

1. Superintendent Patricia Gartland and Director of Instruction Stephen Whiffin presented on the topic of "Taking Change to Scale", focusing on consistently driving innovation across the district, at the Microsoft Global Education Exchange held in Paris, France on April 3rd to April 4th, 2019 .

The Microsoft Global Education Exchange is an annual global conference gathering educators and leaders to discuss how technology and innovation can improve teaching and learning experiences for students.



2. Ariana Shamsuddin, a grade 8 student from Scoot Creek Middle School was inspired to create a Compassion Challenge after hearing Olympian Sarah Well's pep talk on how she managed to overcome obstacles while competing in the Olympics. Read more of her Tri-Cities feature [here](#).



3. [Central Elementary, Pleasantside Elementary and Eagle Mountain Middle School will receive \\$105,000 each](#) from the province to build accessible playgrounds. Education Minister Rob Fleming announced a \$5 million Playground Equipment Program (PEP) funding for 50 playgrounds across British Columbia, of which 30 of them would be universally accessible playgrounds. The playgrounds will be built over the next six months and is expected to be ready for kids to play on in fall 2019. Read more about this article [here](#).



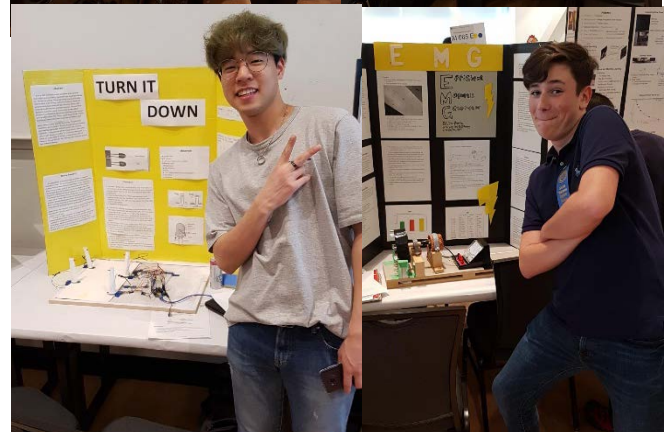
- On April 1st, 2019, all 77 school sites within School District 43 started the implementation of a consistent culture of recycling with the new recycling program for the School Year 2018/2019. The new recycling program anticipates a reduced contamination rate in garbage disposal from 80% to 20%, despite an increasing amount of diversified waste products in schools.



- [The Vice-Principal of Pinetree Secondary School, Beth Applewhite, was chosen as one of the 2019 BC Community Achievers.](#) She is recognized for creating the first Secondary Black Student Committee in Western Canada and for promoting awareness and understanding of the Black/ African heritage in the community.
- Heritage Woods Secondary School teachers, Luke Modder and Brooke Wilson, won a \$1,000 BC Green Games Grant hosted by Science World that will provide further green initiatives at the school. These teachers were recognized for their leadership in creating videos and materials to support SD43 recycling program.
- Heritage Woods Secondary School students Ishana Lodhia, Alex Jung, Evan Pomeroy and Viktor Glogovac participated at the Greater Vancouver Regional Science Fair at UBC along with 284 groups on April 4- 6, 2019.

Grade 12 student, Ishana Lodhia won Honourable mention for her project "Prostate Cancer: Annihilation" testing a new therapy that targets a protein called BRN2, which plays a role in the development of neuroendocrine prostate cancer. She also received the UBC Zoology Award 1st Prize.

Grade 10 student, Viktor Glogovac won bronze medal for his project "Magnetic Ceiling" to build a strong electromagnetic that could create a magnetic ceiling for extra storage in people's homes.



8. Dr. Charles Best Secondary School student, Rasee Katchchakaduge, was accepted into the prestigious New York Academy of Sciences' Global STEM Alliance (GSA) 1000 Girls, 1000 Futures mentoring program. She will be working with an assigned mentor emphasizing college readiness, leadership, communications and critical thinking.

9. [Leigh Elementary grade 1 student, Nolan Dempsey, was featured on The TriCity News for spending his spring break restocking the "Little Free Libraries"](#) Tricities after 5 of these were vandalized and burnt to the ground. He also reached out to the Tricities Literacy Outreach coordinator for more book donations from the community.



10. SHAW Multicultural channel featured SD43 students visiting Minister Rob Fleming in Victoria during the Real Acts of Caring Week 2019. Watch video here: <https://youtu.be/s2kYUjdc9os>



11. Summit Middle School celebrated its 20th year anniversary on March 14, 2019. A school-wide assembly showcased a video presentation of students and staff throughout the years and performances by students. Former staff and students were also invited to the Mix and Mingle event in the evening.



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