



Tri-Annual Report #1

2023-2024



Message from Board & Superintendent

Tri-Annual Report #1 2023-2024

Tansi, Edlánat'e, Hello everyone! We are pleased to present our first Triannual Report for the 2023-2024 school year! This report highlights progress we have made with meeting or exceeding the priorities for Northland School Division (NSD):

1. Excellence in Learning
2. Excellence in Leadership
3. Excellence in Relationships

Before you turn the page, check out our new promotional video! Let us show you why Northland is a great place to learn and teach! Visit the website link to view the video <https://tinyurl.com/msh2yr53>.

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

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robin Guild".

Robin Guild
Board Chair



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shelley Willier".

Shelley Willier
Superintendent of Schools/CEO

Excellence in Learning

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Priority 1: Excellence in Learning

Students achieve or exceed the standards set by Alberta Education in literacy and numeracy

Outcome: Student success is supported by staff who ensure all students feel supported and have a sense of belonging within their schools.

Outcome: The Division uses consistent literacy and numeracy practices to support the growth of educators and student achievement.

Outcome: The Division offers multiple, flexible pathways to high school completion.

How is Northland achieving these outcomes?

Truth and Reconciliation Week

In recognition and commitment to the calls to action to address reconciliation in Alberta, Northland schools and central office staff participated in Truth and Reconciliation Week activities. To learn more visit our website www.nsd61.ca/about-us/division-news/post/truth-and-reconciliation-week-highlights.



Northland students participated in a culture camp in Wabasca-Desmarais!



Anzac students and staff joined together in a round dance



Northland students staff wore orange to honour and increase awareness about residential schools



Excellence in Learning

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CTS Day activities at NSD schools

NSD hosted a very successful Career and Technology Studies (CTS) Days in October. The division-wide event provided high school students an opportunity to learn and earn credits in programs that are not always available in the regular schedule. Some of the programs offered included outdoor cooking, outdoor education, workplace safety systems and practices, an introduction to game design and learning how to make drums, ribbons skirts and moccasins.



TELUS World of Science - Edmonton staff visit Northland schools!

TELUS World of Science - Edmonton continues to support Northland educators with science-related topics in the classroom environment. The Science in Motion teams organize science-themed activities virtually and in person!



Excellence in Learning

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NSD students having a blast learning about robotics with support from MindFuel

Grade 4-6 students at Hillview School participated in a robotics activity recently. Students built simple circuits using a breadboard, pin-to-pin wires, a resistor, an LED light, and a battery. The next step for students is learning how to connect more things to the circuits and starting to explore basic coding. This specific learning experience is supported by a partnership between Northland School Division and Mind-Fuel. Mind-Fuel is giving teachers the knowledge and tools to help students build microcontrollers and robots.



Weaving First Nations and Métis knowledge into the learning experience

Northland is focused on weaving local First Nations and Métis knowledge into the learning experiences. This deliberate programming enables students to see themselves in the curriculum and feel more connected to their identity.



Excellence in Learning

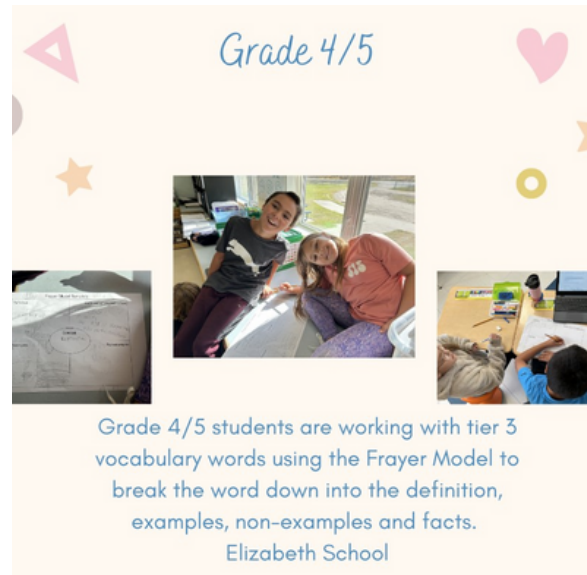
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Northland students continue to make strides in literacy and numeracy development

To ensure Northland students achieve success in literacy and numeracy, staff are using a variety of resources such as Animated Literacy, Jolly Phonics, Guided Reading, UFLI to support literacy. For numeracy, staff have been using Jump Math to guide their instruction.

