



## Walking Together in the 2024-2025 School Year in Cariboo-Chilcotin School District No. 27

### Superintendent Report to Board of Education

April 28, 2025



### Key Focus Areas for Enhancing Learner Success

#### PSO Structural Firefighting Program

PSO offers an exciting opportunity for students to work with community firefighting services to learn about firefighting and fire protection and prevention in the community. 100 Mile House has a rich tradition of volunteer fire services and students learn from community experts through the course. Teacher John Murray, who has helped develop the local course, is a certified trainer with the 108 community volunteer fire service. Students learn skills directly linked to Structure Fighting, Wildland Fire Fighters (S100) and Standard First Aid. This class meets all the performance and safety standards set by the NFPA (National Fire Fighting Protection Agency). The school works in coordination with local fire halls for support. Special recognition goes to 100 Mile Fire Rescue who provides equipment and manpower usually unavailable at a school, and a day of live fire training (external only) at the Fire training grounds. For the first time ever the municipal fire safety officer is working with the class to teach preventative community fire safety. The class is interactive, fun, and linked to experiences in students' own community.

Principal Caitlin Currie will present to the Board at the April board meeting on the success of this innovative program.



#### Indigenous Education TRU Trip

Director Grant Gustafson, district vice-principal Dancing Water Sandy, and Peter Skene Ogden Indigenous Support Worker Angel Smith, travelled with 33 Indigenous students to visit TRU in Kamloops last week. Students took part in a campus



tour as well as in depth experiential tours of trades, business, science, and astronomy programs. Students were treated to presentations by the athletic department and provided information about the PLAR program (Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition which allows students to challenge up to 75 credits based on their life experiences and skills. Students participated in cultural activities, including stick games and storytelling, and learned about the services at House 5. In the evenings, students took part in laser tag, bowling, arcade games, and waterslides. It was a full trip!

## Indigenous Role Models

Tracy Hubner, Indigenous Education Secretary, is facilitating the annual Indigenous Role Model program once again. The application process began in September with booths set up at the high schools and the opportunity for students to meet the current role models and ask questions. Applications were received until December 13.



**2023 Role Models Sky Johnson and Tyson Michel (seated) and 2024 Role Models Grace Anderson and Finley Testawich (standing).**

Candidates participated in an essay writing

workshop and a public speaking workshop prior to submitting their candidate packages, including essays, report cards, photos, reference letters, in March. There are 19 candidates in the program this year. First Nations Education Council (FNEC) members reviewed the packages and voted over a 6 and half day period. The Role Model Celebration will be held Thursday, May 22 at 5:00 pm at Lake City Secondary to crown the incoming Role Models and honour them with a feast.

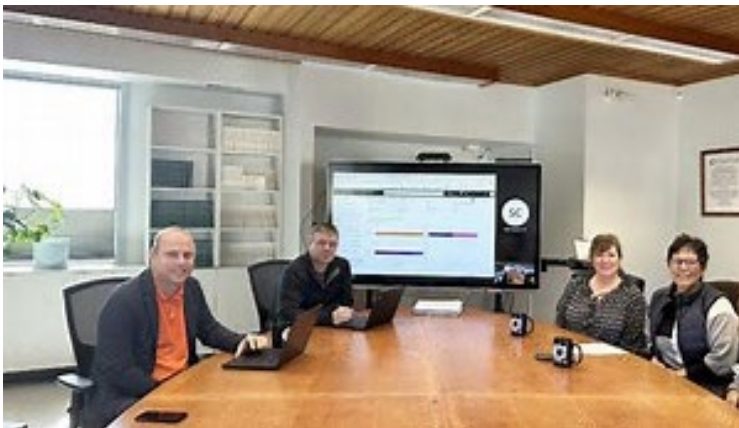


## Heavy Metal Rocks

This past week, 22 grade 11 and 12 students showcased their equipment operating skills at the Centennial Pit, where 20 machines and 2 mine rescues are provided by local businesses. Students earned prizes for their efforts in safety, being the best operator, being the best overall, and in forestry. District Principal Kelvin Parent works with a large team of industry partners and volunteers to make this incredible opportunity happen for SD27 youth.



## CIMS / LEAP Project Update



The school district is continuing to move forward with the development and implementation of the Cariboo Information Management System (CIMS) and the connected Local Education Agreement Platform (LEAP). Currently all teachers, principals, and Indigenous Support Workers have access to the system. Learning sessions with staff are occurring throughout the district. Schools and district staff are in the process of creating data

teams to support continuous school improvement with CIMS.

LEAP is an extension of CIMS that provides direct access to student-level data to all First Nation Bands with a Local Education Agreement signed. Beyond providing access to data, the reports and dashboards are being designed and co-developed directly with First Nations and supporting First

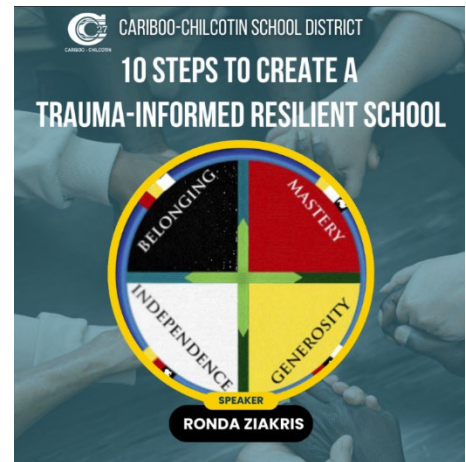
Nations to lead evidence-based conversations with schools and district staff to enhance the success of their learners.

