

Superintendent's Report to the Board

June 2026



A Message from the Superintendent

Ama Sah / Good Day,

As we come to the close of another school year, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our students, staff, families, Trustees, and education partners for their ongoing commitment to supporting student learning across Coast Mountains School District. June is a month filled with celebrations, reflection, and gratitude as we recognize the many accomplishments that have taken place throughout the year. I have appreciated the opportunity to visit schools and attend events throughout the district, witnessing firsthand the learning, creativity, talent, and sense of belonging that exists within our school communities.

This year, we have continued to make meaningful progress toward the goals outlined in our Strategic Plan: *Engage, Ignite, Empower*. It is encouraging to see evidence that our collective efforts are having a positive impact on student learning. For example, through initiatives such as the implementation of our Literacy Framework, targeted interventions, professional learning, and enhanced assessment practices, we are seeing improvements in student reading achievement and literacy development. While there is always more work to do, the data indicates that our efforts are translating into improved outcomes for students. These results reflect the dedication and expertise of our educators, support staff, school leaders, and district teams who work every day to help students realize their full potential.

June is also a time to celebrate student success. Across the district, students have been recognized through awards ceremonies, cultural events, athletic competitions, performances, scholarship evenings, and graduation ceremonies. A very special congratulations goes to the graduating Class of 2026. Graduation represents years of hard work, perseverance, growth, and achievement. We are incredibly proud of your accomplishments and look forward to seeing the positive contributions you will make in your communities and beyond.

This month, we also recognize and celebrate the many employees who have dedicated years of service to Coast Mountains School District. The commitment, care, and professionalism demonstrated by our staff make a lasting difference in the lives of students every day. To those employees celebrating service milestones, thank you for the many ways you have enriched our schools and supported student success. To those who are retiring this year, congratulations on a remarkable career. The relationships you have built, the lives you have touched, and the positive impact you have made will continue to shape our schools and communities for years to come.

As always, I am grateful for the support and collaboration of our Board of Education, Principals and Vice Principals, employee groups, families, Nations, and community partners. I would also like to extend a special thank you to Julia Nieckarz (Director, Inclusive Education), Phillip Barron (Director, Learning Services), Donna Mortimer (Director, Indigenous Education) Tina McDonald (District Principal, Curriculum Support) and Lindsay Harder (Executive Assistant to the Superintendent & Board of Education) for their leadership, partnership, and unwavering support throughout the year. Serving as Superintendent of Coast Mountains School District is both an honour and a privilege. Thank you for another successful year of learning, growth, and achievement. I wish everyone a safe, restful, and enjoyable summer.

With gratitude and appreciation,

Tracey MacMillan, Superintendent



Upcoming Dates:

June 21 - National Indigenous Peoples Day
June 23 – Last Day of School (Students)
June 24 – Administrative Day (Staff)
Sept. 8 – First day of school (Students)

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A Wonderful Day of Learning, Community and Connection at Bear Valley School

During our recent visit to Bear Valley School in Stewart, School Board Trustees and I were warmly welcomed by students and staff. Before the Board meeting began, we were introduced to a very special member of the school community — a baby duck being raised in Terri Scott's classroom. The duck has nearly grown enough to be released, and students eagerly shared updates about its development and care.



Left to right: Trustee & Vice Chair Karen Jonkman; Trustee Wayne Jones; Superintendent Tracey MacMillan; Trustee Ed Harrison; Trustee & Board Chair Margaret Warcup.

We were then treated to an impressive a cappella singing and dance performance by the primary students. Their enthusiasm, confidence, and joy were evident throughout the performance. It was clear that a great deal of practice and preparation had gone into the presentation. Thank you to Terri Scott and her students for sharing their talents and providing such a delightful start to our visit.



The following day, my school visit began with a delicious pancake breakfast prepared and served by local RCMP officers and Principal Jocelynn Drew. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect with students, staff, and community members while enjoying a great meal together.



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Throughout the day, it was evident that Bear Valley School is alive with learning, creativity, innovation, and hands-on experiences. One of the highlights was accompanying Terri Scott's Kindergarten to Grade 3 students to the river to release salmon fry. We greatly appreciated the informative presentations provided by local



conservation officers, who helped students deepen their understanding of local ecosystems and environmental stewardship.



Left to right: Superintendent MacMillan, students and Teacher Cari Hopkins take part in the salmon fry release.

Following the salmon fry release, students participated in a fascinating coho salmon dissection. This authentic learning experience provided an excellent opportunity to connect science and environmental studies to real-world applications while fostering curiosity and inquiry.



Biologist Lena Girard dissects a coho salmon.



As I visited classrooms throughout the school, students enthusiastically shared their learning and projects. In Eric Drew's shop class, students proudly showcased a beautifully crafted bench they had designed and built. Students were also hard at work assembling the school's new greenhouse, which will support future learning opportunities and be utilized during the next academic year.



Teacher Eric Drew and students proudly showcase their shop project.



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I also enjoyed visiting Cari Hopkins' Grade 4-7 classroom, where students were putting the finishing touches on detailed dioramas depicting scenes from their novel study of *The Outsiders*. The level of creativity, effort, and attention to detail demonstrated by the students was impressive.



In Ian Wen's secondary classroom, students shared their Nisga'a research projects; and at the elementary level examples of interdisciplinary

learning that combined geometry concepts with an inquiry into medieval castles were shared. Their work demonstrated thoughtful research, strong problem-solving skills, and an impressive ability to apply learning in creative and meaningful ways.



Teacher Ian Wen celebrates student learning.



Christina Smith & Superintendent MacMillan.

My visit concluded with a special recognition of Christina Smith, who received a Long Service Award in honour of her 15 years of dedicated service to Bear Valley School. Since 2009, Christina has supported students and staff in a variety of roles, including Education Assistant, Library Assistant, Noon Hour Supervisor, and Custodian. Her commitment, flexibility, and care have made a lasting impact on the school community. Congratulations, Christina, and thank you for your years of service.

Thank you once again to Principal Jocelynn Drew and the entire Bear Valley School staff for your warm welcome and for the important work you do every day. It was a pleasure to spend time in your school and witness the many ways you inspire students through meaningful, engaging, and authentic learning experiences.

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New Hazelton Elementary School All-Clans Feast

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Lindsay Nyce, Language Culture Teacher, and the staff of New Hazelton Elementary School for the kind invitation to attend the recent All-Clans Feast. It was an honour to join students, families, Elders, staff, and community members for such a meaningful celebration of culture, language, and community.

One of the highlights of the day was witnessing the pride and confidence of students as they spoke and read in the Gitksan language. We were also treated to a wonderful performance by the Gitanmaax Language Nest and Kindergarten students. Seeing and hearing students engage so naturally with language and culture was both inspiring and a powerful reminder of the importance of this work.



Left to right: Pic 1 Superintendent MacMillan congratulates retiree Corina Barr; Pic 2 & 3 Lindsay Nyce and students welcome guests to the feast.

I would also like to once again congratulate Corina Barr on her retirement following 32 years of dedicated service to students, families, and the New Hazelton Elementary School community. Corina's care, commitment, and contributions have positively impacted generations of learners. On behalf of the District, I wish her all the very best in her well-earned retirement.

