



SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD

FEBRUARY 23, 2022



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Speaking for myself, I am cautiously optimistic about a reprieve from COVID-19. At the local level and at the provincial level we are beginning to discuss matters of educational importance such as student achievement, curriculum and assessment, communicating student learning and the childcare portfolio moving to the Ministry of Education in 2023. These are refreshing topics to say the least. As we move through February and March in a cautiously optimistic way, the days will continue to get longer, the weather will become warmer, and we can start to live a more realistic version of life. For that, I am grateful. As there is no Superintendent Report in March with no Committee or Board Meetings scheduled, I would like to take this opportunity to wish parents, students, staff and rightsholders a very well deserved and restful Spring Break. Thank you for continuing to persevere in the face of challenge. What we do matters, and we are having positive impacts on outcomes for students.

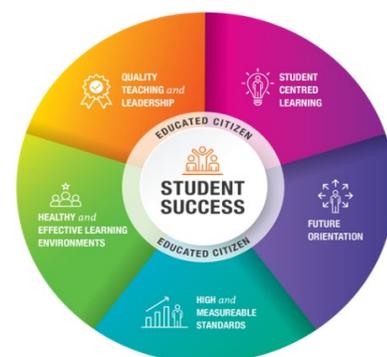


Janet Meyer, Superintendent of Schools

Student Achievement in CMSD82

At this month's Public Board of Education Meeting, the Board will be reviewing school, district and provincial level data as a means of an update on student achievement in Coast Mountains School District 82 (CMSD82). The data tells a quantitative story about student learning in CMSD82. Literacy and numeracy remain focus areas improving outcomes for students. Here is a street-level data story that qualitatively tells a story of about improving literacy skills for individual learners.

This street level data comes in the form of an email from a Principal (whose name is masked for confidentiality purposes) to the Superintendent:



Hey there,

Happy Friday! I wanted to share something exciting. Remember last year when we were talking about the great work we were doing, but how concerned a teacher was that they had several students making NO progress in their reading skills, in spite of trying numerous strategies? The teacher has most of the same kids again this year.

They were given a document about how to fill in the gaps for phonemic awareness and all the very basics of pre-reading skills, so I passed it on to them to try, which they started in the Spring. Then, with the introduction of the Heggerty Program this year, the teacher and the support staff have been doing a tonne of work to support these students building these missing skills.

ALL of their Grade 2s, on their PM Benchmark assessments in the past two weeks are now reading... several of them are several levels ahead of where they were a few months ago. They are so excited, and the teacher is just blown away at their progress.

Just wanted to share that with you! Have a great long weekend.

Rotary Club Sponsored Swimming for Suwilaawks Students

The enthusiasm and excitement on the faces of Ms. Imbeau's Grade 3/4 class at Suwilaawks Community School can be spotted every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon. For five weeks, on these days, all 24 of her students participate in Red Cross Swimming Lessons, all at no cost to them. This opportunity was provided through the generosity of the Terrace Skeena Valley Rotary Club.

The success of the program is evident, and we have just been informed that three more classes at Suwilaawks Community School will have this opportunity in the coming weeks. Next up for the lessons will be Ms. Armstrong's class, Mr. Ewald's class and Mr. Redl's class. The school purchased class sets of towels and have been ensuring the swim wear is washed and dried prior to each lesson.



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After School Bussing for Extra Curricular Activity – Hazelton Secondary School

CMSD82 was pleased to announce on February 10, 2022 the availability of after school bussing for Hazelton Secondary School students from the villages of Gitanmaax, Gitanyow, Gitsegukla, Gitwangak, Glen Vowell, Hagwilget and Kispiox to engage in after school extracurricular activities for a period of sixteen weeks from February 2022 to May 2022.

This service was made possible through the BC Tripartite Education Agreement (BCTEA) Joint First Nation Student Transportation Plans to provide an innovative approach to ensuring adequate and appropriate transportation services for First Nations students who attend public schools. In conjunction with the BCTEA Joint First Nation Student Transportation Plans, our School District has committed funding in the amount \$25,291.52 towards this eagerly anticipated after school bussing initiative for Hazelton Secondary School benefiting students residing in the outlying communities for after school activities.

Our appreciation is extended to the Hazelton/Kitwanga First Nations Education Advisor and Coordinators and School Administration for their commitment and dedication in making this much needed service come to fruition for the deserving students at Hazelton Secondary School.

