

A Message from the Superintendent

Ama Sah / Good Day,

It's hard to believe that another school year is coming to a close. As we wrap up the 2024–2025 school year, I've had the privilege of attending many school-based celebrations—graduations, year-end assemblies, award ceremonies, and cultural events that showcase the learning, talent, and spirit of our students and staff. These gatherings remind us of the strength of our school communities and the importance of connection and belonging in every child's learning journey.



Majagaleehl Gali Aks Elementary School Grade 7 Graduation Class pictured at their Graduation Ceremony held on June 13. Congratulations to the graduating students!

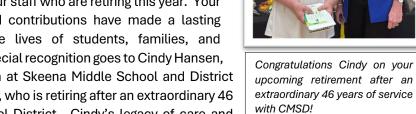


Thank you to Jodi Marshall, Indigenous Support Worker for the grad food preparation for the Grade 7 Graduation Ceremony held at the Majagaleehl Gali Aks Elementary School on June 13.

We want to take this moment to recognize the progression of all our learners—from our youngest students entering Kindergarten to those moving through Elementary and Middle School—and particularly our graduating Grade 12 students. High School graduation is a

major milestone and a testament to each student's dedication, perseverance, and growth. To all our graduates: Congratulations! We are incredibly proud of you. We wish you all the best as you take your next steps into post-secondary studies, the workforce, or wherever your dreams may lead you.

We also extend our heartfelt appreciation and warmest wishes to all of our staff who are retiring this year. Your commitment and contributions have made a lasting difference in the lives of students, families, and colleagues. A special recognition goes to Cindy Hansen, Teacher-Librarian at Skeena Middle School and District Follet Cataloguer, who is retiring after an extraordinary 46



years of service to the Coast Mountains School District. Cindy's legacy of care and dedication is deeply appreciated by all who have had the pleasure of working with her.



A Message from the Superintendent (cont'd)

This year, I was also pleased to attend both the Terrace and Kitimat *Maker Days*, where Grade 6 and 7 students engaged in hands-on learning experiences in various Trades-related fields. It was incredible to watch students explore, build, and problem-solve in such dynamic ways. I would like to gratefully acknowledge our community partners,



NTETC Team members hosted an amazing Grad 7 Maker Day event in Terrace on May 29. NTEC Team pictured (l-r): Cory Redl, Dan Hamel, Carrie Hobenshield, Kim Hoekstra and Tammy Braid with Superintendent Tracey MacMillan (second from the left).

school staffs, and offer a special thank you to the Northwest Trades and Employment Training Centre (NTETC) staff for their behind-the-scenes efforts—many hours go into the planning and preparation of these exceptional learning days. Maker Days are just one example of the diverse and engaging



Cake decorating during the Kitimat Maker Day with NTETC Team member, Maryka Rypma.

programs offered by Coast Mountains School District, from Trades to Fine Arts, Sports, and Clubs. These opportunities help students discover their passions and develop real-world skills.

As well, June is National Indigenous History Month, and June 21 marks

National Indigenous Peoples Day—a time to recognize, honour, and celebrate the rich cultures, histories, and contributions of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples across Canada. In Coast Mountains School District, we are grateful to live, learn, and work on the unceded and ancestral territories of the Gitxsan, Haisla, Nisga'a, and Ts'msyen Peoples. This month provides all of us—students, educators, and communities—with the opportunity to deepen our understanding, reflect on our shared history, and walk forward together in a spirit of truth, respect, and reconciliation. We are especially thankful for the Elders, Knowledge Holders, and Indigenous educators who continue to guide and support this important work in our schools and communities. Many of the celebrations and learning opportunities taking place across our schools this month will be highlighted in the *Indigenous Education Report*.

As a learning organization, we continue to focus on student outcomes and equity. Over the past year, we have made progress in many areas—particularly in supporting literacy and inclusive education practices. This month, we took time to reflect more deeply on the *Provincial Aboriginal How Are We Doing (HAWD)* report. This important report provides a snapshot of student achievement and well-being



CMSD was gifted literacy resources during a visit to Sik-E-Dakh (Glen Vowell Band Office). Pictured (l-r) are Leslie Sebastian, Education Coordinator, Velma Sutherland Band Administrator, Cameron Gogag Finance Manager, and Superintendent Tracey MacMillan.

with a particular focus on Indigenous learners. It highlights key indicators such as literacy, numeracy, graduation rates, and transitions to post-secondary education.



