

REPORT TO DPAC
SUNSHINE COAST SCHOOL DISTRICT 46

Superintendent's Report
Submitted by Superintendent Kate Kerr
January 2026

This report highlights key updates and events from the past month, all grounded in our core values of **learning, belonging, integrity, and equity**.

Nutcracker Experience

On December 19, the district funded a special arts enrichment opportunity for four classes to attend the Waldorf Ballet's performance of *The Nutcracker* at Raven's Cry Theatre. Participation was determined through a district wide lottery, with two classes from West Sechelt Elementary and two classes from Roberts Creek Elementary selected to attend this year's performance.

DSLTL Secondary Student Forum

On December 8, the District Student Leadership Team hosted the DSLTL Secondary Student Forum at Camp Byng, bringing together approximately 50 secondary students from all four district secondary schools. The forum provided a structured and supportive space for student voice, learning, and leadership development, with a focus on mental health and sexual health education.

Students participated in two facilitated workshop sessions. The mental health education workshop was led by facilitators from Youth Development Instrument and focused on social connection, belonging, and awareness of district and community-based supports. Students explored local and global data, learned about existing resources, and collaborated in school-based groups to identify recommendations and next steps.

The sexual health education workshop was facilitated by Teacher and Certified Sexual Health Educator Jessy Wollen. Students engaged in discussions about current knowledge, gaps in learning, and skills needed in early adulthood. The session included anonymous questions, collaborative brainstorming, and direct instruction responsive to student input.

The forum was designed to ensure students felt heard, informed, and supported, while reinforcing that their schools and the district have systems and resources in place to support student wellbeing. Follow up conversations and actions at the school level are planned to continue this work beyond the forum.

Winter Concerts, Traditions, and a Season of Giving

Schools across the district marked the winter season with concerts, celebrations, and special events that brought together students, staff, and families in meaningful ways.

These gatherings provided opportunities to celebrate student learning, strengthen school community connections, and honour seasonal traditions.

In addition, many schools led holiday giving initiatives that supported local organizations and families in need. Through these efforts, students demonstrated Social Awareness and Responsibility by engaging in acts of kindness, generosity, and community contribution, reflecting the district's ongoing commitment to caring and inclusive school communities.

Holiday Supports

Throughout the winter break, our district reinforced a simple message for students and families: ***you are not alone***. A coordinated series of social media posts shared timely contacts, resources, and supports for mental health and substance use, highlighting our strong partnerships with community agencies. We promoted Foundry Virtual, Kelty Mental Health, Indigenous supports, Suicide Crisis and Prevention, and our own Community Hub. In collaboration with the Sunshine Coast Child and Youth Mental Health and Substance Use Local Action Team, we developed and circulated the "You're Not Alone, support is within reach, this season and always" postcard to Sunshine Coast youth-serving organizations. These efforts reflect our shared commitment to wraparound care during a time that can be challenging for many.

VCH Vision Clinics

The district is entering year two of the Vancouver Coastal Health Pilot Vision Program to strengthen early identification and intervention for vision concerns that impact learning. With low eye-exam rates among children ages 3–6 and known benefits of early treatment for amblyopia and significant refractive errors, this in-school model reduces barriers related to access, cost, and convenience. In 2024–2025, four SD46 schools participated, reaching 111 students. For 2025–2026, the screening window runs January to June, beginning with an optometric assistant screen; students who do not pass will receive a comprehensive exam on site by an optometrist. Year two will expand to all SD46 schools, prioritizing Gibsons and rural Sunshine Coast communities with a focus on kindergarten students. This initiative strengthens equitable access to care and supports long-term health and learning outcomes.

Adopt a School Program

A teacher at Madeira Park Elementary applied to the Adopt a School Program through Chapters Indigo last year, and the school was accepted in recognition of the challenges many of their families face in accessing library services due to their remote location, the absence of a local library, and limited transportation options.

The Adopt a School funding is intended to supplement the school library and classroom libraries in order to increase student and family access to books. Madeira Park Elementary was recently notified that it will receive \$16,000 in funding, provided as a discretionary credit with Chapters Indigo. In addition, the program includes a 30 percent discount on all book purchases.

This funding represents a significant investment in literacy for the Madeira Park Elementary community and will have a lasting positive impact on the school's library and classroom collections for years to come.

Plans are currently underway to recognize and thank Chapters Indigo for their generous support with a celebration event during Literacy Week.

Elphinstone Secondary Students Recognized at Zoom Fest 48 Hour Film Competition

Students from Elphinstone Secondary School participated in the Zoom Fest Student 48 Hour Film Competition, a province wide event for BC high school students. Teams were provided with a theme and a required prop and had 48 hours to plan, write, film, and edit an original short film.

The Elphi Film crew's entry, *New Roomape*, received nominations for Best Supporting Performance for Morris Emmerson and Best Screenplay. The team was awarded the prize for Best Screenplay, recognizing the strength of their storytelling and creative collaboration.

Students attended the final showcase event held at Mulgrave Secondary School on December 6.

The team was supported by Teacher Emily Sheridan whose guidance and mentorship were instrumental throughout the creative process.

The team included the following students: Atala Herrera, Nathan Perrins, Garnet Janyk, Hana Fraser, Mason Ferguson, Morris Emmerson, Harrison Dugal, Clara Fraser, Elise Brodmann, Connor Murawsky, Kingston Kane.

Careers December Updates

- The Richmond Lower Mainland Steering Committee Meeting was held in early December at Kwantlen Polytechnic University's (KPU) Wilson School of Design (Richmond campus).
 - KPU is Western Canada's only eight-program interdisciplinary design school, offering four Bachelor of Design degrees, three diplomas, one certificate, and CIDA accreditation for Interior Design.
 - KPU reports: 80%+ graduate employment in industry, 200+ design awards since 2020, and studio classes under 24 students.
- Elphinstone Pro Cook students and staff hosted their annual Pancake Breakfast in December.