



SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD

JUNE 17, 2020



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June 21 is National Indigenous Peoples Day. This is a day for all Canadians to recognize and celebrate the unique heritage, diverse cultures and outstanding contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. The Canadian Constitution recognizes these three groups as Aboriginal peoples, also known as Indigenous peoples. This Sunday is National Indigenous Peoples Day. What a perfect time for our school district to share our work related to Indigenous Education.

Janet Meyer, Superintendent of Schools

Coast Mountains School District 82 (CMSD82) is committed to ensuring that all Indigenous students will be offered the programs and services that will lead them to success. Our ultimate goal is to see a future when all students, regardless of ancestry, achieve at high levels. In an effort to reach that future, CMSD82 has the following four goals related to Indigenous Education.



Goal 1: To enhance the confidence levels of our Indigenous learners such that they will have the dignity of knowing who they are, the knowledge of their history, and the confidence to shape their future.

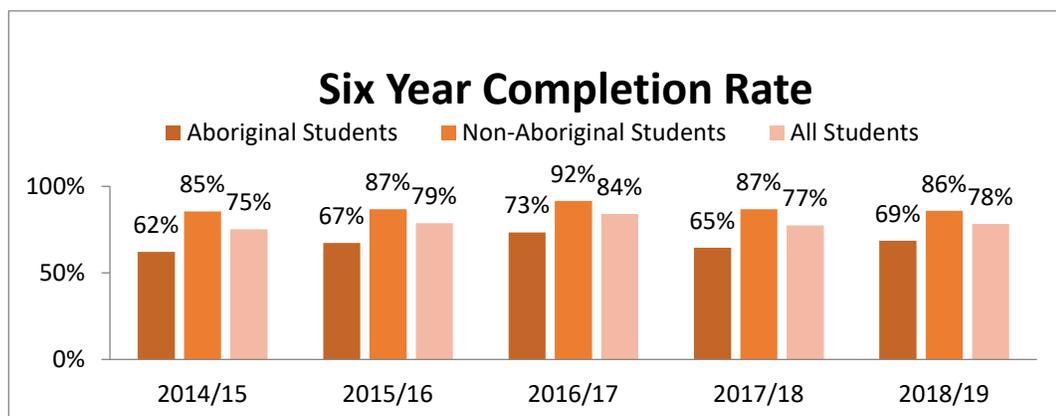
Goal 2: To improve communication between home, school and community agencies. Each school will work in partnership with Indigenous families increasing home-school involvement to improve Indigenous student achievement. All partners need to build relationships and improve communication and actively foster the belief that it takes a community to raise a child.

Goal 3: To increase academic achievement of all Indigenous learners so that they are prepared for post secondary and career opportunities beyond Grade 12.

Goal 4: To increase the number of Indigenous students who graduate with a Dogwood Diploma and to better assist in the transition of Indigenous students into their future learning, employment, and life experiences beyond the completion of their secondary program.

Did you know?

- 46% of our student population in Coast Mountains School District 82 identify as Indigenous (First Nations: Status and Non-Status, Métis and Inuit).
- There are four traditional territories within the boundaries of School District 82 (Gitxsan, Haisla, Nisga'a and Tsimshian) and there are five Indigenous languages of focus (Gitxsan, Haisla, Nisga'a, Tsimshian and Wet'suwet'en).
- Although the Indigenous achievements are not yet at the all-student rate, we have seen some success in graduation rates over the last 5 years (reference the Six Year Completion Rate graph shared below).
- Stewart, B.C., which is a part of CMSD82, is situated on the traditional territory of the Nisga'a People.
- There are ten Indigenous communities within CMSD82: Gitanmaax, Gitsegukla, Glen Vowell, Gitwangak, Gitanyow, Kispiox, Hagwilget, Haisla, Kitselas and Kitsumkalum.



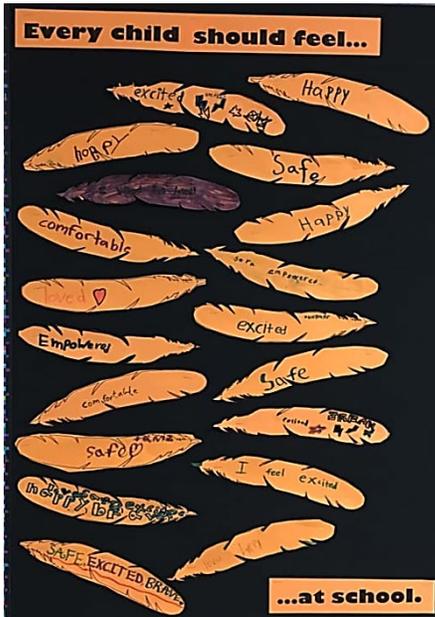


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Indigenous Language Revitalization in Coast Mountains School District 82

Language, culture and identity are interconnected and meaningful when realized in a holistic way. Learning takes place when we link the classroom experience to real life and to the child's personal experience. Our school system has traditionally favoured the colonial languages of English and French only. We want to change that. Recognizing only English and French does a disservice to all students.

It is time to provide students with a much richer learning environment where Indigenous languages take their rightful place within the education system. We believe that we need to make a shift that not only recognizes Indigenous languages and culture in schools, but in fact celebrates it. Programs that include Indigenous language and culture are good for everyone. They help to repair the relationships that were affected by colonial policy and build understanding and knowledge. In CMSD82, we are working to increase Indigenous knowledge by forming local Indigenous partnerships and accessing cultural resources. This is Truth and Reconciliation in action. – inspired by the work of Dr. Lorna Williams and Dr. Sarah Cardinal (2018).

