

Northland School Division

Quarterly Report - 2020-2021



Anzac student is participating in a Trapline Management project; which is part of the Wildlife Management course!

Tansi, Edlánat'e, Hello everyone! We are pleased to present our Education Quarterly Report! The quarterly report highlights progress we have made with meeting or exceeding the priorities for Northland School Division (NSD):

1. Excellence in Leadership
2. Excellence in Relationships
3. Excellence in Learning
4. Excellence in Financial Practices

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and Administration, thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Robin Guild
Board Chair

Dr. Nancy Spencer-Poitras
Superintendent of Schools



Excellence in Leadership

Quarterly Report - 2020-2021



Zoom Meeting



Goal: Through excellent leadership practices, everyone feels welcome and valued.

- **Monthly Principal Meetings**
 - Senior Administration host Zoom (video conference) meetings with principals. Topics include:
 - Discussing division specific topics.
 - Provide COVID-19 and Alberta Education updates.
 - Provide information about resources for teaching and mental health.

NSD hosting a virtual professional learning day for school-based staff!

- **Supporting with Communication**
 - COVID-19 specific communication is led by senior administration. NSD works closely with First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) and follows direction from Alberta Health Services (AHS).
- **Division Wellness**
 - Organize and host virtual wellness specific activities to boost staff morale. Hundreds of staff have attended the planned activities.
- **Professional Learning**
 - Support school staff and students on leveraging the benefits of technology for in-school and at-home learning.
 - Host literacy specific professional learning with support from SMART Learning.
 - Cree/Dene instructors learn to use a video/audio recording tool called Screencastify to support language, culture and land-based learning development. Elders and Knowledge Keepers are teaching instructors in their local context.
- **Mistassinij New School Build**
 - Floor plan has been approved and the project is moving into the design development phase. The design has been supported by feedback from students, parents, guardians, community members, staff and trustees who have attended the virtual community engagement sessions. The layout includes a learning space for a culinary arts program and a variety of Career and Technology Studies programs.



Excellence in Leadership

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Goal: Everyone models and practices excellence in servant leadership and customer service

- **Housing and Maintenance**

- NSD continues to prioritize housing improvements for teachers.
- The Housing Department purchased a new [customer service portal](#) for its tenants. The portal is a one-stop shop for leases, submitting maintenance requests, checking account balances, etc.
- A webpage was developed so potential tenants can view housing.

← **Housing renovation completed!**

- **School Food Services**

- For over 47 years, SFS has been providing hot lunches to NSD students. SFS offers a wide nutritious meals that are aligned with Canada's Food Guide.
- It has been a challenging due to COVID-19 and NSD recognized the staff who were not able to go home due to the restrictions. A Christmas dinner plate was given to those staff members.



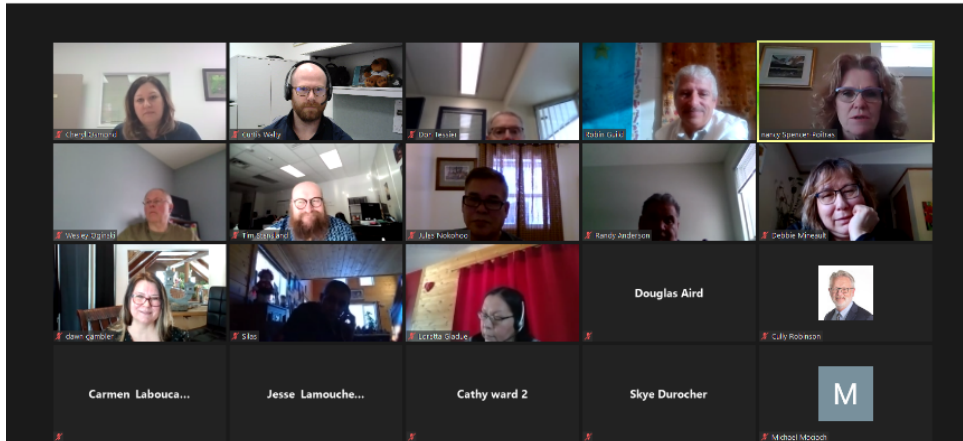
- **Community**

- Trustees and members of the senior administration regularly meet with community leaders virtually to keep them informed about good news stories related to student learning and COVID-19 updates.



Excellence in Relationships

Quarterly Report - 2020-2021



Goal: Actively develop and purposefully work to maintain healthy relationships

- **Community Relations**

- The Board and Administration maintain regular contact with the communities we serve. Virtual meetings are arranged to keep community leaders informed about good news stories related to student learning and COVID-19 updates.