A Message from the Superintendent (cont'd)

While the HAWD report centers Indigenous student outcomes, it also includes information on non-Indigenous students, offering a broader understanding of how all students are doing. The data supports local conversations and gives us a clearer picture of where we are succeeding, where we need to grow, and how we can work together—schools, families, and Nations—to improve student outcomes. While we celebrate the progress made, the report reminds us that continued work is needed, particularly in foundational areas like literacy, numeracy, and graduation success.

Together, let's remain committed to fostering learning environments where all students feel safe, seen, and supported—and where every learner has the opportunity to thrive. As we head into the summer months, I want to wish all learners, school staff, parents, caregivers, and our partners in education a safe, restful, and well-deserved summer break.



Congratulations to the 2025 Graduating Class of Caledonia Secondary School pictured at the Heritage Park prior to the Prom Celebration and Promenade held at the Terrace Arena on Saturday, June 14.

With gratitude and appreciation,

Tracey MacMillan Superintendent

L. Mod Nella



Upcoming Dates:

June - National Indigenous History Month

June - National Pride Month

June 18 - Hybrid Board Meeting (Terrace)

June 21 – National Indigenous Peoples Day

June 24 - Last Day of School for Learners

June 25 - Administrative Day

June 25 – Hybrid Board Meeting (Terrace - if required)

September 2 – First Day of School





National Indigenous Peoples Day

Saturday, June 21 is National Indigenous Peoples Day, a time to celebrate the diverse cultures, histories, experiences, voices and accomplishments of First Nations, Metis and Inuit peoples. Previously referred to as National Aboriginal Day, the name shifted to include the term 'Indigenous' in 2017 to better reflect peoples' connection to the traditional territories and their collective experience of colonization.

In Coast Mountains School District, many events are planned at the school level through the week leading up to June 21, supported and facilitated by

members of the Indigenous Education Department, Elders, Knowledge Holders and other Indigenous partners. Coast Mountains' school communities will be celebrating on this day, many with the support of Elders, Knowledge Holders, Matriarchs and others from local Nations and partner groups. Thank you to all those involved in making this a joyful week and day of learning and cultural appreciation for the students, families and staff Coast Mountains School District.

A Salute to Our 2025 Graduating Classes

Congratulations are extended to all those learners graduating from our secondary schools this month throughout Coast Mountains School District. Graduation is a celebration and recognition of all that learners have accomplished during their school experience, and they should be proud of their efforts. Graduation Ceremonies is also a special time for those family members, friends and other essential allies who have supported our graduates up to this point in their lives. Thank you, too, for your care and commitment



over the years. Kitimat City High School celebrated its Graduating Class on June 11 as shared below. Parkside Secondary School planned its Graduating Class Ceremony on June 18. Graduation Ceremonies at Caledonia Secondary, Hazelton Secondary and Mount Elizabeth Middle/Secondary Schools will be held on June 20 in their respective communities to



Kitimat City High School 2025 Graduating Class: Tyson Angus, Leland Bulter, Hayden Calkins, Sophia Dean, Dylan Donovan-Duncan, Shaya Ford, Lucas Johnston, Jace Jones, Nathaniel Lamarche, Clarissa Price-Chinn, Trevin Regular, Brandon Reid, Olivia Robertson, Alicia Robinson, Daniel Roy, Jacob Santano, Erica Smith-Woods, Brodie Stewart, Cannon Thamas, RJ Janes, Lexus Howard. Congratulations!

celebrate their Graduating Classes. Congratulations to all the 2025 Graduating Classes!

The Graduation Ceremony for 2025 Graduating Class of Kitimat City High School was held on Wednesday, June 11 at the Luso Canadian Association in Kitimat. The graduating students' motto "The Tassel was Worth the Hassle" and the theme of continuous learning are truly inspiring. It's great to see the students ready to embrace the future with such positivity and determination.

