

1. **SD43's Middle School Coding Conference** took place on Saturday, February 3, 2018 at Scott Creek Middle School. The full day event, organized by **Dave Sands, Principal of Technology Implementation, Nicole Cruz** and a team of teacher leaders was a huge success, attended by 29 middle school lead educators from 13 schools. They received coding crates to support computational thinking and coding in their schools.
2. On February 13, **SD43's Facilities Department and architects engaged with students at Irvine Elementary in a visioning process** on the design and layout of the new school. Student ideas included: a water bottle filling station, lots of windows, a big gym, having the office and the library at the front of the school, making sure classrooms had views outside and more.
3. **SD43 provides capital project updates** on our website regarding school additions, seismic replacements, new schools and more. Visit [www.sd43.bc.ca](http://www.sd43.bc.ca) to read about these updates.
4. Over 400 **Rochester Elementary students and employees** took advantage of the beautiful, sunny morning on February 15 to **celebrate Flag Day**. A sea of Rochester red and white cheered and sang "O Canada" to commemorate our national symbol's 53rd birthday!
5. **Many SD43 schools took part in Lunar New Year celebrations**. Also known as Chinese New Year, or the Spring Festival, this year's Lunar New Year of the Dog officially began on February 16. **Students at Terry Fox Secondary School** received blessings from a traditional Lion Dance, **Glenayre Elementary** students created colourful artwork, and Mandarin Immersion students at **Walton Elementary** also took part in fun festivities.
6. SD43 proudly supports **Pink Shirt Day on February 28**, a day aimed at raising awareness about bullying. This year's theme for our district is "It's Cool to be Kind!" Visit [www.pinkshirtday.ca](http://www.pinkshirtday.ca) to learn more.
7. As part of **Real Acts of Caring (RAC) week (February 11 to 27, 2018)**, SD43 schools, students, staff and employees participated in many acts of caring throughout the communities such as, delivering special treats, writing kind notes and cards, and giving out flowers.
8. On February 14, 24 **leadership students from Banting Middle School** traveled to Victoria with RAC founder Harriette Chang to listen to the RAC Provincial proclamation being read. The students were also excited to meet and shake hands with Premier Horgan!



9. **BC Blind Sports recently visited Leigh Elementary School** for an introduction to goalball. The goalball is similar to a playground ball in texture but without the bounce. There are bells inside the ball that allow players to hear the ball rather than rely on seeing it. Goalball is a Paralympic sport that was invented in 1946 for visually impaired WWII vets. To learn more visit [www.bcblindsports.bc.ca](http://www.bcblindsports.bc.ca)



10. **Plenty of SD43 success stories from the courts and the turf including:**

- After winning the District Championships, **Centennial Secondary's junior boys'** basketball team finished third in the Fraser Valleys and will advance to the Provincials in March.
- **Heritage Woods Secondary's senior and grade 9 boys'** teams both won their district titles.
- **Heritage Woods' senior boys AAAA basketball team, along with Pinetree, Terry Fox and Centennial,** play in the Fraser Valley Championships semi-finals later this week with the top five teams advancing to the Provincials.
- **Riverside Secondary's senior girls'** AAA basketball team finished fifth in the Fraser Valleys and their **junior girls' team** finished fourth after winning their district titles. Both teams will complete in the Provincials.
- All eleven of **Centennial Secondary's wrestlers** have qualified for the Provincials.



11. **James Park Elementary students** in grades 3 to 5 have created a **new City Hall exhibit called "My PoCo Place"!** With their choice of medium, students created artistic rendering of their favorites places in Port Coquitlam. These creations can be viewed at City Hall (Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.).



12. Catch [Riverside Secondary's upcoming musical production of RENT](#) that runs February 22 to 24 and 28, and March 1 to 2. Contact the school for tickets.