check out the Virtual Clearing House.

auction.sd91.bc.ca

Online auction site of SD91 assets

Updated often - check it often!



Scan the QR Code to go to the website!



PAC Post...

Next PAC meeting Thur., Oct. 16 at 5:30 PM in the Staff Room. Free babysitting and all parents are welcome!
Come see how PAC helps direct our school.

And the last word goes to:

Mrs. Sam Osmond for the Terry Fox Run ice cream sandwiches!!! They were so appreciated!



Proposed Policy Update

The following draft policy is currently open for public feedback **until 4:30 p.m. on Friday, October 10, 2025.**

[Policy 302.7.2 – Unexpected Health Emergencies](#)

Members of the public are welcome to review all the information, including how to provide feedback, on the SD91 Policies and Regulations webpage at www.sd91.bc.ca/policies-and-regulations.



Superintendent's Report to the Board

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

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



First Nations Health Authority
Health through wellness



First Nations Health Authority
270 – 177 Victoria St.
Prince George, BC, V2L 5R8

Population & Public Health
500 – 299 Victoria Street
Prince George, BC, V2L 5B8

September 15, 2025

To Families and School Staff: What you need to know about measles

Measles is spreading in BC right now. This letter has important information to help keep your child, your family, and our schools safe. Measles is a sickness that spreads easily, but we can help stop it with vaccines and knowing what to do if we're exposed to it.

Vaccines help protect us

Getting the measles vaccine is the best way to stay safe!

People are protected if they:

- got **two measles vaccines (shots)** after turning 1 year old,
- were born **before 1970**, or
- were diagnosed with measles before.

Check if you or your child got both vaccines:	If you or your child need vaccination:
• check online at BC Health Gateway (https://www.healthgateway.gov.bc.ca) • call your local Community Health Centre or Health Unit.	Book an appointment at your local: Community Health Centre, Health Unit (https://www.northernhealth.ca/find-a-facility/health-units), or pharmacy

What measles looks like

Symptoms of measles show up **7 to 21 days** after being near someone who has measles (if you catch the virus). These symptoms include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Runny nose
- Red or watery eyes
- A rash that starts on the face and neck, then spreads

Measles spreads through the air when someone with measles breathes, coughs or sneezes. Measles can make people very sick by causing problems with breathing or in the brain, and sometimes it can be deadly.

If you think your child has measles symptoms

- Do not send your child to school.
- Call **your doctor** or the **Northern Health Virtual Clinic at 1-844-645-7811**.
- Try to keep your child away from other people during this time.
- If you need to go to the doctor or hospital, call ahead so they can get ready.

If someone has measles

They should stay home and away from other people until at least 4 days after the rash starts. This helps stop the sickness from spreading. If you need to go to the doctor or hospital, please call first so the staff can get ready.

If measles exposure happens at school	If your child gets sick at school
If there is exposure to measles at your school, public health will send a letter to the school to send home. It will tell you: • Where to get vaccines • Information about testing, preventive treatment, and care • That anyone not immune to measles should stay home for 21 days to keep others safe	If your child feels sick at school, staff will call you – just like normal. If there is concern about measles, school staff will call public health for advice. Based on this advice, school staff may help that person go home quickly. While waiting, your child may wear a mask and stay in a separate room. You can call your doctor or the Northern Health Virtual Clinic at 1-844-645-7811 to assess you and see if you should be tested for measles.

Extra care for some people

Measles can be very dangerous for people who are not protected, and who are pregnant or have weak immune systems. If you are worried about the health of your child or family member related to measles, call **your doctor** or the **Northern Health Virtual Clinic** right away. They can help you get care and medicine to stay safe.

More information

- <https://www.northernhealth.ca/health-topics/measles>
- <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/measles>
- <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthlinkbc-files/measles>
- Northern Health Virtual Clinic: 1-844-645-7811

Let's work together to stop the spread of measles and keep our schools and families safe.

With thanks and in partnership,

*Northern Director of Nursing, on behalf of
First Nations Health Authority Public Health Doctors (Medical Health Officers)*

*Regional Nursing Lead – Healthy Schools, on behalf of
Northern Health Public Health Doctors (Medical Health Officers)*



First Nations Health Authority
Health through wellness

