

Superintendent's Report to the Board

February 2026



A Message from the Superintendent

Ama Sah / Good Day,

February has been a month marked by both deep reflection and meaningful connection across our district. First, I would like to acknowledge the tragedy in Tumbler Ridge. Our hearts are with the students, families, staff, and the broader community as they navigate this incredibly difficult time. On behalf of Coast Mountains School District, we sent a care package to the community and to the Peace River South School District Board Office as a small gesture of solidarity and support. In moments like these, we are reminded that as public education communities across British Columbia, we are connected.

I want to reassure parents and families that the safety and well-being of students remains our highest priority. This month, we have included a featured article outlining our safety procedures in practical terms — what they look like in schools, how we respond in emergencies, and the systems in place to ensure students are cared for. While we hope never to face crisis situations, we continually review and practice our protocols so that staff and students are prepared.

I would also like to thank our school and district staff for their thoughtful and timely response in putting additional supports in place for students and staff who required them. Counsellors, administrators, teachers, and support staff worked collaboratively and compassionately to ensure care was available where needed. Your professionalism and care make a difference.

Over the past month, I have continued visiting schools and witnessing firsthand the learning and extracurricular opportunities taking place across the district. At Nechako Elementary, I was inspired by the creativity and depth of understanding demonstrated in students' solar system projects — the pride in their work was evident. At Suwilaawks Community School, I was invited to learn about Hobiye. The student leaders who facilitated information sessions for their peers were exceptional. They spoke with confidence, shared knowledge generously, and answered questions thoughtfully. It was a powerful example of student voice and leadership in action.

Schools across the district also hosted cultural events and community gatherings, welcoming families and community members into our learning spaces. Several of our secondary schools held career fairs this month, providing students with opportunities to speak one-on-one with colleges, universities, and local employers. These experiences help students envision their futures and see the pathways available to them.

I would like to extend sincere appreciation to the many staff members and community volunteers who serve as coaches, mentors, and organizers for extracurricular activities — including athletics, fine arts, clubs, and leadership initiatives. These opportunities build positive connections to school, foster belonging, and support students' overall well-being.

As we move forward, we do so with care and steadiness. Maintaining routines, relationships, and a strong sense of connection is important for our students. Together, we will continue to support one another, focus on learning, and ensure our schools remain places where students feel safe, valued, and inspired.

Thank you for your continued partnership and commitment to the children and families we serve.

With gratitude and appreciation,

Tracey MacMillan
Superintendent



Upcoming Dates:

March 11-12 – Early Dismissal
March 16-27 – Spring Break
April 3 – Good Friday
April 6 – Easter Monday
April 24 – Non-Instructional Day

Superintendent's Report to the Board

February 2026



Snowshoes and Smiles: Thornhill Embraces Winter Learning

Thornhill Elementary School is taking advantage of the snow while they can! Thornhill received a big dump of snow, giving students the chance to experience a traditional mode of transportation firsthand. As part of their learning about traditional living and ways to enjoy extreme weather, students strapped themselves in snowshoes and headed out across the field. It was an exciting and memorable experience, and we're hoping for more snow so the adventure can continue!



Pictured above: A snowy adventure for Thornhill Elementary students learning outdoors.

(With appreciation to Surinder Dhaliwal, Principal, Thornhill, Elementary School, for these contributions.)

Coming Together: Thornhill's School-Wide Breakfast Celebration

Thornhill Elementary School recently enjoyed a school-wide breakfast, with everyone being served in the kitchen and then eating together in the gym. This special event was made possible by the generosity of parent volunteers, teachers and EAs, and our food coordinator, who put in extra time to make it all happen. The students loved sharing a group breakfast, and it was a wonderful way to build community at our school.

Pictured right: A delicious community breakfast brings Thornhill Elementary together, thanks to the hard work of volunteers and staff.



