



SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD

DECEMBER 15, 2021



Page 1 of 2



This has been another challenging start to the school year for everyone - staff, students and parents/guardians. It is time for a break to connect with family and friends and return to a place where traditions make the holiday time special with decorations and food, festive music and things that provide many of us with comfort and joy. As we conclude the first four months of the school year, it is an important time for me to reflect on what has been, and hope for what the new year may bring. My best wishes to all for a wonderful Holiday Season with the promise of a renewed year in 2022.

Janet Meyer, Superintendent of Schools

Language and Culture in Coast Mountains School District 82

Recently, I had the privilege of spending time in Mademoiselle Katie Hollett's class at Ecole Mountainview. During my time in the class, the students, Katie and I discussed the language and culture lessons offered by Brittany Seymour. Brittany is a newly hired teacher in Coast Mountains School District to teach Tsimshian language and culture in Kindergarten to Grade 3 at Cassie Hall Elementary, Suwilaawks Community, Ecole Mountainview, Uplands Elementary, and Thornhill Primary schools. Brittany is an educator of Tsimshian and Tahltan ancestry.

I was amazed at the ability of the learners in Katie's class to use the Tsimshian language. As you can see from the photo, there is a Tsimshian word wall in the classroom that can be accessed by the students at any time. I would like to thank Brittany and Katie for their work in regards to making Indigenous language and culture present and available in the school.



For the information of readers, we do have Language & Culture Teachers in other areas of the school district, as shared below, doing this very important work. I would like to acknowledge their continued efforts and thank them for their valued and creative work.

- Gordon Jack and Virginia Morgan, Hazelton Secondary School, Grades 7 to 12, Gitksan Language and Culture
- Jaclyn Wells, Kitwanga Elementary School, Kindergarten to Grade 4 Gitksan Culture and Grades 5, 6 & 7 Gitksan Language and Culture
- Gwen Simms, Majagaleehl Gali Aks Elementary School, Kindergarten to Grade 4 Gitksan Culture and Grades 5, 6 & 7 Gitksan Language and Culture
- Angie Silvestre, Nechako Elementary School and Kildala Elementary School, Kindergarten to Grade 3, Haisla Language and Culture
- Angie Olson, New Hazelton Elementary School, Kindergarten to Grade 4 Gitksan Culture and Grades 5, 6 & 7 Gitksan Language and Culture



For All You Do – This Hug is For You

The Grade 3/4 Class at Nechako Elementary School under the guidance of their Teacher, Tom Wilkinson, created a heartwarming giant nine-foot wide hug display for the staff at the Kitimat General Hospital to show their support for the frontline workers. The display message reads, "For ALL you do - This HUG is for you". The hug arms were signed by the school staff and students expressing their gratitude to all the frontline workers at the Kitimat General Hospital. The giant hug was delivered to the Kitimat General Hospital on November 24 for display.

Tom shared that his students understand it has been a challenging couple of years for everyone in Canada and they wanted to be able to say "thank you" to the local hospital staff. Tom initiated this project to provide his students an opportunity to engage in a project that instills a positive kindness action and message.

**IF YOU HAVE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS RELATED TO COVID-19, PLEASE FORWARD YOUR QUESTIONS TO:
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Page 2 of 2

SOGI In Our School District

Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) inclusive education is at the forefront in Coast Mountains School District. During the 2021-2022 academic year, schools have been fully engaging in Diversity Clubs, Gay Straight Alliances (GSA's) and Rainbow Clubs, focusing on inclusion and diversity. These fun clubs are being run in secondary, middle and elementary schools. The clubs are well attended and serve as a safe place for students. They are a place to celebrate diversity and inclusion and a place for students to connect.

Every elementary school was provided with grade-level appropriate SOGI Kits that included resources, mentorship books, lessons, information, and posters. Every school was provided with PRIDE Kits that included 2 PRIDE flags and a manual for administrators with curriculum ideas. There are SOGI leads in every school within School District 82, who are facilitating in-person clubs or are in the process of starting one. The leads meet virtually once a month to discuss what is happening and to share ideas and resources. These amazing teachers collaborate via MS Teams to share and exchange information. A SOGI SharePoint is in the works that will provide curriculum and resources for teachers. The photos displayed illustrate a few examples of the SOGI inclusive education taking place in our schools. We also share a photo of the "coveted" CMSD82 SOGI mug.



Coast Mountains School District's partnership with Bryan Gidinski and Shelley Moore in the areas of SOGI 123 and Inclusion for 2021-2022 school year has engaged, inspired and informed many of our school teams.

Bryan is an intermediate elementary school teacher with more than 20 years of teaching experience. He has worked as a Faculty Associate and Sessional Instructor, teaching courses in Language Arts Methodology and Classroom Management as well as facilitating teacher education modules with Diversity and Literacy themes. Bryan currently holds a district leadership role as the Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity (SOGI) Support Teacher for Elementary Schools in Burnaby. He is an advocate for ensuring that LGBTQ+ students and their families see themselves reflected in curricular resources, lessons, and conversations by promoting themes of diversity and



acceptance. Shelley has worked with elementary and secondary schools supporting students with and without special needs in inclusive contexts in Alberta, New York and British Columbia. She is currently an inclusion consultant in various other districts and community organizations throughout BC, supporting systems and educators to increase access to education for every learner. She has presented at conferences both nationally and internationally, and has developed and taught sessional courses as a University Instructor.



It is important for schools to be inclusive and have safe spaces for students of all sexual orientations and gender identities. Being SOGI-inclusive means: speaking about SOGI in a way that makes every student feel like they belong; not limiting a person's potential based on their biological sex and how they understand or express their gender; welcoming everyone without discrimination, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

To learn more about SOGI 123 in British Columbia and Canada wide, visit [SOGI 1 2 3 / British Columbia](#) or the [BC Teachers' Federation SOGI Classroom Resources](#) (click on links to open).

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