You will find additional highlights and details about this special event in the Indigenous Education Report. The All-Clans Feast was a wonderful celebration of belonging, culture, and community, and I am grateful to have been part of it.

Celebrating Our Partnership with UNBC

Members of the District Education Team and Board Chair Margaret Warcup recently attended the UNBC Northwest Convocation in Terrace. Following the ceremony, we had the opportunity to connect with Dr. Bill Owen, Interim President, Academic and Provost. Coast Mountains School District 82 values its strong partnership with UNBC and appreciates the university's ongoing commitment to providing accessible post-secondary opportunities in the North. Congratulations to the UNBC Class of 2026, and thank you to UNBC for the important role you play in strengthening our communities and supporting the future workforce of northern British Columbia.



Left to right: Superintendent MacMillan; Dr. Bill Owen; and Trustee Margaret Warcup.

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Hazelton Secondary School Cultural Day

Donna Mortimer, Director of Indigenous Education, and I were honoured to attend the 2nd Annual Cultural Day at Hazelton Secondary School, a collaborative event between Hazelton Secondary School and the Office of Gitanmaax focused on connecting learners, community, and culture. It was an engaging and educational day that provided meaningful opportunities to learn from students, Elders, Knowledge Holders, and community members.



Thank you to the Indigenous Support Workers, staff, administration of HSS, Elders and Knowledge Holders for the invitation and for the considerable

work that went into organizing this important event. I would also like to extend a special thank you to Pansy Wright-Simms, Director of Education for Gitanmaax, for her continued support, guidance, and generosity in sharing her knowledge.

Pansy also challenged me to participate in a moose-calling competition—a challenge I gladly accepted! Pansy, I will be practicing for next year. Additional highlights from the Cultural Day can be found in the Indigenous Education Report.



Left to Right are: Director Donna Mortimer; Pansy Wright-Simms with her granddaughter; & Superintendent MacMillan.



The photos left to right depict the following: Darlene Williams leading students from Kitwanga Elementary School. Ryan McCan (Vice Principal, HSS and Donna Mortimer, Director, Indigenous Education); Alysha O'Brien (Vice Principal, HSS) and Adriana Jackson (Indigenous Support Worker, HSS) enjoy the events. Superintendent MacMillan participates in the Moose Calling competition.

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Best Wishes on Your Next Adventure

During a recent visit to Nechako Elementary School, Trustees had the opportunity to personally thank Principal David Mills for his years of dedicated service to students, staff, and families. David's leadership, commitment, and care have had a lasting impact on the school community and Coast Mountains School District. We wish David all the very best as he begins this exciting new chapter and hope he enjoys a well-deserved retirement filled with family, friends, travel, and new adventures.



Left to Right are: Superintendent MacMillan; Principal David Mills; Trustee Angie Maitland; and Trustee Ed Harrison.

Congratulations, Kitimat City High School Graduates!



I had the pleasure of attending the Kitimat City High School Graduation and Commencement Ceremony accompanied by Julia Nieckarz, Director of Instruction for Inclusive Education, and Kitimat Trustees Karen Yonkman and Angie Maitland. It was a beautiful celebration, and the graduates looked incredible as they marked this important milestone surrounded by family, friends, staff, and community members.

One of the highlights of the evening was hearing teachers share personal stories and reflections about each graduate. These thoughtful tributes made the ceremony especially meaningful and memorable, highlighting the unique strengths, accomplishments, and journeys of each student. Thank you to the graduates, staff of Kitimat City High School and Principal Nancy Tormene for the kind invitation and for including us in your special day.



Valedictorian: Gabriel Kaines



Enjoying the Celebration LtoR are Trustees Karen Jonkman & Angie Maitland; Director Nieckarz; Superintendent MacMillan.

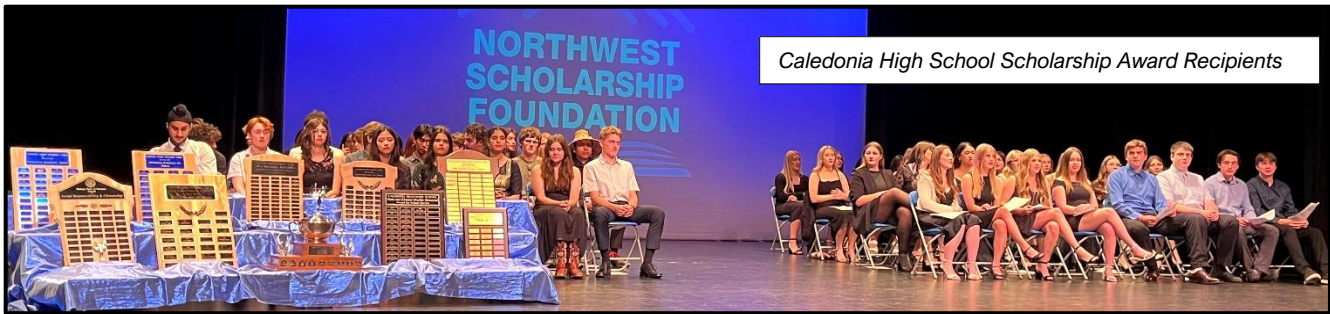
Congratulations to the Class of 2026.

We wish you every success and happiness as you begin the next chapter of your journey.

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Scholarships Open Doors to Future Opportunities



Throughout June, schools across Coast Mountains School District celebrated the accomplishments of graduating students during scholarship and awards ceremonies. I had the opportunity to attend and participate in ceremonies at Caledonia Secondary School and Mount Elizabeth Middle Secondary School, where it was inspiring to see the remarkable achievements, talents, and aspirations of our students recognized. On behalf of the District, we extend our sincere appreciation to the Scholarship Committees, scholarship sponsors, and school staff whose dedication and generosity make these celebrations possible. Congratulations to all scholarship recipients across the district. Your hard work, commitment, and contributions have been recognized, and we wish you every success as you pursue your post-secondary education and future career goals.



Kildala Elementary Track and Field Day



I had the opportunity to attend the Kildala Elementary School Track and Field Day in Kitimat, an event that welcomed elementary students from across the local area. This year marked the second year of revitalizing the program after a 20-year hiatus, and it was wonderful to see so many students participating and enjoying a day of friendly competition and physical activity. Events included relay races, long jump, high jump, shot put, and javelin.



Back: Donna Mortimer, Director; Janelle Hittel (Principal, Kildala); & Kildala Teachers Shelly Striker & Charlotte Klonarakis (front row).

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I also had the opportunity to meet and thank members of the Nechako PAC, who were taking a turn operating the Snack Shack and helping to keep athletes hydrated throughout the day. Thank you to the staff at Kildala Elementary School for taking the lead in organizing this event, as well as the many staff members from participating schools and parent volunteers who contributed their time and energy to make the day a success. Your collective efforts created a memorable experience for students, and I appreciated the invitation to attend.