Best wishes to the CMSD 2025 Graduating Classes as they embark on their next chapter! May their journey ahead be filled with success, growth, and endless opportunities!





2025

Terrace Maker Day Event Recap

On Thursday, May 29, more than 200 Grade 7 students from Hazelton, Kitwanga, Terrace, and Kitsumkalum came together to take part in the annual Maker Day, hosted at the Northwest Trades and Employment Training Centre (NTETC) located in Thornhill. This exciting, hands-on event gave students the chance to explore future career opportunities, especially in skilled trades and local industries.

Throughout the day, students rotated through a series of interactive stations led by trades professionals and career mentors. These sessions gave them the opportunity to work with real tools, ask meaningful questions, and engage in activities that sparked curiosity and inspired career exploration. The event was brought to life by the passionate and hardworking NTETC team of Coast Mountains School District (CMSD), who designed thoughtful, student-centered learning experiences. Thanks to the collaboration of many local organizations and volunteers, students gained first-hand insight into a wide range of potential career paths.

One of the many teachers in attendance at the Maker Day event shared their experience:

"Maker Day was an incredible experience for our students! They had the chance to engage in hands-on activities and explore real-world skills while connecting with local trades professionals and inspiring career mentors. It was so valuable for them to learn through doing, ask questions, and see a variety of career paths in action. Most importantly, it was such a fun and memorable day for everyone involved!"

A sincere thank-you to all the station leaders, sponsors, and behind-the-scenes contributors who made this event such a success. Special appreciation goes to Shawna Wilson, District Food Program Manager and Lindsay Harder, Executive Assistant to the Secretary Treasurer & Secretariat to Indigenous Education Council for their incredible support in ensuring all students and volunteers were well-fed and cared for throughout the day.

We are deeply grateful to the event sponsors and presenters for sharing their time, passion, and expertise:

Thornhill Fire Department, Skeena Wild, Trowel Trades Training Association, Elite/DKI, Piping Industry College, Terrace RCMP, Progressive Ventures, Westernjet, BC Construction Foundation, Technicon, A & J Roofing, Acuren, Hartman Electrical, LNG Canada, Coast Mountain College, Carey Mann, CDN Controls,

BC Emergency Health Services, and RONA Terrace.

Everyone's involvement made a lasting impact — helping to ignite curiosity, confidence, and motivation in the next generation of learners. Events like Maker Day plant the seeds of possibility, helping students recognize their strengths, interests, and future potential. They also provide a valuable lens through which students can focus their studies, build confidence, and overcome barriers with a clearer sense of direction. Thank you for helping Coast Mountain School District shape futures—one meaningful experience at a time. A sampling of photographs of the Terrace Maker Day is displayed on the following page for your viewing.



A Snapshot of the 2025 Terrace Maker Day Event



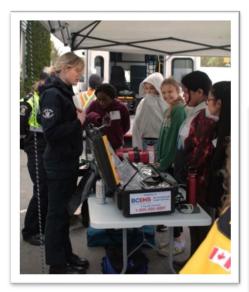












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2025 Kitimat Maker Day Event Recap

Two weeks following the Terrace Maker Day, the Northwest Trades and Employment Training Centre (NTETC) staff brought the Maker Day experience to students in Kitimat. A total of 190 Grade 6 and 7 students from Mount Elizabeth Middle-Secondary, Nechako Elementary, Kildala Elementary, and St. Anthony's Schools gathered at Nechako Elementary School for a hands-on day of exploration and inspiration. The event was another great success, uniting local businesses and organizations to showcase a wide range of career opportunities.



This incredible day would not have been possible without the generous support of the community, including:

Coast Mountain College, Piping Industry College, BC Construction Foundation, Kitimat RCMP, Kitimat Emergency Services, Technicon, Westernjet, Rona, EECOL Electric, CDN Controls, LNG Canada, CIMS, Rio Tinto, Leeann Ferguson's Painting, Acuren – LNG, Tatianna Ilyushchenko, and CMSD's Maryka Rypma, Shawna Wilson and Stephanie Vossen

An important outcome is the collaboration between schools. Events like this allow students to connect in a non-competitive, meaningful environment—something that doesn't happen often. Maker Day creates a space for shared learning and discovery among peers from different schools who may find common interests and spark future passions.