Sly Stanley's Good News



Sly Stanley has really started to engage with community supports, while also seizing opportunities to grow and challenge himself via our new CMSD Outreach Program. Sly is consistently engaging with our weekly Outreach group, housed at Kermode on Kalum Street. Sly is interacting with peers, advocating for himself, and participating in cultural activities designed to foster a sense of self and community. Most recently, Sly has agreed to participate in the Infuse/Inspire youth entrepreneurship and leadership program offered to our youth through Kermode Friendship Society. Sly will be building a community based project to support those in Terrace. Through this program, Sly will receive a \$2500 grant to establish his project and see it through to fruition in community. Upon completion, Sly will receive a \$4200 payment for his successful participation and engagement. Way to go Sly! We are so lucky to get to walk along side you and support you as you continue to grow and develop in ways that serve our North Coast community. *(With appreciation to Zack Frankel, Vice Principal, Graduation Success Advisor/Outreach Program-Terrace, for this contribution.)*

Superintendent's Report to the Board

February 2026



It Takes a Village at Bear Valley School



At Bear Valley, we are continually reminded that it truly **takes a village** to support our students, both in their learning and in their well-being.

One of the highlights each month is our partnership with the RCMP. On the last Thursday of every month, members of our local detachment come into the school to prepare and serve a pancake breakfast for all students. This has quickly become a favourite tradition. The smiles, conversations, and relaxed atmosphere help build strong, positive relationships, and these interactions foster trust between our students and the RCMP, an invaluable connection for a small community like ours.

We are also incredibly grateful for our ongoing partnership with the Stewart Community Connections Society. Their support of our Foods program has been exceptional. In the past, they funded the purchase of six new stoves, helping us modernize and improve our kitchen classroom. Most recently, they generously donated **\$12,000** toward the purchase of a greenhouse to enrich student learning, promote local food production, and support long-term sustainability initiatives. This funding will also help us purchase equipment needed for our breakfast and lunch programs, ensuring we can continue to provide nutritious meals to students throughout the year.



These community partnerships make an enormous difference. Without the support of our village, our RCMP, our community organizations, and our families, we would not be able to do what we do: fill our kids' bellies with good food, create meaningful learning opportunities, and strengthen the sense of belonging that makes Bear Valley such a special place.

Thank you to everyone who continues to stand beside our students. Together, we make great things happen.
(With appreciation to Jocelynn Drew, Principal, Bear Valley School, for this contribution.)

Honouring Cultural Background Through Artistic Expression: Kitimat City High

Cherish Nyce of Nisga'a and Cree ancestry has enriched our school community by honoring her cultural background authentically through her artistic expression. Cherish was given an opportunity by her Art teacher, Katherine Bell, to produce a piece of artwork as a legacy to Kitimat City High.

Her work displays creativity, skill, imagination and courage. Thank you, Cherish, for having the courage to tell stories, preserve traditions, and to explore new ideas.

Cherish explains what the design that she has created means to her: *"Each of the crests represents important teaching and responsibility that have been passed through generations. Each of the crests hold a meaning that connects me to my ancestors and my culture. This painting represents who I am. Me painting the crest on the door represents me showing pride in where I came from. Each of the crests reminds me that I am part of something that is bigger than myself, something that has existed long before me and will continue to exist after me. By painting the tribes, I am expressing belonging, respect and importance in my school."*

(With appreciation to Nancy Tormene, Principal, Kitimat City High, for this contribution.)



Pictured Above: Student, Cherish Nyce beside her four-clan door design which will be completed by March 2026

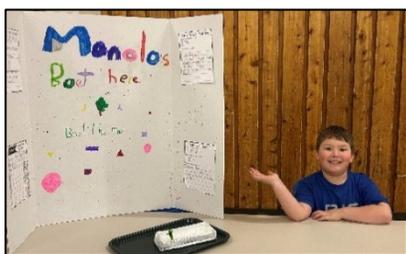
Superintendent's Report to the Board

February 2026



Scientific Inquiry, Innovation, and Inclusion at Kitwanga Elementary

The Kitwanga Elementary School Science Fair was a vibrant celebration of scientific inquiry, creativity, and student achievement. We showcased 2 different fairs, a Primary Fair for Grades K-3, and an Intermediated Fair for Grades 4-



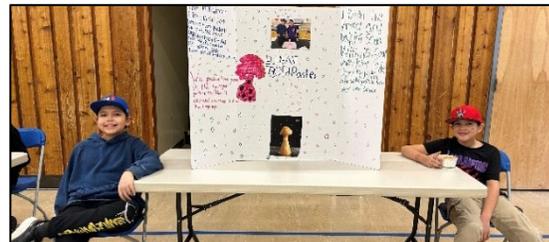
7. The event showcased a wide range of student-led projects that reflected curiosity, critical thinking, and hands-on exploration across multiple scientific disciplines. Students confidently presented their work, demonstrating not only their understanding of scientific concepts



but also their ability to communicate ideas clearly and thoughtfully to peers, students from Gitwagak Elementary School & Gitanyow Elementary School, educators from all the schools, and many community members.

