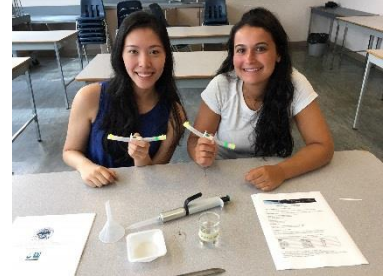


1. After welcoming back Principals and Vice-Principals, **SD43 Superintendent Patricia Gartland**, led an informative two-day planning session from August 23 to 24 with district leaders to talk about new initiatives and plans for a smooth start-up and a successful school year ahead.
 
2. This September, **SD43 welcomed back over 32,000 students at 70 schools**. District leadership, administrators, teachers, and staff worked hard over the summer to ensure a great start to the new school year.
3. **SD43's Summer Learning** program had another very successful year. Over 6300 students from Grade 1 through 12 enrolled in courses hosted at thirteen school locations throughout the Tri-Cities with very high completion rates for students. Summer Learning also engaged with the community to raise \$3300 for BC Wildfire Relief, 2000+ food items for the SHARE Food Bank, and used sporting good donations to Kidsport.
4. [Centennial Secondary opened its doors on September 5](#) to students, staff and teachers for its **inaugural 2017-18 school year**. The new school features significant amounts of natural lighting, wood interior features, a large open foyer/cafeteria, a state-of-the-art science lab, teaching kitchen, 234-seat theatre, high speed wifi among other features. A formal opening event is planned for later in the school year after students are settled.
 
5. On September 7, **SD43 Board Chair Kerri Palmer-Isaak, Vice-Chair Carol Cahoon, Trustees Chuck Dennison and Lisa Park, and Superintendent Patricia Gartland** engaged with Tri-Cities and Village Mayors at the Mayor's BBQ on collaborative opportunities.
 
6. SD43 Trustees, students, parents and community members joined City of Coquitlam Mayor and Councillors to **celebrate the official opening of the newly remodeled Rochester Park** on September 12. [The park's design was developed in consultation with students](#) from **neighbouring Maillard Middle** and SD43 staff and features a skater area, dish swings, a zip line, a small roller slide for toddlers, and a larger sandy play area that is encircled by a climbing structure of interlaced wooden logs and nylon netting.
 
7. **SD43's Student Leadership Council (SLC) executive** attended a fun and engaging two-day retreat at Loon Lake, from Sept 14 to 15 where they participated in teambuilding and planning for a successful school year ahead. This activity was sponsored and supported by Scott Creek Leadership Teacher, Misti Askew, Coordinator Michelle Ciofitto, Continuing Education Vice-Principal Dave Truss, and Assistant Superintendent Reno Ciolfi.
 
8. **École Mary Hill Elementary** students, parents and staff worked collaboratively last spring on a beautiful mural which has now been unveiled at the school. The mural melds the school's logo with the Kwaykwitlem downriver language and the school's totem animal, the eagle.

9. This summer, **Riverside Secondary students Brenda Shen and Alexa Durand's experiment** on the effect of microgravity on concrete flew to space. [The SSEP Mission 11 to International Space Station flight](#) launched on August 14 from Kennedy Space Center and docked with ISS on August 16. The astronauts worked with the student experiment and after a month in orbit, [the experiment returned to Earth](#) on September 17. Next, our team will receive their mini-labs back in order to determine how microgravity impacted their experiment and review the results.



10. Seven [Heritage Woods Secondary filmmakers won top honours in an international media competition](#) for their video "Bullying in the Workplace" as part of the XXI World Congress on Safety and Health at Work. This is the fifth award for this group of students. **Filmmakers' Names:** Delnaz Moazami, Anahita Seraji, Spencer J. David, Teo Tomas, Jin Lee, Amanda Blake, and Ricardo Gutierrez (missing from photo).



11. SD43 success stories from the courts and the turf include:

- [Finn Wakeling from Hillcrest Middle paddled to five medals this summer](#) at the Canadian Whitewater National Championships in Ottawa. Finn won gold in the C1 downriver classic and downriver sprint events and silvers in the C1 and C2 whitewater slalom events.
- **Heritage Woods Secondary student, [Jasmine Lew jumped to gold this summer](#)** at the Royal Canadian Legion-National Youth Track and Field Championships with a personal best long jump of 5.99 metres.

12. **Azaly Addam, a [former Gleneagle Secondary student, has been awarded the President's Cup](#)** for being the best army cadet in the province based on his cadet accomplishments, which included: dedication to the program, school grades and letters of reference.

13. **Dan Doyle**, a long-time SD43 educator, coach and community builder in Coquitlam will be [inducted into the BC Football Hall of Fame](#). His many accomplishments include: founding member of the Coquitlam Secondary Schools Athletic Association and co-author of the constitution establishing BC School Sports. Dan built high school football from the ground up in Coquitlam starting in 1954 at Como Lake Secondary.

14. **September 30, marks annual Orange Shirt Day**, an opportunity for First Nations, local governments, schools and communities to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children. Every Child Matters, even if they are an adult.



Read many more SD43 stories on our website at: www.sd43.bc.ca/Pages/news.aspx