



FRANCOIS LAKE

Volume 2025/26-10

February 12, 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
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Principal's Message

Kindness is at the heart of humanity. Where differences exist, we aim to appreciate and accept each other. In doing so, we cultivate a deep culture of respect and tolerance.

When differences arise, we expect that kindness will forge and maintain positive dialogue and interactions. As such, the school district has recently released a *Parent/Caregiver/Visitor Code of Conduct* to be displayed at all sites. For your convenience, we have attached it to this edition of newsletter.

Please have a read over the *Code of Conduct* and let me know if you have any questions or concerns about these expectations.

We are grateful to be working with such supportive families. Thank you for your ongoing respect and kindness. *In a world where you can be anything, be kind.*

Respectfully,

Mrs. Kelemen
Principal

No-School Days!!!

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

BUSSING CHANGE FOR TOMORROW!!!

The Colleymount bus is cancelled for tomorrow due to staffing.

Keep in mind, SD91 is still looking for casual bus drivers, so if you're interested...check out <https://www.sd91.bc.ca/employment> and "Join our Team!". You can find it through out SD91's homepage.

On Thursday, January 29, the **Intermediate Class** went swimming in Houston as part of their PE program! They had lots of fun!



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

26 & 27 Share the Love

March

4 (W) Learning Updates go home

9 (M) Out of Catchment opens

February's Virtue is

Kindness

What is kindness?

It's love in action—helpful, sharing, really listening. It is intentional, voluntary, and means doing the right thing even when it's hard. It means not expecting anything in return when you give your time or attention. Kindness is supporting others to overcome challenges rather than showing their weaknesses. It could mean standing up for someone, listening intently when someone is sharing their feelings and being a comfort.

No act of kindness,
however small,
is ever wasted.

13 Strategies for Encouraging Kindness

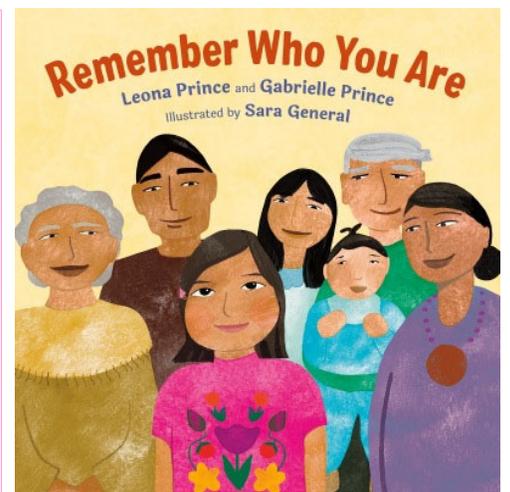
- 1. Believe that your child is capable of being kind.** If you assume your child wants to help and is concerned about other people's needs, they will tend to live up to those expectations.
- 2. Model positive action.** What you do and say is critical; let your child catch you in the act of kindness. Practicing "a little for you, and now a little for me," lays the foundation for a lifetime of give-and-take and openness with people.
- 3. Treat your child with respect.** For example, use alerts when playtime is almost over. Show your child, "Mommy and Daddy don't always agree, but we listen to each other and treat each other with respect instead of putting each other down.
- 4. Coach your child to pay attention to people's facial expressions.** This is a key step in learning how to understand another's perspective. It help your child imagine how the world looks from someone else's point of view.
- 5. Let your child know often that how they treat others matters to you greatly.** It might seem funny to see someone get splashed if a car drives by and hits a puddle, but you can point out that person isn't laughing. "Look at their face. They look sad. Their clothes are dirty and wet now."
- 6. Don't let rudeness pass.** You might say, "Wow, that person must have had a really bad day to talk in such a mean voice to us. What do you think?" This can teach when someone is nasty to you, you don't have to be mean in response.
- 7. Acknowledge kindness.** Be sure to show your child that you notice when they do something nice or when someone else does something nice.
- 8. Understand that your child's perception of differences in others comes into play.** If your child says something socially inappropriate because they notice differences, explore the comment calmly. Ask, "Why do you say that?" Then you can correct the misunderstanding by more fully explaining the situation.
- 9. Be sensitive to messages that your child picks up from the media.** Children often imitate the kind actions they see in movies and read about in books. Be aware of the programs, movies, and books your child watches and reads.
- 10. Explain that calling someone names or excluding him from play can be as hurtful as hitting.** Point out how name-calling can be hurtful: "Can you see the tears on his face?" Recognize the real problem may be the name-caller wants a toy. Be sure to encourage your child to apologize.
- 11. Avoid setting up competition within your family.** If you say, "Let's see who can clean up the fastest," you risk setting your kids up as rivals. Instead, encourage them to work together to get the job done and praise them for their group effort.
- 12. Show your child how to help people in need.** You can encourage your child to donate a toy he has outgrown, help make cookies, and come with you when you visit someone in the hospital or nursing home.
- 13. Be patient with your little one.** Kindness and compassion are learned and life presents challenging situations even to adults. Being a loving parent and a great role model will go a long way toward raising a wonderful, tolerant human being.