Overall, the science fair successfully celebrated exploration, perseverance, and success. It reinforced the idea that science is inclusive, collaborative, and deeply connected to community and culture. By recognizing student effort and growth the event strengthened a shared commitment to equity, respect, and excellence in science education.

(With appreciation to Kassia Nameth, Principal, Kitwanga Elementary School, for this contribution.)



Grade 6 Students Leading by Example at Suwilaawks

At Suwilaawks, leadership isn't just a title — it's something we live every day. Our Grade 6 leaders quietly and confidently help shape the heart of our school, from welcoming our newest Kindergarten students to running morning routines, fitness stations, and clubs with patience and pride. They serve breakfast and lunch, organize spirit days, and step up to lead some of our most meaningful gatherings — Christmas concerts, Remembrance Day ceremonies, and Hobiye celebrations. They also join volleyball and basketball teams, bring creativity and thoughtfulness into classrooms and clubs, and push themselves to reach high standards in their literacy and numeracy goals. Through it all,



they remember they are still kids — laughing, learning, growing — and leading the way by example. While all 330 of our students shine in their own ways, these leaders show our younger learners what responsibility, generosity, and community truly look like.



(With appreciation to Pam Kawinsky, Principal, Suwilaawks Community School, for this contribution.)

“Work Hard, Be Kind, Have Grit and Make Yourself Proud” are our words from Suwilaawks.

Superintendent's Report to the Board

February 2026



Hobiye Learning and Celebration at Suwilaawks

Suwilaawks Community School marked Hobiye through thoughtful student leadership and meaningful cultural learning opportunities initiated by school administration and staff.



Grade 5/6 student leaders facilitated small classroom presentations for Kindergarten, Grade 1, and Grade 2 students, sharing their learning about the significance of Hobiye in an age-appropriate and engaging way. These sessions demonstrated both the depth of student understanding and the confidence students are developing as leaders within the school community.



Pictured Above (left to right): Tracey MacMillan, Superintendent; Student Leaders, Brandy Engdahl, Teacher, Catherine Eagles, Teacher, and Donna Mortimer, Director of Indigenous Education.

The school community also gathered for a Hobiye Assembly led by a former Suwilaawks student. Students partnered with younger peers from Kermode, reinforcing mentorship, pride, and community connection. The assembly reflected the intentionality and care students brought to their learning, as well as the importance of Indigenous cultural celebration within the school.

This celebration highlights Suwilaawks' continued commitment to honouring Indigenous knowledge, fostering student leadership, and strengthening community connections through meaningful learning experiences. (With appreciation to Lindsay Harder, Executive Assistant, for this contribution.)

Careers Fair – Hazelton and Caledonia Secondary Schools



Pictured Above (left to right): Donna Mortimer, Director of Indigenous Education, sets up for the career fair in Hazelton.

Office of the Gitanmaax hosted a *Get Connected Career Fair* for Hazelton Secondary School and the community designed to support students and job seekers in exploring educational and career pathways. Employers, post-secondary institutions, and support agencies were invited to showcase opportunities and connect directly with students as they consider their next steps.



Pictured Above (left to right): Dan Hamel, Principal, NTETC, Stephanie Stacey, Teacher, NTETC, Stepheny Vossen, NTETC.



Pictured Above (left to right): Stephany Vossen and Kim Hoekstra (NTETC) share information with interested students.

Caledonia Secondary hosted the *Strengthening Connections Education Fair*, welcoming Indigenous recruiters and advisors from post-secondary institutions across B.C. Students in all grades explored a range of education and career pathways, connecting directly with representatives from colleges, universities, and medical programs to support their future planning.



Pictured Above (left to right): Donna Mortimer, Director; Violet Little, Caledonia Student, Tracey MacMillan, Superintendent, Julia Nieckarz, Director.

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 Gitksan, Haisla, Nisga'a and Ts'msyen Peoples.

Superintendent's Report to the Board

February 2026



Solar Time at Nechako Elementary



Superintendent MacMillan congratulates the class on their Solar System Projects.



