

1. Real Acts of Caring (RAC) Week was celebrated on February 14-20th. RAC was created by grades 4 and 5 students in SD43 back in 2005 and since then the provincial government has passed 6 yearly proclamations recognizing Real Acts of Caring Week.

Below are some “covid-friendly” student activities that were celebrated during RAC week:

- A short video was created by the SD43 Communications Department to share what Heritage Mountain Elementary School students thought about Real Acts of Caring Week. Watch the video [here](#).
 - SD43 students presented at the City of Coquitlam’s council meeting on Zoom February 8th and promoted this year’s theme, “Real Acts of Covid Caring Week”.
 - Students at Mundy Road and Heritage Mountain Elementary School created Valentine’s Day cards for seniors at Hawthorne Care Centre in Port Coquitlam and Dufferin Care Centre in Coquitlam. Carnations were also bought and delivered to the care homes with money raised by students.
 - A RAC banner was placed by Rocky Point Park bridge in Port Moody.
 - Students were shared kind notes with each other at Montgomery Middle School.
 - Students created the “Flowers For Friends” fundraiser and sold carnations to help support Special Olympics Vancouver.
 - RAC students from Gleneagle Secondary School, Port Moody Secondary School, Dr. Charles Best Secondary School and Eagle Mountain Middle School distributed posters offering to shovel snow for free, should the need arise.
2. SD43’s Board of Education and District Leadership Team supported Pink Shirt Day on February 24th. This year’s theme is working together and “lifting each other up”. The district encouraged the school community to wear pink to raise awareness of anti-bullying and as a reminder to treat others with kindness, love and respect.

Schools participated with various Pink Shirt Day Activities as shared on the District Instagram page [here](#).



- February was Black History Month, and many classes and schools took advantage of the many resources available to explore Black History in Canada. To learn more, the online [Canadian Encyclopedia](#) is a great place to start. It has a [collection dedicated to Black History](#) that includes numerous articles about outstanding Canadians.
- Terry Fox Secondary School's STEAM Program, a project-based, enriched Math and Science cohort program for students entering Grade 9 this September, is one of the recipients to receive a \$10,000 Best Buy Tech Grant. The grant will be used to empower students and gain new technology skills through the purchase of new computers and digital devices. Exciting news to start the launch of their new program!



Left Picture: (Mr. Haerdi, Ms. Ueda, Mr. Csuka, Ms. Amin) (Instructing Teachers Left to Right)
(Ms. Myles, Mr. Csuka, Mr. Starr (Principal), Mr. Cheng) (Supporting Teachers)

- On February 26th, ten Gleneagle Secondary School Con-X Leadership students spent the night sleeping outside with only a piece of cardboard to reflect, raise awareness and help support homeless youth in Vancouver. They have also shared their experiences after sleeping out with a short video [here](#).

Donate to the 8th annual Gleneagle Sleep Out: Student Edition page to help Covent House provide shelter for more homeless youth in Vancouver [here](#).



- On February 17th, Banting Middle School Learning Commons celebrated "I Read Canadian Day", a national day to celebrate Canadian books for youth, by decorating the learning commons room and highlighting Canadian authors for the students.

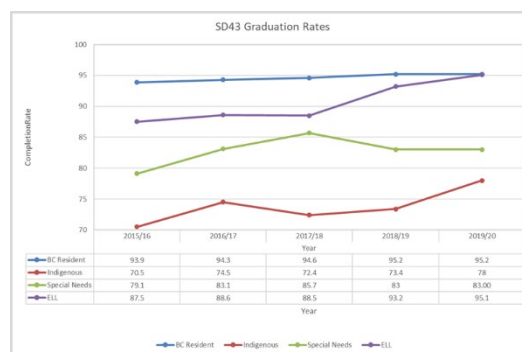
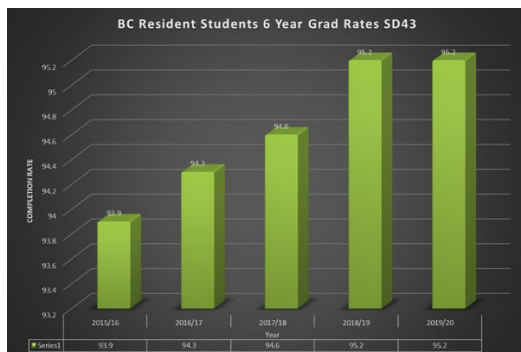


- School District No. 43 (Coquitlam) continues to trend higher than the provincial average for graduation rates with 95.2% of resident students in SD43 earning a BC Certificate of Graduation over the provincial average of 90%.

Six-year completion rates are based on the number of students who received their diploma within six years of enrolling in Grade 8 and are compiled and released by the Ministry of Education. With over 32,000 students, SD43 is the third-largest school district in BC and consistently rates highly for resident graduation rates and student success.

"I am extremely proud to congratulate the students and staff of SD43 once again for their outstanding efforts that have consistently resulted in exceptional graduation rates above the provincial average", said Board Chair Kerri Palmer Isaak, "This accomplishment is a testimony to the dedication of our staff, the support of families in our community and the superb work of our students".

"It's incredibly important that students are prepared for the challenges they may face while in school and for the rest of their lives", adds Superintendent Patricia Gartland, "the district has expended considerable effort in developing inclusive learning environments and supporting students for success – I believe attaining a Dogwood diploma is a critical step for young people entering into adulthood".



- The Coquitlam Teachers' Association and the Coquitlam Principals and Vice-Principals' Association joined with the Burnaby Teachers' Association and the Burnaby Principals and Vice-Principals' Association to share ideas and learn together on the February 26, 2021 Professional Development Day and acknowledge the spirit of cooperation between our neighbouring boards of education. The virtual meeting day consisted of an impressive line-up of presenters with topics including social-emotional learning, trauma informed practice, mindfulness, support for indigenous learners, children and youth in care and children with diverse abilities and disabilities. It was a tremendous day for educators focused on compassion, anti-racism and equity. Comments on social media from participants after the event summed it up nicely:

"Friday's professional learning collaboration (Burnaby and Coquitlam) had me buzzing all weekend!"

"I'm STILL thinking about it. It has been one of the most memorable professional and personal learning days.... I can't WAIT for the follow up and for the day we may meet in person..."