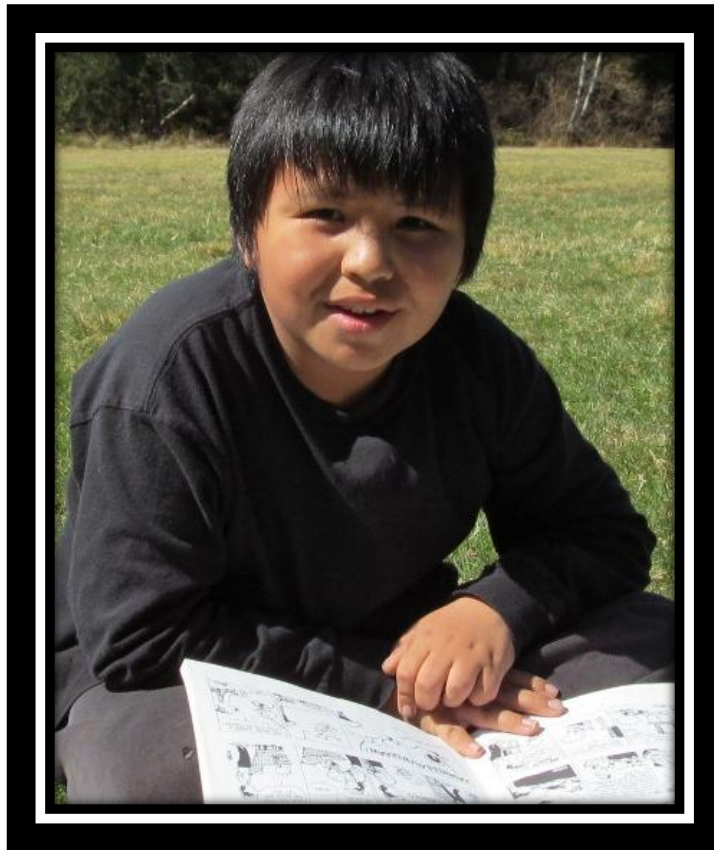


District/Community Literacy Plan 2013 - 2014



“Committed to the development of an educational environment in which students have the opportunity to acquire a broad base of knowledge and the ability to apply it in a variety of situations.”

Central Coast School District 49

Bella Coola ♦ Hagensborg ♦ Wuikinuxv ♦ Shearwater

Table of Contents

Introduction & Identification of Issues	3
The Literacy Now Initiative in the Bella Coola Valley	4
Celebrating Past & Present Participation	5
Community Literacy Plan Accomplishment Rating YEAR 3/4 Implementation.....	6&7
Community Literacy Plan Year 5 Implementation Strategies (2013-14).....	8
School District #49 Literacy Plan Inquiry Question and Strategies.....	9
Acwsalcta School Literacy Update.....	10
Appendix 1: Task Group Members/Community Partners/Supporters.....	11
Appendix 2: Literacy Now Partnerships.....	12
Appendix 3: Mission Statements of Bella Coola Literacy Now Partners.....	13
Appendix 4: District Context.....	14



Introduction

The Community Literacy Plan will seek to develop strategies that move literacy programs forward and make them more accessible and effective. It is anticipated that the contents of this plan will serve the Valley as a blueprint – helping to guide successful, sustainable, and joyful learning experiences. Ultimately, we see the Bella Coola Valley as a “Community of Learning” where schools, organizations, the Nuxalk Nation, government, families, and individuals work cooperatively and creatively to improve literacy and learning for all community members.

The Bella Coola Valley Learning Society runs a Community Adult and Family Literacy Program at the New Leaf Learning Centre and also operates the Career Center - a source for employment and technology skills learning. Valley schools provide literacy education for everyone from preschoolers to adults and School District #49 is committed to literacy learning for all ages. Organizations from Healthy Beginnings to Success by 6 to the Public Library all support family literacy.

