



Triannual Report #2

2022-2023



Message from Board & Superintendent

Triannual Report #2 2022-2023



Tansi, Edlánat'e, Hello everyone! We are pleased to present our second Triannual Report for the 2022-2023 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, we are proud to unveil Northland School Division's 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,



Cathy Wanyandie

Cathy Wanyandie
Board Chair



Dr. Nancy Spencer-Poitras

Dr. Nancy Spencer-Poitras
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?

Career and Technology Studies Week



NSD hosted a very successful Career and Technology Studies (CTS) Week in January. The division-wide event provided 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 programming, music, cosmetology, film making, first aid, welding, design studies, sewing/fashion and moccasin making.



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 23, 2023, Northland School Division students and staff wore pink shirts in recognition of Pink Shirt Day - Anti-Bullying Day!



Northland Online School



Paddle Prairie School

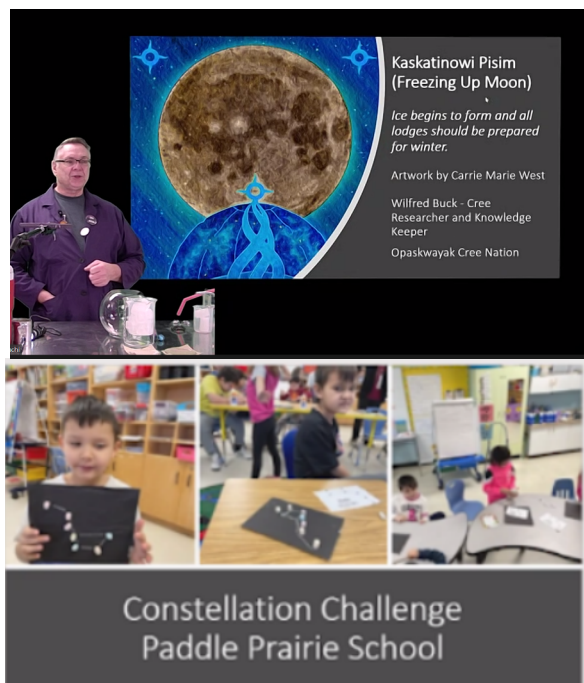
Excellence in Learning

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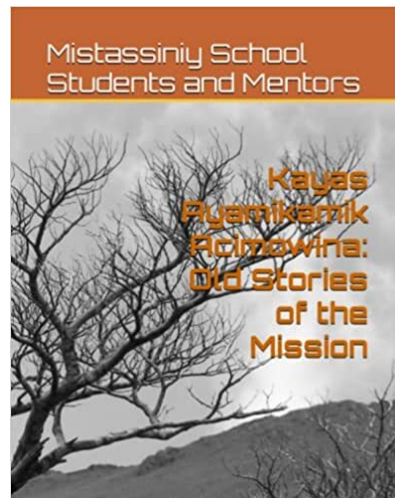
Science Week & Digital Skills Week with TELUS World of Science - Edmonton

NSD's partnership with TELUS World of Science - Edmonton resulted in two exciting learning experiences for students recently! Students participated in Digital Skills Week activities. Each week consisted of four 45-minute sessions where students were immersed in technology related learning through digital wellness, computational thinking, and coding activities. NSD schools also participated in a Science Week with TELUS World of Science - Edmonton. Each day was planned around a specific theme:

- Introduction to the science of cold.
- All things related to snow.
- Parks Canada - Muskrats and beavers in the winter.
- All things related to ice. Class challenges were organized.



Second book by Northland on Amazon



NSD launched a second book on Amazon called Kayas Ayamikamik Acimowina: Old Stories of the Mission. The book was officially unveiled on September 29, 2017 during an Orange Shirt Day event at Mistassiniy School.

Students came up with the idea to research the residential school history in Wabasca-Desmarais. Students interviewed Elders about their residential school experience. The students received firsthand accounts from Elders about life within the missions and then students were given permission by the Elders to write and share these stories. Click on the website link to purchase the book on Amazon <https://tinyurl.com/23h4pk4d>.

Students benefit from MindFuel partnership

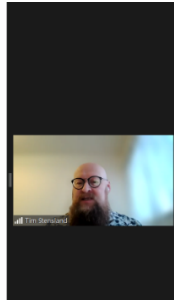
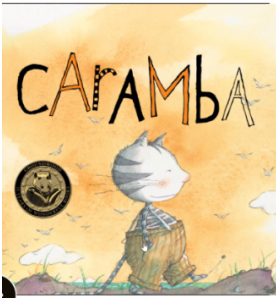


NSD has an ongoing partnership with MindFuel. The partnership allows students to learn about microcontrollers and robotics!