- Superintendent communicates regularly with students, staff, parents and community members on how NSD is moving forward with respect to programming.
- We communicate using social media (Facebook, Twitter), websites, School Messenger, letters, Board Highlights, media releases, newspapers, community newsletters, radio and television.

- **Regular communication and relationship development with experts to help revitalize the Cree, Dene and Michif languages**

- Cree Language Instructors are working with Linguistic and Knowledge Keepers Charles Houle and Dene Instructors are conversing with Elder John Janvier and Linguistic Educator Lynda Minoose.
- The First Nations, Métis and Inuit Language and Culture and Land Based Learning team established weekly Zoom (video conferencing) sessions. The sessions encourage language instructors to share and model, which helps with creating resources to help students with learning an Indigenous language.

- **Relations with universities and educational organizations**

- Leveraging the benefits of digital technology helped NSD develop a partnership with Telus World of Science - Edmonton.
- NSD and MacEwan University are finalizing a dual credit agreement that would give students access to an Indigenous Studies course.



Indigenous language instructors use syllabic blocks to support language development.



Excellence in Learning

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Utilizing technology to support student learning helped NSD develop a new relationship with the Telus World of Science - Edmonton. With support from the Science in Motion team, our teachers have been learning innovative ways to deliver science-related topics into the classroom environment. Being able to learn from Telus World of Science - Edmonton staff is not only a benefit to our teachers, but it assists our students by enhancing the science experience. In January, a number of NSD students experienced an exclusive virtual [“Science Week” event presented by the Telus World of Science – Edmonton team.](#)

Goal: Students achieve their potential in literacy and numeracy. NSD will use consistent literacy and numeracy teaching practices to support the growth of educators and inspire students to reach their potential.

- SMART Learning is an initiative designed to support reading and writing development for all students.
- Consistent literacy benchmarks help teachers gauge student progress.
- The use of technology (Meeting Owls and Swivels) supports continued mentoring through the pandemic.

Goal: Strengthen and celebrate the belief in the ability and skills of students and staff

- Students and staff are celebrated in a number of ways for achievement. We celebrate using social media (Facebook, Twitter), websites, letters, Board Highlights, media releases, newspapers, community newsletters, radio and television.
- The NSD Attendance Improvement Operational Plan has been crucial in monitoring attendance, driving improvement and success.



To support what schools are doing to celebrate literacy, Dr. Nancy Spencer-Poitras, Superintendent of Schools, and members of the senior administration have been reading to students via Zoom Webinar (video conference).



Excellence in Financial Practices

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BUDGET PLANNING

Goal: The school division's budget is balanced for 2020-2021

- Administration has been monitoring expenses closely and on a monthly basis with the Board. Given the cost pressures and the operations dynamic of the pandemic, particularly for maintenance/cleaning, resources have been carefully used, or reallocated as much as possible to address changing priorities. With 42% of the fiscal year completed January 31st, the division has received 42% of its planned revenues while spending 39% of its planned expenditure budget.
- The division remains on track for its goal of a balanced budget this year.
- NSD will continue with the Energy Retrofit Project. NSD has been able to save \$650,000 in the last three years.

Goal: Innovative and creative ways to offer programs and courses increase

- Innovative technology tools are being utilized to support in-school and at-home learning.
- The Career Pathways School operates NSD's Flexible Learning Program. The Flexible Learning Program assists more students to graduate in their home community.
- NSD and MacEwan University are finalizing a dual credit agreement that would give students access to an Indigenous Studies course. It's called "dual credit" as students will receive high school credits as well as three credits with MacEwan University.

Goal: The number of non-attending students decreases

- NSD has an extensive Attendance Improvement Operational Plan. The Board receives monthly school by school attendance reports.
- In-school and at-home learning attendance is monitored.

FLEXIBLE LEARNING
Flex Learning Requirements

- Students must be enrolled with Northland School Division.
- Students must use an assigned Northland School Division email account while participating in the program.
- Students must take specific courses to ensure success.

Please contact Flexible Learning Program Coordinator Elizabeth Dunleavy at 780-849-7837 or elizabeth.dunleavy@nsd61.ca.

Program information is also available at www.nsd61.ca.

Northland School Division and Career Pathways School

Flexible Learning Program

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Peace River, Alberta, T8S 1V2
www.nsd61.ca

"Our students love to come to school in Northland"





NORTHLAND SCHOOL DIVISION NO.61

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