Issues Identified

- For its population size, the Bella Coola Valley possesses considerable literacy assets, although underutilized. Creating an awareness of the importance literacy, sufficient learning resources and motivation are significant challenges for small programs to overcome.
- The existing Community Adult Literacy Program/Centre is underfunded and underutilized due to low funding. Volunteer tutors are a valuable and scarce commodity in our community.
- “Strategic planning and coordination needs to continue on a community network level and with only 8 hours/week paid time for coordination of CALP programming, the LOC position is invaluable to our program and the community's literacy service providers.”* *2009/10 Literacy Now Implementation Report*
- There remains continuing coordination and communication between educational service providers to maximize the limited learning resources available in the Valley.
- Effectively linking literacy to other community issues like health, nutrition, employment and a need for active “liaising” with related support services programs is ongoing.
- Nuxalk language and cultural literacy are tied to the health and well-being of the Nuxalk Community.
- The lack of viable local industries and work opportunities in the Valley has a negative effect on community literacy. Continuing awareness of necessary post-secondary requirements and successful examples inspire youth to complete Grade 12. Career fairs are stimulating and informative.
- There is a need for projects that go beyond “traditional” literacy classes including fun and informal family literacy events such as storytelling, poetry reading, drama, puppet shows, etc. and linking these activities with local artists, writers, and performers.

The Literacy NOW Initiative in the Bella Coola Valley

Vision: We envision a community where accessible, appropriate and creative literacy and learning opportunities support and enhance a high quality of life and promote life-long learning for all Bella Coola Valley residents.

Initiative Background

October - Nuxalk Nation member and Community Adult Literacy Program - Community Liaison Sam Moody, invited Bernadette Rhymer from Literacy NOW to the The Bella Coola Valley Learning Society.

June 7, 2007 - 12 individuals began working together to provide better literacy opportunities in the Valley. Each person was excited about the potential of resource sharing and planning together for a clearly defined view of our community in terms of literacy.

May 2007 - Literacy NOW Task Group was formed and a list of community partners and supporters was generated. (An updated list is provided below.)

November 2007, the Bella Coola Valley Learning Society agreed to act as Steward for Phase 2 of the initiative and an Application for Community Planning funds.

March 2008 - Funding was approved and a Community Researcher was hired to assist the Task Group in the completion of The Bella Coola Valley Community Literacy Plan.

May 2009 - New Leaf Learning Centre opened.

June 2009 - Literacy Outreach Coordinator began.

February 2013 - Third year funding ends.

April 2013 - Funding approved for one year.



Celebrating Past & Present Participation

Here is a list of the events that the Literacy NOW Task Group participated in by organizing, funding or attending.

Additional funding has been provided by BCV Support Society, Acwsalcta School, Raise-a-Reader, Success by Six, Williams Lake & District Credit Union and the Central Coast Regional District

2009 -present

Family Literacy Fair hosted by Acwsalcta School and Bella Coola Elementary School
Bella Coola Science Fair - April
SAMSS Outdoor Education Trips
Literacy Centre Annual Anniversary
New Leaf Learning Centre Summer Programs – Ages 6- 14 years - July & Aug
Annual Community & School Career Fair
Bella Coola Science Fair
Ready, Set, Learn!
Teddy Bears' Picnic
Nuxalk Language class

More recent programs initiated at the New Leaf Learning Centre

"Just For Kids" Wednesday After School Program Commences – January 2012 - present
"Story Time" (once monthly) for ages 3 – 9years
"Youth for Leaders"-work experience and training for ages 11-14yrs. September, 2012 - present
"Cooking for Kids" ages 6-8yrs. September, 2012 - present
Vancouver Coastal Health "Stories for Health" - photography, video making workshops.
The Bright Red Bookshelf - April 2013

On Going at the New Leaf Learning Centre

Computer Drop-In- 4 days per week
Seniors' Computer Drop-In
Tutoring through CALP
Summer Program - New Roots, Young at Art, Music Fun and Arts and Crafts
Beginner Computer Courses - The "I" family, Powerpoint,
Loaning Library including Easy Reads section
Free books

