

Superintendent's Report to the Board

June 2024



A Message from the Superintendent

Ama sah / Good day,

It's June and the 2023-24 school year is quickly coming to a close. One glance at any school calendar reveals just how busy they all are at this time of year – in class assessments and the consolidation of learning, student evaluations and reporting, fun activities on the land and around the community, and whole school celebrations and presentations. At our secondary schools, an extra focus on graduations makes it a particularly special time of year, with the acknowledgement of those students who have earned their Dogwood diploma, and many others recognized for their accolades. Thank you to all those who have gone the extra mile this month to ensure students have an extra special experience at year-end! It has not gone unnoticed.



Graduates participated recently in 'Indigenous Photo Shoot 2024'.

Over the past month, the Indigenous Education Department (IED) hosted their third “All Our Relations – Compassionate Canoe Journey” session, this one focused on those stories of impact from around the district. Participants witnessed the sharing of multiple stories from IED staff, students and partners related to the provision of enhanced services and programs for Indigenous children and youth. It is my hope going forward that those involved in the ‘All Our Relations’ dialogue can continue to use their voices to inform our system, both acknowledging impactful practices and successes while at the same time identifying those areas where adjustments can occur to improve educational outcomes for Indigenous learners.

With an eye to the 2024-25 school year, district team members have been discussing next steps as they relate to the strategic vision for Coast Mountains School District. Several key ‘Action Plan Commitments’ will again be prioritized across the focus areas of student learning, well-being and inclusion as all departments strive to realize the goals articulated by the Board of Education.

As this will be my last Superintendent's Report, I would like to take this opportunity to extend a heartfelt thank you to all those colleagues, educational partners and community members who have worked alongside and supported me in this role over the last two years. It has indeed been an honour to serve the learners and families of Coast Mountains School District as Superintendent.

Wishing everyone a fun-filled and safe summer break, with abundant success in the year ahead.

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

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LNG Canada Invests in CMSD Strategic Plan

The Coast Mountains School District recently received confirmation that community partner LNG Canada will continue to assist the district in the focused work of the Board's Strategic Plan 'Engage, Ignite, Empower'. Like in 2023-24, LNG Canada will be making a financial commitment in support of the K-3 Literacy Action Plan, assisting with the provision of professional learning, classroom resources and teaching tools to best meet the needs of our youngest learners as they develop skills across several foundational pillars in Early Literacy.



A huge thank you to LNG Canada, including key members of their Social Management Team - Heather Taylor and Morganne von Schleinitz – for their support of CMSD schools, communities, learners and families!

Crisis Response Training

This month several CMSD staff participated in Crisis Response Training delivered by Bruce Ramsay, a Certified Traumatologist with Vancouver-based Trauma Serve. The training served to increase the school district's ability to effectively support critical incidents that occur within our school communities, including supporting those adults who themselves are often leading the incident response at the school. The learning sessions addressed the core elements of a comprehensive crisis intervention curriculum, and participants developed their understanding of and skills in stress management and incident debriefing. Thanks to Director Julia Nieckarz and the Learner Support team for their leadership with this important learning opportunity.

Emergency Preparedness BC

On June 7 Superintendents and Board Chairs from around the province were presented with a multi-ministry technical briefing on natural hazards including wildfires and droughts. Several online tools and resources were highlighted for schools and families including:

- Emergency Management
- <https://bit.ly/bcemergencymanagement>
- Extreme Heat Preparedness Guide
- <https://bit.ly/bcextremeheat>
- Wildfire Preparedness Guide
- <https://bit.ly/bcwildfirepreparedness>
- Interactive Emergency Ready Plan
- <https://bit.ly/bcemergencyready>
- Master of Disaster Grades 4-8 Free Classroom Program
- <https://bit.ly/bcmasterofdisaster>



Extensive resources are available online for all BC residents related to Emergency Preparedness.

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National Indigenous Peoples Day #NIPD2024

Friday June 21st is National Indigenous Peoples Day, and schools all over Canada will celebrate the diverse cultures, histories, experiences and accomplishments of First Nation, Métis, and Inuit people.

In Coast Mountains School District, many events are planned at the school level, supported and facilitated by members of the Indigenous Education Department, Elders, Knowledge Holders and other Indigenous partners.



This Month On Social Media...



@CoastMountainsSchoolDistrict



@CoastMountainsSchools



@CoastMtnSD



Several secondary students from Haisla Nation recently joined the Indigenous Education Department and participated in a journey to the Kitlope.



Beautiful craftsmanship on display as students at Bear Valley School were completing their woodworking projects in Mr. Drew's class.



Upcoming Dates

- June 21 – National Indigenous Peoples Day
- June 25 – Last Day of School for Learners
- June 26 – Administrative Day
- June 26 – Hybrid Board Meeting (Terrace - if required)
- September 3 – First Day of School