



The Prowler

the news of the week
les nouvelles de la semaine



Sept. 6, 2023

250-567-2267

<http://wlm.sd91.bc.ca>

Issue 01

Hadi, Bonjour and Hello,

Welcome back! It was just amazing to see everyone yesterday.

I'd like to say a special welcome to our new students and families including all our new Kindergarten students. We are so excited to welcome new teachers including Mrs. Pye who has come to us from NVSS and Mrs. Mueller who is back in Vanderhoof and McLeod after many years away. Ruth Johnny is joining our Indigenous Education team until Ms. Krissy returns from her maternity leave. We are also extremely excited to welcome Yacine Ferahtia to McLeod and Vanderhoof. M. Ferahtia is here from France to work as a French Language Assistant for the 2023-2024 school year.

We are thrilled that we are able to host our Open House/Ice Cream Social this year on Thursday, September 14th from 6:00 to 7:30. After visiting the classroom, we invite you and your family to our gym where you can all enjoy an ice cream sundae and meet other McLeod families. We'd like to thank our PAC for hosting this event. If you can offer a bit of extra assistance to help us serve ice cream please let me know as soon as possible. At 7:00 our PAC will be having their first meeting of the year in our TLC. We invite all parents to come out and join us.

There is nothing more important to us than keeping our McLeod family safe. For this reason, McLeod will be a NUT FREE school again this year. It is essential that we do our best to keep our students and staff with life-threatening allergies as safe as possible. No peanuts, Brazil nuts or hazelnuts (ie – Nutella) will be permitted in our building. If a student brings any food to school containing these ingredients, the item will be returned home to you. We also work with Public Health to ensure our staff are trained in the necessary procedures in the event of an anaphylactic reaction. THANK YOU for your kindness and caring as we look after our kids and adults.

McLeod is also a scent free environment. Many items such as perfumes, creams, deodorants, hair products and essential oils can result in strong reactions for our students and staff who have scent sensitivities or allergies. Thank you for helping to keep everyone comfortable by keeping scents out of our school.

Each year we have a theme for the year. Last year our theme was Me, You and Us! This year we are

going to work on an **"Attitude of Gratitude."**

This newsletter includes LOTS of information, and we hope you will take the time to check it all out. Please have a look at the:

- SD91 Violence Threat/Risk Assessment: Fair Notice and Process
- Parent Guide to Emergency Planning
- Technology Policy and Permission
- Registration Verification Form. Please read it over and make any changes about information for us. It is especially important this year that we have the correct contact information including emergency contact info. At the end of the form, you will also find a list of items to double check as well.

Please return the Technology and Verification page (blue paper) to your child's teacher as soon as possible.

You can find more information like our McLeod Code of Conduct in the front section of your child's agenda, and I encourage you to take the time to read it through.

We have attached information about the New Reporting Order in BC. I think you will find that there are not many changes for McLeod. Over the last few years as we worked to create our approach to reporting we intentionally followed the drafts of the provincial work to make sure we were aligned with this work and because we believe in the philosophy of the New Reporting Order. Please contact us anytime if you have questions.

It is our goal to work together with you and the kids to help our McLeod students become adults who can take on the world. Please feel free to contact the school if you ever have any questions or concerns.

Proud to be McLeod

Ms. L. Hart

The hard copy of the newsletter only includes page 1 and the hot lunch menu. To access the rest of the newsletter, please contact us to be added to the email list. lswanson@sd91.bc.ca

SEPTEMBER 2023 MENU

Each meal is \$5.00 (reg). or \$6.00 (lg)

Please Pre-Order and Pre-pay

Pre-paid & pre-ordered meals of more than 10/month receive a discounted rate of 4.50/meal

