



SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD

SEPTEMBER 29, 2021



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It is with gratitude and optimism that I welcome you to the 2021-2022 school year! I recognize and acknowledge that the 2020-2021 school year was a challenge like no other. I would like to thank students, parents, staff and community partners for their consistent and diligent work towards learning during a time that

our thoughts may have been focussed on surviving a global pandemic. As a sector provincially and a district locally, I feel very proud of the work we did to maximize in-class instruction for the entire year. *As you know, we will be living with COVID-19 for some time to come. That being the case, I remind people to:*

⇒ Complete your Daily Health Check ⇒ Stay home when you are sick ⇒ Access the COVID-19 vaccination

September 2021 has been positive thus far. We have witnessed approximately 4,300 students return to brick-and-mortar schools in Coast Mountains School District 82 (CMSD82). One area of focus over the coming weeks will be to assess where students are at in their learning and to facilitate continuous improvement.

When you walk into any classroom in British Columbia, you will encounter students who are in various places on the learning continuum. Some students in a Grade 10 Math course may be “Proficient” while others may be “Emerging” or “Extending”. Students’ proficiency in different areas of the curriculum differs in every classroom and consequently yields a wide range of abilities.

This range of understanding applies to all people in British Columbia as it relates to our journey of understanding about the history of Indigenous Peoples of British Columbia and Canada.

The devastating impacts of residential schools, addressing the Truth & Reconciliation Calls to Action and understanding UNDRIP (United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples) is all our work to do. Like any other learning journey, and just like students, we the adults can be in very different places on the continuum of learning. In order for us to move forward in our learning we should stop and ask ourselves: *Where am I at with my understanding of this very important work?*

Orange Shirt Day is held every year on September 30 to educate people, to promote awareness about the Residential School System in Canada, to honour the healing journey of residential school survivors and bring acknowledgement to the need for reconciliation. **CMSD82 will recognize Orange Shirt Day on Wednesday, September 29. All students and staff are encouraged to wear orange on this day to recognize Orange Shirt Day.** Orange Shirt Day is a day to recognize and remember the survivors of residential schools including those who attended residential schools as well as their families who continue to feel the effect of residential schools. It is also a time to raise awareness about anti-racism and anti-bullying and it is an opportunity to begin the discussions around these issues.



Laura Tait, Assistant Superintendent of Schools (School District 68, Nanaimo/Ladysmith) created a rubric, illustrated on the following page, to assist us in determining where we might be at on our own journey. September 30 will mark the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. What if, on that day, you used Laura’s rubric to determine where each member of your household is on the learning journey? There is no right answer as to where you are at. Wherever you are is great! The next questions could be: *Where to next? What can I do to move myself and members of my family to the next level of understanding? Where are you on your journey of understanding?*

I would like to extend our gratitude to both JGC Fluor BC LNG JV (the main engineering, procurement and construction contractor for LNG Canada’s liquefied natural gas export terminal in Kitimat) and to the TELUS Community Ambassadors program for their generous donations of school supplies and backpacks for CMSD82 students. Thanks to these two organizations, we distributed in excess of 600 backpacks and school supplies to students in our school district (reference the photo and caption on the following page).

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**IF YOU HAVE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS RELATED TO COVID-19, PLEASE FORWARD YOUR QUESTIONS TO:
“COVID@CMSD.BC.CA” WHICH COMES DIRECTLY TO THE SUPERINTENDENT’S EMAIL INBOX.**



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Aboriginal Understandings Learning Progression – SD68 Aboriginal Education

	<i>Moving Toward the Water</i>	<i>Boarding the Canoe</i>	<i>Raising your Paddle</i>	<i>Journey Into Deeper Waters</i>
	Awareness implies a sense of 'need to know'	Developing implies a willingness to address one's own understandings and beliefs	Acquiring implies a demonstration of knowledge and respect	Action/ Advocacy implies a demonstration of knowledge, respect and a commitment to advocacy
Beliefs and Attitudes towards Aboriginal Peoples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognizes that knowledge may need to be enhanced Aware that issues exist around Aboriginal peoples 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates a willingness to enhance one's knowledge and understanding May bring an informed perspective to current issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates a responsibility to enhance one's knowledge and understanding Possesses an intention to bring an informed and critical perspective to current issues and acts upon those intentions Demonstrates respect for Aboriginal people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides leadership to enhance others' knowledge and understanding Seeks out opportunities to act on the injustices toward Aboriginal people
Knowledge of Aboriginal Peoples and History on local, regional and national levels	Demonstrates awareness of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Aboriginal peoples and territories Aboriginal languages and cultures Indigenous Knowledge Canadian history as it pertains to Aboriginal people 	Beginning to explore the topics of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Aboriginal peoples and territories Aboriginal languages and cultures Indigenous Knowledge History and the impact of colonization the impact of the Indian Act on present day Aboriginal people the contributions of Aboriginal people to contemporary society 	Demonstrates knowledge of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Aboriginal peoples and territories Aboriginal languages and cultures Indigenous Knowledge History and the impact of colonization the impact of the Indian Act on present day Aboriginal people the contributions of Aboriginal people to contemporary society 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognizes the influence of the dominant culture, while striving to foster the Aboriginal Worldview Demonstrates and practices a knowledge and respect for Indigenous Pedagogy

Laura Tait, SD68 Aboriginal Education 2011

School District 82 is grateful for the generous donation of backpacks and school supplies received from JGC Fluor BC LNG JV and their subcontractors as part of their annual "Stuff the Bus" initiative.



On September 10, our District Education Team with the assistance of our IT Department personnel received the backpacks and school supplies at the Board of Education Office. Special thanks are extended to Tex Loyer with Servco Kitamaat Ventures Ltd. for his tremendous efforts in making the Stuff the Bus initiative a success again this year!

Pictured is Superintendent Janet Meyer thanking Tex and the JGC Fluor BC LNG JV representatives for their generous donation accompanied by Julia Jacobs (Director of Instruction, Indigenous Education) and IT Department personnel Chris McLachlan, Eric Rolleman, Nathan Schock and Glen Lorenz.

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