



1. On November 15, the Indigenous Education Department hosted the Indigenous Youth Summit at Winslow Centre. The day opened with the Indigenous Education team sharing a song, and Chief Ed Hall of Kwikwetlem First Nation welcoming students, followed by students sharing their experiences with schooling.

Discussions at the Summit focused on key topics such as student voice, empowerment, anti-racism, and equity led by facilitators Kory Wilson, a mum and a member of the We Wai Kai Nation and current Executive Director of Indigenous Initiatives and Partnerships at Simon Fraser University and by Tami Pierce, a proud Indigenous (Tsimshian) and Japanese woman and current Associate Director, Indigenous Initiatives and Partnerships at BCIT.

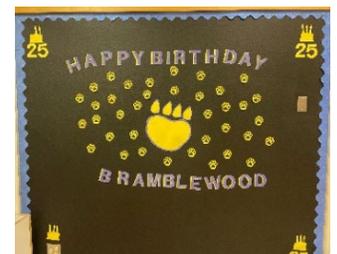
At lunch, students were able to listen to DJ O (Orene Askew, Squamish nation). In the afternoon, students learned teachings of the drum while making their own drum, which they will bring back to the next Indigenous Youth Summit in May to play with the Indigenous Education team the song they will be taught. To finish the day, students had the opportunity to play Minecraft games and participate in Métis jiggling.

2. On November 22, Student Spaceflight Experiments Program winners J.E. Lee and Yong Lee together with their teacher Marina Mehai from Port Moody Secondary were excited to see their science experiment launch on its way to the International Space Station (ISS), which is in low Earth orbit. Their experiment will be conducted by astronauts and returned to Earth with the subsequent data analysis to be performed by SD43 students. The experiment J.E. and Yong designed involves microorganisms commonly found in the human biome and how they may react differently in microgravity conditions. Experiments in beneficial 'gut bacteria' may lead to new research on how the production of these beneficial compounds can affect the wellbeing of future astronauts in microgravity long term.



The program is run by the National Center for Earth and Space Science Education (NCESSE). Locally, students from Simon Fraser University's Science Department assisted students in preparing their experiments.

3. On September 29, Bramblewood Elementary School celebrated their 25th Anniversary with the Board Chair Michael Thomas and Vice Chair Carol Cahoon, as well as former Bramblewood Administrators: Dawn Holden, Lisa Salloum, Rob Foot, Brenda Walker, Craig Mah, Orville Kraely and Sylvia Pritchard, that opened the school 25 years ago. The event celebrated the great leadership and support that the Bramblewood community has had over the years including access to a wonderful playground, field, tennis courts, and daycare spaces onsite.



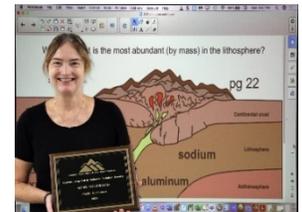


- School District 43's Board of Education Trustees officially began their four-year term after being sworn in during a formal inauguration meeting held Wednesday, November 9, 2022, at the Education Learning Centre.

The inauguration began with a procession of the nine Trustees, Superintendent Patricia Gartland and Secretary Treasurer Mohammed Azim who were led in by bagpiper Colin Richdale - a grade 10 student at Inquiry Hub Secondary, two RCMP constables dressed in their Red Serge uniforms, and Judge Lee.

After initial introductions and welcoming remarks, Judge Lee swore in each of the Trustees with the Oath of Office. Following the Oath of Office, the Board of Education's new Chair – Michael Thomas and Vice-chair – Craig Woods were elected for the coming year. A reception followed allowing Trustees, district leadership and guests to mingle. Watch the procession video [here](#).

- Pinetree Secondary School Teacher Kerry Lockwood has been recognized by the National Association of Geoscience Teachers as a 2022 Outstanding Earth Science Teacher. Congratulations!



- Numeracy Support Teacher Laura Epp has been awarded the Outstanding Teacher Award by the BC Association of Mathematics Teachers at their most recent conference. Congratulations!



- On October 14, Ivano Cecchini, District Leadership Team Member and Executive Director of Facilities and Planning Services was awarded the 2022 Premier's Awards for Excellence in Education award for District Leadership in a ceremony at Government House in Victoria.



Ivano was nominated and awarded for his commitment and dedication in leading the Facilities Department at the district, creating a new organizational structure that supported efficiencies, innovation and staff capacity and building positive relationships within the local municipalities that have enhanced agreements and developed into collaborative results for the benefit of the community.

The Premier's Awards for Excellence in Education recognizes the enormous contributions of B.C.'s exceptional teachers, administrators and support staff that are vital to the cultural, economic, and social well-being of the province. The Premier's Awards provide students, parents, teachers, and other members of the community with an opportunity to celebrate those who make a real difference in B.C. schools.

Ivano received a \$3,000 personal bursary for professional learning, a \$2,000 contribution for staff to use for professional learning, and a commemorative trophy. Watch his nomination video [here](#).



- Schools in the district held assemblies, created special exhibits, and engaged in meaningful activities leading up to Remembrance Day. Thank you to the SD43 community for remembering all those who gave their lives for our freedom.
- École Dr. Charles Best Secondary School Grade 11 and 12 textile students were [featured in the Tri-city News](#) for stitching and donating 100 knot baby hats for newborns at Ridge Meadows Hospital.

