



Tri-Annual Report #2

2023-2024



Photo from Paddle Prairie School's 2nd Annual Evening of the Arts

Message from Board & Superintendent

Tri-Annual Report #2 2023-2024

Tansi, Edlána'te, Hello everyone! We are pleased to present our second Tri-Annual 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 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 "Cal Johnson".

Cal Johnson
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?



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 team organize science-themed activities virtually and in person! During an in-person session at Gift Lake School, students learned how to mix chemicals to create unexpected solutions and reactions, create codes to move robots, construct bridges using everyday materials, just to name a few.



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Northland schools proudly participate in Pink Shirt Day

We all have a role to play in promoting healthy relationships and preventing bullying – in our schools, our homes, and our communities. On February 28, 2024, Northland School Division students and staff wore pink shirts in recognition of Pink Shirt Day - Anti-Bullying Day.



Excellence in Learning

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Weaving First Nations and Métis knowledge into the learning experience

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



Career Pathways School students from Conklin had the wonderful opportunity to attend a Winter Land Camp on February 8th and 9th with students from Bill Woodward School! The students learned about the history of the fur trade, survival, and they ended the two day camp with a survival scenario. The students slept in the trappers' tents, and they had to start a fire with minimal tools, build a shelter, and cook their own meal. The students earned two credits while attending the Winter Land Camp!



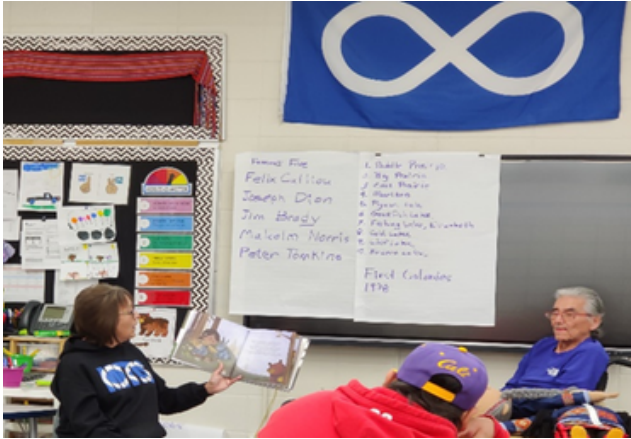
In March, J.F. Dion School students were taught how to set rabbit snares. The next day, students discovered that they caught a rabbit! After catching the rabbit, students learned how to skin and prepare a rabbit for cooking purposes.



Anzac students learn how to filet a fish from members of the Willow Lake Métis Nation.

Excellence in Learning

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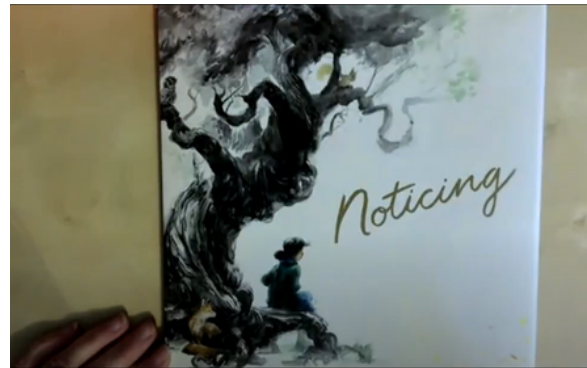
Strengthening Language and Cultural Connections

Since the beginning of the school year, NSD has continued to develop partnerships with Alberta Education, University of Alberta, Blue Quills University and local land-based contractors to strengthen Cree, Dene and Michif language and culture programs. During literacy nights for example, Director of First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Debbie Mineault was invited by school principals to support their language instructors in strengthening their language and culture programs. Using the Indigenous Literature collection, local school staff used instructional strategies to engage their communities. Students, staff, parents, grandparents, guardians, Elders and Knowledge Keepers supported the event by sharing their historical stories and cultural connections.

World Read Aloud Day celebrated across NSD!

February 7, 2024 marked the global celebration of World Read Aloud Day, and Northland School Division was thrilled to participate! Our schools hosted a series of activities designed to highlight the joy and importance of reading aloud.

This special day was even more memorable as our students had the unique opportunity to listen to captivating stories and poems. What makes it extraordinary? These readings were brought to life via Zoom by students, school staff and members of central office!



THE THREE LITTLE PIGS

OF



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"The Three Little Pigs" was included in *The Nursery Rhymes of England* (London and New York, c. 1886), by James Halliwell-Phillips

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NSD Music Program Update

An innovative approach to program delivery is enabling more students to access quality music opportunities, through in-person sessions. Students at Mistassiniy School (Wabasca-Desmarais), Bishop Routhier School, Grouard Northland School and Hillview School are participating in a music program taught by NSD Music Specialist Boyd Davies.

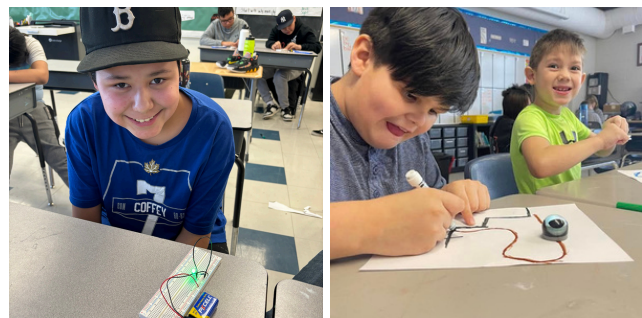
In March, Grouard Northland School students participated in a music learning session with Boyd and guest artists Mallory Chapman and Brett Hansen. During this music learning experience, students worked on creating an original song accompanied by a video called "Good Feeling". The students spent time with our guest artists brainstorming ideas for the song and then were included in the recording process. Click on the website link to view the music video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ww-ZxA9w-FM>.