Student's Name: _____ Teacher: _____ Total Amount: _____

If your child regularly receives a Hot Lunch, please check the menu for meals that they cannot or will not eat. Please provide a lunch for your child on those days. Thank you! **Cheques should be made payable to SD91**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1
4	5 ½ day Dismissal at 12:00.	6 Ham and Cheese Bun 	7 Roast Chicken and Fried Rice 	8 Beef Broccoli 
11 Pancakes 	12 Chicken Strips 	13 Bacon, Lettuce and Cheese Wrap 	14 Snack Plate  Open House and Ice Cream Social 7:00 PAC Meeting	15 Mac & Cheese  Fun Day
18 Sausage and Eggs 	19 Lasagna 	20 Perogy Casserole 	21 Beef Stir Fry  Crazy Hair Day Terry Fox Run	22 DISTRICT PLANNING DAY (NO SCHOOL)
25 French Toast 	26 Pizza Bagel 	27 Crispy Chicken Wrap 	28 Pulled Pork  Ultimate Frisbee Tour- nament	29 Menudo (Filipino Style Stew)  School Honouring of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (Orange Shirt Day)



If you see one of our SD 91 Facilities Department people please say "THANK YOU" to them. They worked so hard at McLeod this summer. Our front office is freshly painted and our staff room, photocopy room, custodian storage room, pantry, breakfast room and blitz room washroom are all renovated. We are so lucky. I hope you can come and have a look. Please help us to share our heartfelt gratitude to this amazing team of people.



All SD91 websites are moving to a new platform. Please be patient with us as we learn how it works and we work to get our McLeod stuff updated.

COMING SOON:

Sept 14: Ice Cream Social—6:00 PM
PAC Meeting—7:00 PM
Sept 15: Fun Day
Sept 21: Crazy Hair Day
Terry Fox Run
Sept 22: District Planning Day—No School for Students
Sept 28: Ultimate Frisbee Tournament
Sept 29: Orange Shirt Day—Honouring of National Day of Truth and Reconciliation

How do you solve a problem? Use your WITS!

Walk Away
Ignore
Talk it Out
Seek Help

www.witsprogram.ca

McLEOD IS

NOT FREE.



Thanks for
keeping our
McLeod
family safe.

No peanuts, Brazil nuts and hazelnuts
(including peanut butter and Nutella)
PLEASE.

Let's all use our WITS at home and at school



We are very proud that we offer additional support and connection for students of Indigenous ancestry at our school. In BC schools, students/families can self-identify as being of Aboriginal ancestry. There is no paperwork or "proof" required. Please contact Ms. Hart if you are interested in finding out more about this support at our school.

T-Shirt Tuesdays



Please wear your McLeod wardrobe every Tuesday. It's a great way to show your school spirit! Anything McLeod works. We love homemade stuff too!

W.L. McLeod Strong Start

Strong Start is a free drop-in program here at our school for families with children 0-5 years old.

We are open Monday to Thursday mornings 9am-12pm, and an extra evening class on Wednesdays 3:30pm-6:00pm. Closed on Fridays.

Connect on our Facebook page: W.L. McLeod Strong Start, or email smeads@sd91.bc.ca



**Thank you for keeping McLeod scent free (including essential oils).
We appreciate your support for our students**

Please have all after-school messages to the office by 2:45 to ensure that we have time to get the message to the students.

Thanks!

Lindsay

Please have all items you'd like to add to the newsletter to Ms. Lindsay by **noon** on Tuesday's. Any submissions after noon will be put in the following week's newsletter. Please email lswanson@sd91.bc.ca

Thank you



Please like our PAC Facebook page to stay up to date with what is going on in the school!

<https://www.facebook.com/WLMPAC>



PARKING LOT



SAFETY



Please **DO NOT** use the staff parking lot (the lot by the EBUS entrance) to drop off or pick-up students. Students **MUST NOT** be walking through this parking lot at any time. Drop off angle parking is available on Damon Square (behind the strip mall). Thank you for your help to keep our kids safe.

Students and adults **MUST NOT** be running between busses across Victoria St. Please use the crosswalk.

Nechako Figure Skating Club
2023/24 Registration is Open!