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Literacy celebrations



Northland students and staff organized events to celebrate Family Literacy on January 27th and World

Read Aloud Day on February 1st, 2023. For World Read Aloud Day, schools participated in a division-wide Zoom session focused on oral storytelling. In the photo, you can see Deputy Superintendent Dr. Tim Stensland reading a story called Caramba by Marie Louise-Gay.

Innovation in music



An innovative approach to program delivery is enabling more students to access quality music opportunities, through virtual and 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. Students have been able to share their progress and enjoyment of music by performing gigs at school and community facilities in front of students, staff, parents, guardians and community members.

Music exchange with Manitoba school



The music program has opened a door to an exciting opportunity for Mistassiniy School students. Some Mistassiniy students are involved in a music exchange program with a school located in

Brandon, Manitoba. From November 30th to December 5th, students from Vincent Massey High School (Brandon School Division) came to visit Wabasca-Desmarais. The Mistassiniy and Vincent Massey students performed concerts at Mistassiniy School, St. Theresa School and Oski Pasikoniwew Kamik (Bigstone Cree Nation Community School).

Mistassiniy students will be heading to Brandon for the second half of the exchange in April.



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?

Professional Learning with TELUS World of Science - Edmonton



20 educators from across NSD participated in a computational thinking and coding related learning symposium with TELUS World of Science - Edmonton Northern Coding Academy team.



During these sessions, teachers were given the opportunity to better understand fundamental coding concepts and elements of digital literacy.



For example, the educators used block coding concepts to create their own video games! Teachers also learned they can utilize a traditional activity such as beading to help students understand algorithms. Algorithms are a set of rules or directions to be followed in calculations or problem-solving operations.



The teachers left the symposium empowered to bring these topics to life in their classrooms. Many of these skills help them meet specific curriculum requirements at different grade levels.

NSD is looking to take this learning even further by giving students the opportunity to learn how to code their own games during the next Career and Technology Studies (CTS Week). While learning how to code, students can earn high school CTS credits in computing science!

Excellence in Leadership

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Community engagement in education research project



MacEwan University, in partnership with NSD, have embarked on a research project. The project explores how family and community member engagement in education may contribute to improving student achievement and outcomes related to literacy, numeracy and First Nations, Métis language and culture.

To capture perspectives from families, Elders and community members, voluntary interviews are taking place and community engagement events are being planned. Engagement events are in the works at Northland Online School, Hillview School and St. Theresa School.



Earlier this school year, a gathering took place to introduce research lead from MacEwan University Dr. Emily Milne to Indigenous language instructors, individuals who support engagement efforts and NSD staff in Wabasca-Desmarais.

NSD presented to members of CASS about its story of practice



The third College of Alberta School Superintendents (CASS) learning series, **Imagine Seeing the**

Possibility! featured Northland School Division! Superintendent of Schools/CEO Dr. Nancy Spencer-Poitras, Deputy Superintendent Dr. Tim Stensland and Director of First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Debbie Mineault shared NSD's story of professional practice, which was published in a research study conducted by the University of Calgary, University of Alberta, University of Lethbridge and Concordia University.

The aim of the overall study is to gain insight into the implementation of Alberta's three professional practices standards: **the Teaching Quality Standard (TQS), the Leadership Quality Standard (LQS), and the Superintendent Leadership Quality Standard (SLQS)**. NSD's research study was one of three reports presented to the Government of Alberta.

School division leaders learned how collaboration, growth and learning have skyrocketed since NSD developed and launched its vision for technology, teaching, learning and leading. This approach has enabled the re-imagining of learning, new ways of working together and increased student engagement. This includes working with Elders, Knowledge Keepers and community members when weaving local First Nations and Métis knowledge into the learning experience.

Click on the website link to view the presentation <https://tinyurl.com/udevztwz>. NSD will be sharing its story at another CASS learning series in April.

Excellence in Leadership

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First Nations and Métis knowledge

Northland schools continue to weave local First Nations and Métis knowledge into the learning experiences. In February, the classroom environment for Calling Lake School students was on ice. Students learned about the traditional ways of harvesting and processing fish. In the classroom, students learned about cells using the fish they caught!



More NSD teachers learning how to use the CNC router table for student learning



To support the continued development of the Cree and Dene language in NSD schools, NSD purchased two CNC Router Tables! The machines were brought in last

year to give students the ability to create sets of syllabics. Syllabics are used to help students learn their traditional language skills. Dallon Perry from Mistassiniy School traveled to Conklin Community School to teach staff how to use the machine with their students. As you can see, you can even use the machine to create wooden signs!