In Coast Mountains School District 82, we honour and support Indigenous Language Revitalization (ILR). To this end, in May 2019 the Board of Education engaged the services of Ms. Colleen Austin, 'Wii Goot, to assume the contract position of Indigenous Languages Revitalization Coordinator.

Indigenous languages are an integral part of the identity of Canada's Indigenous people. The Board of Education is pleased to support the engagement of Colleen's services towards the preservation, promotion and revitalization of the First Nations languages within School District 82. The Board of Education's objective in engaging Colleen's services is to:

- Create a School District and Community Indigenous Languages Revitalization Plan;
- Work with each local Indigenous language community who are at different stages of Indigenous language revitalization;
- Plan for the expansion of local language instruction in CMSD82 schools;
- Plan and lead an Indigenous language conference;
- Build capacity in all areas of Indigenous language revitalization: speakers, teachers and resource creators;
- Set the groundwork for the next generation of Indigenous language teachers;
- Examine best practices to support the teaching and learning of Indigenous languages.



Colleen Austin, 'Wii Goot, CMSD82 Indigenous Languages Revitalization Coordinator



As you can well imagine, the work has only just begun. Ms. Austin has formed a Steering Committee comprised of some local knowledge keepers (as photographed to the left during their November 2019 Network Group Meeting held at the Board of Education Office) to guide the development of ILR policies, program development and delivery.

Role Model Larry Derrick and Colleen Austin met with the school district's first ILR Ambassador Group weekly to engage in various Tsimshian language activities together. This group remained committed by connecting on Microsoft Office Teams throughout the winter months. These participants confidently shared Tsimshian songs and prayers at gatherings within their school. This program is vital to the ILR plan and aids in building language competence with

those who may become educators themselves.

*"Learning my language and my culture is changing the future of my children's lives and all the future generations of my family."
- Molly Wickham, Witsuwit'en language apprentice.*

"CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING, OPPORTUNITIES FOR LIFE"



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Cybersecurity Foundations 10

Organizations in every industry around the globe face cybersecurity threats daily. Cyberattacks are growing increasingly sophisticated leading to data breaches that affect privacy and freedom of information. As a result, organizations are looking to bolster their ranks with cybersecurity professionals, generating a great demand for jobs in the field. Analysts predict that in 2021 there will be more than 28,000 unfilled jobs in cybersecurity in Canada and as many as 3.5 million worldwide. Faced with this information, Coast Mountains School District 82 believes we should be examining this field closely and exploring opportunities that would help us prepare our students for future careers related to this job market.



In October, after attending an information technology conference which highlighted the field of cybersecurity, our Director of Instruction for Graduation & Innovation, Geraldine Lawlor, reached out to IBM Canada's K-12 division to gather information and to build a relationship. This led to an opportunity to work with Palo Alto Networks and join a pilot project to support students in understanding cybersecurity issues and help them to develop skills aligned with this exciting, ever changing field of study. We then approached two of our secondary schools to determine if there was an appetite to offer this course in their schools. Hazelton Secondary School indicated that they would like to take advantage of this opportunity and Teacher, Joshua Boldt stepped up to the challenge.

In February 2020, Mr. Boldt attended the PANW (Palo Alto Networks) Cybersecurity Academy Associate Training session held at the Surrey School District Education Centre. Mr. Boldt has successfully completed the necessary training and certification exams required to deliver three entry-level cybersecurity courses, Orientation, Foundations and Essentials. Students taking the Cybersecurity Foundations course will be introduced to the fundamentals of cybersecurity, improve their information technology skills and overall computing capabilities and will be provided with the opportunity to become certified through the industry recognized Palo Alto certification exam. We are looking forward to offering this program at Hazelton Secondary School during the 2020-2021 school year.

Caledonia Secondary School Year-Round Greenhouse

Students at Caledonia Secondary School under the guidance of their Teacher, Monica Strimbold, have taken on a project to power the school's current greenhouse for year-round growing capabilities. Students and staff see this as a great opportunity to provide clean energy, but also to provide education at a young age for the sustainability of home gardening and the advantages of local products, power generation infrastructure and personal choices. With the support of [Farm2School BC](#) and [Step3Project](#), they have come up with some ideas for the greenhouse upgrade which includes solar panels, a battery bank, and a compost within the greenhouse to supply additional heat. Currently, the project is in the information-gathering phase, reaching out to bloggers and organizations to understand the infrastructure that has worked in the past.



Caledonia has been collecting temperature data from inside the greenhouse and solar supply companies have been contacted for any input they might have. We share the following link to a video entitled, "Caledonia Year-Round Greenhouse" for your interest. A former Caledonia student, Tristan Walker, created this project and through Step3Project sells clothing to fund alternative energy projects. Caledonia students and staff have been greatly supportive of Step3Project and they can't wait to give back!

[Caledonia Year-Round Greenhouse Video](#) (click on link to view)

A Salute to Our 2020 Graduating Classes

This has been a unique school year and our graduates have definitely earned some special recognition. To accommodate the public health restrictions due to COVID-19, our secondary schools have opted for different celebrations based on the uniqueness of each of their schools while adhering to social distancing requirements. At Caledonia Secondary, Hazelton Secondary and Mount Elizabeth Middle/Secondary Schools graduates were/will be filmed walking across the stage during virtual Graduation Ceremonies. Before the end of June, separate videos filmed by CityWest capturing those moments of the 2020 Graduating Classes at these secondary schools will be broadcast and livestreamed for students, families, staff and communities to view. Bear Valley School is hosting an outdoor Graduation Ceremony for their five graduating students while ensuring social distancing protocols are followed. Kitimat City High and Parkside Secondary Schools have opted to postpone their Graduation Ceremonies to the fall when larger group gatherings can be permitted noting that most of their graduates are remaining in the local area, so the postponements can accommodate their students. **Congratulations to the Graduating Classes of 2020!**

