
Clearwater Secondary

Newsletter May 28th 2026

Planning for Next Year

Hello Parents,

We have less than 20 school days left until the kids roll out the door for summer, which means we are doing a lot of work on being ready for September 2026. Part of that work is hiring staff, building a timetable for next year, and deciding what our priorities should be for 2026/27.

The process of determining our priorities involves looking at data to see how we are doing compared to other schools in the District and the Province, collecting anecdotal data from staff, and asking parents and students for their input. I have reviewed our big picture data with PAC and have included some of it here for you to look at if you are interested. The short version is that according to our big picture data:

- We are doing well with numeracy
- We have room to improve with literacy
- We are doing well on our social emotional measures. Kids feel safe, welcome, and that they belong.
- Our incoming grade 8 students will need support with numeracy.

Please share your input by answering [this three question survey](#) which will be open until June 12th. Your input is important in determining where we spend our time, energy, and money.

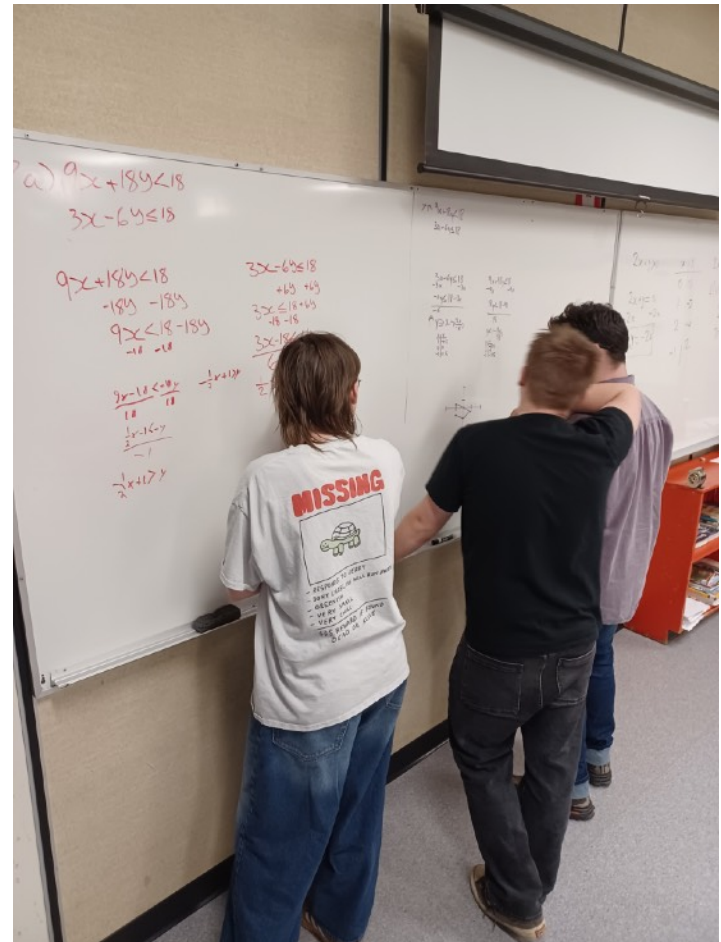
Thank you,

Darren Coates, Principal dcoates@sd73.bc.ca

Office 250 674 3328

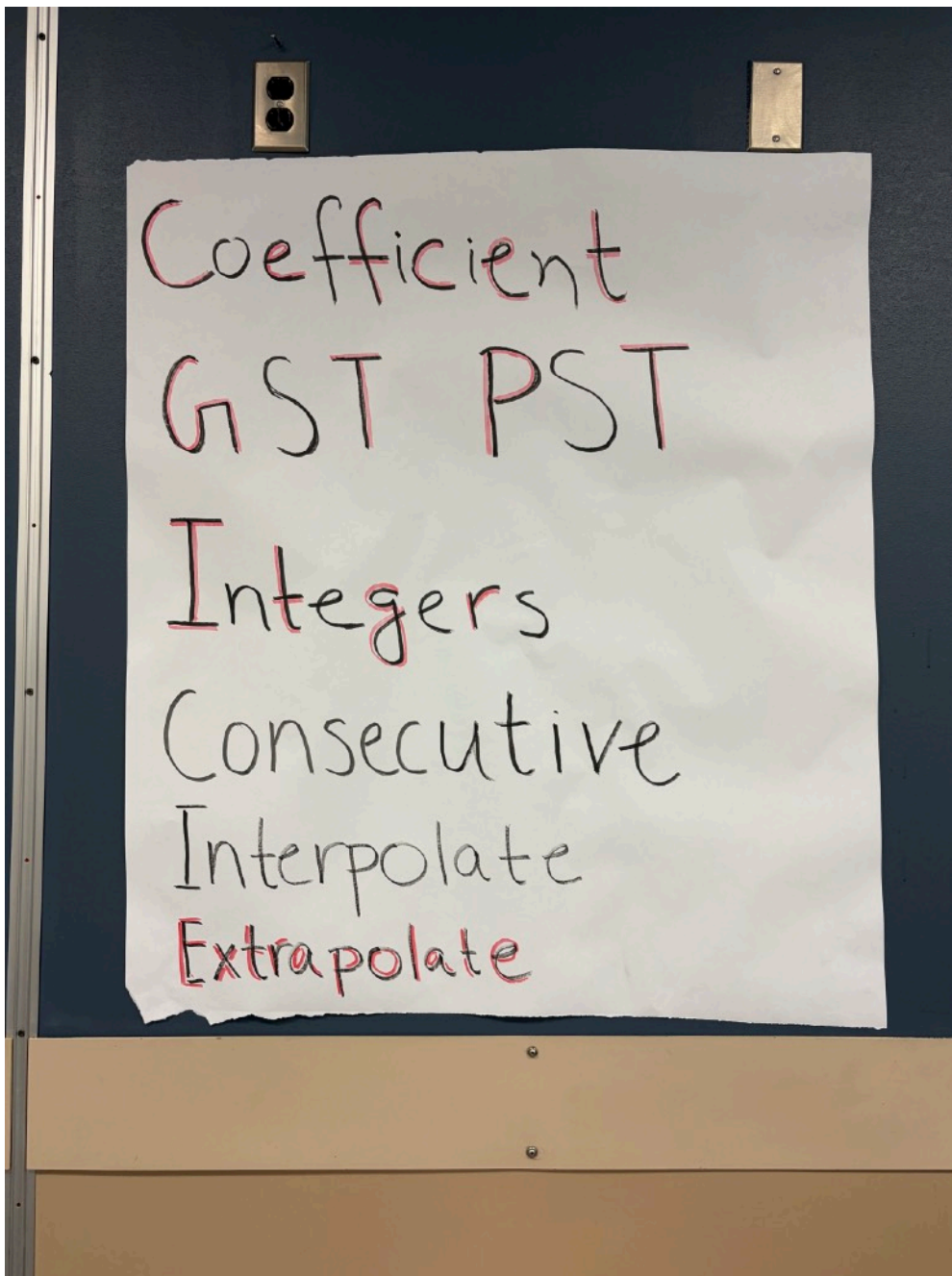
Math - The Basics and More

Students need to know the basics in order to have the ability to take on the complex. Here students are working on their times tables, ensuring they have them at their finger tips. Having to use a calculator to figure out what that $6 \times 7 = 42$ is not okay. It hinders your ability to do the kind of math in the picture on the right. Technically speaking, if you don't have your basic math facts at your finger tips you don't have the cognitive bandwidth to do more complex tasks. Your brain is working on 6×7 instead of the complex task. Don't let anyone tell you that using a calculator to do basic math is ok, it is not. If you want to read more on this topic google Dylan William and Cognitive Load Theory.



Domain Specific Literacy