Another meaningful aspect of Maker Days is the opportunity it provides for younger students (Kindergarten–Grade 5) to witness learning in action. As older students dive into hands-on activities, younger classes are brought in by their teachers to observe the excitement and creativity unfold. While we can't measure exactly how many future interests are sparked in these moments, we know they leave a lasting impression.



















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New French Immersion K-6 Assessments

Over the past year, a dedicated group of French Immersion teachers collaborated to develop a new Kindergarten–Grade 6 (K-6) French assessment tool, replacing the previous GB+ reading assessment.

Educators from École Mountainview, Majagaleehl Gali Aks Elementary School, and Kildala Elementary School participated in this initiative, which was led by



Pedagogist, Lucile Denys facilitated the new K-6 French Assessment Tool sessions with a group of CMSD French Immersion Teachers.

Pedagogist, Lucile Denys. This work began in the 2023–2024 school year in response to a need for a more effective resource to assess early literacy skills in French Immersion classrooms.

In May and June, the new assessments were implemented across all three schools. Sincere thanks go to French Immersion Teachers - Catherine Bégin, Kathleen Combs, Daniella Melanson, and to Tina McDonald, District French Immersion Coordinator, for their invaluable support in facilitating the assessments in our K–6 immersion classes.



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Early Learning Update

Our three Terrace StrongStart and Just B4 Preschool programs have been busy collaborating and attending wonderful field trips together coordinated through their Early Learning Educators, Amanda Annibal, Jeff Coroghly, Rachel Gull and Cindy Hall. Field Trips included visiting a farm, experiencing the Thornhill Fire Department, and taking a hike through Ferry Island. These wonderful educators provide a quality program to their learners rooted in the Early Learning Framework.





The Terrace StrongStart and Just B4 Preschool programs jointly participated in wonderful field trips this month visiting a farm, experiencing the Thornhill Fire Department, and hiking through Ferry Island. Special thanks to the Programs' Early Learning Educators for organizing these memorable trips for the children.







A new comprehensive District K-6 Literacy Plan was developed in collaboration by Tina McDonald, District Principal, Curriculum Support (centre) & Literacy Lead Teachers, Laura Gray (l) and Hayden Drygas (r). The new plan will be rolled out to schools and educators at the start of the 2025-2026 school year.

District K-6 Literacy Plan Update

Tina McDonald, District Principal, Curriculum Support, and Literacy Lead Teacher, Laura Gray, and Hayden Drygas collaborated to develop a comprehensive District Kindergarten-Grade 6 (K-6) Literacy Plan. This plan will be shared with schools and educators at the start of the 2025–2026 school year. The Literacy Team extends its gratitude to the Literacy Teacher Focus Group and to the school administrators who contributed to this important work.

We would also like to recognize Laura Gray, who began her teaching career with CMSD in Stewart in the fall of 1990 after relocating from New Brunswick with her husband, Edward. Laura taught in Stewart for six years before moving to Terrace, where she served at Thornhill Primary School until the 2023–2024 school year, when she transitioned into the role of Literacy Lead Teacher. As Laura retires, we celebrate her remarkable career and the lasting impact she has had on students and colleagues alike. Her contributions to the development of our district's new Literacy Program will continue to benefit learners for years to come. *Our very best wishes are extended to Laura for a happy and healthy retirement.*

Rolling into Learning: Hands-On Science and Math at Bear Valley School

Students in Ian Wen's Grade 2, 3 and 4 Classroom at Bear Valley School are engaged into hands-on Science and Math activities by constructing cardboard ramps and observing how far a ball rolls down them. Working in small groups, they designed and built ramps of varying heights and angles, experimenting with different materials and structures to influence the ball's speed and distance. After each test, students meticulously measured the ball's travel distance, recorded their results, and discussed the factors affecting the outcome. This activity not only reinforced concepts of force, motion, and measurement, but also fostered creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking as students refined their designs based on their observations.