School District #49 Initiatives

Scholastic Book Fair - open to community 2x a year
Changing Results for Young Readers (Bella Coola Elementary)
First Nations Literacy Program
Ready, Set, Learn

**Bella Coola Valley Community Literacy Plan
Accomplishment Rating for YEAR 3 & 4 Implementation**

Not Yet Accomplished	In Initial Stage of Implementation	Accomplished	Exceeding Expectations and/or Encultured
1	2	3	4

OBJECTIVE 1: Maintain a centralized Community Literacy Centre to provide services and programs. Assist Literacy Outreach Coordinator in coordinating community literacy activities.

The Community Adult Literacy Program (CALP) currently provides a range of services targeted to adults. CALP is a program of the Bella Coola Valley Learning Society whose staff includes the Adult Literacy Coordinator and the Community Literacy Liaison – both very part-time positions. Objective 1 seeks to broaden CALP into a Community Literacy Centre with expanded services and hours of operation and additional staff (Literacy Outreach Coordinator.) This is seen as essential to improving the accessibility and effectiveness of existing literacy resources.

YEAR THREE STRATEGIES (2011-12)

- **3** Continue to offer 10 hours per week computer drop-in.
- **2** Offer Toastmasters Program in partnership with CALP.
- **3** Hold Story Time once a month on the same Saturday the adjacent Thrift Store is open.
- **3** Promote CALP services/programs and Career Centre workshops.
- **3** Promote "Good Reads" (ABC Life Literacy Canada), a new easy reading section to The NLLC.
- **3** Research and secure funding sources for new materials / equipment for the continuation of literacy plan implementation

YEAR FOUR STRATEGIES (2012-13)

- **3** Continue to offer 10 hrs/wk computer drop-in at NLLC.
- **3** Offer Beginner Computer classes
- **3** Four summer programs for youth.
- **3** Continue to offer "Just for Kids".
- **3** Story time one Saturday/month.
- **2** Promote "Good Reads"
- **3** Find funding to continue Literacy NOW.

Bella Coola Valley Community Literacy Plan

Accomplishment Rating for YEAR 3 & 4 Implementation

Not Yet Accomplished	In Initial Stage of Implementation	Accomplished	Exceeding Expectations and/or Encultured
1	2	3	4

OBJECTIVE 2: Work with existing literacy resources and related support services to continue working to increase public awareness about the importance of literacy and the range of literacy services available in the valley.

A significant barrier to improved literacy in the Valley is the lack of awareness of what "literacy" is and how it affects peoples' lives. Many Valley residents do not realize the direct connection between literacy and quality of life. Objective 2 seeks to build the valuing of literacy and learning as fundamental to health and well-being and to improve visibility for literacy services.

YEAR THREE STRATEGIES (2011-12)

- **1** Develop a detailed directory of literacy services and providers using the Community Literacy Inventory *BC Literacy Directory - \$5000 is available to achieve this task
- **4** Place advertisements with tips for parents in school newsletters & Nuxalk Flyer
- **1** Attend school staff meetings to network, promote other literacy and family service providers, and encourage use of Healthy Beginnings referral form
- **3** LOC to organize "Family Literacy Fair" in partnership with Acwsalcta School
- **3** Hold 9 Literacy Now Task Group meetings. Schedule meetings dates starting May 18,2011; June 8; Sept 21, Oct 19; Nov 16; Jan 11, 2012, Feb 15; Mar 14; Apr 18 – 3:15pm at NLLC

YEAR FOUR STRATEGIES (2012-13)

- **3** Hold 7 Literacy Now Task Group meetings
- **3** Schedule Literacy Plan Review quarterly
- **1** LOC outreach to Health Services
- **3** Develop & plan "Family Literacy Fair" at Bella Coola Elementary School 2013
- **3** Publish events & programs in local Coast Mountain News for public knowledge

BCV Community & District Literacy Year 5 Implementation Strategies 2013/14

OBJECTIVE 1: Maintain the centralized Community Literacy Centre (New Leaf Learning Centre) to provide services and programs. Literacy Outreach Coordinator to continue to coordinate community literacy activities.

