

# Superintendent's Report to the Board February 2024



@CoastMountainsSchoolDistrict



@CoastMountainsSchools

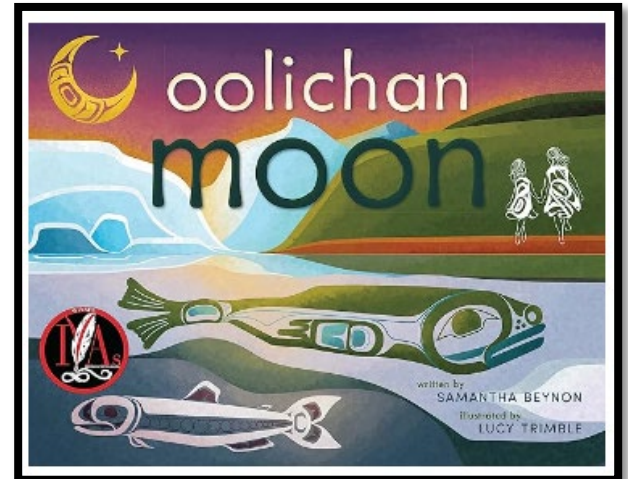


@CoastMtnSD

## A Message from the Superintendent

Ama sah,

Schools across Coast Mountains School District continue to be busy hubs for learning and engagement in February with many special celebrations and events taking place. Students have acknowledged Black History Month, Literacy Week and French Immersion Week with events, and many schools are celebrating Hobiye, the Nisga'a New Year, learning about the historical importance of oolichan for local Indigenous communities. As a district we are fortunate to have many community partners, including Elders and Knowledge Holders, with a vested interest in the success of our young learners, and who are willing and able to support our school communities with their time and expertise. T'oyaxsut nüüsm to all!



*Oolichan moon, authored by Samantha Beynon and illustrated by Lucy Trimble, shares the rich cultural knowledge and traditions of the Nisga'a people.*

Recently there has been increasing dialogue around student use of cell phones in schools at all grade levels. The Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) has identified *digital distractions*, including cell phones, as negatively impacting student learning globally. On January 26, BC Premier David Eby announced the province will be working with school districts to ensure restrictions are in place for September 2024. Currently our school district's Policy 1090 Bring Your Own Technology is in place which does provide discretion at the classroom level by teachers pertaining to the use of personal devices by students. The district will be engaging all partners in the coming weeks to learn more about local perspectives on student use of cell phones in schools, so please watch for this opportunity to weigh in.

EraseBC will be offering two online presentations this month to parents and caregivers focused on **Substance Use Prevention** in children and youth. The sessions are hosted by Clinical Psychologist Dr. Hayley Watson and will be held on February 22 (<https://bit.ly/RegFeb22>) and 28 (<https://bit.ly/RegFeb28>) from 6-7:30 PM. During the session participants will be introduced to a framework for creating open communication on this topic at home, empowering children to think critically about their own behaviours and choices. Use the links above to register for this free information session.

Finally, if not already on your calendar, please note that Spring Break in Coast Mountains School District is slated to begin on Monday March 18, with schools re-opening on Tuesday April 2. Our offices will remain open during the break, but will be closed on both Friday March 29 and Monday April 1 for Easter.

Sincerely,

Aaron Callaghan  
Superintendent



*Coast Mountains School District is in service to diverse First Nations, Métis and Inuit learners and their caregivers who live, learn, and play on the traditional lands of the Gitksan, Haisla, Nisga'a and Ts'msyen peoples.*

# Superintendent's Report to the Board

## February 2024



## Adolescent Health Survey (AHS)






The Adolescent Health Survey (AHS) is administered every five years to learners in Grades 7-12 in British Columbia by the McCreary Society. The survey gives an evidence base of youth health trends, emerging issues, and risk and protective factors for healthy development. The survey was most recently conducted in Spring 2023 and the report and infographic were recently received. Coast Mountains School District has been collaborating with the McCreary team, and will be virtually meeting with them in April to dig deeper into the report. As well, McCreary Youth Ambassadors and Leads will be visiting our CMSD secondary schools in person in May to work with school teams and host sessions with youth focused on mental health and vaping.

Find the 2023 Report for Coast Mountains School District at: <https://cmsd.bc.ca/student-voice>

## Strategic Plan – Action Plan Mid-Year Update

Again this year the Board's visionary Strategic Plan is guiding the work of our district team. Below is a brief check-in on the progress being made in relation to each of the eleven commitments for the 2023-24 school year.

### Goal – All students will realize their full potential.

Action	Progress	Notes
Engage early teacher adopters during the implementation of the K-3 Literacy strategy.	 ON TRACK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inservice delivered to multiple teachers</li> <li>Acadience tool used for universal screening and progress monitoring</li> </ul>
Implement enhanced district services that support the achievement of Indigenous learners.	 ON TRACK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inservice delivered to Indigenous Support Workers, including tools and learner tracking</li> <li>Graduation, Outreach and Mentor roles added</li> </ul>
Implement and support the use of an electronic dashboard to guide evidence-based decision making.	 ON TRACK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing development of EdPlan Insights</li> <li>Acadience dashboard launched for K-3 Literacy</li> <li>Inservice provided for Administration</li> </ul>
In collaboration with provincial partners, engage in a robust teacher recruitment and retention strategy to secure a full complement of outstanding educators for anticipated 2024-25 teaching vacancies.	 ON TRACK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recruiting 'Mountains Are Calling' campaign</li> <li>Professional learning and networking opportunities for new teachers</li> <li>Support for new teachers finding local accommodations</li> <li>Digital assets developed (video, pamphlets)</li> </ul>
Enhance school district communications through innovative practices.	 ON TRACK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Website update to include real time transportation updates</li> <li>Researching SMS push technology for messaging</li> </ul>