CIMS and LEAP have recently been featured in the [Williams Lake Tribune](#) and [media posts from Williams Lake First Nations](#).

## Building Capacity for Trauma-Informed Practice

Cariboo-Chilcotin School District hosted approximately 60 staff and community partners in early April for two back-to-back two-day courses of *10 Steps to Create Trauma-Informed Resilient School* with MNP presenter Ronda Ziakris. The course uses the Circle of Courage as the framework for trauma-informed response and effective support for learners.

All PVP, elementary and secondary school counsellors, Indigenous support workers, and youth engagement workers along with many teachers and other staff in Cariboo-Chilcotin School District have completed this course within the last eighteen months. Most schools have teams that are trained and will lead this work in their school communities.



## Learning Rounds and Professional Development Day

The school district had two powerful days of staff learning connected to the April non-instructional day. Learning rounds with Carole Fullerton and Bryan



**Carole Fullerton co-teaching with practicum teacher at Nesika observed by colleagues**



**Bryan Gidinski leading dialogue on literacy with Cataline teachers**

Gidinski occurred on April 10 for demonstrations co-taught with classroom teachers and opportunities for reflection. The Cariboo-Chilcotin Teachers Association (CCTA) led a full slate of learning opportunities throughout the district on the April 11 professional development day. Bryan Gidinski, provincial literacy expert, and Dr. Alec Couros, national leader in AI use in education, continued their ongoing learning series partnership with the district hosting sessions in the morning and afternoon. In addition to learning series partners presenting, the day was filled with amazing local content experts including: Sarah Lum, Ria Tromp, Angel Smith, Caitlin Currie, Kacie Young, Eileen Bennison, Kira Cuttler-Thomas, Bruce Baptiste, Freda Alphonse, Caroline Chupa, Tim Hurley, Kameron



Taylor, Freddie Johnson, and Margaret-Anne Enders. The full session schedule is attached for reference. The District is proud to be a partner with the CCTA to provide high-quality professional learning for educators.

### Rotary Starfish Backpack Fundraiser Event

Cariboo-Chilcotin School District was represented by an enthusiastic team of educational leaders at the recent Rotary fundraiser for the Starfish backpack program that provides food to children and families weekly. SD 27 principals and vice-principals attended to extend gratitude to the community volunteers and to share stories of the impact their generosity is making for students.



### Parent/Caregiver – Teacher Connection



The core relationship of the [SD 27 Collective Responsibility Framework](#) is student-teacher-parent/caregiver partnership. All the other roles in the school district wrap around to support the healthy and effective functioning of this partnership. Parent-teacher/caregiver events were held across the district this week. Mile 108 Elementary took their event outdoors with a barbecue. Principal Maria Telford shared that the change of format completely changed the atmosphere and focus of conversations.

← Connecting at Mile 108

### Bus Registration

The district is well ahead of schedule with bus registration and route confirmations for 2025/2026 school year. At present, 1,283 students have registered for bussing and all families have been provided an email confirmation. Transportation staff are working through route / seat confirmations for wave 1 registrations with 474 students already placed for next year. Confirmation of registration emails have been provided to all parents / caregivers. There are no significant changes planned for routes or bussing next year. Planning and collaboration with regional district, community partners, families, and MOTI are ongoing to improve bussing and expand potential options for active transportation to school.



## **SD 27 Education Facility Managers Association of BC**



Director Marc Loewen and his Cariboo-Chilcotin School District Operations and transportation team had the privilege of hosting the Education Facility Managers Association of BC (EFMA) spring zone meetings for the northern districts last week. Quesnel, Prince George, Coast Mountain, Bulkley Valley, and Peace River South school districts were represented. SD 27 was able to showcase the modern security, PA, and keyless entry systems recently implemented in the district in the last two years. Key note presenters from industry were Onetrix, Milestone, and Bosch. It was also a great opportunity to show off the just completed daycare facility and our new meeting space.

## **Ministry of Education and Child Care Team Visit**

Associate Deputy Minister Jennifer McCrae and BC Superintendent of Indigenous Education Brad Baker visited the Cariboo-Chilcotin School District this week. They met with a number of partners and groups to listen to their perspectives and experiences in the district. A highlight was a lunch meeting with secondary students from Columneetza, Peter Skene Ogden, Skyline, and Lake City Secondary.





## Earth Day in SD 27

Schools across the district found meaningful ways to engage students in learning about the environment with an emphasis on local action to celebrate Earth Day this week.



Students clean up school grounds at Alexis Creek



Women's Warrior Song for the Earth at Nesika



Outdoor literacy learning at Nesika



Learning to make a difference at Horse Lake



Bringing back the Mile 108 garden



PAC run Earth Day stations at Cataline





## Welcome Song Initiative

Students across the district continue to learn drumming and to sing the Welcome Song for the territory they are on. Danika and William from the WLFN Cultural Team brought their Drum Circle to Horse Lake. They even had a private drumming session with the Grade 7 class who made drum using hides tanned by last year's grade 7s.



## Areas of our District Plan for Learner Success

Schools continue to contribute powerful images and descriptions to help share the story of how the key focus areas of the District are coming to life across the Cariboo-Chilcotin. These examples may be viewed on the [district website](http://www.sd27.bc.ca) [[www.sd27.bc.ca](http://www.sd27.bc.ca): Scrolling item on news items or on the top bar of the home page → Our District → District Plan for Learner Success → Key Focus Areas for Enhancing Student Success.]