Objective 1 seeks to maintain the services the Community Literacy Centre with the expanded services and hours of operation and of additional staff (Literacy Outreach Coordinator.), in the face of cuts to the funds available. To ensure these as many programs as possible continue to operate. This is seen as essential to improving the accessibility and effectiveness of existing literacy resources.

- Continue to offer 10 hours per week computer drop-in at NLLC
- Offer more "I" family computer classes at NLLC.
- Organize and promote five literacy-based Summer Programs through July & Aug.
- Hire and train a Canada Summer Student to enable more access to the community.
- Continue to offer - "Just for Kids" After School Program, starting in September 2013
- Organize Story Time, with Raise-a-Reader funding, on Saturday once a month.
- Promote CALP tutoring services/programs and Career Centre workshops.
- Promote "Good Reads"(ABC Life Literacy Canada), a new easy reading section to the NLLC Lending Library
- Research and secure funding sources for new materials & programs for the continuation of literacy plan implementation and programming..
- Promote and manage the new "Bright Red Bookshelf" at 5 locations in the Valley.

OBJECTIVE 2: Increased public awareness about the range of literacy services available in the Valley, and enhance community-wide coordination of existing literacy resources and related support services.

Coordination amongst these organizations is often lacking or haphazard. Objective 2 seeks to provide more intentional and consistent coordination to improve efficiency, create synergistic effects, and avoid duplication of services.

- Hold 7 Literacy Now Task Group meetings.
 - Schedule meeting beginning September 2013, every two months.
 - 3:15pm at the New Leaf Learning Centre unless otherwise rescheduled.
- Schedule Literacy plan review quarterly.
 - Sept. 18, 2012, Jan. 2013, March 2013.
- LOC to outreach to Health Services - local physicians, LPN and Counselors with Literacy Program resource list.
- Develop and plan "Family Literacy Fair" with Acwsalcta School for January 2014.
- Publish events and programs in local Coast Mountain News, e-sources and flyer distribution.
- Promote and develop with schools "Job Rap" 2014.

School District #49 Literacy Plan

Not Yet Accomplished	In Initial Stage of Implementation	Accomplished	Exceeding Expectations and/or Encultured
1	2	3	4

Literacy Inquiry Question:

How will a focus on early literacy intervention impact the goal of having the number of gray area students on Individual Student Support Plans for literacy decrease from 71 to 55 by 2016?

We will know the goal has been achieved when we see the number of SD 49 students on Individual Student Support Plans decrease to 55 or less based on teacher opinion as reflected in report card marks, and two other useful testing indicators to be determined by teachers and the administrator over the 2013-14 school year.

Strategies for 2013-14 School Year

- Bella Coola Elementary will continue to be involved in the Changing Results for Young Readers Initiative
 - **2** Take a team to CR4YR meetings in Richmond August 26-27
 - **2** Hold seven team meetings (4 to be facilitated by Provincial facilitator)
 - **2** Complete case studies for target students
- S.D. 49 will have its First Nations literacy program available at all schools
 - **3** Continue to build program use at SAMS, Shearwater, and Wuikinuxv schools
 - **1** Introduce program to Bella Coola Elementary school
 - **2** Increase the use of Elders and other community members as volunteers to listen to students read
- Target grey area students at Bella Coola Elementary for literacy instruction
 - **2** Plan for ways to use the Literacy Teacher, Resource Teacher, Librarian, and Principal to support literacy instruction in classrooms
 - **1** Survey staff about what they feel would be the most effective form of data to collect to support this goal
 - **1** Meet as a team to discuss how we can best use the data collected to inform instruction
- Hold monthly book club meetings for any staff interested in books about literacy and improving professional practice
 - **2** Create a list of possible books by surveying staff
 - **1** Establish meeting times and locations
 - **1** Select and order books for fall meetings
 - **1** Establish ways of involving staff at all 4 District Schools
 - **1** Invite Community Literacy partners to join book club

Literacy Update from Acwsalcta School - An Independent On-Reserve School in Bella Coola **By Brittany Gulka, Vice Principal.**

Here at Acwsalcta School we have been working very hard at improving overall literacy. We have a few different programs in place this year that have been helping.

