

Superintendent's Report to the Board

December 2024



A Message from the Superintendent

Ama sah / Good day,

As we embrace the Holiday Season, I want to extend my warmest wishes to each member of our school community — students, parents, caregivers, administrators, teachers, staff, district personnel, partners in education, and colleagues. Since beginning my role as Superintendent this past October, I have had the privilege of visiting all the schools across our district and meeting so many incredible learners, staff, and families. I am truly impressed by the dedication, passion, and commitment that I have witnessed. Together, we have navigated challenges with resilience, celebrated successes, and created vibrant, welcoming environments where students thrive. I am deeply grateful for the contributions each of you makes to our shared vision for education.



Superintendent MacMillan visited Ms. Shelley Striker's Grade 5/6 Class at Kildala Elementary School last week. Many happy returns were shared with Ms. Striker who was celebrating her birthday!



Superintendent MacMillan (l) is pictured with Band Teacher, Courtney Preyser (r) following the wonderful MEMSS Secondary Band Presentation of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas held December 4.

November was an incredibly busy month across our district, with staff and students engaging in a wide range of important activities. From the completion of report cards and learning assessments to advancing curriculum initiatives, the dedication and hard work of our educators and support staff have been notable. A particular focus has been on student literacy, which remains one of the key goals of our district's Strategic Plan. I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to parents and caregivers for attending report card learning sessions and for the invaluable support you provide at home — whether it's helping your children with reading, completing homework, or fostering a love of learning. Your partnership plays a vital role in your children's success, and we are truly grateful for your efforts.

This festive season, I have thoroughly enjoyed watching some of the Holiday

Season performances and band concerts across our schools. The additional hours that staff and volunteers devote to ensuring the success of these events are to be commended. They reflect the heart and care that make our schools so special, and for that, we thank you. As you gather with loved ones to celebrate the holidays, I hope you find moments of joy, peace, and renewal. On behalf of Coast Mountains School District, I wish you and your families a happy Holiday Season and a wonderful New Year filled with hope, kindness, and new opportunities.

With gratitude and appreciation,

Tracey MacMillan, Superintendent



Suwilaawks Community School Indigenous Support Workers, Roxanne Wright, Charity Spalding and Marissa Harris pose for a photo with Superintendent MacMillan during her school visit last week.

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 Gitxsan, Haisla, Nisga'a and Ts'msyen peoples.



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Discovery Trades K-6

The Northwest Trades & Employment Training Centre (NTETC) is excited to offer for the 2024-2025 school year, the Discovery Trades K-6 program which introduces primary and elementary students to trades through safe, positive, engaging, and inspiring experiences. Through the generous sponsorship of LNG Canada this program including funding for the position of Discovery/Dual Credit Teacher was made possible. School district employee, Cory Redl assumed this position with the NTETC Team at the start of this school year. Cory's goal is to introduce trades and the safe use of tools to primary and elementary students across the school district. Cory recently facilitated Discovery Trades K-6 sessions at Cassie Hall Elementary School with three classes of primary and elementary students who participated in making cedar planters with the instruction and safety tool learnings. Many students do not have the opportunity or experience using tools which the Discovery Trades K-6 program provides. These opportunities often identify interests and strengths, impacting future decisions towards careers. Pictured below are Cassie Hall Elementary School students participating in the Discovery Trades K-6 sessions facilitated by Cory in his new role.



Students at Cassie Hall Elementary School learn to make cedar planters through the Discovery Trades K-6 sessions facilitated by NTETC's Discovery/Dual Credit Teacher, Cory Redl. Three classes participated in this hands-on introduction to trades opportunity.



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Coast Mountain College Trades Tour

I had the pleasure of participating in an introductory Trades Tour of the Coast Mountain College Terrace Campus on December 10 accompanied by Dan Hamel, Principal of Northwest Trades & Employment Centre (NTETC). This tour provided an opportunity to meet the College Trades Coordinators, explore the Trades facilities, and gain a deeper understanding of the school district's partnership with Coast Mountain College.

During the visit, we toured the shop spaces where our Grade 12 students participate in Level One Foundation Trades training, such as carpentry, welding, automotive, heavy-duty mechanics, electrical, and professional cooking, while also earning high school elective credits. The school district covers the tuition fees for these Dual Credit programs. Additionally, we learned that the Early

Child Care Education (ECCE) program, co-sponsored by our school district and the college, will be launched in February 2025. Standout moments of the tour including viewing the artwork created by students and teachers at the Freda Diesing School of Northwest Coast Art within the dormitories and library, both of which offer outstanding resources and tools for students, through their learning journey.

Skilled Trades BC has made many of these Trades programs possible through its various Youth programs. The Dual-Credit Trades Program provides many of our students with an alternative pathway to post-secondary education and training. By getting an early start in their training, many students thrive and pave the way towards a successful career.

Support Request for Families in Need

As we head into the winter break, I would like to remind school staffs, parents, and caregivers of their ability to access the Northwest Community Student Support 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.

The Request For Support Form is available on the [Coast Mountains School District website](#) and made available in each one of our schools. Please reach out to the principal or other preferred staff member at your child's school for more information.



Coast Mountain College Trades Coordinators provide an introductory trades facilities tour for Superintendent MacMillan. Pictured (l-r) in the College Carpentry Shop are Candace Houlden, Colin Elliott, Tracey MacMillan, Shauna Stach and Darlene Godfrey.

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School Seasonal Concerts

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 shared in my Superintendent's message, I have thoroughly enjoyed watching some of the Christmas performances and band concerts across our schools. The additional hours that staff and volunteers devote to ensuring the success of these events are to be commended. They reflect the heart and care that make our schools so special, and for that, we thank you. Here are some of the wonderful seasonal and holiday concerts and performances that have taken place to the delight of parents, caregivers and families.

Skeena Middle School - Fall Band Concert - November 27



Mount Elizabeth Middle/Secondary School - Secondary Band Presentation 'Twas the Night Before Christmas - December 4



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School Seasonal Concerts *(cont'd)*

Thornhill Primary School – Christmas at the O.K. Corral – December 12
(a rootin' tootin' good time for everyone)



Kitwanga Elementary School - Christmas Classics Concert - December 13



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This Month On Social Media...



@CoastMountainsSchoolDistrict



@CoastMountainsSchools



@CoastMtnSD



Insightful and engaging learning for Trustees Harrison, Jonkman, Warcup and Sundell at the BCSTA Trustee Academy "Illuminate: Lighting the Path of Governance in Public Education" held November 21-23 in Vancouver and to hear from new Minister of Education and Child Care Lisa Beare.



Members of the Coast Mountains School District leadership team (Phillip Barron, Julia Nieckarz, Beverly Azak, Tracey MacMillan and Tina McDonald) engaged in professional learning at the BCSSA November 2024 Fall Forum - Identity Through Indigeneity: Frameworks in Support of Grounding Ourselves in Indigenous Knowledge.



Upcoming Dates

- December 18 – Hybrid Board Meeting (Terrace)
- December 21 – Winter Break begins
- January 6 – Classes resume following Winter Break
- January 15 – Business Committee Meeting (virtual)
- January 15 – Education Committee Meeting (virtual)
- January 24 – Non-Instructional Day (schools are not in session)
- January 28 – Hybrid Board Meeting (Terrace)