Thank you Nechako PAC Members! Left to right: Amanda Smetaniuk, Superintendent MacMillan, Marina



Thank you Nechako Elementary School Staff for your support at the Kildala Track & Field Event. Back row, left to right: Tracey MacMillan (Superintendent); Christina McKenzie (Teacher); Jill Curasco (Teacher); Lori Riley (Education Assistant); Adam Gray (Teacher); and Donna Mortimer, Director of Indigenous Education. Front row: Jackie Iannetta (Teacher); Olivia Bruce (Teacher); Cori Boguski (Vice Principal).



Donna Mortimer and Vice Principal Chrysta Carreiro.

Celebrating a Remarkable Career in Music Education



Left to right: Director Phillip Barron; Daryl McDicken; Superintendent MacMillan.

On behalf of the Board of Education and Senior Management Team, we would like to congratulate Daryl McDicken on his retirement and thank him for 31 years of dedicated service to Coast Mountains School District. Since my arrival in the district, I have had the opportunity to attend several student performances and music events led by Mr. McDicken. Each time, I was impressed by the skill, confidence, and enthusiasm of his students, as well as the pride they took in their performances. His passion for music education, commitment to excellence, and encouragement of young people have had a lasting impact on generations of students. His contributions to our schools, the Northwest Music Festival, the Dare to Dream Foundation, and the broader community have enriched the lives of countless learners and families. We thank him for his remarkable career and wish him health, happiness, and many rewarding adventures in retirement.



Welcoming Future Learners to Cassie Hall Elementary



Our Welcome to Kindergarten event was a wonderful success. A special thank you is extended to Kendra LeBlond, Vice-Principal; Vivian Carlick, Kindergarten Teacher; Shannon MacLeod, Early Childhood Educator; and Rachel Gull, StrongStart Facilitator, for their work in organizing and facilitating this meaningful event.



Cassie Hall was delighted to welcome our newest learners and their families into the school community. Through a variety of engaging, hands-on learning stations, staff had the opportunity to connect with future students and gain valuable insight into their strengths, interests, and learning needs.

The event was filled with smiles, curiosity, and excitement as children explored activities, built confidence, and began making connections with their new school. We are grateful to everyone who helped make the day such a positive experience and look forward to welcoming this amazing group of learners to Cassie Hall in the fall.



matter.

(With appreciation to Erika Barton, Principal at Cassie Hall Elementary School for this contribution.)



Deaf and Hard of Hearing Connections Day Across the North Coast

Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) Connections Day began last year as an opportunity to bring together youth from across the North Coast to connect with one another. Given the distance between communities, the event was created to provide meaningful opportunities for students who are d/Deaf and hard of hearing to meet, build relationships, and connect with peers who may share similar experiences.



One student shared how meaningful these gatherings are, explaining that as a middle school student, he sometimes feels like there is no one else like him. Reflections like this remind us just how important these events are in supporting students' sense of belonging, connection, and community.

This year, students gathered at Terrace Bowling Lanes for a fun day together. We are very grateful to the bowling alley staff for opening early to accommodate students travelling from outside communities. Students enjoyed bowling, meeting new people, reconnecting with peers, and building lasting connections with one another.

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A sincere thank you is extended to the Provincial Outreach Program: Deaf and Hard of Hearing (POPDHH) for supporting the event in Terrace. We deeply appreciate their continued support of this important day. Thank you as well to School District 52 Prince Rupert for generously providing lunch for all students this year, and to the many adults who supported the event by transporting students from outside communities.



We missed the students who were unable to attend this year and hope they will be able to join us for next year's event. Thank you to everyone who helped make the day so special. We are already looking forward to another wonderful DHH Connections Day next year.

(With appreciation to District Teachers for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing - Alisha Cameron, School District 82, and Chiara Young, School District 52, for this contribution.)

Kildala Grade 6 Students Prepare for Middle School Transition



The Grade 6 Transition Conference is an annual event that brings together Grade 6 students from all elementary schools in Kitimat. The conference is designed to help students prepare for their transition from elementary school to middle school by providing valuable information, practical skills, and opportunities to build connections with their future peers.

Throughout the day, students participate in a variety of engaging sessions led by community partners and volunteers who share their knowledge and expertise. Topics include online safety presented by the RCMP, healthy relationships through the PEACE Program (Prevention Education, Advocacy, Counselling, Empowerment), and hygiene and nutrition, complete with healthy smoothie-making activities. Students also have the opportunity to learn how to safely and effectively use fitness equipment.



Additional activities include Haisla language learning and beading facilitated by Indigenous Support Workers, bus safety and etiquette presentations from BC Transit, and environmental education from the Kitimat Understanding the Environment (KUTE) highlighting the importance of recycling. School counsellors provide information about mental health supports, course selection, and scheduling at Mount Elizabeth Middle Secondary School (MEMSS), while members of the MEMSS Student Council introduce students to school clubs, teams, sports, and extracurricular opportunities. Students also have the chance to practice opening combination locks in preparation for using lockers next year.



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Most importantly, the conference allows students to meet new friends, strengthen connections across schools, and become more comfortable with the transition to middle school. It is an informative, engaging, and enjoyable day that helps set students up for success in the years ahead.

(With appreciation to Janelle Hittell, Principal at Kildala Elementary, for this contribution.)



Left from right: Angie Desrosiers, Indigenous Support Worker at Nechako Elementary, Maggie Russell, Indigenous Support Worker at Kildala Elementary School, Raeonna Woods, Indigenous Support Worker at Mount Elizabeth Middle Secondary School, and Carlos Tavares, Indigenous Support Worker at Kildala Elementary School

Numeracy Focus Group Update

Over the last several months, the Numeracy Focus Group has done excellent work in supporting the district's ongoing focus on strengthening numeracy learning across schools. The group has spent considerable time reviewing a variety of math programs, instructional resources, and classroom materials to better understand what may best support teachers and learners across primary and elementary grades. This work has included thoughtful conversations about current practices, the needs of students and staff, and the importance of having consistent, high-quality resources available across the district. Thank you to Alastair Beddie, Catherine Eagles, Claire O'Neill, Deanna Giguere, Hal Blackwater, Heidi Siebring, Ian Wen, Kara Fridriksson, Lana Hanna, Lisa Pushong, Olivia Bruce, Rebecca Howes and Shelly Striker for your hard work and leadership with the Numeracy Focus Group.

In addition to reviewing multiple math programs and a wide variety of resources, the group has also supported school-based inventories of materials and supplies, helping to identify what is currently available in schools and where additional resources may be needed. These conversations have provided valuable information to help guide planning and ensure that future decisions are responsive to the needs of classrooms. The group has also engaged in important discussions about professional learning opportunities, assessment and evaluation practices, and how best to support teachers as we continue to build a shared approach to numeracy instruction.

Moving forward, primary and elementary teachers across the district will be invited to pilot one of two math programs supported by the Numeracy Focus Group. This pilot will provide an opportunity for teachers to explore the resources in their classrooms, provide feedback, and help inform future district planning. The work of the Numeracy Focus Group has been thoughtful, practical, and collaborative, and their contributions will continue to play an important role as we strengthen numeracy learning and support student success across the district.

Thank you to **LNG Canada** for their generous support and meaningful contributions to our district's ongoing numeracy work. Their partnership is helping strengthen professional learning, support the exploration of high-quality resources, and build increased opportunities for student success across our schools.

