

Superintendent's News & Events Report to the Board

Regular Board Meeting of December 8, 2015

Serving the communities of Anmore, Belcarra, Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam and Port Moody

1. On the morning of November 30, **BC Education Minister Mike Bernier** met with SD43 Trustees, Board Chair Judy Shirra, Superintendent Patricia Gartland and members of the district leadership team to discuss various issues.
2. The Minister also visited **Eagle Mountain Middle and Heritage Woods Secondary** to meet students and see some of the innovative teaching and learning taking place in this successful school district.
3. The Minister's visit ended with the announcement of **\$20.5 million of funding for SD43 to build a new elementary school in the Smiling Creek neighborhood** of Burke Mountain. The new school will provide 430 student spaces (80 kindergarten and 350 elementary), and is expected to go to tender in spring 2016 and to open in September 2018.
4. **Dr. Charles Best Secondary School's senior boys' soccer team** finished an incredible season by winning both the Fraser Valley Championships and the **AAA Provincial championships on November 27!** This year's junior squad also won the Fraser Valley championships.
5. **Terry Fox Secondary's AAA high school football team** had a perfect regular season but were unable to make it past their **semifinal Provincial championship** match at BC Place held on November 28.
6. **Riverside Secondary's grade 9 girls' volleyball team** finished a perfect season as Fraser Valley champions. Riverside's **senior girls** were also district champions and the junior girls finished 2nd overall. **Terry Fox Secondary's senior girls** finished 4th. All teams completed in the **Provincial championships** this past weekend with **Riverside's AAA senior girls winning bronze and Riverside's AAA boys finishing 13th.**
7. The **high school basketball** season kicked off this past weekend with the best BC AAAA teams competing at **Heritage Woods Secondary's annual Kodiak Classic tournament.**
8. **Heritage Woods Secondary** held its **11th annual holiday tea for local seniors** on Friday, December 4 with over 200 attendees.
9. On Saturday, December 5, around 100 Metro Vancouver students aged eight to 18, including many SD43 students, participated in **Codecreate**, the largest province-wide coding initiative. The event kicked off **Computer Science Education Week, December 7 to 13.** **Pinetree Secondary School's Mr. Jon Hamlin**, VP of Computer Using Educators of BC (CUEBC) has been instrumental in helping organize and promote this year's campaign. The campaign goal is for tens of millions of students to try an hour of code and show that anybody can learn the basics. In SD43, 16 schools have registered to participate.



Superintendent's News & Events Report to the Board

Regular Board Meeting of December 8, 2015

10. This year marks SD43's own **Real Acts of Caring (RAC) ten years anniversary!** Maple Creek Middle School's RAC Club is encouraging schools across B.C. to get involved especially during the annual **RAC week, February 14 to 20, 2016.**
11. **Riverside Secondary's Tech Department** took part in rebuilding a **Bright Night's display** in Stanley Park to benefit B.C. Professional Fire Fighter's Burn Fund. The display is open until January 2, 2016.
12. **Riverside Secondary students Bernice Mau and Zachary Lee** are heading to Riga, Latvia next week for the **world junior championships in ballroom dancing.**
13. **Dr. Charles Best Secondary's Chanell Botsis** will be attending the University of Connecticut next year on a **full track and field scholarship.** The 17-year-old is currently **ranked second nationally in the female hammer throw**, and recently competed in the World Youth championships in Colombia, and won a bronze at the Western Canada Games last summer.
14. **Terry Fox Secondary Alumni Ian Gillespie** is **helping Syrian refugees** by supplying 12 furnished apartments in downtown Vancouver as transitional housing as they wait for permanent housing.
15. Friday, December 18, 2015 will be the last day schools are in session before **Winter Break (December 21 to January 1).** Schools will reopen Monday, January 4, 2016.