1. We have been using a one-on-one support with reading, a program called **Discover Reading**. It has been helpful at raising reading levels in all grades.
2. We have been implementing an assessment tool called **DIBELS** that has been helping us to benchmark each of our students, and then come up with a plan to raise the levels and meet goals at various times in the year.
With Dibels, we have been discovering how much intervention time each student will need in order to meet their goals. Teachers and TAs have been pulling students out for one-on-one intervention time in order to raise literacy levels, and we are seeing a huge increase in literacy.
3. Our teachers are also using **Read Well and Reading Mastery** (or are going to be trained in these for the fall) in order to enhance the intervention time. We also plan to implement a Parent reading program as well.
4. Our Librarian, Dana Drugan, has organized many reading competitions this year to get the kids reading more often. She also has **Elders come in** to read, along with **book clubs** for many ages.
5. We have also been really focusing on **Nuxalk Language Literacy**, and we have increased the number of minutes per day that our students have been learning the Nuxalk language.

We plan to use all of these tools in the next few years, as well, as they are working very well.



Appendix 1

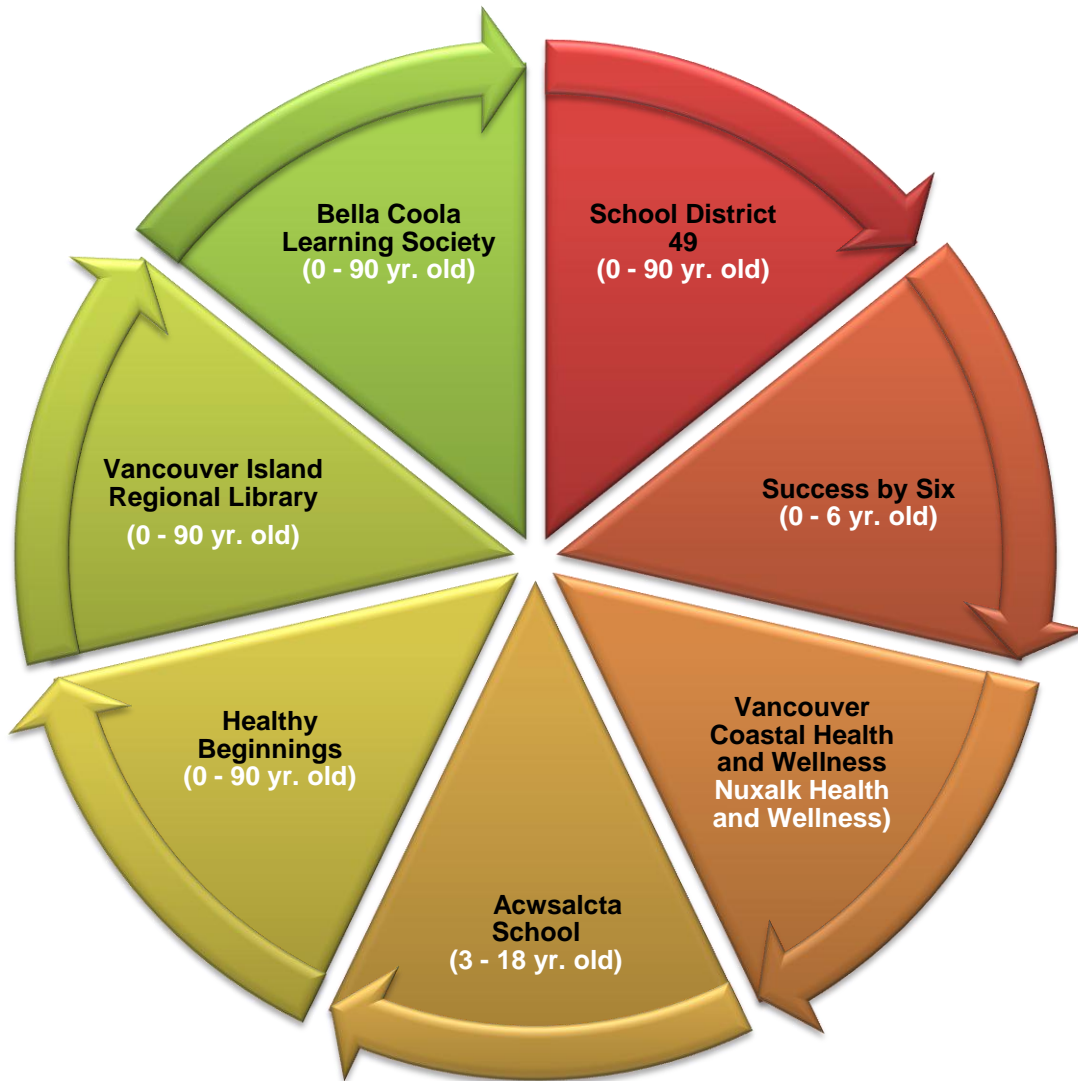
TASK GROUP MEMBERS/COMMUNITY PARTNERS/SUPPORTERS

Task Group Members (Are willing to be active, attend 5 meetings annually, prepare proposals, oversee the process and keep others involved)	Community Partners (Are willing to attend regular meetings)	Supporters (Want to be kept informed)	
Janice Kyle Community Adult & Family Literacy Program Coordinator bcvls_alp@yahoo.ca 250-799-5666, 5822	Lori Campbell Executive Director Bella Coola Valley Learning Society bcvls@yahoo.ca 250-799-5811	Gloria Hilland Strong Start Program Facilitator SD 49 gloriahilland@gmail.com 250-799-5556	Ben Smith SMART Project Stories for Health Ben_smith40@hotmail.com