(With appreciation to Phillip Barron, Director of Instruction – Learning Services, for this contribution.)



Phillip Barron, Director of Instruction, Learning Services

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Celebrating Creativity & Mrs. Barr at New Hazelton Elementary (NHE)

Students in Mrs. Barr's Grade 5 class did an amazing job creating their dioramas. Their projects demonstrated a wonderful combination of creativity, effort, attention to detail, and pride in their learning. Each diorama reflected the students' unique ideas and showed how thoughtfully they approached the task, using materials, color, design, and imagination to bring their learning to life.

It was clear that students were proud of their work and excited to share what they had created. The dioramas provided a great opportunity for students to express their understanding in a hands-on and meaningful way, while also celebrating their creativity and individual strengths. Congratulations to all of the students for their hard work, enthusiasm, and the care they put into their projects!

We would also like to congratulate Mrs. Barr on her well-deserved retirement at the end of this school year! Mrs. Barr has made a lasting difference in the lives of a great many students through her care, dedication, and commitment to learning. Her positive impact on students, families, colleagues, and the school community is deeply appreciated. We wish her all the very best as she begins this exciting next chapter and thank her for her many years of outstanding service!



Karina Barr, Grade 5 Teacher at New Hazelton Elementary School

(With appreciation to Phillip Barron, Director of Instruction, Learning Services, for this contribution.)

Student Voice Education Committee Panel



Joel Ewald, Vice-Principal of Skeena Middle School and Student Voice Group

Groups of students from Mount Elizabeth Middle Secondary, Hazelton Secondary, Parkside Secondary and Skeena Middle School, participated in last month's Education Committee meeting to share their ideas, reflections, and feedback connected to recent student voice work taking place in schools across the district. The students spoke with honesty and confidence about their school experiences, including what helps them feel connected, supported, and successful, as well as areas where they believe schools can continue to improve.

They shared thoughtful perspectives on the importance of being listened to by adults and having opportunities to provide input on issues that directly affect them, such as school culture, belonging, well-being, inclusion, learning experiences, and ways to make schools more welcoming and responsive for all students.



Ryan McCann, Vice-Principal of Hazelton Secondary School and Student Voice Group

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Stacey Rodrigues, Vice-Principal of Mount Elizabeth Middle Secondary School, Carlos Tavares, Indigenous Support Worker at Kildala Elementary School and Student Voice Group.

Their participation was a powerful reminder that student voice is not only about gathering feedback, but also about building relationships, trust, and shared responsibility for improving schools. Students expressed appreciation for opportunities to share their thoughts in meaningful ways and reinforced that young people have valuable insight into what is working well and what could be strengthened.

Their contributions helped deepen the Education Committee's understanding of the themes emerging from student voice sessions and highlighted the importance of continuing to create spaces where students feel safe, respected, and encouraged to speak openly. Moving forward, the district will continue to use student voice as an important part of planning, decision-making, and ongoing efforts to strengthen learning environments across our schools.

(With appreciation to Phillip Barron, Director of Instruction, Learning Services, for this contribution.)



Zack Frankel, Principal at Parkside Secondary School and Student Voice Group

Early Learning Across the District

The district remains committed to providing high-quality early learning opportunities that foster curiosity, creativity, social-emotional development, and a strong foundation for lifelong learning. Throughout the year, our youngest learners have participated in rich, hands-on learning experiences that bring learning to life and nurture their natural sense of wonder.



Students in our early learning programs have benefited from a wide range of experiential learning opportunities, including caring for and observing the life cycles of butterflies, chicks, and ducklings; learning about farm life through community connections and visits; and exploring the important roles of community helpers through experiences such as visits to local fire stations. These meaningful activities help children develop foundational skills, build connections to their communities, and deepen their understanding of the world around them.

We are pleased to continue offering a variety of early learning programs throughout the district. Preschool programs remain available at Cassie Hall Elementary, and the district continues to offer Seamless Day Kindergarten programming at Cassie Hall Elementary, Suwilaawks Community School, and École Mountainview.

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These programs provide young learners with engaging, developmentally appropriate experiences that support a successful transition into school.

In addition, the district continues to provide StrongStart BC Early Learning Programs at Cassie Hall Elementary, Suwilaawks Community School, Thornhill Primary School, and Kildala Elementary School in Kitimat.



StrongStart programs play a vital role in supporting families and young children by creating opportunities to build relationships, access community resources, and connect with outside agencies and support services. These programs also provide enriching early learning experiences that promote children's social, emotional, language, and cognitive development while strengthening family engagement in the learning process.

A sincere thank you is extended to all Early Childhood Educators for their dedication, expertise, and care. Through their commitment to play-based learning and the creation of positive, nurturing environments, they help children develop confidence, skills, and healthy relationships that form the foundation for future success in school and beyond. Their work is deeply valued and greatly appreciated.

(With appreciation to Tina McDonald, District Principal, Curriculum Support, for this contribution.)

French Immersion Learning in Action



The district continues to strengthen French language learning opportunities for students across our French Immersion programs. This year provided several exciting opportunities for students to engage authentically with the French language and Francophone culture.

In April, the district welcomed French country singer Eloiz from France for a special performance. French Immersion students from across the district were invited to attend the concert at École Mountainview, whose staff graciously hosted the event. The concert was a tremendous success, providing students with an engaging and memorable cultural experience while showcasing the vibrancy of the French language through music and performance. Eloiz captivated the audience with her energy, talent, and ability to connect with students of all ages.



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In May, three of our students attended the Concours Provincial in Surrey, a prestigious French public speaking competition that brings together students from across British Columbia to showcase their language skills, confidence, and creativity before live audiences and judges. Participants have the opportunity to earn awards, connect with the francophone community, and gain valuable experience that enhances both their academic profiles and future scholarship applications.

This year also marked the first full implementation of the district-developed French assessment tool. French Immersion teachers across the district completed the inaugural year of assessment administration, providing valuable information to support student learning and monitor progress. We are incredibly proud of the dedication and professionalism of our staff as they continue to support learners while maintaining a strong commitment to evidence-informed practice and student achievement.



Left to right: Jovi Nash (Skeena Middle School), Leif Nash (École Mountainview), and Natalie Wilson (Caledonia Secondary School) and Teacher, Tracey Carter.

A special thank you is extended to the French Immersion Literacy Focus Group, whose members have devoted significant time and expertise throughout the year to the development of a Kindergarten to Grade 9 French Immersion Literacy Framework. Their collaborative efforts are helping to create a cohesive and comprehensive approach to literacy instruction that will support both educators and students across the district. This important work will continue into the next school year as the framework moves toward completion and implementation.

We are grateful for the commitment, passion, and leadership demonstrated by our French Immersion educators and support staff. Their dedication continues to enrich learning experiences and strengthen French language education throughout the district.

Merci à tous pour votre engagement envers la réussite de nos élèves!

(With appreciation to Tina McDonald, District Principal, Curriculum Support, for this contribution.)

Literacy Update: Instruction, Assessment & Framework Development

The district continues to prioritize literacy development across all grade levels through a coordinated approach that combines evidence-informed instruction, assessment, intervention, and framework development.