Nechako
Figure Skating Club

Do you have a child ready to skate?

Nechako Figure Skating Club (NFSC) has programs for all ages! From beginners to adults, please come out and join us for a fun year. Please visit us at www.nechakofsc.com to find out more about our programs, schedule, and registration. Have questions? Please reach out to us at: nechakofsc@gmail.com

Registration link is: <https://nechakofsc.uplifterinc.com/registration>



The beautiful
thing about
learning is
no one can take
it away from
you.

- B.B. King

Vanderhoof Clippers
Speed Skating Club Registration
2023-2024 Season



Summer is over, but there's lots to look forward to!!!

Registration for Speed Skating is open!!

For beginner to advanced skaters from age 4 to adult.
Speed Skates available for Rent = low cost, fun and fast
winter sport!!

Children must turn 4 on or before June 30th 2023 to
participate.

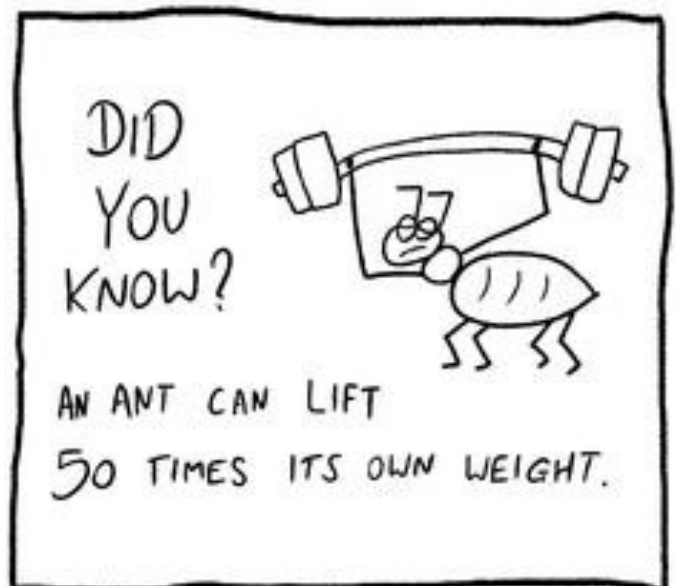
Registration link: [Vanderhoof Clippers Speed Skating
Club 2023/2024 | IceReg](https://vanderhoofclippers.com/registration)

Early Bird Pricing available until Sept 11, Registration
closes Oct 31

Lots of great info about the club at: www.vcssc.ca

For more information, contact Terry Lazaruk at terry.lazaruk@canfor.com,

or feel free to give me a call at 250-570-8444



Welcome to McLeod!

McLeod Families are invited on
Thursday, September 14

Open House +
Ice Cream Social

6:00-7:30pm

PAC Meeting

7:00pm

Call 250-567-2267 for more
information or go to Facebook:
www.facebook.com/WLMPAC



2023/2024

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Re: Student Accident Insurance

School District No. 91 (Nechako Lakes) does **not** provide accident insurance coverage for student injuries that occur on school premises or during school activities. Accidents can and do happen. Some injuries incur medical, dental or other expenses that are not covered by provincial health care or employer group plans. As a parent or guardian, you become responsible for these expenses.

The Board is empowered to make available the ***insuremykids® Protection Plan*** for students through **Reliable Life Insurance Company**. Participation in such a program is voluntary and the costs are to be paid by the parent or guardian.

This program offers a variety of plans and benefits at affordable rates. Benefits included are:

- dental expenses (resulting from an accident)
- total and permanent disability
- paralysis/loss of use
- special disability benefits
- death benefits

If your child participates in co-curricular activities or activities outside the school day, there is a plan tailored to your needs. All rates are one-time annual premiums. Family rates for 3 or more children are also offered.

The insurance agreement is between **you** and **Reliable Life Insurance Company**. If you wish to subscribe, you may apply 24/7 directly on-line at www.insuremykids.com.