BCCPAC Presentation on the Importance of DPAC

On February 16, 2022, Andrea Sinclair, President of BCCPAC, met with invited representatives from School PACs within CMSD82. Andrea shared the benefits of every school district having a District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC). She noted that DPAC is an extension of School PACs and are also recognized in the *School Act*. DPAC is the official representative body of parents/guardians of children in a school district. The *School Act* provides DPACs the power to advise the Board of Education respecting any matter relating to education within the district including educational policy. As a district stakeholder, DPAC, like the other stakeholders at the district level, should have representation on all standing Committees and on any advisory and ad-hoc committees or working groups.



BC Confederation of
Parent Advisory Councils

The plan is to reconvene this group during the week of April 11, 2022 virtually to continue this important discussion into the future of CMSD82's DPAC. We very much would like all PACs to attend and be represented at this next meeting; it is important for you, the parents/guardians, for the benefit of your children. An email invitation will be extended to all PACs with the April meeting date and Zoom link following Spring Break.



Additionally, Andrea presented to the Education Committee, a Standing Committee of the Board comprised of the school district's partners, on February 9 with the intent of highlighting the importance of each school having a PAC and each school district having a DPAC. Understandably, during a global pandemic, the participation of parents

on PAC and DPAC has declined across the school district. Andrea is working with District Staff in order to support the ongoing work of the local DPAC. At the meeting on February 16, Andrea provided a presentation entitled, "The Importance of the District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC)".

Our School District wishes to thank all parents, including Andrea Sinclair, for their continued dedication and support of their local School PAC. It is our hope that CMSD82 will have a functioning DPAC in the very near future.

Caledonia's Junior Boys Basketball Team are going to the Provincials

Congratulations to Caledonia Secondary School's Junior Boys Basketball Team for capturing the 2021-2022 Northwest Zones!

The Junior Boys Basketball Team are going to the Provincials in Langley, February 24 to March 1 to compete against the best in the province.

We are so proud of you!

GOOD LUCK at the Provincials!!



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Safety First in CMSD82

In January 2022, an analysis was conducted by our Maintenance Department to determine the number of spaces within our sites that have no mechanical ventilation. These spaces do not have the same level of air flow as spaces with mechanical ventilation. These are the spaces that would be best suited for portable HEPA filter air purifiers.

CMSD82 received financial support in January 2022 to improve air quality, with a particular emphasis on classrooms that do not have mechanical ventilation. Since the beginning of the pandemic, B.C. has invested \$114.5 million to help school districts upgrade ventilation in schools. Additional support is available to implement targeted improvements, with a focus on deploying portable HEPA filtration units in classrooms with no access to mechanical ventilation systems.



AeraMaxPro AM4S
True HEPA Filtration



AeraMax Pro AM3S
True HEPA Filtration

CMSD82 has invested \$105,000 in targeted monies to improve the air quality in these non-mechanically ventilated spaces. We have purchased **60 AeraMax Pro AM4S True HEPA Filtration** which effectively removes at least 99.95% of particles as small as 0.1 microns, including allergens, such as pollen, dust, pet dander, and smoke **in rooms 650-1,100 square feet**. These are for larger spaces.

And **20 AeraMax Pro AM3S True HEPA Filtration** which effectively removes at least 99.95% of particles as small as 0.1 microns, including allergens, such as pollen, dust, pet dander, and smoke **in rooms 300-550 square feet**. These are for smaller spaces.

CMSD82 is grateful for the additional funding to ensure our classrooms and spaces in schools are as safe as possible. It is expected that the HEPA filters will be in schools before Spring Break.

A Foreshadow for What Is To Come in the April Superintendent's Report

The April 2022 Superintendent's Report will highlight progress across the district related to SOGI initiatives and provide a district wide update in relation to CMSD82 Policy 1095: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI).

We share an excerpt from CMSD82's SOGI Policy:

The Board will establish appropriate administrative procedures and strategies that promote respect for human rights, support diversity, and address discrimination. Procedures will ensure:

1. **Visibility:** *The diversity of sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions are recognized and valued.*
2. **Protection:** *The dignity of all people across the sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) spectra is intended to be preserved, as well as protected from harm.*
3. **Inclusion:** *Equitable treatment and inclusion are a reality for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities and expression.*



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