On Thursday, February 26, 2026, from 9:15 to 9:45 AM, our school will be participating with a virtual presentation about "Share the Love" with Micha Oak. Teachers were given a copy of, "Remember Who You Are" to consider reading aloud to their classes.

You are more powerful than you imagine.

In this lyrical picture book, young readers are reminded of their cultural roots, the wisdom of their ancestors and their own potential. Each page offers an affirmation about identity, respect, love and truth, encouraging all children to embrace their unique gifts and power. From the resilience flowing through their veins to the knowledge written in the stars, *Remember Who You Are* inspires children to see themselves as integral parts of their community, capable of great leadership and great kindness.



On Wednesday, Feb. 25, wear your pink shirt to school!!!
Why? Here's the story that started it all...



"A group of teenage friends organized a high-school protest to wear pink in sympathy with a Grade 9 boy who was being bullied [for wearing a pink shirt]...[They] took a stand against bullying when they protested against the harassment of a new Grade 9 student by distributing pink T-shirts to all the boys in their school. It all began when a group of teens went to a discount store and bought 50 pink tank tops. They sent out message to schoolmates that night, and the next morning they hauled the shirts to school in a plastic bag. As they stood in the foyer handing out the shirts, the bullied boy walked in. His face spoke volumes. The bullies were never heard from again."

- Globe and Mail, 2007

Let's make Francois glow with pink!

Visitors/Parents/Caregivers Code of Conduct

Working together, we create a safe and supportive learning environment for students and a safe work environment for staff. Parents, caregivers and any other visitors to our schools support a safe environment by communicating and conducting themselves at the school and school activities respectfully.

<p>Communication</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use our process for addressing concerns – talk to the teacher first then, if follow up is required, contact school administration. • Use respectful language whether in person, on the telephone, or through email. • Respect staff time by accepting that they will respond to appropriate communication within 2-3 days outside of holidays, evenings and weekends. • Clarify your child’s version of events with school staff to fully understand and have perspective. • Seek a peaceful and reasonable solution to all issues. • Social media should not be used to voice complaints against the school, a staff member, parent/caregiver, or student. This is not a productive way to resolve an issue.
<p>Partnership</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Try to ensure your child attends school and reaches out for support if needed. • Work together with staff to resolve issues or concerns. • Read and discuss the Student Code of Conduct with your child to help them understand and follow it.
<p>Conduct</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When coming to school please be calm and do not swear, use inappropriate language, be threatening in your behaviour, and/or be verbally abusive.
<p>School Culture</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize that EVERY student is important to us. • Treat all members of our school community with dignity regardless of “Indigenous identity, race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, political belief, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or age” as protected by the BC Human Rights Code.

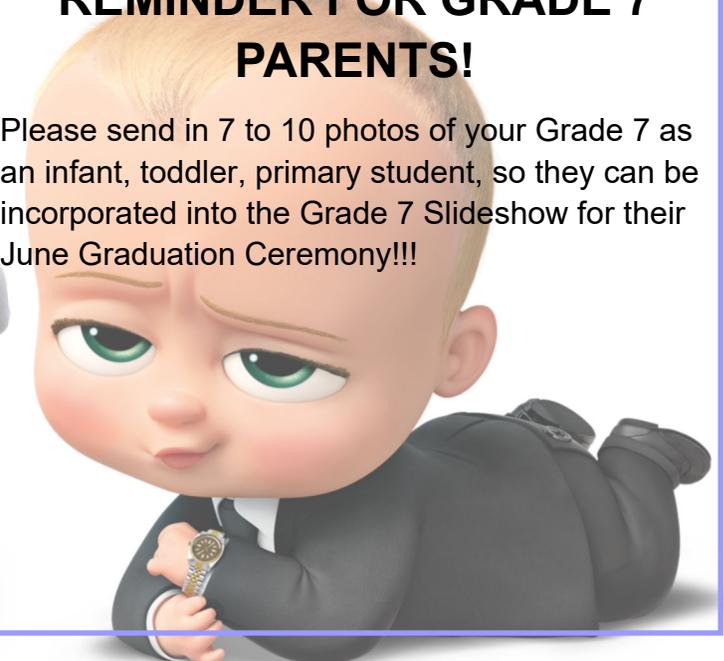
Congratulations Gr. 7s!!!