During the 2025–2026 school year, many classrooms across the district implemented UFLI Foundations in Kindergarten through Grade 3 as a Tier 1 instructional approach to support foundational literacy skills. In addition, UFLI was utilized in upper elementary and middle school classrooms as a targeted Tier 2 intervention to provide focused support for students requiring additional instruction in phonological awareness, decoding, and word recognition.

To support ongoing monitoring of student progress, Acadience Reading assessments were administered across Kindergarten to Grade 6 throughout the district. These assessments provide valuable data that

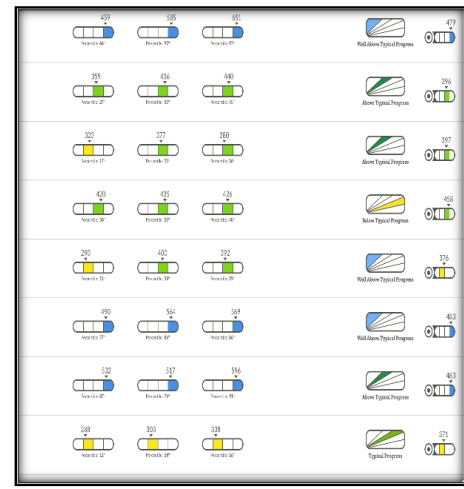
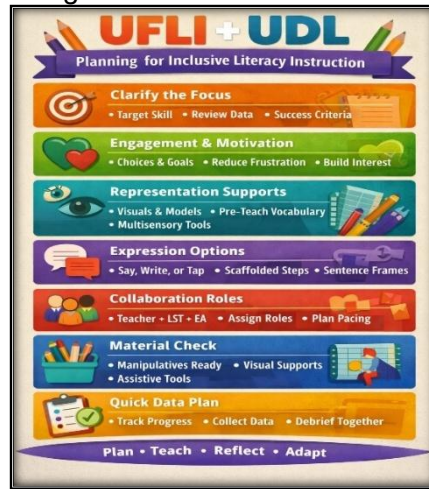
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inform instructional decision-making, identify students requiring additional support, and help schools monitor growth in foundational reading skills over time.

Picture 1 describes how UFLI combined with UDL (Universal Design for Learning) will support students in becoming independent learners. The second photo is from one of our UFLI classes that utilizes it as both Tier 1 and Tier 2 support for students requiring additional literacy support.



To support ongoing monitoring of student progress, Acadience Reading assessments were administered across Kindergarten to Grade 6 throughout the district. These assessments provide valuable data that inform instructional decision-making, identify students requiring additional support, and help schools monitor growth in foundational reading skills over time.

This year, the district also piloted Acadience Reading assessments in Grades 7 and 8 at Skeena Middle School and Hazelton Secondary School. The pilot provided important insights into adolescent literacy needs and will help inform future decisions regarding assessment and intervention practices at the intermediate and secondary levels.

We are proud of the many literacy initiatives taking place within our schools. School-based teams continue to demonstrate a strong commitment to improving student learning through a variety of literacy approaches that respond to the unique needs of their students and communities. These efforts reflect the professionalism, creativity, and dedication of our educators.



Tina McDonald,
District Principal,
Curriculum Support

At the district level, literacy skill development has been further supported through the creation of a Grade 7–9 Literacy Framework, which is scheduled for implementation in Fall 2026. This framework will provide teachers with a coherent, evidence-informed approach to literacy instruction that aligns with provincial curriculum expectations and current literacy research.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the many teachers who contributed to the development of both the English and French literacy frameworks this year. Their expertise, collaboration, and commitment to student success have been truly remarkable. The quality of their work will have a lasting impact on literacy instruction across the district.

Looking ahead, the district will continue this important work through the development and completion of a comprehensive Kindergarten to Grade 9 French Immersion Literacy Framework during the 2026–2027 school year.

The District Literacy Team (Tina McDonald, Catherine Bégin, and Hayden Drygas) looks forward to continuing to support educators across Kindergarten to Grade 9 as they strengthen literacy instruction and meet the diverse learning needs of students throughout the district. *(With appreciation to Tina McDonald, District Principal, Curriculum Support, for this contribution.)*

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Anti-Racist Focus Group: Learning, Dialogue, and Action



The Anti-Racist Focus Group recently came together to continue important district-level conversations about anti-racism, inclusion, belonging, and respectful learning environments. The session provided an opportunity for educators to share what is currently working well in schools, reflect on areas where further support is needed, and consider how we can continue to strengthen anti-racist practices across the district.

A key part of the discussion focused on how schools are supporting learners, staff, and families through intentional relationship-building, inclusive classroom practices, student voice, and meaningful conversations about identity, culture, respect, and belonging. Participants shared examples of promising practices already taking place in schools, while also identifying opportunities for greater consistency, professional learning, and access to practical tools and resources.

Time was also spent reviewing materials and resources available through the Ministry of Education and Child Care to support anti-racist education. These resources helped guide discussion around how schools can continue to build awareness, support staff learning, and create school environments where all students and families feel safe, valued, and respected.

The work of the Anti-Racist Focus Group will help inform next steps for district planning and support. Ongoing dialogue, collaboration, and learning will remain important as we continue to build shared understanding and take meaningful action in support of equity, inclusion, and anti-racism across our schools.

Thank you to **LNG Canada** for their generous support and meaningful contributions to our district's ongoing Anti-Racism work. Their contribution helps create meaningful opportunities for learning, dialogue, and action as we continue to strengthen inclusive, respectful, and welcoming school communities for learners, staff, and families.



From left to right: In Person - Jeanette Ewald, Teacher at Suwilaawks Community School, Karen Andrews, Teacher at École Mountainview School, Michelle Sutherland, Teacher at Mount Elizabeth Middle Secondary School, Vanessa Gill, Teacher at Skeena Middle School

Virtual: (top row) Katherine Johnson, Counsellor at Mount Elizabeth Middle Secondary School, and (bottom row) Denise Hendry, Retired Teacher.

(With appreciation to Phillip Barron, Director of Instruction, Learning Services, for this contribution.)

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Recognizing Audit Teamwork

The district recently completed a Ministry of Education and Child Care Inclusive Education audit, and we would like to extend our sincere appreciation to all staff who contributed to this important process.

Preparing for the audit required significant time, care, collaboration, and attention to detail from school administrators, Resource Teachers, school teams, district staff, and the Inclusive Education Department. Staff worked diligently to review student files, update documentation, organize materials, and ensure that the supports provided to students were clearly reflected.

A special thank you is extended to Julia Nieckarz, Director of Inclusive Education, and Teri Davey, Administrative Assistant, for their leadership, organization, and dedication throughout the audit process. Their long hours, careful attention to detail, and commitment to supporting schools were instrumental in this work and contributed to the glowing results and positive feedback received through the audit.



Left to right: Julia Nieckarz, Director for Inclusive Education & Taylor Murrell, Vice-Principal of New Hazelton Elementary

This process highlighted the professionalism, commitment, and care demonstrated by staff across the district. We are grateful for the thoughtful work that took place in support of students, families, and inclusive education practices.



Left to right: Thornhill Primary School Team - Vicki Mattheis, Resource Teacher & Sandy Kenmuir, Principal.