Intervention programs such as Lexia and LLI (leveled literacy intervention) have allowed students to obtain success in Literacy. Symphony Math is also an intervention tool used in Math that has allowed students to obtain success in Numeracy.



Grade 4/5 students are working with tier 3 vocabulary words using the Frayer Model to break the word down into the definition, examples, non-examples and facts.
Elizabeth School



Excellence in Leadership

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Priority 2: Excellence in Leadership

Through excellent leadership practices, everyone feels welcome and valued.

Outcome: Northland School Division employs a consistent process for reviewing school improvement and assurance.

Outcome: Northland School Division and school leadership models a welcoming learning and working environment that fosters a sense of belonging and pride for First Nations and Métis and non First Nations and Métis learners.

Outcome: Finances are well managed, decisions are supported by facts and stewardship is exemplary.

How is Northland achieving these outcomes?

NSD hosted a new curriculum workshop

As part of NSD's continuing strategy to support teachers implementing the new curriculum in our division, Pedagogical Supervisors led sessions before the school year began. These sessions offered NSD educators a guided deep-dive into curriculum development for each of the following programs of study:

- K-3 Science
- 4-6 Mathematics
- 4-6 English Language Arts



Excellence in Leadership

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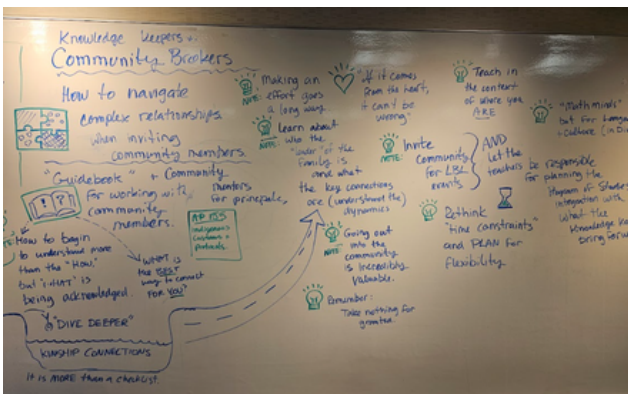
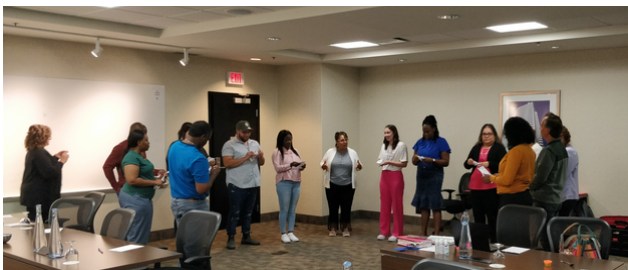
New Teacher Orientation Highlights

NSD held an orientation for new teachers. The overarching theme was “A Place to Belong,” and topics included how each new educator can find belonging with NSD and teaching in First Nations, Métis communities.



