

Superintendent's Remarks

January 13, 2023 is Black Excellence day which is a lead-up to Black History Month in February. This day is a learning opportunity and celebration of Black achievements and history. The day is also a chance to show solidarity by wearing black. Additional resources will be posted on the district website.

Brackendale Elementary hosted their 16th Annual PAC Pancake Breakfast fundraiser for Community Christmas Care on Friday, December 2nd. Student leaders worked tirelessly at the pancake breakfast, clearing tables and sorting compostable items, recyclables and dishware. The community was very generous in their support of fundraising.

On December 14th, Pemberton Secondary School (PSS) had their first dance in many years and this event was a huge success. The PSS Leadership class decorated the Commons with a beautiful winter theme, organized a bake sale, and hired a professional DJ. While it took some time to get everyone warmed up, once the dancing started all 70 students in attendance danced in a circle singing along and pulling each other to the centre of the circle, cheering for every student.

Student/Staff Presentation

Last year, the Board approved Farm Studies, a new Board/Authority Authorized course, at Howe Sound Secondary. Farm Studies is a hands-on, experiential course that offers a rich learning environment for students who feel passionate about agriculture, community, sustainability and the development of the farm. At the Board meeting, students and their teacher shared an overview of the course, things that went well, challenges that they faced, next steps and new ideas for the course and for the farm.

Budget Development Survey

Secretary-Treasurer Haverstock encouraged members of the public to participate in the [2023-2024 Budget Development Survey](#), which is open for input until Wednesday, January 18th.

School Calendar Survey

Assistant Superintendent Lorette summarized the [results of the 2022-2023 School Calendar Development Survey](#). Based on the results of the survey, the Board approved the vacation periods and seven (7) Non-Instructional Days (NIDs) as presented for the [2023/24](#), [2024/25](#) and [2025/26](#) school years. Following the Board meeting, each school principal will complete school-level calendars for the consultation process.

Blackwater Creek Elementary School

The Board received a report from staff regarding the Blackwater Creek Elementary enrolment review. The Blackwater Creek Elementary PAC submitted a number of questions regarding the report. Staff will respond to the questions well in time for the next Board meeting, where future enrolment at Blackwater Creek Elementary school will be discussed.