



2023 – 2024

Report on School Plan to Enhance Student Learning

# Bella Coola Elementary School



**Reporting success on 2023/24  
school goals**

**And**

**Identifying goals for 2024/25**



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## Report on School Plan to Enhance Student Learning

# The Mandate

## Key Questions

- What does our available school data, quantitative and qualitative, tell us?
- How are we responding to the data?
- What's working and how do we know?
- What are next steps for us to consider?

# Our School Community

Bella Coola Elementary is a small rural school with a current student population of 72 students. The school enrolls students kindergarten through grade four. Our kindergarten class has 16 students, Our grade 1 class has 11 students, our grade 2 class has 15 students, our grade 3 class has 19 students, and our grade 4 class has 13 students.

We have 5 fulltime classroom teachers, a .6 library teacher, 1.4 Learning Assistance / Resource Teachers, and 9 support staff working in the classrooms and in the office. Our school also has a licensed childcare program running out of the building with 7 children enrolled (licensed for 16; 3-5 year olds).

Our school is located on the traditional and unceded territory of the Nuxalk Nation, in the beautiful Bella Coola valley. Our close proximity to the Bella Coola River estuary allows for many opportunities for students and staff to take their learning outdoors. Our students spend time on the trails in the forest exploring, learning, and creating. Food security in the valley is an important topic and BCE students and staff are working on the development of a school "grazing garden" on the property. This is projected for completion over the summer of 2024. In addition, the school has also hired a school cook who is onsite 5 hours each day to prepare and serve a variety of healthy and nutritious meals.

The outdoor culture is reflected in school culture through student involvement in sport. BCE has sent grade 4 students to the SAMS track meet for many years. This is the first year that we have a dedicated grade 3 / 4 track team that will be competing. In addition, BCE has begun developing a baseball program through the Toronto Blue Jays affiliate program. We also have a continued presence in the world of two wheels with the ongoing efforts, through All Kids Bike, to ensure that all kindergarten students have the opportunity to learn to ride a bike.

Bella Coola Elementary has also been working hard to build bridges with the local First Nation. Through the development of our foods program and hiring a chef, the Home-School Coordinator has been freed to spend more of their valuable time connecting with Indigenous families in the community to make it easier for those families to connect with the



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school. This year also marks the first year that BCE has had a certified indigenous teacher developing and delivering content for Nuxalk Language and Culture class. Through her solid understanding of pedagogy the language and culture program is flourishing. Furthermore, through her collaborations with classroom teachers, we are seeing an increase of Nuxalk culture embedded in regular classroom instruction. BCE is also working hard to establish connections to the local First Nations' school through regular invites to special events.

## District Strategic Plan

### Strategic Plan for District #49 2022-2027 (Central Coast)

#### Mission

Working together to create a safe, welcoming environment that prepares each learner to reach their potential

#### Vision

Healthy Community Encouraging Lifelong Learners

#### Values

Respect individuality, Nurture curiosity, Enrich outdoor experience,  
Inspire academic opportunities, Cultivate diverse learning styles,  
Communicate towards cultural/social understanding



## BCE School Goals

### Literacy

For the past three years, BCE staff have been implementing balanced literacy interventions through, targeted 30 min push-in literacy groups. Using data from the Fontas and Pinnell reading assessment, classroom teachers worked closely with Learning Assistance staff to assign students to groups based on F&P achievement data.

Writing is a component of literacy that has been identified as needing further support at BCE.

#### 1a. Reading Comprehension

- **Goal** – To target 40% of students reading at grade level within the next three years and to continue the steady improvement of readers who are struggling at 2 or more years below grade level.
- **What we know**
  - BCE has been implementing a balanced literacy approach to literacy learning for the past 3 years
  - BCE students have shown consistent, steady improvement in overall reading assessment scores.
  - “At level” student rates have remained consistent
  - students “2 or more years below level” has decreased
  - Students who have not shown growth, or minimal growth (students reading below



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grade level who progress one or fewer levels per term), are identified and intervention groups are adjusted accordingly.

- We have seen several of our lowest performing readers progress into more challenging reading groups this year.

	Years below grade level		
	> 2 yrs	1-2	At level
2023/2024	7.02%	56.14%	35.09%
2022/2023	9.62%	50.00%	36.54%
2021/2022	13.16%	44.74%	34.21%

- **How we will get there**

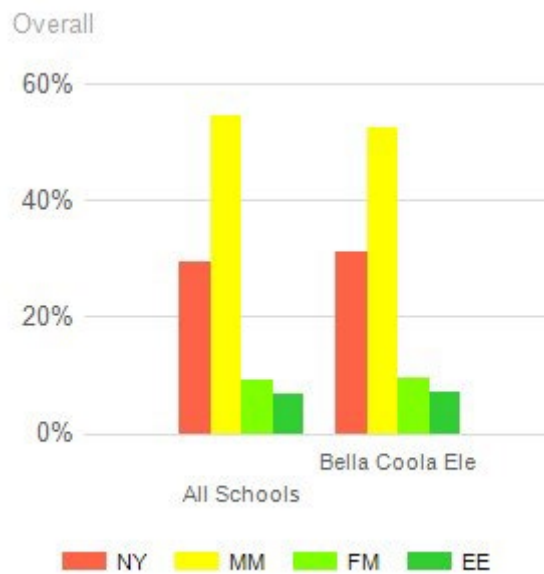
- Identify struggling and at risk readers and target for further, early intervention
- Develop 'Joy of reading' culture in school through 'everybody reads' blocks each week

#### 1b. Writing (NEW)

- **Goal** – Within three years 20% of students will be fully meeting grade level expectations and to see the number of students not yet meeting grade level expectations drop below 20%.

