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Volume 2025/26-9

January 29, 2026

Co-Principals

Mrs. W. Kelemen

Mrs. G. Moyah

Admin. Assistant

Mrs. J. Vossen

Francois Lake Elementary School

Office Hours: 8:45 AM to 3:00 PM
Phone: 250-695-6401 Fax: 250-695-6695

Principal's Message

Believe it or not...we are working on plans for next school year! Every spring, schools make an enrolment projection for the following school year. We base these numbers on our current enrolment and our projected kindergarten enrolment (as well as any changes to our current student body).

The number of kindergarten students entering our school in the fall is a bit hazy to me currently. I don't know of too many families with four-year-olds in their home. For this reason, I'm reaching out to you for some help. If you have or know of a child entering kindergarten in the fall and they reside within our catchment area, please let me know. Also, if you are planning to submit an out-of-catchment application so your child can attend another school in the fall, please consider letting me know this as well. There are no judgments or repercussions by letting the school office, but it does assist us with our planning. Thank you for your consideration.

In closing, please note that kindergarten registration opens soon! Registrations will be accepted from families who reside within our catchment area beginning on Monday, February 2nd.

The out of catchment applications will be accepted from March 9 – May 15. These applications are time stamped, so you are encouraged to apply when the window opens.

Thank you in advance for your spirit of cooperation and understanding!

Respectfully,

Mrs. Kelemen

Principal

No-School Days!!!

Fri. Feb. 6: Pro-D Day
Mon. Feb. 16: Family Day
Sat.. Mar. 14 to Sun. Mar. 29: Spring Break
Fri. Apr. 3: Good Friday
Mon. Apr. 6: Easter
Fri. Apr. 24: Pro-D Day
Fri. May 8: Pro-D Day
Mon. May 18: Victoria Day
Fri. Jun. 26 - Tue. Sep. 8
Summer Break

Mark your Calendars!
(Dates & events subject to change)

February

2 (M) Groundhog Day
6 (F) Pro-D Day—No School
11 (W) Gr. 7 Pop Corn Sale
12 (Th) "500 Words"
Production—1:30 PM
13 (F) Sock Hop and Free
Lunch 12:15 PM
16 (M) Family Day—No
School
18 (W) PAC Meeting 5:30
25 (W) Pink Shirt Day

Kindergarten!

Pre-registration starts... ...this Monday!!!

If you have a child who turns **4 years old in any month in 2026**, and lives **within our catchment area** (south of, and including, Bald Hill Rd; north of Francois Lake; and east of North Red Hills Provincial Park), we ask that you **pre-register** your September Kindergartener at **FLES**. We will need their **Birth Certificate, BC Services card**, and your **proof of residence** in our catchment area (Drivers Licence, utilities bill, etc.).

Don't worry if you plan to have your child attend another school. We will move your child's records to your preferred school after the out-of-catchment window opens March 9 (closes May 15), you've submitted your out-of-catchment application, and it has been accepted at the requested school.

FLES won't be taking out-of-catchment students this year.
Questions? Call the school at 250-695-6401.

Theatre Production—500 Words!

We are so excited to welcome Green Thumb Productions on Thursday, Feb. 12, at 1:30 PM. They will be presenting, "500 Words", a play about a kid named Lance who loves to show off his vocabulary. In class, he gets paired with Sylvia who struggles with the right words for her wonderful ideas.

This play will explore literacy in an engaging way with words—what will happen next? What lessons are learned? What wonderful, magical story will Lance and Sylvia come up with?

On Tuesday, January 27, our students were privileged to experience a presentation generously shared by our local LBN Guardians, Murphy Patrick, Steven Bayes, and Duane West.

The kids learned about the roles of the Guardians in our community and surrounding lands, and learned about local wildlife. Their role is to care for the land and water that sustains us. They manage wildfires, test water quality, collect data for climate impacts, monitor development projects, and help restore caribou, other animals and plants on the land. (excerpted from <https://www.rng-ngn.ca/programs/>)

Check out the pictures below!

Ask your child what the animals were!



FLES's Virtue for January is Perseverance

Francois Lake Elementary is practicing perseverance which is being persistent in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success. It means staying with a task even though it is hard to do, like reading a difficult book, or doing a hard math question. Our Falcons excel at perseverance!

PERSEVERANCE = NEVER GIVING UP

On Wednesday, Feb. 11, the Grade 7s will be holding a Pop-Corn Sale!!! They are raising funds for their year end event.