Left to right: Skeena Middle School Team - Emily George, Resource Teacher; & Cory Killoran, Principal.

Thank you to everyone who contributed their time, expertise, and energy throughout the audit process.



Left to right: Caledonia Team - Toni Craig, Vice Principal, Julia Nieckarz, & Danielle Allain, Learning Support Teacher.



Left to right: MEMSS Team - Stacey Rodrigues, Vice Principal & Anna Pires, Learning Support Teacher.



Kassia Nameth, Principal, Kitwanga Elementary School.

(With appreciation to Lindsay Harder, Executive Assistant, for this contribution.)



Suwilaawks Students Shine Through Writing and Performance



Suwilaawks students recently participated in a wonderful School Wide Write Event that brought together creativity, imagination, and community. This year's theme, "Happy Birthday and ohhhh it was a surprise," inspired students to write stories filled with excitement, humour, and heart.

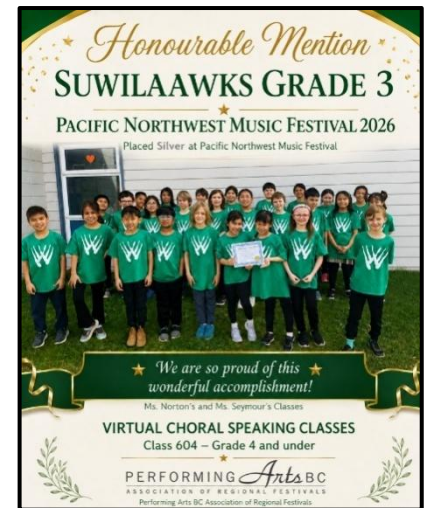
Students and staff gathered at the arena to begin the morning of writing, and the school later created a beautifully designed newspaper-style feature to showcase the event. The feature included photos, student writing samples, and highlights from the day, capturing the creativity, excitement, and pride shared throughout this special school-wide experience.

Suwilaawks also had another wonderful year of performing arts for the children in Ms. Norton's and

Ms. Seymour's Grade 3 classes. Students had the opportunity to shine through choral speaking and performed beautifully on stage at the R.E.M. Lee Theatre during the Pacific Northwest Music Festival, where they received a silver standing. The class was also invited to participate provincially through the virtual choral speaking stage and received an Honourable Mention, recognizing the care, effort, and excellence they brought to their performance.

Ms. Norton and Ms. Seymour have led many students to high achievement over the years, and it feels especially fitting that in their retirement year, their classes would receive such meaningful recognition. These students worked hard, practiced with pride, and represented Suwilaawks so well.

(With appreciation to Pam Kawinsky, Principal of Suwilaawks Community School, for this contribution.)



Hazelton Students Attend CCUNESCO National Conference



Two students and staff from Hazelton Secondary School recently travelled to Ottawa, Ontario, to participate in a CCUNESCO national conference alongside students from across Canada (Canadian Commission for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization).

Throughout the conference, students took part in a variety of cultural activities, workshops, and learning opportunities focused on important themes such as global citizenship, sustainability, leadership, and cultural diversity. The experience provided students with the opportunity to explore diverse global perspectives, share their own voices, and build meaningful connections with

peers from across the country.

This trip was a valuable opportunity for students to deepen their understanding of the world around them while developing the knowledge, confidence, and leadership skills they can bring back to their school community.

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We extend our sincere thanks to CCUNESCO for providing this meaningful opportunity for our students and staff to learn, connect, and grow as global citizens.



(With appreciation to Ryan McCann, Vice-Principal of Hazelton Secondary School, for this contribution.)

Level Up to Skeena: Mental Health Conference

On June 10, 2026, Coast Mountains School District welcomed approximately 200 Grade 6 students from across Terrace for a day of learning, connection, and preparation as they look ahead to the transition to middle school.

The event focused on building mental health literacy, introducing students to community and school-based supports, and helping students develop connections as they prepare for this exciting next step in their educational journey. Throughout the day, students participated in engaging activities and presentations focused on stress management, emotional regulation, well-being, and accessing support when needed.



Representatives from a variety of community organizations shared information about the services available to youth, including Kermode Friendship Society, Ksan, Child and Youth Mental Health, Volunteer Terrace, Foundry, Integrated Child and Youth Services, and Skeena Middle School.



The day provided a valuable opportunity for students to learn about the many supports available to them while building confidence, resilience, and connections with their peers. It was a fun and engaging experience filled with meaningful learning, positive interactions, and excitement about the transition to middle school.

Kermode Friendship Society, joined by special guest Elders, supported students through learning connected to drumming and the medicine wheel.

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Child and Youth Mental Health shared information about available services and led students through activities focused on recognizing and understanding feelings.

Foundry shared information about its new building and youth supports, as well as practical stress management strategies.

(With appreciation to Pamella Groves, District Inclusive Education Teacher and Counsellor, for this contribution.)

Kildala Early Learners Thrive Through Pilot Project

During the school year, Kildala Elementary School partnered with District Behaviour Interventionist Bobbie Pastershank, District Speech-Language Pathologist Giuliana Reniero, and POPARD, the Provincial Outreach Program for Autism and Related Disorders, to pilot an intensive early learning program designed to support Kindergarten students with significant developmental, behavioural, communication, and learning needs, including students with identified or emerging exceptionalities. POPARD is a provincial program that supports school districts in meeting the needs of students with autism and related complex learning needs.

A key factor in the success of the pilot was the commitment and leadership demonstrated by the Kildala team, particularly Resource Teacher Genni Santos. While district staff provided coaching, program development, and ongoing support, it was the school-based team that brought the program to life each day. Kildala's administration, educational assistants, and resource team worked collaboratively to implement programming, collect data, problem-solve challenges, and celebrate student successes. Their enthusiasm, dedication, and willingness to embrace a new approach created an environment where students could thrive.

The goal of the program was to provide targeted instruction in foundational school-readiness skills to increase students' ability to successfully participate in their Kindergarten classrooms. Students attended the program daily and received explicit instruction in areas such as attending to tasks, waiting, turn-taking, transitioning between activities, and participating in structured learning opportunities. Language and communication goals were also embedded throughout instruction, including categorization, prepositions, following directions, and the development of expressive and receptive language skills.



At the beginning of the pilot, many students demonstrated significant challenges with classroom participation. Several students had difficulty remaining in a learning space, attending to adult-directed activities, or participating in group instruction. Through consistent programming, structured routines, visual supports, and targeted teaching strategies, students demonstrated remarkable growth over the course of the year.

By the end of the pilot, students who initially struggled to engage were able to sit at a table and participate in structured learning activities for approximately 15–20 minutes while working toward individualized goals. Significant gains were observed in attention, engagement, communication, self-regulation, and overall readiness to access

classroom learning opportunities. In addition, all participating students who began the year on partial or modified day schedules are now attending full days.

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The success of this pilot highlights the value of early, intensive intervention paired with a highly collaborative school-based team. Staff observed meaningful progress in all participating students, with improvements extending beyond the intervention setting and into regular classroom environments.