Any questions should be directed to Reliable Life Insurance Company toll free at 1-800-463-KIDS (5437).

Student Accident Insurance is especially valuable for today's active children.

Yours truly,

Original signed by

Darlene Turner
Secretary-Treasurer

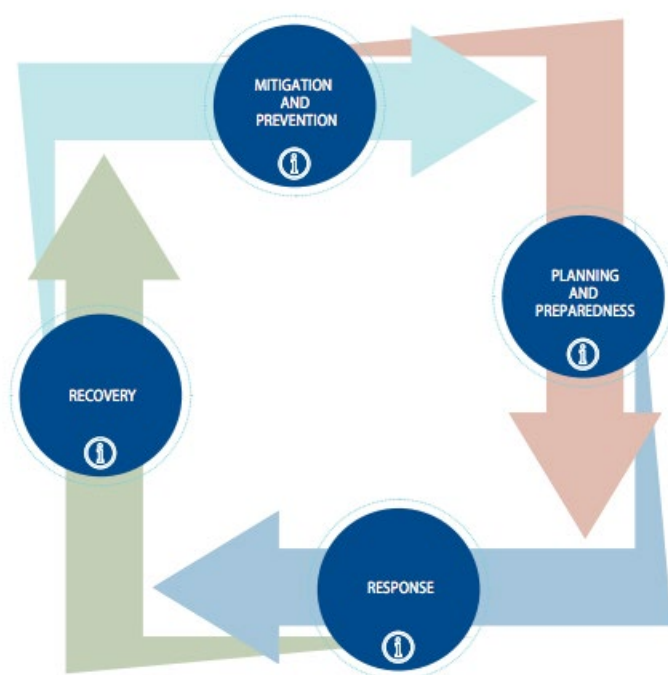
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

A GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

Our schools are considered one of the safest places in our communities, but emergencies can happen without warning. School District 91 has emergency preparedness plans in place in the event of a crisis situation.

During an emergency, the first priority is the safety of our students and staff. In order to provide an effective response to emergencies, School District 91 has developed an emergency preparedness plans based on provincial guidelines. The district plan serves as a template for individual schools to guide their own emergency preparedness manuals. All district and school plans are reviewed annually and always after an emergency occurs.

Emergencies are unpredictable. We usually have little warning that an event or series of events may cause a massive disruption in our lives and our communities. As one of the major areas in which people gather, schools are places where emergency preparedness is critically important to the well-being of students and employees and to the confidence that parents feel in entrusting their children to the care of educators in BC schools. With planning, training and practice, our employees will be better equipped to handle potential emergency situations.



ALL HAZARDS APPROACH

Rather than focus on and try to provide detail relating to a large number of different events, our planning takes an all-hazards approach.

All-Hazard: *Any incident or event, natural or human caused, that requires an organized response by a public, private, and/or governmental entity in order to protect life, public health and safety, values to be protected, and to minimize any disruption of governmental, social, and economic services.*

An all-hazards approach focuses on planning that involves a small number of responses that can be used in different types of emergencies.

School emergencies can be on a small scale, confined to one site, or on a larger scale, potentially impacting an entire school district or even many districts. A small, localized fire within a school, for example, will require a different response than a chemical leak from a train derailment that will affect a whole community.

Being ready to address different scenarios, in collaboration with first responders and relevant community agencies, takes considerable preparation on the part of staff. While district personnel are not necessarily trained as emergency services workers, they may be called upon to fulfil roles related to first aid, damage assessment, locating students and staff, and care and comfort for students for a period of time.

WHEN AN EMERGENCY OCCURS

Although your natural instincts in an emergency may be to come down to the school to safeguard your child, please understand that doing so could impede the response to the emergency. Going to the school may interfere with the emergency crews and school personnel efforts to deal with the situation. Extra vehicles and people on the site may make the task more difficult and possibly put more people at risk. If you arrive at the school in the middle of an emergency, please respect the protocol in progress. **When it is safe to do so parents/guardians will be informed on the procedures to pick up their children from school.**

During emergency, please do not call the school or your child's cell phone. We need to ensure our phone systems are not overloaded during times of crisis. Calling your child cell phone during an emergency can be putting them at higher risk by disclosing their location or drawing attention to them during a lockdown.