I am incredibly proud of my Grade 6 class for the outstanding effort they put into creating their model representations of the Solar System. As part of our exploration of the wonders of the Solar System, each student worked diligently to design and build a model that reflected both their understanding and their unique creativity.

Using impressive imagination and talent, the students crafted meaningful and expressive representations of the planets. Their attention to detail and enthusiasm for learning truly shone through every project. Beyond the models themselves, each student confidently presented their work to the class, strengthening their public speaking skills and developing greater confidence and presence.

The display of their projects captured the attention of many viewers and sparked excitement among other students in the school. It was wonderful to see their hard work recognized and celebrated by the wider school community.

I would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the parents and guardians who supported their children throughout this enriching learning experience. Your encouragement and involvement made a meaningful difference. *(With appreciation to David Mills, Principal; and Tammie Thomas, Grade 6 Teacher, Nechako Elementary School, for their contribution.)*

Recruitment & Retention Update:

Recruitment and retention remain key priorities for Coast Mountains School District. Our Human Resources team, alongside Principals, Vice-Principals, and district leadership, has been travelling across Canada to connect with new graduates and experienced educators interested in joining our schools and communities.

This winter and spring, district representatives are attending recruitment fairs at:

- January 12, 2026 – Queen's University
- January 16, 2026 – University of Victoria
- January 23, 2026 – University of Regina
- January 23, 2026 – University of British Columbia
- January 24, 2026 – Mount Saint Vincent University
- January 26, 2026 - University of Regina
- January 26, 2026 – Vancouver Island University
- January 29, 2026 – University of Winnipeg
- January 29, 2026 – University of Alberta
- January 30, 2026 – York University
- February 2, 2026 – University of New Brunswick
- February 4, 2026 – Université de Moncton
- February 17, 2026 – University of Manitoba
- March 11, 2026 – University of Windsor
- April 24, 2026 – Apply to Education, Toronto



Pictured Above: Toni Craig, Vice-Principal of Caledonia, at the University of Alberta



Pictured Above (left to right): Dr. Anthony Card, Dean of Education, Mount Saint Vincent University; and Superintendent Tracey MacMillan



Pictured Above: Tina McDonald, District Principal at Université de Moncton

Superintendent's Report to the Board

February 2026



We are actively recruiting qualified K–12 teachers across all subject areas, as well as educators with specialized training in Inclusive Education, French Immersion, Counselling, and Trades. Hiring fully qualified educators strengthens instructional quality and supports long-term stability in our schools.

The photos included in this report highlight members of our Human Resources team, school administrators, and district leadership representing CMSD at job fairs across Canada. We extend our sincere thanks to our HR team for their energy, organization, and commitment to this important work.



Pictured Above: Kassia Nameth, Principal of Kitwanga Elementary, at University of Regina.



Pictured Above (left to right): Director Phillip Barron & UVIC Student



Pictured Above (left to right): Director Kiran Bath & Director Julia Nieckarz



Pictured Above: Ryan McCann, Vice-Principal, Hazelton Secondary School at Queens University

Athletic Excellence: Grade 11 and 12 Boys Basketball at Caledonia

The Caledonia Kermodes hosted Shawnigan Lake School, an independent boarding school located on Vancouver Island, in a competitive and spirited matchup. The Grade 11 and 12 boys team secured an impressive 81–51 victory, demonstrating strong teamwork, preparation, and sportsmanship throughout the game.



Pictured Above (left to right): Coach & Vice-Principal Matthew Lowdnes, Principal Joe Dominguez, Vice-Principal Toni Craig, and Kermodes Mascott,

The boys delivered an exceptional performance, showcasing impressive athleticism, discipline, and composure on the court. Their communication, court awareness, and confidence reflected both individual talent and collective commitment. It was inspiring to witness the depth of skill within the program and the pride with which they represented their school.

Vice Principal Toni Craig and Joe Dominguez, International Student Program Administrator, served as referees, reflecting the collaborative spirit and staff engagement that support student athletics within the school community.



highlights from the game are shared to celebrate this achievement and the vibrant school spirit on display.



Pictured Above (left to right): Executive Assistant Lindsay Harder, Superintendent Tracey MacMillan, Kermodes Mascott, and Coach / Vice-Principal Matthew Lowdnes.