Marie Doiron Bella Coola Elementary School Principal & District Literacy Rep. SD 49 mdoiron@sd49.bc.ca 250-799-5556	Sophie Mack Public Health Nurse Vancouver Coastal Health sophie.mack@vch.ca 250-799-5311, 5722	Jeremy Baillie Sir Alexander Mackenzie School Principal & 08/09 DLR SD 49 jbaille@sd49.bc.ca 250-982-2355	Lorna Dishkin Resource Teacher Bella Coola Elementary ldishkin@sd49.bc.ca 250-799-5471
Gail Moody Healthy Beginnings Program Manager Nuxalk Health & Wellness healthybeginnings@belco.bc.ca 250-799-5914, 5951	TBA Literacy Outreach Coordinator Literacy Now bellacoolaloc@live.ca 250-799-5822	Lawrence Northeast Lip'alhayc Learning Centre Director lnortheast@gmail.com 250-799-0038	Coleen Fraser B.C.E. Librarian cfraser@sd49.bc.ca 250-799-5556
Norma Hart Superintendent SD 49 nhart@sd49.bc.ca 250-982-2691	Gerry Tetrault Principal Acwsalcta Independent School principal@acwsalcta.ca 250-799-5911	Linda Chapman VIRL Librarian bc1@virl.bc.ca 250-799-5330	TBA Chief Administrative Officer Central Coast Regional District ccrd_admin@belco.bc.ca 250-799-5291
Brittany Gulka Vice Principal Acwsalcta Independent School bgulka@acwsalcta.ca 250-799-5911	Wanda Edgar Success by 6 Acdu@belco.bc.ca 250-799-5913	Monica Tutt Career Counsellor Career Centre monica.tutt@yahoo.ca 250-799-5811	Lorna Layton Retired Librarian BCVLS bellacoolalady@yahoo.ca 250-799-5471
Emma Johnson Executive Director Transition House snxlhh@belco.bc.ca	Dana Drugan Librarian Acwsalcta School booksbooksbooks@acwsalcta.ca 250-799-5911	Lela Walkus Coordinator of Aboriginal Education and Principal of Oweekeno and Shearwater Schools SD 49 lwalkus@sd49.bc.ca 250-982-2691	Meredith McIlwain Resource Teacher Sir Alexander Mackenzie School mmcilwain@sd49.bc.ca 250-982-2355