Students in Ian Wen's Grade 2, 3 and 4 Classroom at Bear Valley School are engaged into hands-on Science and Math activities by constructing cardboard ramps and observing how far a ball rolls down them. Ian is pictured to the right in the first and third photos along with Phillip Barron, Director of Instruction Learning Services pictured to the right. Superintendent Tracey MacMillan is pictured in the centre photo helping a student tape a box for her project. Rolling into learning!



Caledonia Secondary Conducts Mock Accident Simulation

Caledonia Secondary School conducted a mock accident simulation on May 26, 2025 in the student parking area. The objective of this event was to inform students about the severe repercussions of driving under the influence, distracted driving, failing to wear a seatbelt, and entering a vehicle with an impaired driver. The goal of the event is to decrease the number of crashes, injuries, and fatalities involving young drivers and their passengers. Caledonia Secondary Drama students under the guidance of Drama Teacher, Graham Wojdak, played the role of victims in this simulation and did an outstanding job in creating a highly



realistic scene. Gratitude is extended to the local Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), Firefighters and Paramedics who facilitated this event. Following this mock accident simulation, Caledonia Secondary hosted a guest speaker from the Insurance Corporation of BC who shared how impaired driving affected her and her family in the loss of her daughter and the importance of making safe choices. The aim of Caledonia Secondary staff is to ensure that students recognize that their decisions or a mere 5 seconds of poor judgment can have lasting consequences. Caledonia Secondary staff host these events close to grad celebration time to keep safety in the minds of students. *Appreciation is extended to Caledonia Secondary Vice Principal, Joe Dominguez and to Graham Wojdak and the Drama Class for their contributions in making the event a success. Congratulations to everyone involved for organizing such a powerful and meaningful experience for students. These types of real-life simulations, combined with opportunities to hear personal stories, create lasting impacts. This proactive approach to student safety and well-being is commendable.*













Caledonia Secondary School conducted a mock accident simulation on May 26, 2025 in the student parking area. These types of real-life simulations, combined with opportunities to hear personal stories, create lasting impacts. This proactive approach by Caledonia Secondary School to student safety and wellbeing is commendable.



Recognizing the Collaborative Work of Finance in Budget Development

The development of a school district budget is a complex and thoughtful process that reflects both our commitment to student success and the priorities outlined in our Strategic Plan. This year, the Finance Department, under the leadership of our Secretary Treasurer, has exemplified dedication, collaboration, and strategic foresight in managing this essential responsibility.

Throughout the spring, the Secretary-Treasurer and Finance team engaged in a series of planning sessions with all district and department leaders to ensure financial decisions are closely aligned with our strategic goals. These meetings serve as vital touchpoints to review priorities, assess emerging needs, and confirm that funding allocations would directly support student learning and well-being across the system.

In addition to internal consultation, the Budget Working Committee meets to share information, collaborate, and gather input from key education partners, including representatives from the Coast Mountains Administrators' Association (CMAA), Coast Mountain Teachers' Federation (CMTF), Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 2052 (CUPE), First Nations and District Parents' Advisory Council (DPAC). These conversations ensure transparency and allow for a broad range of perspectives to be considered in financial decision-making. A key component of this year's budget planning also involved deep collaboration with the Inter-Tribal Education Committee (ITEC) in preparation for the implementation of Bill 40 and the formation of the Indigenous Education Council. A total of five formal meetings were held to develop a clear and shared plan for the use of 1.31 Enhancement Funding, which supports culturally grounded educational initiatives in our schools. These discussions were instrumental in identifying priorities that reflect local First Nation values and enhance opportunities for Indigenous learners throughout the district.



CMSD Finance Team, front to back - Shawna Wilson District Food Program Coordinator, Lindsay Harder Executive Assistant to the Secretary Treasurer & IEC, Ginger Fuller Secretary Treasurer, Lynn Lindstrom Accounting Clerk & MyEdBC Coordinator, Lynda Lang, Manager of Finance & Shelley Smith Accounting Clerk.