Be sure to bring some money to support this worthwhile event! Only a buck (\$1) a bag!

On Wednesday, Feb. 25, wear your pink shirt to school!!!

This year's theme is love raining from the sky and sheltering together.

Let's make Francois glow with pink!



Intermediate Art!

Like the Mona Lisa, these need to be seen in Live Definition (LD)!

Check out these gorgeous skaters!

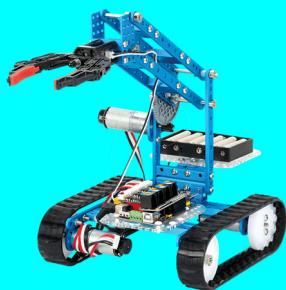


GUESS WHAT WE'RE DOING!!!

Starting in the very near future, Mr. Helgesen will be leading interested intermediate students in our latest-and-coolest **ROBOTICS CLUB!**

Mr. Helgesen went to a special course on Tuesday to learn how to set up and help kids learn about robotics.

Watch for the upcoming dates!!!



How do YOU catch a snowman?

Our primary class tackled that problem with some super creative ideas using popsicle sticks, glue, paper and imaginations in their ADST class with Mrs. Comeau.



Student Learning Survey 2025/2026

The Provincial Student Learning survey is unique in its scope, size and usefulness to schools. It gathers information from parent/guardians, teachers, and students on topics related to school environments, safety, and achievement. The information is used for planning in individual schools and provides a district and provincial perspective.

Between January and April, the Student Learning Survey will be administered to students in grades 4 and 7, their parents/guardians, and all school staff. We encourage parents/guardians to participate in this survey, as the results are important in identifying and celebrating current strengths, as well as determining where the school needs to focus improvement. The surveys contain standard questions for the Province—in addition, questions from the school and/or district that focus on local conditions or issues may be included.

The survey can be completed electronically and can be accessed on the Internet at www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat_survey/access.htm. Any computer with an Internet connection can be used, and access to the e-survey is simple and secure. The survey can be accessed through the link with or without an anonymous logon code by selecting the school district and school name where your child attends school. Provincial, District, and School Reports for previous years can be viewed at the same site under the *Results* section.

The e-survey will be open until May 1, 2026.

If you have any questions, please contact the school at 250-695-6401.



On Tues. Jan. 27, our school, AND guests, were fortunate enough to enjoy delicious **bannock** prepared by Carmen Charlie.

They were EXCELLENT!

In Focus - Feeding Futures Guiding Principle (3 of 5)

"Flexible, adaptable and respectful of local contexts." Did you know? Grassy Plains and Francois Lake schools have access to groceries via a partnership with *The Link*, which delivers items from the *Fresh for Kids* program every Monday.

Board Biz...



Proposed Policy Update

The following draft policy is currently open for public feedback
until 4:30 p.m. on Friday, February 13, 2026.

[Policy 101.1.1 – Trustee Elections – Bylaw](#)

Members of the public are welcome to review all the information, including how to provide feedback, on the [SD91 Policies and Regulations webpage](#).



Superintendent's Report to the Board

Superintendent Anita McClinton presented her [Monthly Report](#) at the Regular School Board Meeting on Monday, January 19, 2026.

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

PAC Posts...

Feb. 13
PAC sponsored Sock-Hop at lunch, AND, PAC sponsored student lunch!

Our 2025-2026 PAC Executive
Chair: Amy Wainwright
Co-Vice Chair: Dale Pereira
Co-Vice Chair: Jessica Shively
Treasurer: Johanna Hayes
Secretary: Ileasha Gooding
DPAC: Vacant (you!)

The next **PAC meeting** will be **Wed. Feb. 18, 2026, at 5:30 PM.** All parents are welcome, and babysitting is provided! How do **YOU** want to see our school teach our kids? Come have your say!

And the last word goes to:

Mrs. Winifred Comeau, who has kindly stepped out of retirement to teach our primary students Applied Design Skills and Technology (ADST), and our intermediate students Science. Thank you so much, Mrs. Comeau!

SCHOOL DISTRICT 91

We're Hiring!



SCAN THE QR CODE, OR VISIT
WWW.SD91.BC.CA/SUPPORTSTAFFPOSTINGS
TO VIEW OUR CURRENT VACANCIES, INCLUDING OUR
CASUAL LISTS!

