

1. Terry Fox Secondary School teacher Edward Csuka had an extraordinary summer at CERN, also known as the European Organization for Nuclear Research, in Switzerland. Sponsored by the Canadian Association of Physicists and the Institute of Particle Physics, Edward attended an international teacher's conference following his win of the Canadian Association of Physicists Award for Excellence in Teaching High School Physics for the BC/Yukon Region.



During his 17-day visit to CERN, Edward fulfilled a lifelong dream, describing it as "the Disneyland for physicists" and witnessed the world's largest scientific experiment, the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), which accelerates protons to near-light speed in the quest to unveil the universe's secrets. He also sat in Peter Higgs' chair, visited Einstein's home, and descended 100 meters underground to witness experiments with the Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS), a detector that captures particle activity.

Now, he is leading the Solar Max International Research Expedition to study animal behaviour during the rare total solar eclipse on April 8, 2024, and aims to involve 10,000 students from across Canada, the U.S. and Mexico in this groundbreaking study, mirroring CERN's pursuit of cosmic understanding through scientific experiments. [Read more as featured on Tri-City News here.](#)

2. On August 23rd and 24th, Superintendent Patricia Gartland led an informative two-day planning session welcoming administrators back and discussing new initiatives and plans for another successful school year. The Learning Without Boundaries session also featured two remarkable speakers, Jo Chrona and Jennifer Katz.

Jo Chrona, is an esteemed educational consultant, speaker, and author, who specializes in Indigenous education and anti-racism. Her bestselling book, "Wayi Wah! Indigenous Pedagogies: An Act for Reconciliation and Anti-Racist Education," is a Canadian Children's Book Centre 'starred best book' for teachers in 2023.

Jennifer Katz, is an advocate for resiliency and shared her 'Ensouling our Schools,' expertise. She pioneered the Three Block Method of Universal Design for Learning, now adopted in many Canadian districts to promote inclusive education, a central focus in SD43. Currently, Jennifer serves as an associate professor at University of British Columbia, specializing in educational and counseling psychology and special education.

3. On Tuesday, September 5, 2023, Coast Salish Elementary School opened its doors and welcomed students, staff, and teachers to their new building.

A formal opening event is planned for October 23. Please stay tuned for more information.





4. SD43's Summer Learning Program boasts yet another successful year of providing engaging learning opportunities for students over the summer holidays.

While at summer learning, Hillcrest Middle School students sold Freezies and baked cupcakes raising \$523 for Pacific Assistance Dogs (PADS). Well done students!

5. This summer, the Best Gay-Straight Alliance from École Dr. Charles Best Secondary School participated in the Vancouver Pride Parade. This was the perfect way to celebrate students' success in advocating for a pride event and pride flag raising in Coquitlam. Students were joined by City Councillor Matt Djonlic, MLA Selina Robinson, MP Bonita Zarrillo, CTA President Ken Christensen, and several members of the PAC. The crowd got louder as they saw the Charles Best banner approaching and were delighted to see evidence of inclusion in schools.



6. Join us in supporting the creative spirit of our outstanding SD43 teachers! From September 8 to October 26, 2023, the Creative Connections Exhibit at Place des Arts showcases the incredible talents of our educators beyond the classroom.

Let's come together as a school community to show our appreciation for their inspiring work! These diverse artworks are on display at the Leonore Peyton Salon or online starting Sept 15. Learn more here:

<https://ow.ly/I2Nb50PKmqg>

Featured artists are Maple Lee, Geoffrey Kehrig, Jens Preshaw, Francesca Arteficio, Wah Kee Ting, Mary Otey, Robyn Croft, Kristal Fernandez, Grace Kim, Lucy Yun, Trina Munday, AJ Vittie, Robert C Morris, Joanne Howey, Judi Gardner, and Aida Tracy.



7. On September 7, the Learning Services Department welcomed Kindergarten teachers and hosted an impactful in-service session, where they discussed this year's goals for literacy and numeracy, recognizing the crucial work ahead with our youngest learners. Wishing our teachers and staff all the best for the school year ahead!



8. On August 31, SD43 International Education hosted a successful student orientation in Coquitlam, welcoming 430 students from 29 countries to their new life here. The day was packed with exciting activities, kicking off with introductions at Blue Mountain Park and followed by an enjoyable tour and lunch adventure through Stanley Park and downtown Vancouver. We extend a warm welcome to all international students joining us in Coquitlam!

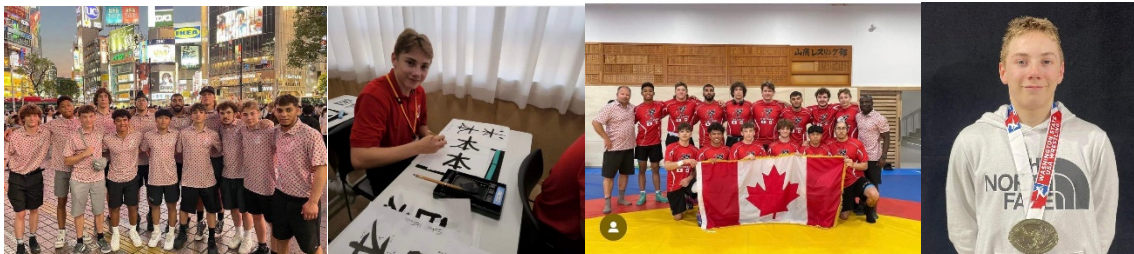
9. Congratulations to Sasha, a grade 12 student from École Dr. Charles Best Secondary School, who has been sponsored by Port Moody Fire Rescue to participate in Camp Ignite this year.



10. Congratulations to École Dr. Charles Best Secondary School student Liam Gorton, who participated over the summer in a Team Canada Japan Tour, a cultural wrestling trip, and was among 15 of Canada's top high school wrestlers who trained and competed against top wrestlers from Japan and the US.

This year, Liam also competed in the following competitions and won gold:

- 2023 Canadian Wrestling Championships (winning 2 gold medals in both freestyle and Greco)
- 2023 Washington State U16 60kg FolkStyle Championship





11. 2023 was a very successful year, with hundreds of chum salmon raised in our schools. This year 29 classrooms with 1,700 students successfully released 1,260 fry to local creeks.

Thank you to Fisheries and Oceans Canada for this invaluable educational program and to our SD43 teachers for helping our students learn more about the salmon life cycle and empowering them to become dedicated aquatic stewards!

12. Congrats to CABE Secondary School for winning a \$3,000 grant for their "Zen Den" from the Association for Learning Environments (A4LE).

The grant will be used to establish a functional space that promotes relaxation and calmness and offers alternative seating and tools to assist neurodivergent students who find it challenging to sit for extended periods at a desk. Read more about their grant application [here](#).

13. September 30th marks the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, an opportunity for First Nations, local governments, schools, and communities to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children.



Upcoming Events

- September 22 – Pro D Day (No School)
- September 30 – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
- October 9 – Thanksgiving (No School)