

1. **SD43's Board of Education representatives and Superintendent** had a very successful meeting on August 7 with the Governor of Education of Gyeonggido Province in South Korea. The Province encompasses 25 divisions including Paju City, with 1.75 million students in 2,400 schools and 110,000 teachers. We look forward to continuing this relationship and developing collaborative educational opportunities for our students and professional development opportunities for our teachers.
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2. **SD43's 2018 Summer Learning program was a huge success** with over 6,700 course registrations for grades 1-12 courses offered at eight elementary, three middle, and two secondary school sites. Innovative new courses included middle school guitar, secondary technology education and secondary band programs. This year's community fundraising focused on providing donations to SHARE Society, KidSport, and PADS. Congratulations to all of the Summer Learning Program students and thanks to all the teachers, Educational Assistants, clerical staff, and administrators who created a wonderful summer learning experience.
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3. After welcoming back Principals and Vice-Principals, **SD43 Superintendent Patricia Gartland**, led an informative two-day planning session from August 22 to 23 with district leaders to talk about new initiatives and plans for a smooth start-up and a successful school year ahead.
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4. On August 29, **SD43's Board of Education** had a positive and collaborative meeting to discuss creative ways to **enhance childcare needs in the Tri-Cities community** with Minister of Education Rob Fleming, Minister of State for Child Care Katrina Chen, and Mayors Greg Moore (City of Port Coquitlam), Richard Steward (City of Coquitlam), Mike Clay (City of Port Moody) and John McEwen (Village of Anmore).
5. This September, **SD43 welcomed back 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.
6. On September 4, 2018, **Smiling Creek Elementary**, opened its doors to students, staff and teachers for its inaugural 2018-19 school year. The 3,700-square-metre two-story school provides 430 student spaces (80 kindergarten and 350 elementary), as well as an Activity Centre and joint-use sports field provided by the City of Coquitlam. **An opening event is planned for Tuesday, October 2 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., with the formal opening ceremony at 6 p.m.** To learn more visit: www.sd43.bc.ca.
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7. **Almost 1,000 SD43 students are benefitting from several 'Back to School Supplies' programs** that are providing donated backpacks of school supplies, art supplies, and in other cases food and items families can use. The programs are supported by local organizations including the Rotary Clubs of Tri-Cities, RBC, Costco and Microsoft and feedback from recipient students and families has been gracious and appreciative for the support.
8. **Superintendent Patricia Gartland and district leadership thanked SD43 maintenance staff for their hard work over the summer** in getting over 70 schools ready for the new school year. This important work included improvements to schools such as exterior and interior painting, roof replacements, refinishing floors, LED lighting, new water filling and recycling stations and much more. Improvements to facilities have a positive impact on both teacher and student outcomes.

9. **Superintendent Patricia Gartland, Director of Instruction Stephen Whiffin and Principal of Technology Implementation Dave Sands attended the Let's Talk Science – SAP Canada Event** on September 12 with SD43 students and teachers. Participants got to explore coding and listen to Canadian astronaut and former Glenayre student Dr. Robert Thirsk speak about the importance of digital literacy.



10. SD43 is proud of all of our amazing educators and support staff who go above and beyond every day for our 32,000 students. But we are especially proud of **three of our teachers who have been named finalists in the inaugural Premier's Awards for Excellence in Education**: Sean Robinson, Riverside Secondary (Technology and Education Award); Ryan Cho, Terry Fox Secondary (Social Equity Award); and Hasheem Hakeem, Dr. Charles Best (Diversity and Inclusion Award). Winners will be announced at an awards ceremony on World Teachers' Day, October 5, 2018. For more information about the awards visit: www.gov.bc.ca/excellenceineducation.



11. After **winning 24 gold medals at the World Scholar's Cup in Australia, Heritage Woods Secondary** students, Golsa Moazedi, Rachael Tomlinson and Alannah Zhou will compete against teams from over 50 countries at the Tournament of Champions at Yale University in November.
12. **Gleneagle Secondary** student, **Finn Wakeling, earned eight medals (six gold) at the Canadian Whitewater Canoe and Kayak Championships** this summer in Alberta.
13. 10-year-old **Colin Blais from Cedar Drive Elementary competed at the Pokémon World Championships** in Nashville in August.
14. **Scott Creek Middle School** grade 6 student, **Owen Nguyen competed at the U12 Junior National Tennis Championships** in Montreal in August.
15. **Riverside Secondary** student, **Hayley de Jong, will compete with Team Canada at the 2018 Senior Pan American Gymnastics Championships** in Peru this September.
16. **September 30, marks the 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. **Participating SD43 schools will be acknowledging this important day during the week prior to September 30.**
17. Join **SD43 presenters, Gail Bedard (District Principal, Aboriginal Education) and Andrea McComb (Principal, Learning Services)** for a facilitated conversation on deepening our collective understanding of the First Peoples Principles of Learning and Indigenizing the curriculum on October 25 from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Centennial secondary Theatre. To register, visit www.learningforwardbc.ca



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