

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

February 11, 2026

Dave Eberwein



TUMBLER RIDGE



School District 59 Peace River South

Our hearts are with the families, school and community during this horrifically difficult time. We share in the loss being felt by so many in such a small community.

SD63 Critical Incident Response Management team has been involved in creating district messaging for staff.

Parents / guardians have been messaged today about supporting their children at home.

Flags have been lowered to half-mast.



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PARENTS / GUARDIANS AS PARTNERS IN LITERACY

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Supporting Literacy Learning at Home

School District Website

Helena Takhar, Director of Instruction

Darcy McNee, District Teacher Leader

Marnie Chambers, District Teacher Leader

Robin Hembruff, Information Technology



The Saanich Schools K-12 Literacy Plan



- Embeds evidence-based practices and continuous professional development across all levels
- Leverages Mentorship, Cross-role Collaboration, and Literacy Teacher Leaders to build capacity
- Uses district-wide assessments (e.g., Kindergarten Screener, Literacy Assessment) for data-informed decisions, ensuring early identification and targeted support
- Fosters home to school partnerships by equipping families with tools and strategies to support literacy learning at home



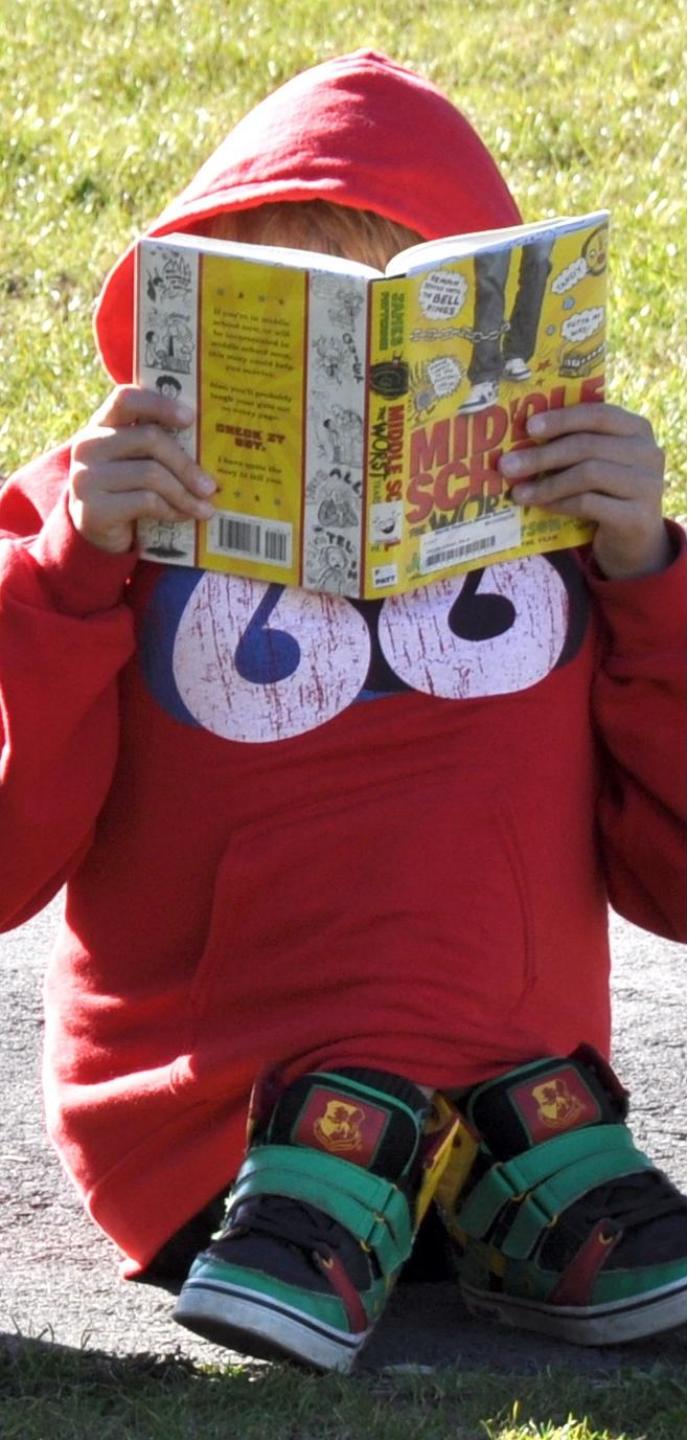
Literacy in Elementary Schools

Supporting Students

- Kindergarten Screener - Non-intrusive focused on supporting instruction
- Literacy Assessment for all Grade 1-5 students
- Literacy Intervention Programs (13 K-5 Teachers)
- Speech and Language Pathologists

Supporting Staff

- Literacy Series for all K-3 Teachers with Dr. Shelby Pollitt - Responding to teacher feedback for consistent, high-quality literacy instruction across the district (oral language, reading instruction, writing instruction).
- Intermediate Grade 4-5 Fluency Project
- ELA4FI – Learning Series for French Immersion Teachers



Literacy in Middle Schools

Supporting Students

- District Literacy Assessment for all Grade 6-8 students
- Middle School Literacy Intervention Teachers

Supporting Staff

- Connecting schools & disciplines - teachers/SLPs/ISTs
- Modelling and supporting research-based assessments
- Learning sessions on structured literacy instructional strategies - morphology, fluency, vocabulary
- Co-creating and sharing resources



Literacy In Secondary Schools

Supporting Students

- District Literacy Assessment for Grade 9 students (Pilot)
- Graduation Literacy Assessments (Grade 10, 12)
- Learning Strategies Courses and supports

Supporting Staff

- Teacher librarian using DLA data to determine literacy needs
- Co-teaching disciplinary literacy lessons
- District Team working with provincial network (only island district) to examine Writing and Assessment in the Age of AI.