Superintendent's Report to the Board

February 2026



Compassionate Systems in Coast Mountains School District

Joanne Schroeder recently spent three days in our school district supporting and strengthening our ongoing work in Compassionate Systems Leadership. During her visit, Joanne collaborated closely with the District Education Team, engaging in thoughtful dialogue focused on deepening our shared understanding of compassionate leadership practices and how they can meaningfully support students, staff, and school communities. She also presented to the Board of Trustees, providing valuable insight into how systems grounded in compassion, relationships, and coherence can help guide sustainable improvement and positive outcomes across the district.



Pictured Above (left to right): Superintendent Tracey MacMillan, Director Phillip Barron, Joanne Schroeder, and Director Donna Mortimer.

In addition to her work at the system level, Joanne spent a full day alongside staff at Uplands Elementary, working directly with educators to explore practical ways to embed compassionate systems thinking into daily practice. Her visit concluded with a professional learning session on the district professional development day, where a large group of teachers from across the district came together to reflect, learn, and engage in collaborative conversations. The session reinforced our collective commitment to creating learning environments where relationships, well-being, and a shared sense of purpose remain at the center of our work with students and one another. Participants shared highly positive feedback, noting the relevance and practical impact of the learning, and many expressed appreciation for the opportunity to pause, reflect, and reconnect with the values that guide our work in education.



Pictured Above (left to right): Joanne Schroeder with Teachers Heidi Siebring, Kara Frederickson, Tina McKay, Karen Ting, and Jill Dams.

(With appreciation to Phillip Barron, Director of Instruction, for this contribution.)



Pictured Above: Joanne Schroeder presenting to the Board of Education during the January Regular Board Meeting.



Pictured Above (left to right): Joanne Schroeder, Principal & CMAA Vice President Julia Jacobs, and Superintendent Tracey MacMillan.

Superintendent's Report to the Board

February 2026



Acknowledging Our Veterans and Community Volunteers – Remembrance Day Ceremonies at Skeena Middle School and Across the District Monday, November 10, 2026 A Follow-Up of Gratitude



From Left to Right:

Tina McDonald – District Principal, Coast Mountains School District
Donna Mortimer – Director of Instruction, Coast Mountains School District
Ashley Gomes – Air Cadet LAC and Grade 9 student at SMS (Skeena Middle School)
Holden Millar – Air Cadet Sergeant and Grade 9 student at SMS
Mason Chadwick – Air Cadet Flight Corporal and Grade 8 student at SMS
Andrew Johnstone – Member of the Terrace Fire Department
Constable Kelly Cates – Terrace Detachment of the RCMP
Sergeant Rob House – Terrace Detachment of the RCMP
David Wells – Elder from the Kitselas First Nation
Sean Bujtas – Mayor of Terrace
Steve Chant – Member of the Canadian Rangers, retired Corporal
Constable Angie Wouters - Terrace Detachment of the RCMP
James Kester – Member of the Canadian Rangers
Tyler Burrows – Master Corporal, ammunition technician, served in Afghanistan and throughout Canada
Kevin Fawdrey – Bombardier, Canadian Artillery Regiment, served in Bosnia
Chris Gair – Master Corporal in the Canadian Rangers
Tracey MacMillan – Superintendent, Coast Mountains School District
Phillip Barron – Director of Instruction, Coast Mountains School District

Missing from the Photo:

Dakota Williams – Indigenous Veteran who served in the Royal Artillery
Derek van der Kolk – Sergeant, Dutch Army

The volunteer group pictured above and listed previously commits each year to participating in Remembrance Day ceremonies in schools. Many of the representatives take time off work, often without pay, to be present and support these ceremonies. Their contribution to schools in the Terrace area is incredibly valuable, as it allows students and staff to put a human face to the sacrifices that are spoken about and honoured on Remembrance Day. We cannot thank these volunteer representatives enough for their ongoing commitment and meaningful participation in our school ceremonies.

For over 20 years, schools in the Terrace area have participated in an organized schedule that ensures volunteer representation at Remembrance Day ceremonies. This group includes veterans and current members of the Canadian Armed Forces, the RCMP, Canadian Rangers, the Terrace Fire Department, and other service organizations. In recent years, schools have been contacted in advance of Remembrance Day to coordinate representation, most recently by

Superintendent's Report to the Board

February 2026

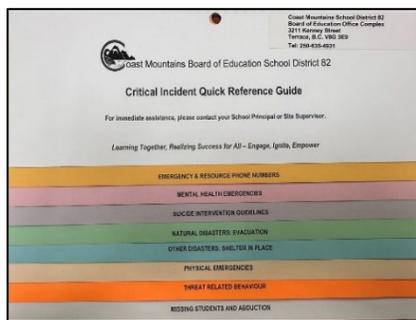


Steve Chant, and previously by Chris Gair. What began many years ago with just two schools in Terrace has grown through strong personal connections and a shared desire to include both retired and active service members in school ceremonies.

