

# Superintendent's Report to the Board

## October 2022



## A Message from the Superintendent

Ama Sah,

The spotlight shone on educators this month as we recognized October as National Principals & Vice Principals Month and celebrated teachers on October 5<sup>th</sup> - World Teacher's Day. Thank you to all educators in Coast Mountains School District for your dedication to our learners and positive investment in their lives!

Thanks are extended to the parents, staff, students and community partners who participated this month in the consultation process related to the provincial Student & Family Affordability Fund. Through both online meetings and virtual discussions, several hundred stakeholders provided their input on how the district can best allocate funds to meet the needs of families within the parameters of the fund. Participants have told us that school food is a priority, and we will now act on this input with a lens of equity, sharing details of decisions back with school communities in the coming weeks.

Our district is highly focused on our new strategic plan - Engage, Ignite, Empower – and conversation are being grounded in its vision of creating safe, welcoming and inclusive learning environments where students can thrive in their learning and well-being. Measures by which we will determine our success over the next five years are being identified, both quantitative and qualitative, stemming from school, district and provincial evidence.

Next month we anticipate the launch of the district's new website, meant to enhance communications primarily with our public audience. The site will have an updated look and feel with enhanced usability leading to an improved end-user experience. At the same time, the district is striving to make more intentional use of social media platforms - including Facebook, Instagram & Twitter - to share important information and school stories. Please take a moment this month to follow Coast Mountains School District on your preferred platform as we are hoping to grow our audience and extend our digital reach across our communities.

Finally, with School Board Trustee elections having just taken place, I want to extend my thanks to outgoing trustees - Shar McCrory, Raymond Raj, Angela Brand Danuser and Sandy Watson - for their efforts and commitment to the students and families of Coast Mountains School District over the last number of years. I am very much looking forward to working with our new trustees - Mike Maxim, Sonny Duncan-Green, Julia Sundell and Wayne Jones – along with the rest of the Board as we collectively work towards our shared vision for student success.

Sincerely,

Aaron Callaghan  
Superintendent, SD 82

*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. Learn more at:*  
<https://bit.ly/FirstNationsPeoples>



### Upcoming Dates

November 11 – Remembrance Day (No Classes)  
November 21 – Report Cards Sent Home  
November 23 – School Board Meeting  
November 23 & 24 – Early Dismissal for Students  
November 25 – Professional Development Day (No Classes)

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## Engage, Ignite, Empower – Big Buckets of Work & Key Indicators of Growth

In September's report, the three overarching goal areas of the Board's Strategic Plan 'Engage, Ignite, Empower' were shared along with a description of what success will look like when the goals are achieved. As we consider the implementation of the plan ahead, it is important to recognize the 'big buckets' of work in which we will engage as a system, along with some of the key indicators of growth we will look to as we examine our impact along the way.

### ***Goal: All students will realize their full potential***

#### ***Big Buckets***

Literacy & Numeracy  
Indigenous Graduation  
Use of Student Evidence  
Career Readiness

#### ***Key Indicators***

School, District & Provincial  
Literacy & Numeracy  
Assessment Evidence  
Graduation Rates

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

#### ***Big Buckets***

Anti-Racism  
Indigenous Cultural  
Competency  
Inclusion & Diversity

#### ***Key Indicators***

Student Survey Data  
(Including MDI & YDI)  
Student, Parent &  
Teacher Voice

### ***Goal: We will facilitate well-being across the district***

#### ***Big Buckets***

Well-being  
Safe, Caring & Welcoming  
Schools

#### ***Key Indicators***

Student Survey Data  
(Including MDI & YDI)  
Student Voice  
Attendance & Suspension  
Data

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## Coast Mountains School District on Social Media

Our school district is growing its presence on social media, now using a variety of platforms to communicate with school communities. Facebook, Instagram and Twitter are being used to share district news related to programs and events, as well as tell school focused stories from around the district related to engagement and excellence.

On Facebook... [CoastMountainsSchoolDistrict](#)

On Instagram... [@CoastMountainsSchools](#)

On Twitter... [@CoastMtnSD](#)

So far this year, stories from many of the district's schools have been featured across the three platforms, all highlighting students as they build cultural understandings, engage in their learning, and invest in their personal well-being.

**Take a moment and follow us on your favorite platform and watch for more stories in the months ahead.**

## Student & Family Affordability Fund

As shared in September, Coast Mountains School District has received a one-time payment of approximately \$500 000 from the provincial government to help make life more affordable to families who are facing financial challenges. Meant to target costs related to school supplies, education fees and food, the district engaged in consultations in October to determine how best to allocate the funds.

Feedback from several hundred participants indicated food was a top priority, citing the need for nutritious breakfast, lunch and snack programs in schools, as well as support for learners outside of the school day.



The district will action this input over the next several weeks and share details of decisions back with our school communities. Thank you to everyone who took the time to participate in the process.

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### Teacher Recruitment

Although our school year has only just begun, Coast Mountains School District is actively working to recruit teachers for anticipated vacancies in 2022-23. Planning for participation in career fairs, as well as virtual information sessions with a number of university partners, are attempts to make connections with perspective teachers from across the country who may be interested in working with our learners and families in Northwest British Columbia. With the same intention, the district is also engaged in discussions with local Education training partners, including UNBC, to ensure there are abundant opportunities here at home to support those interested in pursuing a rewarding career in teaching.

If you know a teacher who may be interested in working in Coast Mountains School District, please share our recruitment video (<https://bit.ly/SD82Recruitment>) and direct them to our HR Department.



*Students learn cultural traditions & enjoy a feast at Hazelton Secondary School.*

*Healthy breakfast options at Thornhill Primary School.*



*Students harvest potatoes from the school garden at Kitwanga Elementary School.*



*Students enjoy rope & climbing activities at Uplands Elementary School.*