Given the positive outcomes achieved at Kildala Elementary, plans are underway to implement the B.A.S.E. (Behaviour and Skills for Education) program, at two additional schools in September. B.A.S.E. is designed to provide structured, targeted support for early learners who require additional instruction in foundational school-readiness skills, including communication, self-regulation, attending to tasks, transitions, and participation in classroom routines. Future expansion across the district will occur as the model continues to evolve.



The Kildala pilot demonstrated that, with the right supports, structured programming, and a dedicated team of educators committed to student success, early learners with significant support needs can make substantial gains in a relatively short period of time. The exceptional commitment shown by Kildala staff was instrumental to the program's success and serves as a model for future implementation. The B.A.S.E. program will build upon this success and provide additional schools with an effective framework for supporting vulnerable early learners while fostering strong collaborative partnerships between school-based and district-based teams.

(With appreciation to Giuliana Reniero, Registered Speech-Language Pathologist, for this contribution.)

Northwest Trades & Employment Training Centre (NTETC) Supports Hands-On Career Learning Across the District

The Northwest Trades & Employment Training Centre (NTETC) continues to provide students across the district with meaningful opportunities to explore future career pathways through hands-on learning, industry connections, and community partnerships. Through a variety of healthcare, trades, first responder, Maker Day, and career fair experiences, students have been able to learn directly from professionals, build practical skills, and gain valuable insight into future education, training, and employment opportunities.



Career Fairs and Expos

NTETC staff participated in multiple career fairs across the district this year, helping connect students with local employers, training institutions, industry partners, and community organizations. Events included the Hazelton Careers Fair at Gitanmaax Hall on February 12, the Kitimaat Valley Education Society Careers Fair on April 28, the Terrace Regional Career Expo on May 8, and the MEMSS Career Fair led by the Kitimat Chamber of Commerce. These events provided students with opportunities to ask questions, explore career pathways, and learn more about future training and employment options in the Northwest.

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Adventures in Healthcare 2026



Forty Grade 10 and 11 students from Hazelton Secondary School, Mount Elizabeth Middle Secondary School, Caledonia Secondary School, and Centennial Christian School recently participated in Rotary's Adventures in Healthcare, a three-day hands-on healthcare career exploration program.



Students explored healthcare careers through interactive experiences at Coast Mountain College, University of Northern British Columbia facilitated sessions, Cedar Coast Dental, and Ksyen Regional Hospital. Activities included nursing labs, CPR and Code Blue simulations, baby care activities, wellness workshops, and hospital department tours. Students shared positive feedback about gaining real-world exposure to healthcare careers, especially experiences in ER nursing and the Code Blue simulations.



A special thank you is extended to University of Northern British Columbia, Coast Mountain College, Cedar Coast Dental, Coast Mountains School District, Northern Health, Rotary Club of Terrace, and Skeena Valley Rotary for supporting this meaningful opportunity for students.



Back row, left to right: Brian Manning (Rotary), Carla Lennert (RN, BSC, Complex Care Manager, Terraceview Lodge), Tracey MacMillan (Superintendent/Rotary); Margaret Warcup (CMSD Board Chair/Rotary), Carole Leclerc (Organizer/Rotary), Brittany Biggs (Volunteer/UNBC Bioscience graduate), Ciara De Medeiros (Volunteer/UNBC Microbiology/Science graduate). Front row: Adventures in Health Care student participants.

Adventures with First Responders

On May 29, 2026, Coast Mountains School District 82 hosted its first-ever Adventures with First Responders career exploration event at Caledonia Secondary School. The event brought together 48 students interested in careers in emergency services.

Students participated in hands-on activities led by the Terrace RCMP, BC Emergency Health Services, Terrace Fire Department, and Terrace Search and Rescue. Activities included fingerprinting, policing scenarios, CPR, major bleed response, patient assessments, fire rescue simulations, avalanche beacon searches, swift water rescue demonstrations, and stretcher carries.



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Event hosts Kim Hoekstra and Stephanie Vossen received positive feedback from parents and students who took part in the event. A special thank you is extended to the Terrace Rotary Club for sponsoring lunch and to all community partners who shared their time and expertise. Due to the success of this event, NTETC hopes to continue offering Adventures with First Responders annually, rotating the event between communities, with Hazelton being explored as a potential host location for 2027.



Maker Days Inspire Hands-On Learning



On May 21, 2026, NTETC hosted Terrace Maker Day 2026, welcoming approximately 340 Grade 7 students, staff, and district leadership from Skeena Middle School, Kitwanga Elementary School, Majagaleehl Gali Aks Elementary (MGA) School, and Na Aksa Gyilak'yoo School. The event featured 24 industry and community presenters who shared their skills, knowledge, and career experiences through engaging, hands-on activities. Students had the opportunity to select and participate in three sessions based on their interests, allowing them to explore a variety of career pathways and develop new skills.



Maker Day was supported by volunteers from the Caledonia Secondary Outdoor Education Program and senior volunteers from the TAPS Program, whose assistance helped ensure the day ran smoothly and provided valuable mentorship for younger students.



On June 4, 2026, Nechako Elementary School hosted Kitimat Maker Day 2026, bringing together approximately 200 students from Kildala Elementary School, Nechako Elementary School, Mount Elizabeth Middle Secondary School, and St. Anthony's School for a day of hands-on learning and discovery. The event featured 17 presenters from local businesses, organizations, and community groups who shared their passions, talents, and career experiences through interactive workshops.



A special thank you to the NTETC TEAM!

Left to right: Superintendent MacMillan; Dan Hamel (Principal, NTETC); Margaret Warcup (Volunteer & CMSD School Board Chair); Stephanie Vossen (Teacher NTETC); Carrie Hobenshield (Administrative Assistant NTETC); and Kim Hoekstra (Teacher, NTETC).

nursing, sheet metal trades, painting, and many more. These Maker Day events provided students with meaningful opportunities to learn directly from community members, ask questions, develop new skills, and make connections between classroom learning and future opportunities.

Students explored a wide variety of interests, including cake decorating, fly tying, counselling, social work, plumbing, carpentry, hairdressing,



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School Board Trustees observe students in action. Left to right: Pic 1: Trustee Ed Harrison & Trustee Angie Maitland. Pic 2: Adam Gray (Teacher, Nechako Elementary), Stephanie Vossen (Teacher, NTETC), Trustee/Vice Chair Karen Jonkman. Pic 3: Trustee Angie Maitland.



Coast Mountains School District extends its sincere appreciation to all presenters, volunteers, school staff, and community partners who helped make these events such a success.



Cooking with Maryka Rypma (Teacher/NTETC/MEMSS)

Trades Learning and Apprenticeship Exploration

The NTETC team, including Dan Hamel, Principal of Northwest Trades & Employment Training Centre, Stephanie Vossen, and Kim Hoekstra, recently travelled to Bear Valley School to host Stewart Maker and Trades Day on April 30, 2026. Students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 participated in hands-on activities in carpentry, sheet metal, electrical, and plumbing. Students built wooden cars and buses, created extension cords, and constructed sheet metal boxes while learning to safely use tools and materials.

Lisa Scott from the BC Construction Foundation led a trades presentation for Grade 10–12 students, highlighting opportunities for women in trades and the importance of Math and English preparation for future trades training. NTETC also provided a BBQ lunch for students and staff. Students shared excitement about the opportunity to build projects, use tools, and have visitors travel to Stewart to bring hands-on trades learning to their school.