KEEPING INFORMED DURING AN EMERGENCY

During an emergency, it is unlikely you'll be able to reach the school by phone we will, however, make every effort to contact parents directly or by one of the methods described below when appropriate to do so. If parents subscribe to the School Messenger* notification service used by School District 91, messages will be sent out during emergencies. The school district will also keep parents informed by posting information on the district website, and through social media and local radio stations.

REUNITING WITH YOUR CHILD

We recognize that one emergency occurs parents will be worried and want to be reunited with their child as quickly as possible. To ensure everyone's safety, specific procedures have been established for releasing students after an emergency. The parent-child reunion area will be established after emergency. Depending on the type of emergency, this reunion area may or may not be at your regular school. Students will only be released to an individual designated as legal guardian or emergency contact. You may be required to show a valid identification when you pick up your child and sign a release form. If you are unable to pick up your child, he/she will be kept safe until alternate arrangements can be made.

**School Messenger is being implemented in all schools during the 2018-19 school year. Please check with your child's school to see if this system is activated and how you can receive information.*

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is emergency preparedness?

SD 91 has taken steps to ensure your child's safety while in school. Each school has developed emergency preparedness plans including the steps staff will take in the event of an emergency, including a parent communication plan and evacuation plan. These plans are reviewed on a regular basis.

2. How can I stay informed?

SD 91 will broadcast emergency messages on our notification service, Synrevoice and other media sites. General emergency messages, including early and late school openings and closings can be found on the school board's website. Emergency messages are also given to local radio stations. Parents are encouraged to use these media sources for updates. During an emergency, parents should refrain from calling the school as it overloads phone lines and interferes with the work staff must undertake during a threat to school safety.

3. How will my child's school handle an emergency situation?

All SD 91 schools have an emergency preparedness plan. While emergency plans are based on School Board procedures and Provincial guidelines, the specifics of each plan differ according to unique characteristics for each location. A response to an emergency will differ based on the specifics of that situation. The flexibility of the plan is key to the success of the response. All school plans are reviewed on a regular basis and input is encouraged from all education partners.

4. How can I see the Emergency Preparedness Plan from my child's school?

Please contact your child's school for a copy of their manual.

5. What is a "Lockdown?"

This response is used when there is an immediate and imminent threat to the school building population. School staff and students are secured in the rooms they are currently in and no one is allowed to leave until the situation has been safely resolved or evacuated safely. Most commonly implemented when the potential for violence against members of the school population.

6. What is "Hold and Secure?"

Hold and Secure is a response to a threat in the general vicinity of a school, but not on or very near to school property. This could be a police pursuit, a crime in progress or when information is received that might put the school at risk. Staff, students and visitors are considered to be safe inside the school. A Hold and Secure can move to a Lockdown if situation becomes more serious.

What is "Shelter in Place?"

This response allows the school to continue with the normal school day, but forbids outside activity. A shelter in place order is used when personal safety is considered to be in danger if anyone leaves the school. It is usually associated with an environmental issue where hazardous materials are released into the atmosphere. For example, a chemical spill or gas leak in the immediate vicinity of the school. Shelter in place might also be used in the case of a wild animal in the vicinity of the school (e.g. cougar or bear).

7. What will SD 91 do if an emergency situation occurs while students are in school?

The specific actions taken by school personnel in any emergency situation, both district-wide and at individual schools, will depend on the specifics of the situation. Any action taken would depend on several factors, including the level of threat and the advice or directive of local, provincial, and federal agencies. The safety of students and staff members will be the primary concern in any decision.