Today, this dedicated group supports Remembrance Day ceremonies in all Terrace area schools and has expanded its reach to Kitsumkalum, Kitwanga, and Hazelton. The volunteer group has grown from just two or three individuals visiting schools to a broad representation that now includes members of the Terrace RCMP Detachment, Fire Department, Ambulance Service, and the Canadian Armed Forces.

On behalf of Coast Mountains School District, we extend our sincere gratitude to each of these veterans, service members, and community volunteers. Your presence, your service, and your continued commitment to our schools ensure that Remembrance Day remains meaningful, personal, and deeply respectful for students and staff. We are truly grateful.

Student Safety and Well-Being in Coast Mountains Schools



The safety and well-being of students and staff remain our highest priority. We recognize that recent events in other communities may raise questions for families about what safety looks like in our schools. We want to reassure you that Coast Mountains School District has clear procedures in place and that our schools work closely together to ensure students feel safe, supported, and cared for each day.

In the Fall of 2025, all schools received an updated *Critical Incident Quick Reference Guide* flip book. This guide outlines clear steps for school administrators and staff to follow in a variety of situations, including medical emergencies, natural disasters, threat-related situations, and mental health concerns. Schools review these procedures with staff and conduct regular drills throughout the year so that responses are calm, organized, and appropriate if ever needed.

Our schools also work in partnership with local RCMP detachments, emergency responders, and community agencies. These relationships are important and ensure coordinated, timely responses should support ever be required.

Beyond emergency procedures, we know that conversations with children and youth are equally important. Teachers have access to Ministry-provided resources that support age-appropriate discussions with learners when events in the broader world may feel unsettling. Recently, these resources were provided by the Ministry of Education and Child Care and Safer Schools Together and were distributed to all Coast Mountains School District schools. The resources included:

- Letter – Tumbler Ridge – Resources for Families (for families)
- 2025 Traumatic World Events – Tips for Teachers: Primary (2026)
- 2025 Traumatic World Events – Tips for Teachers: Intermediate (2026)
- 2025 Traumatic World Events – Tips for Teachers: Secondary
- Mental Health Resource List – January 2025 (for families and staff)

These materials guide educators in responding thoughtfully, helping students process information in developmentally appropriate ways, and recognizing when additional support may be beneficial.

Superintendent's Report to the Board

February 2026



We are also currently reviewing and updating district safety-related policies and administrative procedures to ensure they reflect current best practices. As part of this work, we will be taking inventory of school site access and visitor processes, including entry points and locked-door practices during instructional hours, to ensure consistency across all schools while maintaining welcoming learning environments.

Mental health and emotional well-being are central to student safety. In addition to the Ministry resources shared above, Coast Mountains School District has several local supports and structures in place to care for students and staff:

- **Coast Mountains School District Outreach Poster** (*Outreach Poster – Green*), highlighting local community mental health resources available to youth and families, including a QR code for easy access and a 5-4-3-2-1 grounding strategy for moments of stress.
- **District K-12 Mental Health & Well-Being Plan 2024-2027**, which guides our coordinated and proactive approach to student well-being across schools. [CMSD82 | Coast Mountain School District No. 82](#)
- **CPI (Crisis Prevention and Intervention) Training**, made available to Principals and Vice-Principals, teachers, counsellors, Learning Resource Teachers, and Education Assistants who work with complex learners. This training supports safe, respectful, and preventative responses to escalated situations.
- **Terrace and Kitimat Situation Tables**, where district staff meet regularly with community partners — including Education, Northern Health, RCMP, MCFD, and other local agencies — to collaborate, share information appropriately, and coordinate support for students and families when needed.

These layered supports reflect our belief that student safety includes not only physical preparedness, but emotional well-being, strong partnerships, and coordinated care.

We remain deeply appreciative of our school and district staff who respond with care, professionalism, and compassion. Maintaining routines, strong relationships, and positive connections to school is one of the most powerful ways we support students during uncertain times.