At Wednesday’s Popcorn Sale Fundraiser, the Grade 7s raised a whopping **\$85.10!!!**
All proceeds are to be donated to Tumbler Ridge Secondary School
Thank you to these very helpful students!



REMINDER FOR GRADE 7 PARENTS!

Please send in 7 to 10 photos of your Grade 7 as an infant, toddler, primary student, so they can be incorporated into the Grade 7 Slideshow for their June Graduation Ceremony!!!



100s Day in Primary!

Today, the Primary class dressed up in their BEST as 100 year old people! They counted all of their 100s in multiple activities, renamed themselves with old-timer names, practiced their "oldness" (some were fabulous actors—I see a career in acting for some!!!), and learned more about 100 the whole morning! We had a joyful classroom!



Kindergarten!

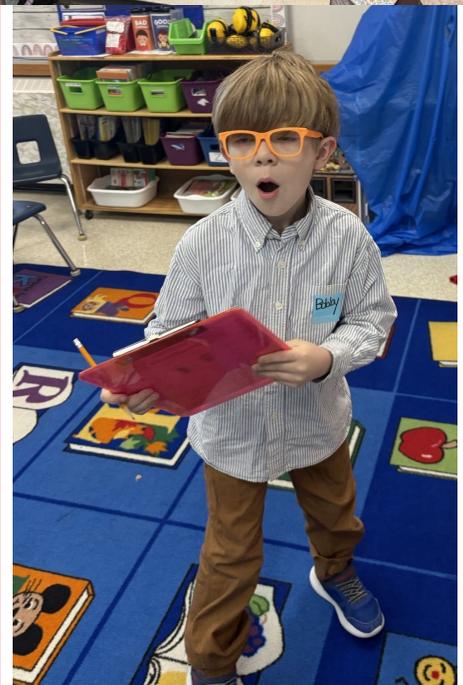
Pre-registration is on now!!!

If you have a child who turns **born in 2021**, 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.). We have registration forms at the office and are happy to help you fill them out!

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.



Student Learning Survey 2025/2026

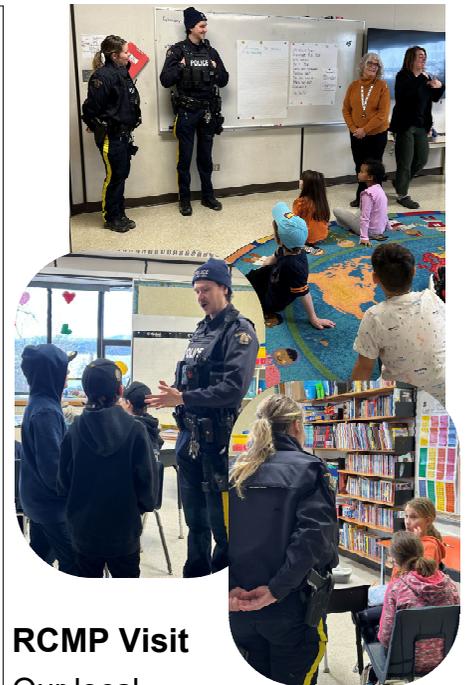
The Provincial Student Learning survey is unique in its scope, size and usefulness to schools. It gathers information from parent/guardians, teachers, and students on topics related to school environments, safety, and achievement. The information is used for planning in individual schools and provides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



RCMP Visit

Our local constabulary arrived yesterday to offer their presence. They visited the two classes and interacted with students.

We are so lucky to have these two young folk attached to our school as regular volunteers and visitors.

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](#).

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:

Two friendly Constables who keep our community safe and welcoming:
Cst. Jo Larsson and Cst. Jordan Della-Paolera.
Thank you both very much for your reassuring presence.



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.

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!**