9. Can I pick up my child?

Parents will be allowed to pick up their children unless public safety officials have declared that there is some reason why access to the facility is restricted. During any emergency, school personnel will endeavour to maintain a safe and calm environment for children within the school. School will not automatically be canceled in emergency situations because the school may be the safest place for children to be. Although some parents may feel compelled to pick up their children from school at that time; we want to assure them that their children are being looked after. Parents will be informed on when and where they can pick up their children when safe to do so.

10. Who can pick up my children?

Children will not be released to individuals who are not authorized to do so on the student's emergency card or who do not have written parent authorization. Parents and guardians at the start of each school year will complete the emergency contact information. Parents and guardians are encouraged to update the emergency contacts as needed throughout the school year.

11. Should I contact my child directly during an emergency on his cell phone or call the school?

In emergency situations we ask parents to not to call the school as school staff will be assisting students and emergency responders. If school phone lines are busy with parent calls, we risk missing important information from emergency staff. We also ask parents not to contact their children on cell phones as this can interfere with safety protocols. Updates will be given through SD 91 social media and news media when available. During emergency situations we understand the concern from parents and community members and our primary focus will be on keeping our students as safe as possible.

12. What if my child is riding a school bus at the time of a crisis?

The transportation department will be in contact with the District Office for instructions in the event that a crisis occurs while students are in transport. Bus drivers will be informed to avoid driving toward the crisis location. Parents will be informed of the parent-student reunification center location via the school board's emergency messaging system and local media.

13. What about my child's medication?

If your child takes medication regularly, you should make sure that the school has an appropriate amount of additional medication on hand. Talk with your child's principal for more information. In the event of a threat to school safety, emergency personnel will be notified of any specific medical needs.

Learning is ongoing

Students come into every learning situation with their own experiences and background knowledge. A student does not necessarily begin at Emerging or Developing at the beginning of each school year. Similarly, students do not only reach Proficient at the end of the school year. Reaching proficiency is not the end of learning; if a student enters a learning experience with Proficient understanding or achieves proficiency during the school year, the goal becomes to further enhance their learning.



Letter grades and percentages for grades 10-12

Most universities and colleges currently use letter grades and percentages as part of the admissions process. To continue the successful transition of B.C. students to post-secondary learning, letter grades and percentages will remain in the graduation years. However, the Ministry of Education and Child Care will work with post-secondary institutions in the coming years to explore the use of the Provincial Proficiency Scale at Grades 10-12.



Ministry of
Education and
Child Care

**REPORTING ON
STUDENT LEARNING
IS CHANGING IN B.C.**

Brochure for Families

What is student reporting

Student reporting is the assessment and communication of student learning, often thought of as report cards. Every student in B.C. receives communications from the school throughout the school year that provide parents, caregivers, and students with information about student learning.

The way teachers and schools communicate student learning, and the format of traditional report cards is shifting.

Upcoming changes to student reporting

The K-12 Student Reporting Policy Framework (“the framework”) is the result of many years of consultation and engagement with rightsholders, education partners, teachers, families, students, and the public.

The framework provides an overview of the upcoming changes to the K-12 Student Reporting Policy, set to be implemented in the 2023/24 school year.

Student Information

- Shifts in reporting are being made to ensure each student experiences success within the education system
- Student self-assessment of Core Competencies and goal setting gives every student input into their learning, including where they go next
- Graduation status update in Grades 10-12 ensures students know they are on track to graduate

What's new

- Student reporting practices that align with B.C.’s curriculum and provincial assessment system
- Provincial Proficiency Scale at Grades K-9
- Changing the “I” reporting symbol to “IE” to indicate “insufficient evidence” of learning instead of “incomplete” learning
- Student self-assessment of Core Competencies and goal setting, in all grades in the 3 written reports
- Graduation status updates at Grades 10-12
- All learners, including students with a disability or diverse ability, will receive regular communications of student learning in the same way as their peers in any other program

What's the same

- Timely and responsive feedback to families throughout the school year
- 5 communications of student learning; 3 written and 2 of flexible format
- Letter grades and percentages at Grades 10-12
- Written descriptive feedback to accompany scale or letter grade and percentage

CONTACT US

✉ student.reporting@gov.bc.ca

The Provincial Proficiency Scale

The use of the Provincial Proficiency Scale gives students, parents and caregivers a clear understanding of what students can do now and areas for future growth.