The thoughtful work of the Finance Department is foundational to ensuring that every dollar is spent wisely and with purpose. We extend our sincere appreciation to the Secretary Treasurer and her team for leading a transparent, inclusive, and values-driven budgeting process—one that keeps learners at the centre of every decision.



June is National Pride Month

Pride Month is for everyone to embrace who they are and let the world know. The rainbow aptly signifies the colorful activities and flavors of this month-long celebration. These include pride parades, parties, workshops, concerts, and countless more LGBTQ events to attract participants from all over. Coast Mountains School District (CMSD) must ensure that as a school community,

we put the interests of our community first and ensure that everyone, no matter their race, religion or sexual orientation or identity, are treated with respect and dignity and that we model the behaviours we want our students to learn. In CMSD, we will continue to work as an organization to develop and implement our inclusion, equity, diversity and antiracism plans. It is our job to take care of all children to ensure that all students, regardless of their sex, race, religion, culture, sexual orientation and gender identity or expression, enjoy a safe, inclusive and welcoming learning environment.



Why Student Voice Matters

Student voice plays a vital role in shaping responsive, inclusive, and supportive school environments. When students are given opportunities to express their thoughts, share their experiences, and influence decisions that affect them, schools become more engaged and connected communities. One of the most powerful impacts of prioritizing student voice is the positive effect it can have on youth mental health. By creating space for students to speak openly about their needs, challenges, and hopes, educators can better understand the emotional climate of their schools and respond with compassion and effectiveness. Student voice initiatives help reduce stigma around mental health, promote belonging, and empower students to be part of the solutions that support their well-being.



A Student Voice session was recently facilitated by Phillip Barron, Director of Instruction Learning Services (r) with Skeena Middle School Students. Superintendent Tracey MacMillan is pictured (l) with the students and Director Barron during the session.

As part of a district-wide initiative, two visits were made to each school to work directly with student groups. These sessions were designed to listen actively to student perspectives, foster open dialogue, and identify areas where students felt supported — or where improvements could be made. The consistency of these two visits ensured a deeper level of trust and continuity, allowing students to feel heard and valued over time. Through these engagements, students shared valuable insights on school culture, mental health pressures, and the kinds of supports they believe would make the most difference. The feedback gathered is now helping to guide school planning and wellness initiatives that are informed directly by the voices of those who are most affected—our youth. Students and staff are already looking forward to the Student Voice Forums and Summits in the upcoming school year.

Kitimat City High School Hosts Workplace Readiness Program

Aspect Safety is a Workplace Readiness Program which is designed and focused on encouraging local workforce participation into the Industrial Sector, took place at Kitimat City High School from May 20 to 30, 2025. Grade 12 students at Kitimat City High School gained operational experience on equipment and successfully received certification in Fall Protection, Skid Steer, Aerial Boom Lift, Telehandler (rough terrain forklift), and Rigging and Hoisting, Hazardous Energy Control (lock out/tag out).



Aspect Safety's Workplace Readiness Program included forklift operation training and certification for Kitimat City High School students.

Coast Mountains School District is grateful to offer this unique opportunity to students, which will enhance their opportunities to obtain entry-level employment as a labourer or equipment operator in the Industrial Sector upon graduation.

Aspect Safety's owner and instructor, Logan Arruda remarked, "It's really rewarding for us, as a company, to be able



A Kitimat City High School student receives aerial work platform operation training under the guidance of a Kitimat Aspect Safety trainer.

to come into an environment where these young students are so receptive, excited and eager to learn about safety in the workplace".



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June is both Indigenous History Month and Pride Month in Coast Mountains School District.







CONGRATULATIONS on behalf of Coast Mountains to School District 82 to all UNBC graduates with a special shoutout to the Bachelor of Education Students. We were proud to attend the Graduation Ceremony held June 3, 2025 and celebrate their achievements!

Terri Wilkinson, graduate, was the Speaker Representative for the BEd Graduating Class (pictured in the photo to the left and pictured with Superintendent Tracey MacMillan in the photo to the right)! Terri will be joining the team of educators next year at Skeena Middle School.

Alistair Beddie, graduate, is pictured in the centre photo receiving his BEd graduation certificate during the Graduation Ceremony.