Students from Kitimat City High have also been participating in a Trades Sampler Program led by Kevin Jeffery through the Piping Industry College of BC. The program introduces students to foundational skills in carpentry, electrical, and plumbing trades through hands-on learning experiences. Students have been framing, wiring, and building benches that will remain at their school as legacy projects.

The Trades Sampler Program gives students the opportunity to explore different trades, develop practical skills, and learn directly from industry professionals. Through the program, students gain valuable insight into how different trades use unique skills and talents while building confidence through real-world projects.

On April 28, 2026, Maryka Rypma and Kasha Vedan from NTETC hosted a booth at the KVI Trades Information Day. Students interested in trades pathways connected with industry professionals and college trades programs to learn about apprenticeships, training opportunities, and careers in the skilled trades.

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MEMSS Capstone Fair



The MEMSS Capstone Fair, led by Maryka Rypma, Career Life Connections Teacher, provided students with an opportunity to showcase their learning, achievements, and future aspirations through their Capstone Projects.

Students confidently shared their projects with staff, community members, families, and peers, highlighting their personal interests, career goals, educational plans, and experiences that have shaped their future pathways.

The event celebrated student voice and encouraged meaningful conversations about future careers, post-secondary education, and personal growth. The fair demonstrated the creativity, dedication, and potential of MEMSS students while providing an important opportunity for reflection on their learning journey and future dreams.

(With appreciation to Dan Hamel, Principal of NTETC for this contribution.)



International Students Experience the Beauty of Northwest B.C.



Coast Mountains School District international students recently had the opportunity to take part in a memorable field trip to the beautiful Douglas Channel.

A sincere thank you is extended to Spencer and the local Marine Search and Rescue team for making this incredible experience possible.

Students participated in hands-on learning about marine safety, Search and Rescue operations, safety procedures, and the important role these teams play in supporting coastal communities. As part of the experience, students had the opportunity to try on survival suits, experience floating in the water, and gain a deeper understanding of marine safety in a real-world setting.



The adventure continued with visits to the stunning Jesse Falls and a nearby natural hot spring, where students were able to experience some of the breathtaking natural beauty that makes Northwest British Columbia so special. To make the day even more unforgettable, students were fortunate to spot a humpback whale during their journey — a remarkable moment that left everyone in awe.



Experiences like this highlight what makes studying in Coast Mountains



School District so unique and attractive for international students. In addition to receiving a quality education, students have meaningful opportunities to immerse themselves in the culture, people, communities, and natural beauty of our region.

(With appreciation to Joe Dominguez, Principal of International Student Program for this contribution.)



Inspire Entrepreneurial Leadership Project



The Inspire Entrepreneurial Leadership Project that the Outreach Program has offered to youth in our community in partnership with the Kermode Friendship Society. This program offers a \$4,200.00 training allowance as well as a \$2500.00 community project grant for youth to develop their own initiative that gives back to the community.

Eleven youth from the Outreach program, with 26 youth in total, are participating and are currently working on their community projects based on the skills they learned in the program. Some of the community projects include:

- Community fish smoke house being built on site at Kermode Friendship Society
- Backpack care packages, a BBQ and free haircuts for the unhoused in the community
- Digital/Media platform following the creation of the youth led projects
- Beautification/Art project of the brick wall parking area at Kermode Friendship Society
- Community Garden
- Community Feast being held at Kermode Friendship Society
- Video of making Fried Bread
- Canning local salmon
- Building a shelter for homeless cats in the winter
- Donating care packages, animal toys, blankets to a local animal shelter.



We thank the Kermode Friendship Society for their generous support.

(With appreciation to Tammy Bulleid, Youth Worker, for this contribution.)

Thornhill Primary School Spring Concert

The Thornhill Primary School Spring Concert provided students with an opportunity to showcase their musical talents and celebrate a year of learning through music. The event was particularly meaningful as it marked one of the final performances led by retiring music teacher Daryl McDicken. Congratulations to the students and staff on a successful concert, and best wishes to Daryl as he begins a well-deserved retirement.



(With appreciation to Lindsay Harder, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and the Board of Education; and Director of Inclusive Education, Julia Nieckarz, for this contribution.)

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Ongoing Considerations: June 2026

In addition to celebrating successes, we also recognize the ongoing areas of growth our district is working through, which are outlined below to provide transparency and context for our shared journey forward.



Local Education Agreements (NEW)

The district continues to work alongside First Nations partners to strengthen Local Education Agreements and support shared commitments to student success. This ongoing work is grounded in relationship-building, collaboration, and a shared vision for educational excellence for Indigenous learners.

Leadership Succession Planning

Succession planning remains an important focus as the district prepares for future leadership transitions. Through mentorship opportunities, leadership development initiatives, and Vice Principal placements, the district is working to build internal capacity and support the next generation of school leaders.

Inclusive Education Audit

The district participated in a Ministry Inclusive Education Audit in May and is awaiting the final report. A debrief meeting involving Learning Resource Teachers, school and district leaders, community partners, and the CMTF has been planned to reflect on the process and identify opportunities for continuous improvement. Thank you to all staff who supported this important work.

Mount Elizabeth Middle Secondary School (MEMSS)

The district recently received encouraging news that MEMSS has been identified as a top capital priority by the Ministry of Infrastructure. While the facility remains safe for students and staff, it requires significant renewal and modernization. The Board will continue to advocate for upgrades and/or replacement to support future learning needs.

Student Attendance

Student attendance remains an area of focus across the district. Staff continue to work collaboratively with students, families, First Nations partners, and community agencies to better understand barriers to attendance and strengthen student engagement, belonging, and success.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

A district working group continues to explore the opportunities and considerations associated with AI in education, including ethics, privacy, learning, and academic integrity. Student feedback gathered during the District Student Voice Summit reinforced the importance of thoughtful and balanced implementation. Information sessions for staff and families are planned for the coming school year.

Recruitment and Retention

Recruitment and retention remain priorities as planning for the 2026–27 school year continues. While challenges persist in specialty areas such as Inclusive Education, French Immersion, Counselling, and Trades, the district continues to actively recruit, mentor new staff, and strengthen partnerships with post-secondary institutions.

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Gitxsan Language Immersion Program

The Gitxsan Language Immersion Program at Majagaleehl Gali Aks Elementary continues to grow and provide students with authentic language and cultural learning experiences. The district remains committed to working with community partners to build program capacity and recruit additional Gitxsan language educators. Individuals interested in contributing to this meaningful work are encouraged to connect with the school or District Office. All current employment opportunities are posted on the district website:

[CMSD82 | Coast Mountain School District No. 82](#)

Early Learning Programs

Early learning remains a critical foundation for student success. The district continues to experience funding pressures related to StrongStart, Seamless Day, and Just B4 programs and will continue to advocate for stable and sustainable provincial funding.

Literacy and Numeracy Initiatives

District literacy and numeracy initiatives continue to advance through research-based practices, professional learning, and targeted supports for students. Recent external funding commitments have helped strengthen this work; however, long-term funding stability remains important to ensure sustainability and continued improvement in student outcomes.