CSS staff have been working with District Literacy Coordinator Trish Persad this year as our students are under performing on the Provincial Literacy Assessments. One of the specific research backed things she brought to us is the idea of domain specific vocabulary. Students need to have a better grasp on specialized vocabulary so that they can read and understand complex material. Staff have been focussing on increasing students specialized vocabulary; this is part of what lets experts quickly comprehend complex text. It is why I can read and understand a Physics article more quickly than any of my students.



Dunn Lake Hatchery Trip

Mrs. Lavigne, a group of students, and I travelled to the Dunn Lake Hatchery to learn about the work Simpcw is doing to bolster coho stocks in the area. CSS raised a tank of coho fry this winter and we were able to see these fish and release some of them into Dunn Creek. An excellent hands on learning experience.



The CSS Band at Evergreen Acres

The CSS Band recently played at Evergreen Acres and has plans to perform again in June. Both the students and the seniors enjoyed the event. Playing for the seniors allows our students to hone their performance skills and to give back to the community, both of which we hold as important here at CSS.



Science Project of Excellence

As part of a science project on space Jada choose to share her learning by writing and illustrating a book for children. The book is beautifully illustrated and scientifically accurate. It describes an asteroid named Chicx who caused the extinction of the dinosaurs. There will soon be a copy down at Raft River Elementary and at the CSS library.



Upcoming Events

Wednesday June 10th

Grad rehearsal at 2:30 pm

Book launch at 3:30 pm

Friday June 12th

Graduation ceremonies at CSS, 6 pm start

Thursday June 18th

Awards Assembly 2 pm

Monday June 22nd and Tuesday June 23rd

School wide final exams

Regular school schedule

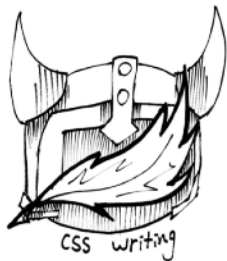
Tuesday June 23rd

Last day of classes

YOU'RE INVITED TO
Clearwater Secondary's 2026

BOOK LAUNCH

- Celebrate student authors
- Refreshments provided



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10TH

3:30 PM

in the CSS library

FOR MORE INFORMATION

 [email ahorne@sd73.bc.ca](mailto:ahorne@sd73.bc.ca)