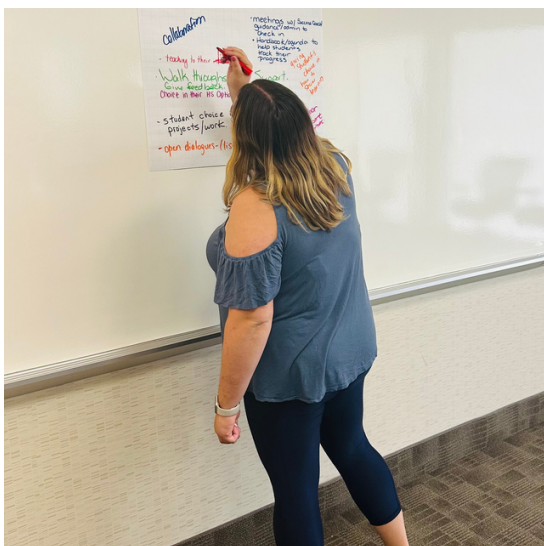
New Principal Orientation Highlights

NSD held an orientation for new principals. The new school leaders had an opportunity to sit with Elders and community members from their new school communities. The discussion time provided new principals with an opportunity to engage with community representatives, listening to their insights on the values and priorities of each community, as well as the anticipated role they envision for the school in the upcoming year. The image shows some of the feedback shared.



Excellence in Leadership

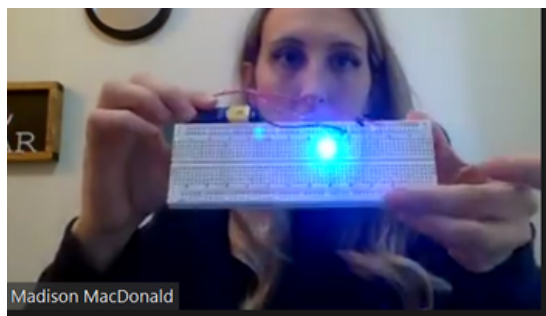
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All school-based leaders' orientation

All school-based leaders had the opportunity to meet and prepare for the new school year by covering the following reviews and introductions:

- A focus on community engagement and relationship building (Board Priority #3 - Excellence in Relationships)
- Leading literacy and numeracy excellence in classrooms,
- Upcoming changes to Division-wide financial management,
- Student attendance and re-engagement strategies,
- School-based education assurance planning and reporting strategies,
- Educational technology resources, and
- The continuum of supports available across the division through student services.



NSD staff participate in professional learning sessions with Mind-Fuel

Northland is very excited to be moving into year 3 of its partnership with MindFuel Foundation. The partnership helps introduce students to the world of microcontrollers and robotics, builds their innovation skills and confidence, and aims to inspire them to explore careers in science, technology, engineering, and math.

In September, 15 teachers from Calling Lake, Conklin, Elizabeth, Hillview, Gift Lake, J.F. Dion, St. Theresa, and Susa Creek schools participated in a two-day workshop with the MindFuel team. The professional learning is geared towards educators in grades 6-9. Each of these schools received kits to teach students about microcontrollers and robotics.

MindFuel will continue to offer mentors who can zoom into the class to support teachers and students.

Excellence in Leadership

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NSD high school students participated in a career-related field trip

On October 10, 2023, Northland high school students taking one of our dual credit courses this semester had the opportunity to travel to Edmonton to visit MacEwan University, King's University and the Alberta divisional headquarters of the RCMP. In the first semester, students in NSD have the opportunity to take one of these 3 courses:

1. Policing in Canada: MacEwan University
2. Child and Adolescent Development: MacEwan University
3. Marketing Principles: Olds College

By enrolling in any of these courses, students not only earn high school credits but also have the chance to build up post-secondary level credits. The objectives of this educational trip to Edmonton for our students were as follows:

- To meet the students from the other schools that are taking the same courses.
- To meet the instructors of the courses in person at MacEwan University.
- Learn more about the expectations of the course and ask questions in person.
- Touring of post-secondary campuses.
- Learn more about careers with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.



Excellence in Leadership

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MORE RECOGNITION FOR NORTHLAND SCHOOL DIVISION!



Debbie Mineault wins Outstanding Indigenous Educator of the Year!

Director of First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Debbie Mineault has been selected as the 2023 Outstanding Indigenous Educator of the Year Award! The award is presented by the Alberta Teachers' Association's (ATA's) Indigenous Education Council.

The Outstanding Indigenous Educator of the Year Award is for a teacher, advocate and professional; who has made significant efforts in furthering First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education in Alberta.

