

Superintendent's Report to the Board

June 2023



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A Message from the Superintendent

Ama sah!

We appreciate the people who have responded and are able to attend, we recognize a gathering at the end of the school year is difficult time for many people to attend due to the low number of responses and to insure we have diverse participation we will post pone this gathering until September 2023.

We will be following this communication with a calendar of dates for the All My Relations Working Group, so people have notice well in advance. We apologize for the late notice and realize the challenges of scheduling an event at the end of the year is not ideal for many people.

We thank you for your understanding and look forward to seeing you in the fall.

Thank you,

The final few weeks of the school year are upon us and, in many classrooms, children are working closely with teachers and support staff to reflect on their growth since September. In some cases, learners are participating in year-end cumulative assessments and projects to consolidate their learning and demonstrate what they know, understand and can do. When shared later this month, report cards will communicate to parents, guardians and caregivers a summary of the learner's achievement using reporting codes and comments.

Congratulations are extended to all those learners graduating from our secondary schools this month throughout the 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. It 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.

As I reflect on my first year as Superintendent in Coast Mountains School District, it has been a wonderful experience, both personally and professionally. The traditional territories of the Northwest are visually stunning and the communities are both culturally diverse and welcoming. I have learned a great deal about our organization within the provincial educational context, but certainly there is still so much more learning to come! I have much gratitude to all those who have supported my growth thus far and those who are working diligently in the service of our 4200 learners and their families. Coast Mountains School District, together with its many partners, is focused on children and committed to making the necessary improvements to better meet the academic, social-emotional and well-being needs of all children.

To all Coast Mountains School District learners, families, staff and partners, I hope you have a fun-filled and safe summer. I encourage you where possible, to rest and recharge, but also to stay curious and find opportunities to grow within your areas of passion.

I look forward to connecting with you again in September.

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Regards,

Aaron Callaghan
Superintendent,
Coast Mountains School District



Upcoming Dates

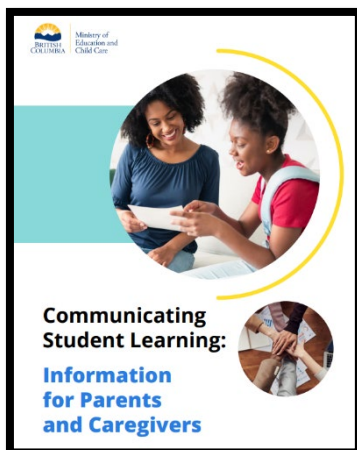
June 14 – Hybrid Board Meeting (Stewart)
June 21 – National Indigenous Peoples Day
June 21 – Hybrid Board Meeting (Terrace - if required)
June 28 – Last Day of School for Learners
June 29 – Administrative Day
September 5 – First Day of School

Coast Mountains School District acknowledges with respect the lands on which we live, work, play & learn as the traditional & unceded territories of the Gitksan, Haisla, Nisga'a & Ts'msyen Peoples.

Strategic Plan - Engage, Ignite, Empower

Several budget priority items aligning with the Strategic Plan were presented to the district's Budget Working Group for consideration this past month. These included **Recruitment & Retention, K-3 Literacy Strategy, Numeracy, Land & Place-based Learning, Student Mental Health & Well-being, Reconciliation & Anti-Racism, and the District Data Dashboard**. Additionally, **New Curriculum Initiatives** was also identified as a budget priority, aligning with the implementation of the new Indigenous-Focused Graduation Requirement beginning in September 2023.

Indicators of growth (baseline) for year 1 of the Strategic Plan implementation will be compiled for review over the summer and will be shared in the September report.



New Reporting Order – Resources for Parents

Beginning in the fall, report cards and the way teachers communicate about student learning will be changing to align with the provincial curriculum. This is a result of the new K-12 Student Reporting Policy Framework released by the Ministry of Education and Child Care in 2022. The framework addresses the frequency of reporting, the use of a proficiency scale, reporting codes, written comments, graduation status update, reporting on student behaviour and engagement of students in the self-assessment and goal setting processes. Learn more about the Reporting Order by accessing the new provincial resource guide for parents and caregiver at <https://bit.ly/AssessmentBC>.

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National Indigenous Peoples Day

Wednesday June 21st 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.

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 day of learning and cultural appreciation for the children of Coast Mountains School District.



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School Administrative Update

Congratulations to Shylah Marshall who will be assuming the role of Principal of Majagaleehl Gali Aks Elementary School in the fall.

School District Employees Provide Input

Approximately 160 school and district staff members across all employee groups recently provided input on their personal and professional growth needs for the 2023-24 school year. With 90% of the respondents supporting learners directly in schools, the group prioritized their needs across the existing strategic plan goal areas and identified their preferred ways of engagement. Priority focus areas included:

- Numeracy & Literacy
- Employee Wellness
- Safe, Caring & Welcoming Schools
- Inclusion
- Indigenous Cultural Learning

Most respondents suggested opportunities be available during the school district's professional learning dates throughout the year, while a significant number also noted interest in *shared learning circles*, *professional learning communities* and in *working with a mentor/coach*.

Using Thought Exchange, about 140 thoughts were crafted by participants with more than 3000 ratings in total. Themes reinforced what was identified above, with additional input around restorative classrooms and collaborative time for teachers.

The district team will now use this information to create a professional learning menu to be shared with employees in the fall. Thanks to those who participated!

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



Learners at Caledonia Secondary participated in an Indigenous Photoshoot organized by Support Worker Stephanie Louie.