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## Community Celebrates Opening of New Moody Middle School

École Moody Middle School of the Arts students, school and district employees, parents, alumni, community members and dignitaries gathered on Monday June 18, 2018 to celebrate the opening of the new school 67 years after the original school first opened.

Moody Principal Trevor Kolkea presided over the event attended by Port Moody-Coquitlam MLA Rick Glumac, SD43 Board Chair Kerri Palmer Isaak, Vice-Chair Michael Thomas, Trustees Carol Cahoon, Chuck Denison, Barb Hobson, Lisa Park, Judy Shirra, Diane Sowden, Keith Watkins, Superintendent Patricia Gartland, Secretary Treasurer Chris Nicolls, and other dignitaries and guests.

The celebration began in the early evening with student-led activities including school tours, musical performances, and fun for all. The formal ceremony began at 7:00 p.m. in the school's beautiful new gymnasium where a video was played showing the school's 67-year history, followed by several speeches. The ceremony continued with the handing over of the school key from Board Chair Palmer Isaak to Principal Kolkea and the unveiling of a plaque, and finished with a performance by the school's student choir.

The original Moody Middle School was established in 1951 as a Junior-Senior High for grades 7-12. In early 1969, tragedy struck and the school completely burned down. It was subsequently rebuilt and opened again in late 1970. In 1973 it was converted to a junior high school and renamed to Moody Middle as Port Moody Secondary was built. Finally in 2014, École Moody Middle School of the Arts was established. Through the years Moody was known as the "biggest middle school" with over 700 students. This title has since faded and its enrolment has reduced with the addition of Eagle Mountain Middle school.

The new seismic replacement school has a total capacity of 450 students. Approximately 375 students will enter the new school which offers an innovative and fully accessible design featuring large open and flexible learning spaces, lots of natural light, multi-purpose indoor and outdoor learning spaces including a rooftop garden, and a beautiful new gymnasium. A StrongStart Centre and Neighborhood Learning Centre for use by the school and community will also be located in the new school.

The school may be new, and with features that were not yet conceived of in 1951, but what remains the same after all these years is the pride of students, employees, alumni and retirees for SD43's first and one of its most memorable schools in Port Moody.

## Quotes

### Rob Fleming, Minister of Education

“I know it must be a big relief for parents to send their kids to a school that is safer in the event of an earthquake. The middle years are an exciting time, and it’s even more exciting to study in a vibrant and modern environment that will surely inspire innovation and a sense of community for everyone who walks through its doors.”

### Kerri Palmer Isaak, School District 43 Board of Education Chair

“On behalf of the Board of Education, we are very pleased to officially open the beautiful new École Moody Middle School of the Arts, and even more pleased about how it will positively support the students who will learn here over the coming years and the community members of Port Moody also.”

### Patricia Gartland, School District 43 Superintendent of Schools

“The attendance of so many students, parents, employees, alumni, retirees, dignitaries and local residents at the opening ceremony truly demonstrates the connection and pride our entire community has for this school and each other. It is these connections and pride that our district values and is renowned for.”

## Event Pictures





## Learn More

École Moody Middle School of the Arts website:

<https://www.sd43.bc.ca/school/moody/Pages/default.aspx>

École Moody Middle School of the Arts page on SD43 Capital Projects website:

<https://www.sd43.bc.ca/CapitalProjects/Pages/MoodyMiddle.aspx>