Debbie was presented the 2023 Outstanding Indigenous Educator Award on November 18, 2023.



Lorraine Ridsdale received award from Métis Settlements General Council

Northland School Division proudly congratulates Lorraine Ridsdale from Paddle Prairie School! She was honoured by the Métis Settlements General Council (MSGC) for her outstanding contributions and achievements in education.



MSGC also recognized two NSD school bus drivers! Congratulations Corrine Desjarlais (Elizabeth Métis Settlement) and Jada Dumont (Fishing Lake Métis Settlement). Both were recognized for their community service. See photo of Corrine.

Excellence in Relationships

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Priority 3: Excellence in Relationships

Develop and actively promote healthy relationships with students, parents/guardians, staff, community and educational partners.

Outcome: Parents and community members engage in their school community and are involved in their child's education.

Outcome: Parents, guardians, communities and education partners are informed and involved in Northland School Division (NSD) plans, programs and progress through ongoing and effective communication.

Outcome: Northland School Division fosters purposeful and productive working relationships to collaboratively advance division operations to support student learning.

How is Northland achieving these outcomes?



NSD hosting a series of community engagements

This year, we are placing a strong emphasis on relationships and creating an environment where trust and collaboration hold great importance. To support these priorities, families have or will be invited to community engagements in November, December and January. Your participation is not only valued but critical in helping set the direction for Northland.

All of the community engagements will begin at 5:00 p.m. and conclude at 7:00 p.m. A meal will be provided. To add to the excitement, attendees will have a chance to win a gift basket or a gift card! To learn more visit the Northland School Division website www.nsd61.ca/about-us/division-news/post/nsd-hosting-a-series-of-community-engagements.

Excellence in Relationships

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MLA for Lesser Slave Lake visits Calling Lake School

The newly elected Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) for Lesser Slave Lake, Scott Sinclair, recently paid a visit to Calling Lake School. This visit presented Mr. Sinclair with various opportunities, including:

- Meeting with the Board of Trustees. Ward 8 Trustee (Calling Lake) Wally Rude represented the Board during the visit.
- Engaging with Calling Lake School staff and members of Northland School Division's senior administration.
- Touring Calling Lake School to gain insight into its facilities and infrastructure.
- Visiting high school classes to learn about Career and Technology Studies Days. Mr. Sinclair observed students learning how to code and create a video game.
- Meeting with the grade 6 social studies class to discuss his role as MLA.



Alberta Education staff visit Elizabeth School

In October, we welcomed special guests from Alberta Education to Elizabeth School. The Board and Administration would like to thank Lisa Higgerty, Assistant Deputy Minister, First Nations, Métis and Inuit Division, and Rod Armstrong, Executive Director, Métis, Inuit, Rural and Urban Education for visiting Elizabeth School!

Photo left to right: Scott Meunier, Associate Superintendent, Northland School Division, Rod Armstrong, Lisa Higgerty, Tegan Vacheresse, Elizabeth School Principal, Tanya Fayant, Vice Chair, Board of Trustees of Northland School Division.

Excellence in Relationships

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Celebrating Culture and Connection: NSD's Staff's Experience while attending Aseniwuche Winewak Nation's TLU Camp

In September, five members of the Northland central office team participated in the Aseniwuche Winewak Nation's (AWN) final Traditional Land Use (TLU) camp of the season.

Attending with the intention to deepen the team's understanding of the unique history, team members spent two full days with Elders and community members representing many of the Co-ops and Enterprises that make up the Aseniwuche Winewak Nation.

Learning opportunities at camp included history lessons from local leadership and Elders, a medicine walk through the thick forest bordering Peavine Lake, a drum-making workshop, and hours of listening to stories around the fire. While it is difficult to put into words how impactful the time on the land and with the people of AWN was for each participant, each participant left the camp with a renewed sense of the importance of working with each Northland community to ensure the voices and wisdom of the people inform the instruction in every classroom for years to come.





Northland

SCHOOL DIVISION

"Our students love to come to school in Northland"