Excellence in Leadership

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Mental health project



NSD is thrilled to have been awarded a mental health grant from Alberta Education. With the funding in place, NSD hired two new mental health therapists and is implementing a trauma informed approach throughout the school

division. Northland supports trauma-informed approaches with the understanding of healing together through the strengths of holistic cultural practices and resiliency for community wellness. This will assist in supporting students, their families and the communities we serve. In addition, the trauma informed practices supports NSD's work for advocating Truth and Reconciliation.

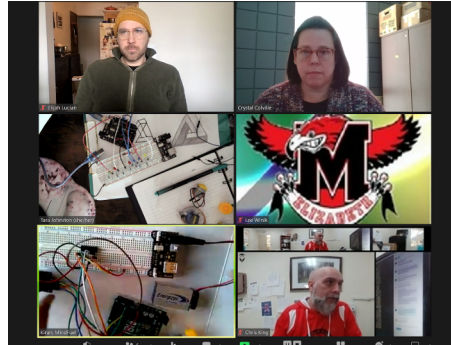
New Mistassiniy School construction update



Design renderings. Subject to change.

Construction for the new Mistassiniy School is ongoing. The new school will feature a culinary arts kitchen, stations for mechanics, carpentry and welding. The front entrance has been specially designed in a circular pattern and the gymnasium will include bleachers for community spectators. The outside design of the school will feature outdoor classrooms along with recreation and green spaces.

MindFuel professional learning sessions



NSD's partnership with MindFuel includes professional learning sessions for teachers in grades 7-9. Teachers are using Arduino

Kits to learn how to build multiple types of circuits, work with the coding, motion sensors and tilt sensors. In these sessions, teachers learn how to apply this knowledge into the classroom.

NSD housing update



NSD completed a project that will save the division thousands of dollars when it comes to maintaining housing for teachers! High/low sensors were installed in several housing units. The sensors send notifications to the Housing Department when the temperature falls below a certain level or if there is a water issue.

Excellence in Leadership

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MORE RECOGNITION FOR NORTHLAND SCHOOL DIVISION!

Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Medal Award recipient



Dr. Nancy Spencer-Poitras, Superintendent of Schools/CEO

The Superintendent and CEO of Northland School Division has been recognized with a prestigious award. Dr. Nancy Spencer-Poitras has been awarded Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Medal for her exceptional qualities and outstanding service in the form of selfless giving and volunteering!

"On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I congratulate Dr. Nancy Spencer-Poitras on earning such a prestigious award," said Cathy Wanyandie, Board Chair. "We are fortunate to have a Superintendent and CEO who goes above and beyond to ensure Northland students are successful. Throughout her time as Superintendent and CEO, Nancy has demonstrated the ability to implement strategies and develop meaningful relationships that benefit the learning experience for Northland students."

Dr. Nancy Spencer-Poitras, who has been the Superintendent/CEO of Northland School Division since February 1, 2020, has maintained an exceptional record of school and division leadership over an extensive career as an educator in Alberta. She has worked as a teacher, assistant principal, and principal with Edmonton Public Schools, as an Assistant Superintendent and Superintendent/CEO in Alberta, as well as having worked with both the College of Alberta School Superintendents (CASS) and Alberta Education. Her education career has spanned over 40 years.



Nomination for Canadian Principal of the Year

Shelley Stevenson, St. Theresa School Principal

In February, NSD announced that St. Theresa School Principal Shelley Stevenson was nominated for the Canadian Distinguished Principal of the Year Award. Shelley has been with Northland for over 30 years and has been a model of excellence when it comes to the commitment of learning, leadership and mentorship.

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 this outcome?

MacEwan University tour and partnership



In February, 27 NSD students participated in a tour at MacEwan University. Students in attendance signed up for the dual credit courses offered during semester two. These courses are made possible as a result of an agreement NSD signed with MacEwan University. The students received a campus tour and met the instructors of the Indigenous Studies 100 and the Law and Administration of Justice courses. They were able to go through course requirements, become familiar with the technology, and understand what it was like to be a student on campus.

Examples of parents, Elders and community members participating in the education at Northland schools!



Excellence in Relationships

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Forestry pilot partnership



**ALBERTA
PACIFIC**
FOREST INDUSTRIES INC



Woodland
Operations
Learning
Foundation



A forestry pilot project involving Calling Lake School students is in the works. The project is made possible through a partnership between NSD, Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc. (Al-Pac) and Woodland Operations

Learning Foundation (WOLF). Students will be taking a Career and Technologies Studies (CTS) Forestry option and earning credits for work in the classroom. The project will also see students participate in an in-school simulator experience, practical learning sessions with the WOLF instructors, and a student/employer networking event.

Alberta Education Assurance Survey



NSD schools have been working with parents to fill out the Alberta Education Assurance Survey. To assist families with answering survey questions, schools have been publishing and/or sending home "Our Success Story" newsletters. The

newsletter helps families better understand the survey measures and the strategies schools have established to achieve success around student growth and achievement, teaching and leading, learning supports and community engagement.