- **What we know**

- ~30% of students are not yet meeting grade level expectations based on twice per year SWW results
- ~50% of students are minimally meeting grade level expectations based on twice per year SWW result





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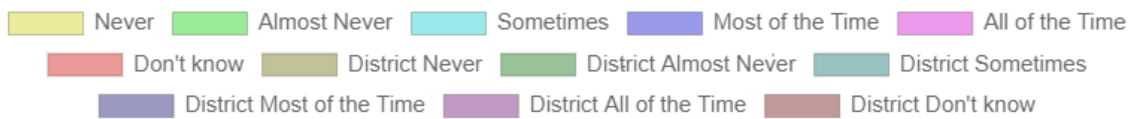
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- **How we will get there**

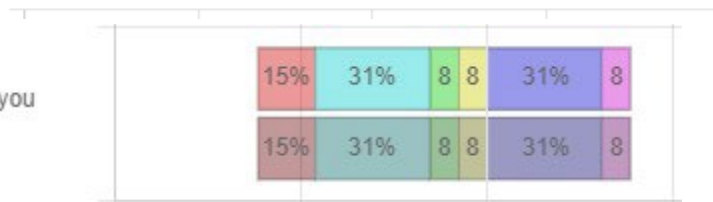
- Develop whole staff beliefs about pedagogy of writing
- Provide professional learning in this area in order to build both knowledge and capacity of teachers and learning support assistants
- Maximise opportunities for students to write for real purposes and audiences
- Ensure high expectations for all students; namely, all students can write and create texts
- Provide genuine choice for students in writing
- Develop the identities of teachers and students as writers

### Sense of Belonging

- **Goal** – To develop a strong school community culture leading to a greater sense of belonging and connectedness.
- **What we know**

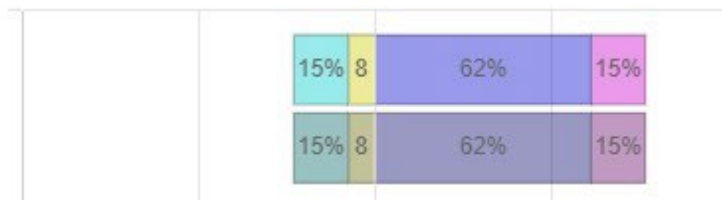


Is school a place where you feel like you belong? (school=13, district=13)



- 39% of students feel like they belong most or all of the time
- 31% of students feel like they belong sometimes
- 16% of students never or almost never feel like they belong
- There is room for improvement

I am happy at my school. (school=13, district=13)



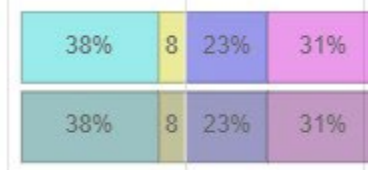
- 78% of students at BCE report they are happy at school most or all of the time.



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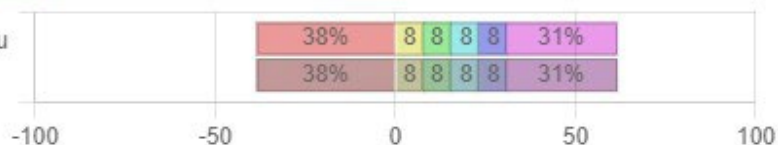
Do you feel safe at school? (school=13, district=13)



- 54% of students reported feeling safe at school most, or all of the time
- 38% of students reported feeling safe at school sometimes
- Further evaluation and consideration of bullying programs and student safety are needed



How many adults do you think care about you at your school? (school=13, district=13)



- 55% of students feel like they have at least one adult at BCE who cares about them. (based on grade 4 student learning survey results)
- 8% of students indicated that no adults cared about them
- 38% of students indicated they did not know
- There is room to improve

### • How we will get there

- Explore programs for inclusion
- Foster culture of all greeting all students by name everyday, everytime
- Now that there is a chef hired, CCW and HSC roles can be revisited to establish connections with students and families
- In conjunction with Early Learning table, promote community events 3x / year to welcome families in to school after hours
- Invite parents in to enjoy lunch time with their children and experience the school
- All staff will have orientation to their roles and responsibilities on site
- begin tracking training to build support staff capacity

## Numeracy

- We know that numeracy performance in the province of BC is down.
- At BCE we will begin to gather meaningful data to track, and identify students for early intervention who struggle with numeracy.



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