

Superintendent's Report to the Board

October 2023



@CoastMountainsSchoolDistrict



@CoastMountainsSchools



@CoastMtnSD

A Message from the Superintendent

Ama Sah,

From all reports around Coast Mountains, it has been an incredibly busy start to the school year. Schools have been taking advantage of the beautiful weather this month getting students outdoors and engaging in authentic learning experiences around their communities. Many open house type events too have been taking place where families and school staffs are establishing relationships and building a sense of community. Kudos to those hosting school events, and thank you to those taking time to gather together and strengthen ties in the service of our children and youth.

Truth & Reconciliation Week was recognized in schools September 25-29, and both classroom conversations and schoolwide assemblies provided opportunities for all to learn more about the realities and impacts of Canada's residential schools on Indigenous peoples. I had the good fortune to attend an assembly held at Hazelton Secondary School which featured traditional Gitksan dancing and drumming, as well as speakers who shared their residential school experiences and teachings on trauma and grief. The event closed with two staff members – Louise Ormerod and Carol Bob – having their heads shaved to honour both personal experiences and relatives who attended residential schools. As intended, it was an afternoon that caused personal reflection and supported learning and growth.

Switching gears, I want to acknowledge that some Coast Mountains' school communities have been facing ongoing disruptions to student transportation services, particularly in Thornhill and Gitsegukla. This has been both upsetting and challenging for families, especially when there is very little notice of schedule changes. Our service provider, Diversified Transportation, is experiencing workforce issues, and driver shortage is commonly resulting in both cancelled and combined bus runs. If you know of a responsible adult who may be interested in full or part time employment with Diversified, please direct them to their posted careers on <https://diversifiedbus.ca>.

Finally, I want to remind our Coast Mountains School District families of the newly established Northwest Communities Student Support Fund. This fund, initially made available through a donation by LNG Canada, is meant to support families in need with expenses related to their child's participation in school. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to connect with their child's classroom teacher or principal to discuss opportunities, or read more on our website at <https://cmsd.bc.ca/northwest-community-student-support-fund>.

Sincerely,

Aaron Callaghan
Superintendent

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Action Plan Updates – Engage, Ignite, Empower

Below are just a few of the targeted actions taking place this year across the three goal areas:

**All students
will realize
their full
potential.**



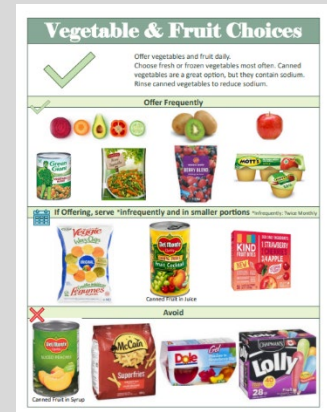
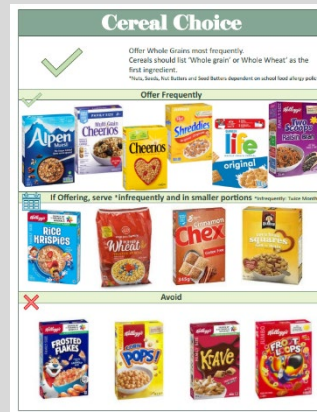
30+ K-3 teachers have participated in foundational Literacy professional learning focused on evidence based instructional practices.

**We will honour
& respect
culture, diversity
& inclusion.**



ReconciliACTION system wide professional learning took place at REM Lee Theatre and Caledonia Secondary on September 22, 2023.

**We will
facilitate well-
being across
the district.**



Coast Mountains School District has released its School Nutrition Standards & Visual Tools in support of student food programming efforts.

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Upcoming Dates

November 8 – Business & Education Committee Meetings

November 10 – Remembrance Day Observed (No Classes)

November 11 – Remembrance Day

November 21 – Board Meeting (Terrace / Hybrid Meeting)

November 22 & 23 – Early Dismissal Days

November 24 – Professional Development Day (No Classes)

All Our Relations Working Group Planning

The All Our Relations district working group, co-facilitated by Director of Instruction Robert Clifton, is set to launch on December 8. The group, consisting of learners and representatives from various partner groups, will work collaboratively to develop a framework to ensure the meaningful involvement of diverse Indigenous peoples and local nations with the goal of improving outcomes for all Indigenous learners across academics, well-being and cultural identity. During the process, participants will engage with the provincial 'Equity in Action' inquiry questions which focus on the learner profile, the learning environment and instruction, as well as policy and governance. The working group is anticipated to wrap up on June 14 with a culminating activity where participants both share and witness stories of impact from around the district.

Watch for more information from the Indigenous Education Department in the coming weeks.

Changes to K-12 Student Reporting

This fall parents may notice a few changes to their children's report cards as reporting processes begin to more closely align with the province's redesigned curriculum. For learners in K-9, the provincial Proficiency Scale will be used along with descriptive feedback to better describe where a child is in their learning. In high school, descriptive feedback will also be used along with letter grades and percentages. Students at all grade levels will reflect on their learning through the school year in relation to the Core Competencies of Communication, Thinking, and Personal & Social.

Parents can learn more about what to expect on their child's report card on the Ministry of Education and Child Care website at <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/reporting/resources-for-parents-and-caregivers>.

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This Month On Social Media...



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On September 22 CMSD hosted a conference style day of learning for all employees focused on ReconciliACTION.



Grade 5-6 learners at Kildala Elementary School participate in music class with teacher Ms. Preyser.



Kitimat City High School Principal Nancy Tormene was recently recognized for her years of service with Coast Mountains School District. Congratulations Nancy!



The Majagaleeh! Gali Aks Elementary School community recently opened their new accessible playground structure.

Coast Mountains School District acknowledges with respect the lands on which we live, work, play and learn as the traditional & unceded territories of the Gitksan, Haisla, Nisga'a & Ts'msyen Peoples.