



STORIES OF IMPACT

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Welcome to the **CMSD82 Stories of Impact**, a newly created publication to illustrate the importance of sharing stories of student learning and engagement taking place in our schools and district this school year. These stories allow us to celebrate the great things happening for learners, but also serve to build public confidence in the work we do with children every day. **Over the remaining months of the school year, we will share these positive and inspirational school stories that align with the following three goal areas of the school district's Strategic Plan:**

- ↳ Student Learning / Realizing Students' Full Potential
- ↳ Inclusion / Diversity / Culture
- ↳ Student Well-Being

Nechako Elementary School: Student Learning (David Mills, Principal)

As a school, it is essential for administration and teaching staff to understand and use data effectively to inform decisions. We need to look at our students' specific skills and knowledge base that will enable our teachers to transform data into information and, ultimately, into actionable knowledge.

Administration and teaching staff assessed and reviewed the data from the fall student assessments in reading, writing, and math. The results of the review highlighted areas of focus and helped teaching staff plan a more targeted approach to student learning. Our biggest concern was the grade one reading results from the PM Benchmark Assessment. PM Benchmarks are used as an assessment tool to gauge children's reading levels. During a staff meeting teachers developed strategies on how best to approach student areas in need. The following teacher feedback was shared through the opportunity to meet and collaborate on student improvement areas:



Teaching staff at Nechako Elementary School developed strategies on how best to approach student learning areas in need.



Nechako Elementary administration and teaching staff met during a School Staff Meeting to assess and review data from the fall student assessment which highlighted areas of focus and helped teaching staff plan a more targeted approach to students learning.

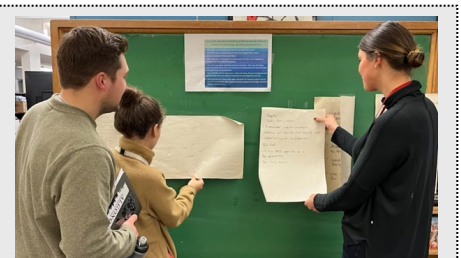
"Having the time to review our school assessments in a timely manner is helpful to monitor a student's progress in real-time, so any changes in performance can be tracked and addressed as they arise rather than in retrospect."

"I think this will help all of us."

"It's great to see that staff are so willing to work together."

"It was a good chance to reflect on our practice."

Through this collaborative approach, teaching staff at Nechako Elementary School developed a draft Literacy Plan based on the results of the data collected with specific goals.



Teachers making a difference at Nechako Elementary School in student learning through collaborative assessment of student data.

With the school district's support, we will continue to use our data to unlock key insights that help us make timely decisions and drive improvements to support our children.



Primary students at New Hazelton Elementary School celebrated their newly acquired knowledge learned during Fine Arts lessons by displaying their art at the Misty Rivers Community Arts Council's Gallery for the months of November and December 2022.

New Hazelton Elementary School: Strengths in Diversity, Community Building, Creating Welcoming Spaces (Jan Thorburn, Principal)

The primary students at New Hazelton Elementary spent many hours in the fall of 2022 learning and creating with their teachers during Fine Arts lessons. With the help of New Hazelton town councillor, Jutta Hobenshield, and local potter, Simone Alwood, the students celebrated their newly acquired knowledge by displaying their art at the Misty Rivers Community Arts Council's Gallery for the months of November and December. The title of the installation was *My Art*.

The Gallery, located on Bowser Street across from the school, showcases the work of artisans from across northern British Columbia, including local artists, Michelle Stoney and Leah Pipe. All the students felt very proud when showing their work alongside the art of these women,

especially considering that many of the students worked with Michelle Stoney to create the new murals on the outside of our school building.

The kindergarten students created a representation of the local mountain, Stekyoden, using paints and melted crayons. The theme of their project was *Old and New*, so they recycled "old" crayons to create their mountain and they included a photograph of Michelle Stoney's mountain from the school murals to represent the "new". The grade 1-2 class made *Bad Hair Day* self-portraits to show their understanding of different types of lines and patterns as well as cool and warm colours. They used tempera paints, photographs and markers. The grade 2-3 class created *Warm and Cool Circle Collages* using acrylic paints, construction paper, cardstock, stencils, hole punchers and glue ... lots of glue. Their inspirations were the words, techniques and styles of multi-media artist, Howardena Pindell.

There was a great deal of positive community feedback about the *My Art* installation. Plans are now underway for the spring of 2023 to hold pottery workshops with Simone and for the intermediate classes to have their own gallery show.

Uplands Elementary School: Sense of Belonging, Welcoming Safe Space, Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Skill Building (Cory Killoran, Principal)



Leadership Group Students at Uplands Elementary School help sort and box up items collected by the school for donation to the Terrace Church's Food Bank and to the Salvation Army Food Bank.

Some of our Leadership Group students helped sort and box up items collected by the school for donation to the local food bank. This was an event that was organized and spearheaded through classrooms with our families. Together as a school, we collected well over 1,000 food items and more that \$200 in donations to donate to the Terrace Church's Food Bank and to the Salvation Army Food Bank. This event connects well with our school's commitment to giving back to the community.

Our Christmas Coffeehouses brought in hundreds of parents and family members to watch performances by our students. This activity reinforced the welcoming nature of our school and builds our school climate and culture after a number of years of not being able to welcome families into the building due to the COVID pandemic rules and guidelines. We were incredibly happy and

excited to be able to have families back in the school to participate with their child(ren) in these wonderful events. All of our classes worked together to create positive performances. Classes organized decorations, adjusted schedules for extra practices, and contributed time and energy to prepare our gym for these performances over a two-day period.

Our Annual Food Drive is a good example of the importance of giving back to the community that we call home. It is an opportunity for our students to understand that families in our community are struggling with food security. Our Christmas Coffeehouses brought students, families, and staff members together to enjoy the musical talents of our students. The weeks of practice leading up to the performances prepared students to perform well in front of an audience of their families. Events such as these further connect our students, their families, and our staff to the school by building a positive school climate and culture at Uplands Elementary School.



Uplands Elementary School celebrate events that further connect students, their families, and staff to the school by building a positive school climate and culture.