

# Superintendent's Report to the Board December 2023



@CoastMountainsSchoolDistrict



@CoastMountainsSchools



@CoastMtnSD

## A Message from the Superintendent

Ama Sah,

The last few weeks have been very heavy and difficult for many members of our Coast Mountains School District family with the recent tragedy experienced in the community of Terrace. The school district continues to work with the local RCMP as they engage in their investigation, and both counselling and cultural supports remain in place for learners at local schools as we head into the holidays. Our deepest condolences are extended to those learners, families and staff impacted by recent events.

At this time of year, learners across Coast Mountains' schools are participating in a variety of activities that allow them to showcase their gifts and abilities. In many cases these events are open to the public, and also serve to strengthen those relationships between families, the community and the school. This week I was fortunate to interact with Grade 8 learners from Skeena Middle School as they discussed their entrepreneurial ventures as part of the annual fair. I was very impressed with the creativity and planning that went into many projects, and I certainly walked away with the feeling that this learning experience was both authentic and engaging, and students were gaining important and relevant skills and competencies through their participation.



*The annual Entrepreneurial Craft Fair at Skeena Middle School.*

School holiday concerts and community performances have also put learners in the spotlight this month quite literally. I continue to be amazed by the musical, theatrical and creative talent of our learners, but am also humbled by the commitment of many staff and volunteers in our communities supporting these opportunities. Thank you to all of the adults who are working with intention to create space for Coast Mountains learners to grow and develop as they experience the arts.

With Winter Break fast approaching, please note that schools in Coast Mountains School District will be closed between December 18 and January 1, and district offices will be closed from December 20 to January 1. It is my sincere hope that you have a wonderful holiday break!

Sincerely,

Aaron Callaghan  
Superintendent



*Coast Mountains School District is in service to diverse First Nations, Métis and Inuit learners and their caregivers who live, learn, and play on the traditional lands of the Gitxsan, Haisla, Nisga'a and Ts'msyen peoples.*

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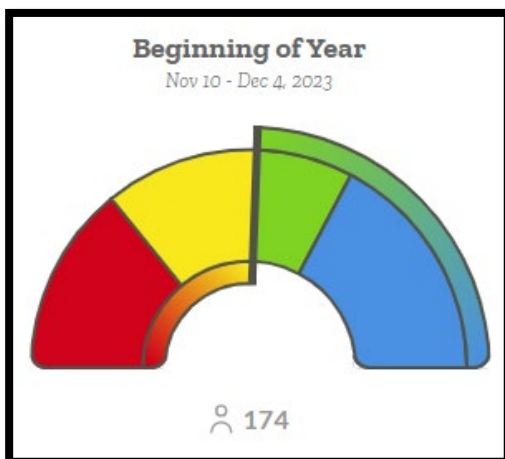
## December 2023



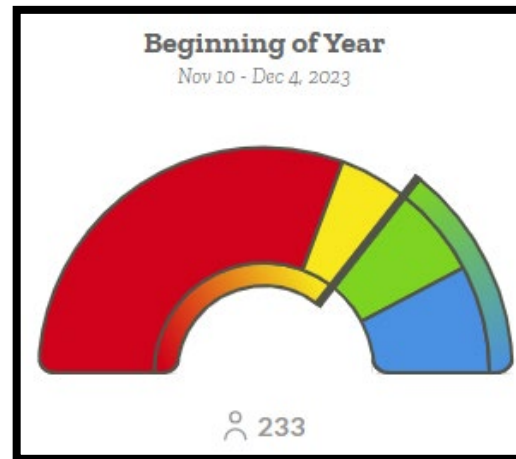
## Universal Literacy Screening at K-3

As part of the implementation of the Coast Mountains School District strategic plan, school and district staff have begun to use Acadience Assessment at Grades K-3 as a universal literacy screening and progress monitoring tool. As teachers become more familiar with the tool, Acadience will enable teacher teams to identify those foundational literacy skills that individual students have under control, as well as those where still more learning needs to occur to meet grade level expectations. With this information, teachers are better able to plan responsive classroom instruction for all learners, as well as collaborate with other professionals who may be supporting more focused 1-1 or small group instruction outside of the classroom.

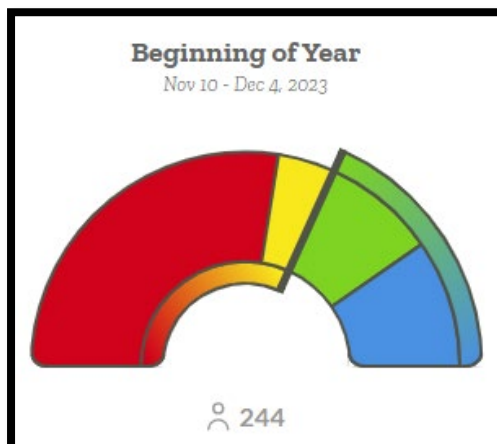
Learner evidence gathered district-wide this past month with Acadience indicates that overall, approximately 35% of K-3 learners are meeting foundational literacy expectations at grade level. Conversations in schools in January will focus on next steps in support of learner growth. Below, this baseline evidence is presented by grade level.