Betty Hyatt-Shaw, home economics teacher, called the project "meaningful" as it has helped students learn new practical sewing skills and new parents at the same time.

The baby knot hat was inspired by Betty's personal experience of having a now three-year-old daughter born with a cone head. "The knot hat is a very versatile design where the depth of the hat can be adjusted by where the knot is tied to accommodate babies born with cone heads. As a teacher, I am seeking ways to help students make meaningful projects to give back to the community", Betty shared.





10. On October 21st Pro D Day, the Facilities Department – Energy and Sustainability team organized a Sustainability Interactive Workshop at the new Education Learning Centre, where 40 teachers from all over the district discussed ways to develop sustainability culture in the schools.

During the workshop, the Energy and Sustainability team shared several successful sustainability initiatives that have worked in the past and helped facilitate in brainstorming new ideas to implement in classrooms in the future. The goal of the workshop was to show educators the importance of the role they play as an intermediary to cultivating sustainability culture across the district and specifically among the students.

Read more sustainability news in the [October Energy Wire](#) newsletter.

11. SD43 is partnering with Coquitlam Fire Rescue and Port Moody Fire Rescue to offer two different junior firefighting programs for 2023. The program is open to grades 11 and 12 applicants who will learn about the basic physical and educational components required of new recruits.



2023 Junior Firefighter Programs

12. SD43 observed November 9 was Indigenous Veterans Day, a day honouring the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people that have served the country near and far. SD43 Indigenous Education shared some beautiful sealskin poppies and Murray Rankin, Minister of Indigenous Relations, and Reconciliation, issued this statement [available here](#).



13. On November 2, students from across the district gathered at the Holocaust Symposium at École Dr. Charles Best Secondary School and listened to testimonials of two Jewish Holocaust child survivors, Alex Buckman and Dr. Sebastian Huebel.

Alex Buckman shared his personal story surviving the war in hiding and was left an orphan when his parents were killed at Auschwitz. He reminded students about the consequences of hate speech and antisemitism. He currently serves as president of the Vancouver Child Survivor Group and is a Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre outreach speaker.



Dr. Sebastian Huebel, originally from Germany, teaches about the Holocaust and shares his WWII knowledge as a researcher. He also shares how in Germany where he is originally from, Holocaust studies are being taught to students in Grade 5 and in high school.

This year marked the 15-year anniversary since teacher Ken Ipe first introduced the idea of organizing the event and inviting Holocaust survivors to speak to high school students.

“Worlds change but not the message: The purpose of the Holocaust Symposium is to promote human rights, social justice and genocide awareness,” Ken, shares. [Read this feature on the TriCity News website.](#)



14. This fall, École Dr. Charles Best Secondary School community were delighted with the installation of a brand-new outdoor learning space on the west side of the school. This space was designed in collaboration with teaching staff, Indigenous Education, District Maintenance, and various community members. The school community would like to thank Maxine Wilson for her generous donation that allowed this project to move forward. This space is open to all classes and also used as a gathering space for students during the day.

Students, staff, and community members took part in a gratitude and welcoming ceremony on October 14th. Under the guidance of Indigenous Resource teacher Rob Cowie and local artist Dawn McKay, students created their very own beautiful dreamcatchers.



15. On November 18th, Pinetree Secondary School hosted an Open House to celebrate 25 years since its official opening on October 29th, 1997. From 6:00 pm until 9:00 pm the school had current staff and students mingling with former students and staff throughout the building. Guests enjoyed a variety of displays put on by departments highlighting the rich sense of community the school has fostered. The celebration included 25th anniversary souvenirs for guests, live music played by our band students, plenty of treats, and a cake cutting ceremony! The school had over 600 people come through the building during the event. The school also had three of the 4 principals in its 25-year history in attendance for the celebration, including current principal Jeremy Clarke and former principals John Simpson and John McCullough.



Superintendent's News & Events Report to the Board

Regular Board Meeting of November 29, 2022

Learning for a Lifetime

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

16. The district is pleased to announce the opening of our new Learning Commons and STEAM Lab at Winslow Centre. This new space is designed to facilitate the learning needs of both teachers and students and has already accommodated numerous professional development and student learning events. Recently, the space hosted students participating in the Indigenous Youth Forum, helping to showcase the potential for connection between STEAM education and Indigenous Ways of Learning.

The Winslow Learning Commons and STEAM Lab is designed to demonstrate what a modern Learning Commons should be, which will serve to assist schools in making the transition from traditional library to a more modern Learning Commons model. The STEAM Lab and makerspace elements are equipped with all of the maker equipment recommended for schools throughout the district.

The space is also designed to facilitate remote learning experiences throughout, allowing for demonstration of equipment and learning strategies without requiring teachers to come to the site. These capabilities are highlighted by the inclusion of a fully equipped recording studio which will now be the district's premiere resource for the development of teacher training and virtual learning videos and related resources.

The Winslow Learning Commons and STEAM Lab is an important part of the District's STEAM-for-ALL strategy to increase teacher capacity and improve STEAM experiences for students district-wide.

Upcoming Events

December 8 – Long Service Recognition for SD43 staff

December 16 – Last day of school for students