Key Components of Literacy Instruction

Structured Literacy

A teaching approach that is explicit, systematic, and evidence-based; includes phonics, decoding, spelling, and language comprehension.

Phonological & Phonemic Awareness

Hearing and working with the sounds in spoken words (rhymes, syllables, individual phonemes).

Phonics

Understanding how letters and sounds connect so children can read and spell.

Decoding

Using phonics knowledge to sound out and read unfamiliar words.

Decodable Texts

Books that use phonics patterns children have already learned so they can practice real reading.

Morphology

Understanding word parts (prefixes, suffixes, roots) to support vocabulary, spelling, and comprehension.

Fluency

Reading accurately, smoothly, and with expression so the child can focus on understanding.

Supporting Literacy Learning at Home

School-Based Supports

- Home to Classroom Connections
- Classroom newsletters/updates
- Family Literacy events
- Reading mornings
- Learning Commons websites
- Home Reading programs

Saanich Schools Literacy Link

January 2020

January is Family Literacy Month

Family Literacy Week (January 25th–February 1st, 2020) is a province-wide celebration with events, activities, and contests for families at schools and libraries. Family Literacy Day is January 27th. This year's theme: "Make mealtime family learning time."

Make Mealtime Family Learning Time!

Celebrate family literacy week with the following activities in English, French, SENĆOTEN, or your home language.

Young Readers: Pretend play grocery shopping, cooking, eating.

Middle Readers: Write a grocery list together.

Older Readers: Create a family cookbook or flavour recipes.

February 2020

February is All About The Love For Literacy!

Celebrate the joy of reading and sharing stories this month. Explore activities, events and community resources that help foster a lifelong love of books.

Celebrate These Special Literacy Events

February 4th: World Read Aloud Day: Share the magic of stories by reading aloud to someone special.

February 14th: International Book Giving Day: Spread kindness by giving a book to a friend, family member or local organization.

February 22nd – February 28th: Freedom to Read Week: Celebrate the right to read and explore books that challenge ideas and inspire discussion.

Ways to Share the Love for Literacy at Home

- Heart together regularly, take turns reading aloud or enjoy story time.
- Explore book series to keep the enjoyment going.
- Listen to audiobooks during car rides.
- Create a family storybook with drawings and words.
- Play word games or puzzles together.
- Sing songs and rhymes in another language.
- Go on a Family Word Hunt, look for letters, words and signs in the community.

Discover Little Free Libraries In Our Community

Little Free Libraries are small community book-sharing boxes where anyone can take or leave a book. They're a great way to encourage reading and connect with your neighborhood! [Check out the map to find one near you.](#)

Looking for a fun challenge? Try the [Little Free Library Quiz!](#)

Saanich Schools Literacy Link

Parent/Guardian Support Website

"Let us remember: one book, one pen, one child, and one teacher can change the world."

Malala Yousafzai

Background Knowledge
A person's knowledge of a topic based on their experiences

Oral Language
The ability to express thoughts, feelings, and ideas through spoken word

Concepts of Print - Beginning Readers
Understanding how to hold a book, what words and sentences are, which direction to read, and where to find the name of the title and author/illustrator's name

Text Features
Additional information that helps readers understand the main text such as tables of contents, headings, diagrams, graphs, tables, and images

Phonological Awareness
Phonological awareness is the ability to hear, identify, and manipulate components of oral language: words, syllables, rhymes, and phonemes (sounds).

Phonics
Phonics is the way to teach reading that uses sound-letter matching. In phonics lessons, students blend sounds together from left to right to decode words.

Fluency
Fluency is the ability to read accurately, automatically, and with expression.

Vocabulary
Vocabulary is a group of words a person understands when reading or listening. If they have a solid understanding of a word, a person can also use that word accurately when communicating.

Comprehension
Reading comprehension is a person's ability to make meaning from what they have read.

For the complete K-4 English Language Proficiency Profiles, click [HERE](#)

Background Knowledge

When kids know more about a topic, it helps them make connections with the text and it becomes easier for them to understand what they read. Having background knowledge on a topic can help with fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. It is important that students share and celebrate different backgrounds to improve learning for all.

Oral Language

Early exposure to books and lots of practice talking with those around them, prepares children for later learning. A child's oral language skills in preschool can help predict how well a child will read later on.

Resources

Supporting Literacy Learning at Home



SANICH
SCHOOLS

Our District ▾ Board of Education ▾ Schools ▾ Resources ▾ Programs ▾ Contact 🔍

Supporting Literacy Learning at Home

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How We Build Readers Together

Reading is an amazing and complex skill, and children build it step by step with support from both home and school. It involves many parts, like understanding sounds, recognizing words, building vocabulary, and making meaning from what they read. Every child develops these skills at their own pace, and families play a powerful role in helping them grow. On this site, you'll find simple explanations of each component and how they work together to help your child become a confident, joyful reader.

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