If you ever have questions or concerns, please reach out to your school principal or the District Office. We are here to support you and your family.

Sincerely,
Tracey MacMillan
Superintendent of Schools



Be S.A.F.E.R. Online

Before you do *anything* online, ask yourself...is it S.A.F.E.R.?

S

Smart: Am I using what I know to stay safe online - like checking my privacy settings and keeping my information private?



A

Age Appropriate: Am I spending time in online spaces that are made for kids my age?



F

Fair: Am I treating others the way I would want to be treated?



E

Encouraging: Am I using kind and uplifting words?



R

Risky: Am I making choices that put me or others at risk? How will my choices affect me in real life?



If you're not sure, **talk to a trusted adult.** Everyone deserves to be safe online and in real life.



There Is Support For MENTAL HEALTH

COMMUNITY RESOURCES PDF

Need help now?

Try 5-4-3-2-1 Grounding

5 things you can see

4 things you can touch

3 things you can hear

2 things you can smell

1 things you can taste



SCAN HERE

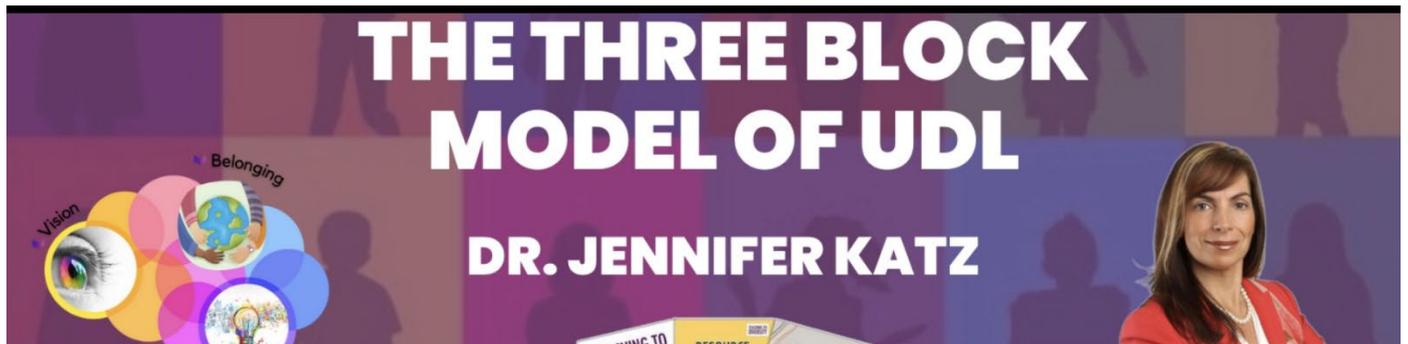




We are dedicated to preventing the sexual exploitation and human trafficking of children and youth in British Columbia. We achieve this goal through education strategies, public awareness initiatives, and family support.

THE THREE BLOCK MODEL OF UDL

DR. JENNIFER KATZ



Superintendent's Report to the Board

February 2026



Ongoing Considerations

In addition to celebrating successes, we also recognize the ongoing areas of growth our district is working through, which are outlined below to provide transparency and context for our shared journey forward.



Student Safety and Emergency Preparedness

In light of the recent tragedy in Tumbler Ridge, student and staff safety remains at the forefront of district planning and communication. Coast Mountains School District maintains comprehensive emergency response protocols and conducts regular drills to ensure preparedness across all schools.

As part of our commitment to continuous improvement, the district is currently reviewing and updating safety-related policies, administrative procedures, and communication protocols to ensure they reflect current best practices and align with provincial expectations.

In addition, we will be conducting a district-wide review of school site access and visitor management procedures, including entry points, locked-door practices during instructional hours, and public access processes. This work is intended to ensure consistency across all sites and to further strengthen our layered approach to student safety.

French Immersion (MGA and HSS)

French Immersion programming in Hazelton remains an ongoing consideration for the district. Currently, 28 students are enrolled at Majagaleehl Gali Aks (MGA) and 7 students at Hazelton Secondary School (HSS). Given these low enrolment numbers, sustainability of the program into future years is a significant concern.