Partnership with University of Calgary



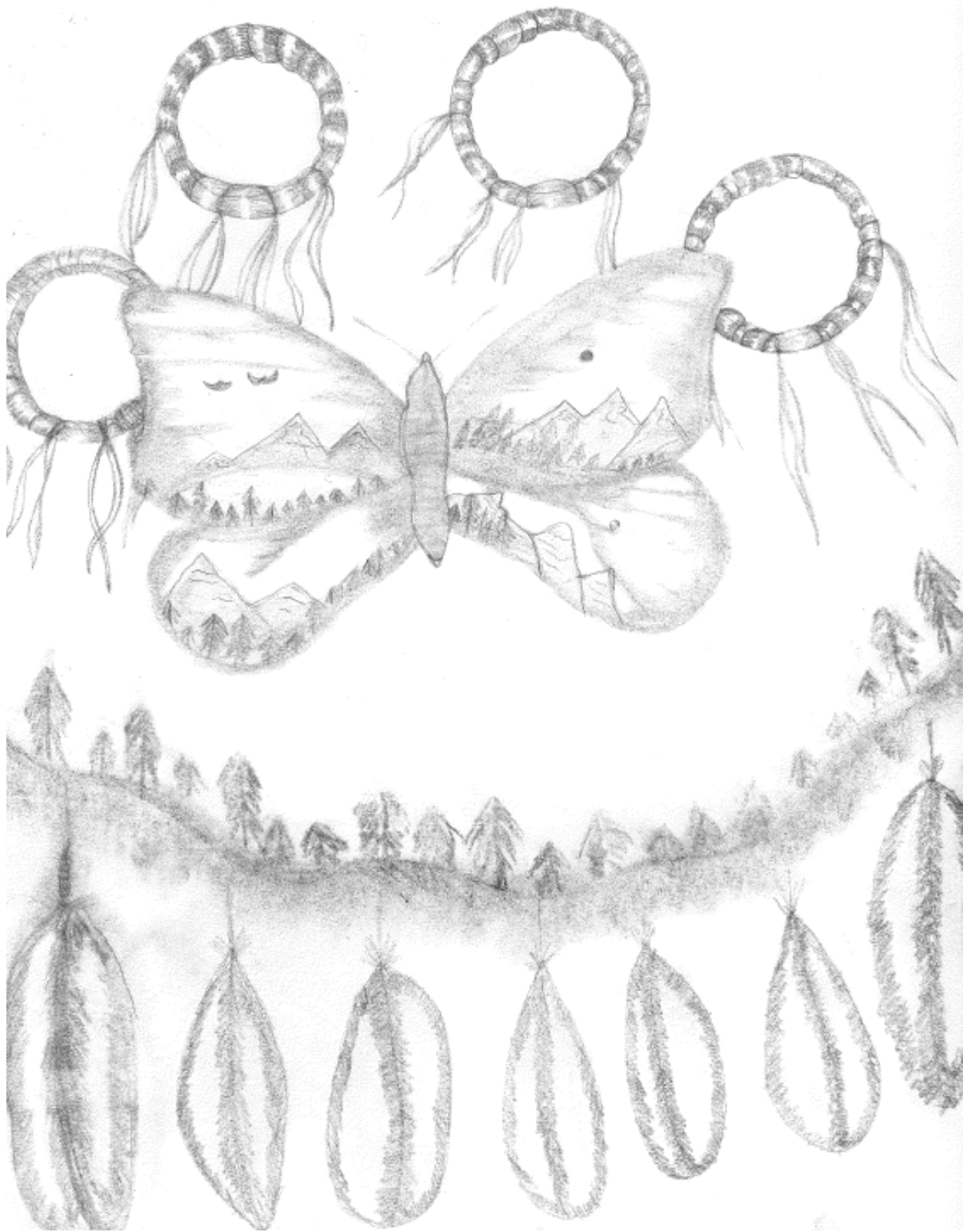
UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
WERKLUND SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Staff from the University of Calgary (U of C) and Northland School Division wore pink shirts in recognition of Pink Shirt Day (Anti-Bullying Day) at Gift Lake School!



Left to right - Alex Ashebir, University of Calgary, Karen Lemay, Northland School Division and Crystal Colville, Northland School Division

Two years ago, NSD established a partnership with the University of Calgary's (U of C) Werklund School of Education. As a result of this partnership, Northland educators have been learning well-researched practices to help students in grades 1-8 better understand math, using the program Jump Math and the teaching practices covered in Math Minds.



Natasha St. Germain, Grade 9, Paddle Prairie School



Northland

SCHOOL DIVISION

"Our students love to come to school in Northland"