A music learning session also took place at Career Pathways School!



Students benefit from MindFuel partnership

NSD has an ongoing partnership with MindFuel. The partnership allows students to learn about microcontrollers and robotics!

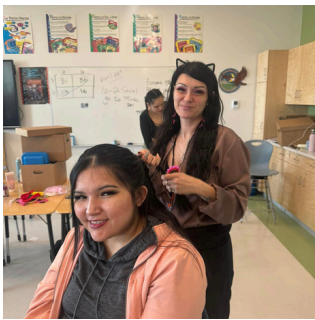


Excellence in Learning

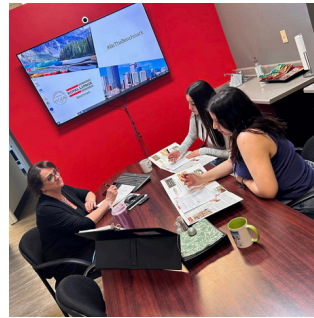
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Highlights from CTS Days

In April, NSD hosted Career and Technology Studies Days! High school students from across the school division had a fantastic time exploring hands-on learning opportunities while earning credits towards graduation.



The photos above show students in Wabasca-Desmarais (Career Pathways School and Mistassiniy School) exploring costuming and fashion, designing an Indigenous print and sublimation printing and cosmetology. Students also developed a better understanding from Knowledge Keepers on how to make a tipi.



Bill Woodward School (Anzac) students embarked on an incredible hands-on learning journey across various careers! Highlights included:

- Exploring the Oil Sands Discovery Centre
- Learning about diesel engine operations at Brignall Equipment Solutions
- Diving into real estate at Royal LePage
- Understanding wildlife procedures

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?

New Mistassiniy School Update

The eagerly awaited sound of students engaging in academic and extracurricular activities at the new Mistassiniy School is now a reality!

Northland School Division (NSD) has reached a pivotal stage in constructing the new state-of-the-art learning facility. The transfer of items from the old Mistassiniy School concluded in late January. The first day for students and staff in the new Mistassiniy School was Thursday, February 1, 2024.

Click on the website link to view the news release <https://www.nsd61.ca/about-us/division-news/post/new-era-dawns-as-the-new-mistassiniy-school-prepares-to-open-doors>.



Excellence in Leadership

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FINAL
WHAT WE HEARD
REPORT



Community Engagement Feedback shared in a What We Heard Report

From early November to the end of February, NSD hosted in person engagement sessions in all school communities with students, staff, parents and community members. The feedback collected was then organized into a What We Heard Report Overview, which was presented by Superintendent of Schools/CEO Cal Johnson to the Board.

To view the What We Heard Report, click on the website link:
<https://www.nsd61.ca/download/444545>.
In addition, each school will be presenting a What We Heard Report to their students, staff, parents/guardians and community members.



Excellence in Leadership

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NSD hosted a successful division-wide professional learning event

On March 13-14, 2024, hundreds of NSD staff participated in a division-wide professional learning event in Grouard, Wabasca-Desmarais and Anzac.

During this two-day event, staff learned about restorative practices. Restorative conversations are set to enable solution-based discussions with all parties involved. In these talks, everyone affected gets together to tell their story and figure out how to move forward in a positive way. These conversations are good because they help everyone understand the whole story. They make sure that the person who was hurt can ask questions and say what they need to feel better.

By participating in this learning session, staff are more prepared to address complex situations and improve communication with other staff and families. On March 18th, central office staff also participated in restorative practices training. Restorative practices are recommended by Alberta Education to support welcoming, caring, respectful and safe workplaces. In addition to restorative practices, staff were able to participate in learning sessions related to traditional learning (storytelling, beading, cooking), yoga, self-defence and “Try It” Career and Technology Studies (CTS) style sessions.



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 and KTCEA discuss partnership opportunities

NSD strongly believes in building relationships with communities, neighboring school authorities and education partners to support student learning.

In March, NSD hosted a get-together with Kee Tas Kee Now Tribal Council Education Authority (KTCEA) to discuss ways they can work together to support student success.

During the meeting, senior leadership from NSD and KTCEA discussed ways they can support each other with respect to literacy, numeracy, high school completion, language and culture, land-based learning, human resources, finance and communication. NSD and KTCEA plan to re-engage on partnership opportunities in the near future.



Excellence in Relationships

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NSD preparing for potential wildfires with neighbouring school divisions

In light of recent events and the increasing concerns regarding wildfires, Northland School Division is taking proactive measures to ensure the safety of students and staff. To this end, on March 25th, we took a significant step forward by joining forces with High Prairie School Division, Holy Family Catholic Regional Division, Kee Tas Kee Now Tribal Council Education Authority, and Living Waters Separate School Division in a Wildfire Tabletop Exercise.

This exercise involved identifying and sharing resources, strategic planning, and standardizing processes for messaging, busing, and operations in wildfire alert and/or evacuation scenarios.

To learn more about Northland School Division emergency response plan click on the website link: <https://www.nsd61.ca/about-us/division-news/post/wildfire-update3>.

Relationship with Northern Lakes College and Atoske Action Group opens opportunity for students to attend carpentry camps

Students from Career Pathways School and Mistassiniy School have the opportunity to attend carpentry camps at the Northern Lakes College Wabasca-Desmarais Campus. The camps have taken place in December and April.

Students from both schools learned how to build boxes, benches and got some experience with upholstery in creating a seat cushion. While learning these valuable skills, students also earn high school credits!

These carpentry camp opportunities for NSD students is a result of a positive working relationship with Atoske Action Group and Northern Lakes College.





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"Our students love to come to school in Northland"