On April 25, 2025, a formal notification letter was sent to Hazelton French Immersion parents and caregivers. This letter provided official notice of potential changes to the program beginning in the 2026–27 academic year. The district continues to engage with families, staff, and partners as we assess options moving forward, recognizing both the importance of program viability and the desire to offer diverse pathways for students.

A series of French Immersion community consultation meetings were held over the past several months. A final meeting took place on January 15th 2026 at Hazelton Secondary School. A report containing enrollment data and the information gathered during the consultations will be presented at the February 25, 2026 Board Meeting.

Recruitment and Retention Update

Recruitment and retention remain ongoing priorities for Coast Mountains School District. At this time of year, the district is actively recruiting to prepare for anticipated vacancies and is attending career fairs across Canada. There are not enough locally available qualified teachers to meet projected staffing needs, particularly in specialty areas such as Inclusive Education, French Immersion, Counselling, and Trades.

The district continues to post all vacancies widely and to work with post-secondary institutions to support practicum placements, which are an important pathway for future recruitment. While staffing challenges persist due to broader provincial shortages, the district remains committed to supporting schools and maintaining stability for students and families.

Superintendent's Report to the Board

February 2026



Mount Elizabeth Middle Secondary School (MEMSS) – Capital Planning Priority

Mount Elizabeth Middle Secondary School in Kitimat has been on the Board of Education's capital plan submission to the Ministry of Education and Child Care for more than ten years. While the facility remains safe for students and staff, it is an aging building requiring significant renewal.

The Board continues to advocate for major upgrades and/or replacement to ensure the school supports current and future learning needs. This long-standing capital priority has been outlined in previous Ongoing Considerations sections of the Superintendent's Reports.

Gitksan Language Immersion Program – Majagaleehl Gali Aks Elementary

The Gitksan Language Immersion Program at Majagaleehl Gali Aks Elementary is a groundbreaking step in public education, bringing Gitksanimx language and culture to life in the classroom. Led by teacher Angie Olsen, with support from Dr. Jane Smith and local Elders, learners experience a full-day immersion (Gitksanimx language) grounded in authentic curriculum and strong community partnership.

While this initiative represents a significant milestone in Indigenous language revitalization, its continued growth depends on the availability of qualified speakers of the language. The district remains committed to working closely with the Gitanmaax Band, the Gitksan Government Commission, and other local partners to build capacity and encourage language teacher training pathways. Meetings have taken place with the working group which is comprised of school district personnel, the MGA team, Elders and community partners to provide ongoing support for this program.

Individuals interested in contributing to the future of Gitksanimx education are encouraged to connect with Majagaleehl Gali Aks Elementary or the District Office to learn more about opportunities to become part of this meaningful and growing program.

Inclusive Education (Funding Formula)

The district continues to advocate for an updated provincial funding model that more accurately reflects the growing complexity and diversity of student needs. Current funding structures are tied to formal assessments and diagnoses, which limits the district's ability to allocate additional Education Assistant support for students whose needs are emerging but who have not yet been formally assessed.

As a result, while student needs continue to increase in both number and complexity, available staffing resources do not always align in a timely way. Despite these constraints, staff across CMSD continue to demonstrate creativity, collaboration, and a strong commitment to inclusive practices as they work to provide equitable learning opportunities for all students within existing resources.

Early Learning Programs

Early learning continues to be a critical foundation for long-term student success. However, insufficient provincial funding continues to impact program sustainability. The district remains concerned about the reduction of Seamless Day and Just B4 programming and the financial pressures on StrongStart operations. Advocacy for stable and equitable early learning funding remains ongoing.

Numeracy Framework

This year marks the launch of a district-wide Numeracy Framework—an important next step in strengthening student achievement in mathematics. While no Ministry funding has been designated to support this initiative, the district has been notified that LNG Canada has made a substantial contribution to support this work. This external support will

Superintendent's Report to the Board

February 2026



enable planning, foundational development, and staff leadership to move forward in a more meaningful and coordinated way.

The district remains committed to stewarding these resources responsibly and to building a numeracy framework that is sustainable, practical, and responsive to the needs of learners across CMSD.

Literacy Initiative

Our district-wide Literacy Initiative remains a cornerstone of learning improvement across CMSD. Sustained largely through the generosity of corporate sponsors, this work has enabled the use of research-based resources and professional learning to strengthen early and intermediate literacy outcomes. We continue to seek long-term funding stability to ensure the continuation of this essential work beyond sponsor cycles.