

# Superintendent's Report to the Board

## November 2022



@CoastMountainsSchoolDistrict



@CoastMountainsSchools



@CoastMtnSD

## A Message from the Superintendent

Ama Sah,

We have reached the end of the first quarter of the school year with all schools now engaged in the reporting process, providing an update on student learning and skill development in relation to grade level expectations and instruction to date this year. Reporting time represents a great opportunity for meaningful dialogue between teachers, parents and care givers, and students themselves with a focus on strengths and challenges, as well as next steps for continued progress on the learning journey.

This month schools throughout the district recognized National Indigenous Veterans Day and Remembrance Day with focused classroom conversations and school assemblies. Both occasions provided opportunities for students and staff to honour those who so courageously served and continue to serve our country.

The district has been actively engaged in the work of the Strategic Plan 'Engage, Ignite, Empower' with a focus on building safe and inclusive learning environments where students can thrive. This year's action items have been identified and will largely serve to grow the professional capacity of the district's staff in best meeting the needs of students across the three goal areas – student learning, well-being and inclusion and culture. Learn more about the action items in this month's report.

Thank you to those who participated in the Coast Mountains Student & Family Affordability Fund community consultations. It was clear from the input that ensuring learners have access to nutritious food both during and outside of the school day is a priority. The district will now work to enhance existing food programming in schools, as well as work with community partners, to best meet the needs of learners with healthy food options. Additionally, the district announced the Support Request for Families in Need form, now available online and in school offices, with funds allocated to assist families with those expenses associated with school fees and supplies. Parents are encouraged to check in with their child's school if they have questions.

Finally, the district has been participating in a number of teacher recruitment engagements with universities across the country in an effort to bring the brightest and best talent to our classrooms and school communities in 2023. Teacher candidates have been excited to learn about the possibilities of working in the northwest given the region's stunning beauty, rich culture, and abundant opportunities for outdoor adventure and recreation. Connect with our Human Resources Department to learn more. 'The Mountains Are Calling!'

Sincerely,

Aaron Callaghan  
Superintendent, SD 82



### Upcoming Dates

November 23 & 24 – Early Dismissal for Students  
November 25 – Professional Development Day (No Classes)  
December 14 – School Board Meeting  
December 19 – Winter Break Begins  
January 3 – Classes Resume

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### **Engage, Ignite, Empower – Action Items for 22-23**

The Board of Education's newly launched Strategic Plan - Engage, Ignite, Empower - presents great opportunities for both system learning and improved student outcomes in Coast Mountains School District. With students at the centre, the goals within the plan are focused on creating the conditions for learning and well-being in safe, welcoming and inclusive classrooms and schools. For the 2022-23 school year, the district will be embarking on the following

**Actions Items** in support of the Strategic Plan vision:

#### ***Goal: All students will realize their full potential***

- Engage district champions in the development of a K-3 Literacy strategy.
- Create an electronic dashboard to support access to student and school level evidence of learning & well-being.
- Develop a district strategy to support the use of student evidence from district & provincial assessments.
- In collaboration with provincial partners, engage in a robust teacher recruitment strategy in an effort to secure a full complement of outstanding educators for anticipated 2023-24 teaching vacancies.
- Enhance school district communications through an updated public facing website and staff intranet.

#### ***Goal: We will honour and respect culture, diversity & inclusion***

- In cooperation with local First Nations, develop a comprehensive professional learning resource to support school district employees with Indigenous cultural competency.
- Increase the number of inclusion teacher mentors across the school district through facilitated professional learning.
- Develop district professional learning resources that build capacity related to Inclusive Education and Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity (SOGI) concepts.
- Collaborate with school communities and local First Nations to create increased opportunities for students to engage in outdoor and land-based learning experiences.

#### ***Goal: We will facilitate well-being across the district***

- Develop a district learning resource to support the understanding and application of trauma-informed practices.
- Build system understanding of safe, caring and welcoming schools through the solicitation of student voice.
- Grow the professional capacity of school administration in compassionate systems leadership.

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## New Teacher Mentoring

Coast Mountains School District is committed to supporting teachers who are new to the profession, new to the district, and those who are working in our school communities with a Letter of Permission (LOP). This year, upwards of 53 teachers fit into these categories, and plans are underway to implement a district-wide mentorship program supported by a small but dedicated team of experienced, recently retired Coast Mountains School District educators. In the coming weeks, community-based groups of new teachers and those with Letters of Permission will be invited to participate in an informal get-together to both network and discuss how they may wish to be supported professionally during the remainder of the school year. Foundational materials and resources will be shared with those in attendance at the inaugural gathering. This is exciting work, and the district team looks forward to the collaboration and collegial learning in the year ahead.

### Student & Family Affordability Fund Preliminary Funding Bins 2022-23

After a successful consultation, Coast Mountains School District has identified the funding bins and allocation amounts for the provincial Student & Family Affordability Fund one-time grant of \$510,045.

#### School Concert Series

- Commitment made to fully fund the concert series for 2022-23
- Approximately 5%

#### School Food

- Focus areas include:
  - Pantry programs (Secondary)
  - Subsidized / No Cost Lunch
  - Accessible healthy snacks all day long
  - Snacks / Breakfast on busses (identified long runs)
- Approximately 55%

#### Community Partners

- Supporting community partners and local First Nations who feed students and their families
- Approximately 20%

#### Other School Related Fees & Costs

- Paper based form available in every school and online for anyone to complete / submit to school principal in support of reducing a school-based fee or cost
- Approximately 20%

## Support Request for Families in Need

School staff, parents and care givers can now access the school district's **Support Request for Families in Need** form to submit a request for financial assistance for expenses related to school fees and other related costs. The form is available on the Coast Mountains School District website (<http://cmsd.bc.ca>) and has been printed and made available in each one of our 19 schools. Assistance may be available for the purchase of school supplies and winter clothing, paying course fees, participation in field trips, school-based extra or co-curricular, athletic or cultural activities, and more. Please reach out to the principal or other preferred staff member at your child's school for more information.

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## Follow Coast Mountains on Social Media...



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*A learner engages in bicycle repair & overhaul at Skeena Middle School*



*In collaborations with the Terrace Fire Department, a learner participates in a fire safety drill at Cassie Hall Elementary*



*A learner engages in a cedar hat cultural project at Parkside Middle School.*

Northwest British Columbia  
**COAST MOUNTAINS  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**THE MOUNTAINS  
ARE CALLING**

Now hiring for full-time and casual positions.  
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Give us a call at 250.638.4401