# Superintendent's Report to the Board

## February 2024



### Goal – We will honour and respect culture, diversity & inclusion.

Action	Progress	Notes
In cooperation with Indigenous partners, deliver ongoing learning opportunities for all school district employees that support professional capacity to incorporate culturally respectful and responsive practices.	 ON TRACK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conference style inservice provided to all School District staff focused on ReconciliACTION</li> <li>Planning for Role Model Re-Orientation</li> <li>All Our Relations and Shared Learning Circle Series communications shared</li> </ul>
Engage school and community champions in implementing an Anti-Racism campaign, including a learner-led Action Grant initiative.	 BEGINNING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provincial scan of Anti-Racism action plan implementation</li> <li>Inclusion of Anti-Racism focus in upcoming Spring Student Voice sessions</li> </ul>
Collaborate with school communities and local First Nations to deliver enhanced experiential learning opportunities incorporating Indigenous worldview and knowledge systems.	 BEGINNING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessment of community based programs and Seasonal Rounds resource sharing</li> <li>Land / place-based learning course planning in communities of Kitimat and Terrace</li> </ul>

### Goal – We will facilitate well-being across the district.

Action	Progress	Notes
Together with key partners, develop a K-12 Mental Health & Wellness Strategy, including a learner-led Action Grant initiative.	 ON TRACK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborating with BC Children's Hospital on K-12 plan development</li> <li>RTI mental health and wellness tool developed for school use</li> <li>'Journey Map' in development with partners</li> </ul>
In collaboration with community and provincial partners, implement school and district practices that increase students' access to healthy food programming in all schools.	 ON TRACK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed Nutrition Standards and Visual Tools for schools</li> <li>Ongoing support of schools in working toward compliance with standards</li> <li>Community, regional and provincial networking in support of food programming</li> </ul>
Grow the professional capacity of school-based teams in compassionate systems leadership.	 ON TRACK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to ten schools are participating with provincial leads for Compassionate Systems Leadership</li> </ul>

# Superintendent's Report to the Board

## February 2024



## Terrace Catchment Area Review

Communications are being shared this week with Cassie Hall Elementary School and Suwilaawks Community School parents, caregivers and partners regarding upcoming catchment area consultations. The District Team working on this initiative is expecting to share recommendations to the Board of Education in April.

## Student Voice - Upcoming School Engagements

Beginning this month, many Grade 7-12 students around Coast Mountains will participate in annual Student Voice events taking place in all secondary schools. Facilitated by District Principal Phillip Barron, Student Voice presents an opportunity for students to come together in small groups to share their experiences and perspectives in relation to a variety of topics including learning, school climate, relationships, wellness and more. This year as part of the Action Plan commitments, there will be increased dialogue related to perspectives of racism in schools, as well as possible Anti-Racism initiatives.

## Pink Shirt Day – “Lift Each Other Up”

On Wednesday February 28, school communities all over Canada will unite under a banner of kindness to demonstrate their commitment to inclusive learning environments by wearing pink. This annual event, rooted in anti-bullying advocacy, promotes empathy and respect among students and staff and is often highlighted by classroom presentations, discussions, and learning activities aimed at raising awareness of the harmful effects of bullying. This year the theme for Pink Shirt Day is ‘Lift Each Other Up’ and more information can be found at <https://www.pinkshirtday.ca/>

Pink Shirt Day began in 2007 in Berwick Nova Scotia, the self-proclaimed Apple Capital of Canada, when two Grade 12 students stood up for another student who was being bullied by wearing pink t-shirts in an act of allyship. The movement caught on, and now many countries use the pink shirt to spread a notion of kindness and encourage respectful and inclusive classrooms.



*Pink Shirt Day in support of anti-bullying is happening around the district on Wednesday February 28.*



### Upcoming Dates

February 23 – All Our Relations Equity Scan Meeting

March 13-14 – Early Dismissal Days

March 18 -29 – Spring Break (No Classes)

April 1 – Easter (No Classes)

April 2 – Classes Resume



# Superintendent's Report to the Board

## February 2024



## Enhancing Student Learning Report

The Framework Team at the Ministry of Education and Child Care has just shared feedback on the September 2023 Coast Mountains School District Enhancing Student Learning Report (ESLR) submitted in the Fall. The report itself is an annual review of the school district's continuous improvement cycle, taking into account its multi-year strategic plan, the actions being taken for ongoing growth, and the evidence being gathered as indicators. Five focus areas receiving feedback included:

1. Approach to continuous improvement
2. Data and evidence
3. Ongoing engagement
4. Alignment and adaptations
5. Improving equity of learning outcomes

The Coast Mountains School District Feedback Report can be found at: <https://cmsd.bc.ca/strategic-plan>

## This Month On Social Media...



@CoastMountainsSchoolDistrict



@CoastMountainsSchools



@CoastMtnSD



*As part of the growing International Student Program, learners from Brazil and Chile arrive at the Northwest Regional Airport in Terrace for second semester studies.*



*Coast Mountains School District participated in a recent teacher recruitment fair.*