Reporting scales are already being used by all districts in the province. There are currently 17 or more known reporting scales in use. The introduction of the Provincial Proficiency Scale will provide consistency and alignment across B.C. schools.

	Emerging	Developing	Proficient	Extending
Proficiency Scale	The student demonstrates an initial understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.	The student demonstrates a partial understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.	The student demonstrates a complete understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.	The student demonstrates a sophisticated understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.

Benefits of the provincial proficiency scale and descriptive feedback

- Views learning as ongoing, rather than signaling learning is done
- Provides feedback, to both families and students, on where the student is at and how to help them move forward in their learning
- Supports lifelong learning by shifting the focus to developing competencies rather than the achievement of marks
- Maintains high provincial standards by focusing on helping all students attain proficiency in their learning

Violence Threat/Risk Assessment: Fair Notice and Process

What is a threat?

A threat is an expression of intent to do harm or act out violently against someone or something. Threats may be verbal, written, drawn, posted on the Internet or made by gesture. Threats will be taken seriously, responded to and investigated.

When is a Violence Threat/Risk Assessment started?

A Violence Threat/Risk Assessment will be started by behaviours such as:

- Serious violence or violence with intent to harm or kill
- Verbal/written threats to harm or kill others or self
- Internet threats to harm or kill others or self
- Possession of weapons (including replicas)
- Bomb threats and fire setting.
- Or similar behaviours

What happens in a Violence Threat/Risk Assessment?

When a threat making or high risk behaviour is reported to the principal, the principal will activate the protocol and a team appropriate to the situation will be set up. Once the team has been activated, interviews may be held with the student(s), the threat maker, parents and the staff, to determine the level of risk and to plan an appropriate response. The team may include people from the community such as RCMP or counsellors.

What are the purposes of a Violence Threat/Risk Assessment?

The purposes of a Violence Threat/Risk Assessment are:

- To ensure the safety of students, staff, parents and others
- To ensure a full understanding of the context of the threat
- To begin to understand the factors that contribute to the threat maker's behaviour
- To be proactive in developing an intervention plan to address the emotional and physical needs of the threat maker
- To promote the emotional and physical safety of all.



Duty to Report

To keep school communities safe and caring, staff, parents, students and community members must report all threat related behaviours to the principal. The principal will then activate the initial response.

Can I refuse to be part of the Student Threat Assessment process?

In order to ensure a safe and caring environment a threat assessment needs to be completed. It is important for everyone involved to engage in the process. If there is a reluctance to participate, the process will still be completed.

School District No. 91 Values

School District No. 91 (Nechako Lakes) is committed to creating and maintaining school environments in which students, staff, parents, and others feel safe. Schools cannot ignore any threat of violence.

Where can I get further information?

Please discuss this information with your children so that they understand the intent. Should you require further clarification, please contact your school principal or Karla Mitchell, Superintendent of Schools at 250-567-2284.

Fair Notice: Violence Threat/Risk Assessment

It is important that all students and staff of School District No. 91 (Nechako Lakes) be allowed to work in an environment free from harm. Threat making behaviour will not be tolerated. All threats and all high risk behaviours will be investigated and acted on accordingly. This may involve other agencies and Ministries including the RCMP. If your child is involved in threat making behaviour you will be contacted. (Code of Conduct Policy 502.1)

School District No. 91 (Nechako Lakes)

153 East Connaught St.
Vanderhoof B.C.
Phone: 250-567-2284
Fax: 250-567-4639



School District No. 91 (Nechako Lakes)

Violence Threat/Risk Assessment: Fair Notice



School District No. 91
Phone: 250-567-2284