Appendix 2

Literacy Now Partnerships

This document represents hours of discussion among these groups.



Appendix 3

Mission Statements: Bella Coola Literacy Now Partners

The Bella Coola Valley Learning Society:

- Developing individual and community potential
- Building and enhancing education and training services
- Developing respectful partnerships with other service providers
- Supporting students in their educational endeavors

Acwsltca: To provide access to quality **educational experiences through the** rediscovery and revitalization of traditional Nuxalk language and culture. A strong sense of identity rooted in traditional Nuxalk knowledge and teachings will produce students best able to succeed in an academic, social or work environment.

Healthy Beginnings: To foster an enriched quality of life for all family members by promoting healthy lifestyles that contribute to the health of babies and mothers.

Vancouver Coastal Health: We are committed to supporting healthy lives in healthy communities with our partners through care, education, and research.

Vancouver Island Regional Library: To enrich lives and communities through universal access to knowledge, lifelong learning, and literacy.

School District #49: Committed to the development of an educational environment in which students have the opportunity to acquire a broad base of knowledge and the ability to apply it in a variety of situations. Students should develop values and personal and interpersonal skills which enable them to lead productive and satisfying lives as citizens in our present and changing world.

Appendix 4

District Context



School District #49 is located on the Central Coast of the province, serving the communities of Bella Coola, Hagensborg, Wuikinuxv, and Shearwater.

The Central Coast School District has experienced declining enrollment over the last few years and has undergone one major and one minor restructuring in the past 5 years. The District continues to restructure to serve the needs of our learners better and to become more efficient in delivery of those services directed towards the student achievement agenda. In September 2008, Nusatsum Elementary became an annex of Sir Alexander Mackenzie Secondary. The two schools are located on the same campus and side by side. Previously, Nusatsum Elementary had been a Grade 4-7 school of approximately 50 students. Sir Alexander Mackenzie Secondary made the successful transition to a Grade 6-12 school and Bella Coola Elementary, which previously had been a school consisting of Strong Start to Grade 3, also made a comfortable transition to a Strong Start to Grade 5 school. We feel the change has helped us become more efficient in delivering services to our diverse learners.

In addition, the District has two fly-in schools (Wuikinuxv Elementary & Shearwater Elementary) located on the outer coast. Travel to and from these schools requires a commute accessible only by airplane or boat, which makes traveling to these schools costly, and due to variable weather conditions, difficult.

The District serves a diverse community which includes a predominant First Nations enrollment of approximately 60% of all students.

BC statistics data point to many vulnerabilities that affect the context for School District # 49. With regard to the indices of Economic Hardship, Crime, Health Problems, Education Concerns, Children at Risk, Youth at Risk, and Overall Socio-Economic Conditions, the Central Coast region is shown to have significant vulnerabilities.

The District supports all its learners from Strong Start to Grade 12 with strong supports for students with special needs and for our First Nations students designated as ELD.

We offer a wide range of choices including a daily Strong Start program, a full-day Preschool and Kindergarten, a Nuxalk Language program, and programs in Carving and Outdoor Education. This year the district initiated the First Nations Literacy program which is an oral reading program featured on the SETBC website. Further, we continue to develop our adult education programming options featuring a Log Home Building program and a hair dressing program as well as our Welding and Mechanics programs.