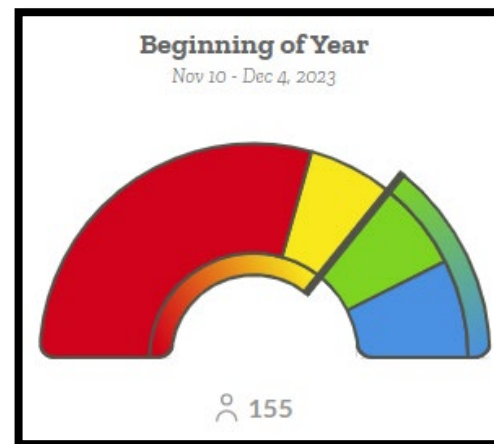
Kindergarten – 48% learners on track



Grade 1 – 28% learners on track



Grade 2 – 36% learners on track



Grade 3 – 29% learners on track

**Red** – Well Below ; **Yellow** – Below; **Green** – Meeting; **Blue** - Exceeding

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## December 2023



## Public Interest Disclosure Act (PIDA)

In compliance with provincial legislation, Coast Mountains School District recently updated its district policy and procedures in relation to the *Public Interest Disclosure Act*, or PIDA. PIDA provides a safe, legally protected means for current or former school district employees to report serious acts of wrongdoing within our organization. Under PIDA, serious acts of wrongdoing are those that would constitute a crime or offence in British Columbia, such as acts that put people in danger or the serious misuse of public funds.

Complaints that meet these criteria can be made directly to the school district via email or web-based form, or they may be made to the Office of the BC Ombudsman. In CMSD, the Designated Officer for PIDA is Secretary Treasurer Ginger Fuller. For employees, questions about PIDA may best be directed to your supervisor.

Learn more about the *Public Interest Disclosure Act* in CMSD at: <https://bit.ly/PIDA-CMSD>

## Reminders...

### Erase Report It Tool

Expect Respect & A Safe Education (erase) is a provincial initiative supporting the development of safe and caring school communities. Erase is about the connectedness, climate and culture of a school, and learners, parents and guardians and school staff all have a role to play in creating schools where everyone feels safe, valued and cared for. The **erase Report It** tool allows a learner to send an anonymous message when they have seen or heard something that concerns them, or if someone is bothering them at school. Find it at: <https://erasereportit.gov.bc.ca/>

### Northwest Community Student Support Fund (NCSSF)

With the goal of supporting families who are facing financial challenges, the NCSSF is available to assist with costs related to a child's participation in school in CMSD. For more information, contact your child's school or learn more online at: <https://cmsd.bc.ca/northwest-community-student-support-fund>



### Upcoming Dates

December 18 to January 1 – Winter Break (No Classes)

January 2 – Schools Re-Open

January 17 - Business & Education Committee Meetings

January 26 – Professional Development Day (No Classes)

January 31 – Board Meeting (Terrace / Hybrid Meeting)



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## This Month On Social Media...



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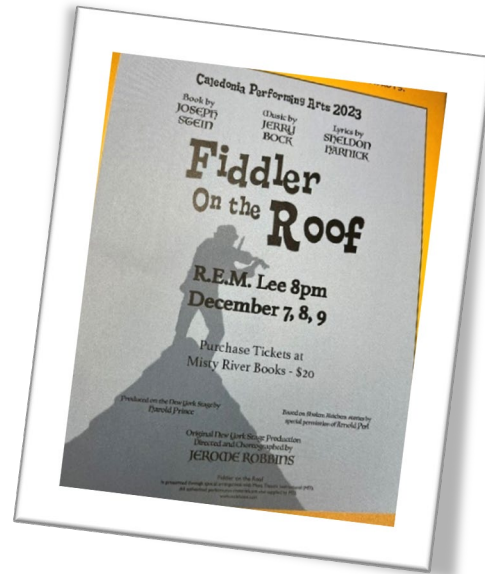
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Learners from Suwilaawks Community School performed recently at the annual Kermode Friendship Society Christmas dinner.



Congrats to the cast and crew of Caledonia Performing Arts as they presented Fiddler on the Roof December 7-9<sup>th</sup> at REM Lee Theatre.



Staff from all Hazelton schools attended a feast hosted by Gitanmaax First Nation with the theme 'Our Majagalee Our Future'. Attendees were gifted t-shirts featuring a design by local Gitksan artist Michelle Stoney.



Grade 8 learners from Skeena Middle School hosted the Entrepreneurial/Craft Fair on Wednesday December 6<sup>th</sup> in the school's gym.