



School District No. 43 (Coquitlam)

# The Board Update

News from the December 16, 2008  
School Board Meeting

**Our Mission:**  
*To ensure quality  
learning opportunities for  
all students of all ages.*

**Melissa Hyndes**  
*Board Chair*

**Brian Robinson**  
*Board Vice-Chair*

Gail Alty  
Holly Butterfield  
John J. Keryluk  
Judy Shirra  
Diane Sowden  
Gerri Wallis  
Keith Watkins

**Tom Grant**  
*Superintendent of Schools*

**Lorcan O'Melinn**  
*Secretary-Treasurer*

## DISTRICT STAFF REPORTS

Superintendent Tom Grant congratulated the staff and students in all of our schools for their various initiatives leading up to Christmas. Each year, thousands of pounds of food is donated from schools via the hamper programs, sponsored families, shoeboxes filled with items are sent overseas to children in dire need, students help out at food banks, entertain at elder care facilities, hang Christmas artwork in hospitals and much more.

- A group of 40 students from Heritage Woods Secondary, along with the charitable organization Friendship Providers, spent a day last week at Pigeon Square in downtown Vancouver. Dressed in their red KWAP (Kodiaks with a Purpose) shirts, the students distributed food to the homeless and even ran a hand washing station where they provided manicures and hand massages.
- Kudos to the music teachers in the district for their work in various Christmas concerts in the schools, including three massed concerts.
- On December 4 the District hosted an Early Childhood Development Forum at the Executive Inn. Guest presenters represented a wide range of experience at many levels of early learning and were well received by the administrators, teachers and other ECD professionals in attendance.
- Last week marked the first formal reporting period for the 2008-09 school year, followed by parent/teacher conferences.
- Seven students from our district -- from Centennial Secondary, Dr. Charles Best Secondary, Minnehada Middle, Port Moody Secondary and Terry Fox Secondary -- were selected among 100 finalists in the 2008 YWCA Real Story competition. Of the top six awards from across the province, Port Moody Secondary student Jong Xu's submission earned 3rd place in the Junior division.
- Moody Elementary and Mountain View Elementary will receive \$1000 from the Vancouver Sun's Raise a Reader School Library Grants Program for the purchase of library books.
- The Coquitlam Principal and Vice Principals' Association has finished collecting the final donations from its Hogwild About Reading initiative, and along with some \$10,000 worth of new books already distributed to schools, another \$16,000 in Chapters gift cards will soon be on their way to school to buy more books for their libraries. In the nine years of this event, more than \$113,000 has been raised to buy books for school libraries.

## **DISTRICT STAFF REPORTS—cont'd.**

- School District 43 staff contributed \$51,713 to the United Way campaign, an increase of more than \$6000 from last year. Thank you to the committee of Perry Muxworthy, Sally Salituro and Patti Henry, and all of the campaign site reps for their hard work in promoting this year's campaign.
- Congratulations were extended to Terry Fox Ravens football team, the BC senior boys football champions. Mr. Grant noted the hard work, mentorship, and support shown by the District coaches.
- Also, kudos to 15-year-old Terry Fox student Brittany Rogers, winner of the Women's Elite Canada Meet. The talented gymnast appears to be a strong contender for the 2012 Summer Olympics.
- Special acknowledgment went out to the district's caretakers and maintenance staff for their extra effort keeping the schools safe and warm during the current cold snap.

Mr. Grant introduced Brian Kuhn, Manager of Information Services, who spoke about the energy-saving initiatives implemented in District technology. It is one of various initiatives underway to reduce energy costs and help reduce the district's carbon footprint.

Assistant Secretary Treasurer Bob Janzen provided a report on the 2009/10 budget process including proposed principles, assumptions and criteria, as well as timelines. More information on the budget process is available on the district website at [www.sd43.bc.ca](http://www.sd43.bc.ca)

Bob Janzen also reported that the playing field upgrades at Minnekhada Middle have been completed, made possible in part by the \$24,000 School Community Connections Grant. Applications for the next round of grants have just been received and the opportunity to apply will be provided to the Villages of Anmore and Belcarra first as the other three local governments were involved in previous grants.

## **EDUCATION**

Heather Daly, Library Information Coordinator, provided an annual report on student achievement. Areas covered include literacy, numeracy, and completion rates.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Trustees determined their representation on various committees. Property bylaw number 2008-7 was approved regarding the sale of the former Terry Fox Secondary school site to Conseil Scolaire Francophone de la Colombie-Britannique (School District 93).



### **Mark Your Calendar!**

#### **Next Regular Board Meeting**

January 13, 2009

7:30 p.m.

School Board Office

550 Poirier Street

Coquitlam

For more information  
on the Board Update  
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