

Superintendent's Report to the Board December 2022



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A Message from the Superintendent

Ama Sah & Season's Greetings,

It is my pleasure to share the Superintendent's Report for Coast Mountains School District for December 2022. And although this month happens to be a little shorter due to the upcoming winter holiday, it certainly has been an action packed few weeks. School communities have been engaged in a variety of seasonal events including holiday concerts and performances, as well as other fun school-based learning and teambuilding activities. I do consider it a privilege as superintendent to join parents, caregivers, family and community at these events to witness our learners shine with their many gifts and talents!

The school district continues to make progress implementing our strategic plan - Engage, Ignite, Empower - with targeted actions and the tracking of specific performance indicators. Further in this report you will find updates on our efforts aligning with district's goals of improved student learning and well-being in inclusive and welcoming learning environments.

With high levels of seasonal illness around the province at this time, I would like to reiterate Dr. Bonnie Henry's strong encouragement for families and caregivers to get their children vaccinated against influenza. Flu vaccination clinics are happening throughout our Northwest communities over the next several weeks, including Terrace, Hazelton, Stewart, Thornhill, and Kitimat. To learn more about the flu shot and details about upcoming clinics in your community, simply visit <https://immunizebc.ca>.

As we head into the winter break, I would like to remind school staffs, parents, and caregivers of their ability to access the Student & Family Affordability Fund to assist with expenses related to school fees or the purchase of supplies or other items necessary for children's participation in school. Funds in recent weeks have largely supported the purchase of children's clothing like boots, jackets, and snow pants with the colder winter weather now upon us. For more information about the fund, including access to the *Support Request Form*, please contact your child's school.

On behalf of our school district team, I would like to wish everyone a healthy and joy-filled holiday season. Happy New Year and we'll see you again in 2023!

Sincerely,

Aaron Callaghan
Superintendent, SD 82



Upcoming Dates

December 19 – Winter Break Begins (No Classes)
January 3 – Classes Resume 'Welcome Back!'
January 18 – Education & Business Committee Meetings
January 25 – School Board Meeting
January 27 – Professional Development Day (No Classes)

Coast Mountains School District 82 acknowledges with respect the lands on which we live, work, play and learn as the traditional & unceded territories of the Gitksan, Haisla, Nisga'a & Ts'msyen Peoples.

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Strategic Plan Updates- Engage, Ignite, Empower

Although only a few months into our new strategic plan, Coast Mountains School District is making strides toward several action items aligning with our goal areas. As the year progresses, the district will use key indicators to measure progress on the journey towards improved levels of student learning and well-being in inclusive and welcoming classrooms and schools.

Goal: All students will realize their full potential

Engagements:

- Ongoing research of evidence-based classroom literacy practices and inventory of current classroom instruction and assessment literacy practices in Coast Mountains
- Collaboration with Ministry of Education & Child Care staff, school administrators, Information Technology staff, and reference of Local Education Agreements to inform dashboard development
- Collaboration with Northern British Columbia school districts and Ministry of Education & Child Care staff to develop northern teacher recruitment strategy
- Extensive recruiting schedule developed for 2022-23
- An updated public facing website continues to be developed and tested

Performance Indicators:

- Students have participated in the Grade 4 & 7 Foundation Skills Assessment
- Fall student reading & writing evidence has been gathered at multiple grade levels

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

Engagements:

- Indigenous cultural competency learning module development ongoing
- Collaboration with local partners to support district planning for increased outdoor & land-based learning opportunities

Performance Indicators:

- Upcoming Student Forums at secondary grades, Middle Years Development Instrument at Grades 5 & 8, and Youth Development Instrument at Grade 11

Goal: We will facilitate well-being across the district

Engagements:

- District leaders professional learning related to *compassionate systems leadership*
- Planning underway for Student Forums throughout the district

Performance Indicators:

- Upcoming Student Forums at secondary grades, Middle Years Development Instrument at Grades 5 & 8, and Youth Development Instrument at Grade 11
- Fall attendance & suspension student evidence has been gathered at multiple grade levels

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School Food Programming Enhancements

With funding from the BC Student & Family Affordability Fund and based on school submitted proposals, several Coast Mountains schools have received initial funding for enhancements to their existing school food programs. Funding amounts at this time include:

Bear Valley	\$5,000	Kitimat City High	\$5,000	Skeena Middle	\$10,000
Caledonia Secondary	\$9,000	Kitwanga Elementary	\$12,600	Suwilaawks Community School	\$15,000
Cassie Hall Elementary	\$8,000	Majagaleehl Gali Aks Elementary	\$8,000	Thornhill Elementary	\$5,000
Hazelton Secondary	\$20,000	New Hazelton Elementary	\$5,000	Thornhill Primary	\$5,000
Kildala Elementary	\$5,000	Parkside Secondary	\$5,000	Uplands Elementary	\$4,000

Rachna Singh- Minister of Education & Child Care

On Wednesday December 7, Premier Eby appointed the Honourable Rachna Singh Minister of Education & Child Care. Minister Singh has recently served as Parliamentary Secretary for Anti-Racism initiatives and has life experiences as a newcomer, drug and alcohol counsellor, a support worker for women facing domestic violence. Access Minister Singh's mandate letter at <https://bit.ly/NewMinisterMandate>.

This Month on Coast Mountains Social Media



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The Mount Elizabeth Middle/Secondary School Junior and Senior bands host their Holiday Concert at Mount Elizabeth Theatre.



Recognizing National Day of Remembrance & Action on Violence Against Women on December 6.



Capstone project work at Bear Valley School sees beautiful new aluminum school sign.