



1. SD43 students participated in various activities to celebrate Lunar New Year and the start of the Year of the Rabbit!

- Eagle Mountain Middle School students learned about Lunar New Year and tried their hand creating Chinese greeting scrolls. Some students even wrote in their native language.
- The Scott Creek Middle School Mandarin Bilingual team, the “Penguins”, took on the task of providing our Scott Creek community with an immersive Lunar New Year experience.

The students and teachers worked diligently for the past few weeks to create decorations, games, and cultural experiences for everyone to take part in. This included a student-made wishing tree which was eventually decorated with wishes from the community by the end of the day; a “dumpling drop” game, Lunar New Year cornhole, writing Chinese characters such as “happiness” and “fortune” using water brushes; craft stations; Zodiac ring toss; and fortune telling games. It was a great opportunity to actively participate in the celebration in an inclusive, fun, and cultural way.

2. On January 20, a reception was held at Place des Arts to open “Emerging Talent 25”, an annual art show featuring dozens of original art pieces from our grade 12 students.

More than 100 works were submitted by students across the district, however, only the top artwork was selected by teacher-judges. Evaluation included gauging the students’ commitment to furthering their skills and education at a post-secondary art institution.

Make sure to catch the show, as aside from the usual media of paintings, charcoal and photography, there will also be artwork incorporating embroidery, wood burning, and digital art. The art show is held until March 5.

Thank you to all those who participated and congratulations to our grade 12 students on your artistic accomplishments!



- SD43 is pleased to be included in Forbes Canada's Best Employers 2023 list. Forbes magazine is published 8 times per year and features articles on business, finance, investing, and marketing in addition to related topics like technology, science, and politics. The publication is well-known in particular for its lists and rankings, like the Forbes list of the World's Most Powerful People, and the World's Billionaires list. This is an important recognition for the district and came about via anonymous surveys with actual employees gathered by Forbes. An honour such as this highlights our positive employee culture and speaks to the talents and support leaders in our district exemplify. I am proud to share this positive news with our community, the province, and globally to further solidify SD43's reputation. In the Directions 2025 strategic vision, it is our objective to be an employer of choice in order to build our capacity and to attract and retain our talented staff. The fact that SD43 is the only public school district in BC, and one of only 5 across the country that made the Forbes 'Top Employer' list, should make everyone feel proud of their role in our organization.
- School District 43 Community Connections in partnership with Moresports BC have developed job opportunities for students in transitional stages of their lives, and a system of job preparation and credentialing to help them succeed.



On February 7, a \$25,000 grant was received from RBC Future Launch Coquitlam City Centre Branch that will help ensure that the project will prepare youth from a diverse range of social, cultural, physical, and economic backgrounds and engage them in a mentored planning process leading to paid employment opportunities provided by one of SD43's partner agencies.

Some Grade 11/12 target students have not yet been heavily involved in the workforce but have indicated that they are prepared to begin working or have expressed a need to start thinking about it.

The partnership provides certificate courses and training sessions about resume building, on the job troubleshooting, and behavioural interview skills. Job opportunities and trainings are perfect for those who are transitioning to post-secondary or exploring things they are passionate about while their career paths take shape.

Further, this partnership provides a wide range of opportunities for paid internships and mentoring. The partnership encourages young people to enter the workforce which teaches them about career potential and about finding ways to successfully launch themselves into productive work life.

- On February 7, James Park Elementary School student Emma Feichtinger will be swimming several laps at Port Coquitlam's Hyde Creek Recreation Centre to help raise funds for BC Cancer Foundation.

Emma lost her "Opa" in 2021 and came up with the idea of a "swimathon". Through social media, she has already raised nearly \$1000 in donations but is hoping to gather more pledges! Donate to her fundraising page [here](#).



Photo Credit: Tri-City News

6. The District's Sustainability and Energy Management Team has produced another edition of *Energy Wire*, a newsletter highlighting SD43's green initiatives. The January edition includes results of the Winter Shutdown Campaign, Earth Day Eco-Challenge, and more! Read the full newsletter on our website [here](#).

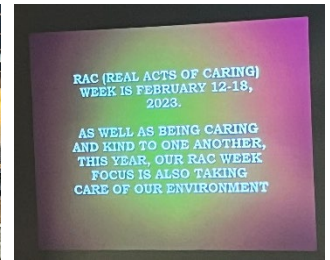


7. Congratulations to Port Moody Secondary School student Rona for being one of four lucky recipients of the Sew-fun(d) scholarship in the Lower Mainland. She received a brand-new Janome 2030QDC sewing machine valued at \$1000 courtesy of Our Social Fabric, a non-profit fabric shop located in East Vancouver that helps tackle the fashion industry's sustainability issues.



The "Sew-fun(d)" scholarship program provides sewing machines to students enrolled in secondary school, allowing them to take their creativity and love of fibre arts to the next level.

Teachers Joanne Lee and Marina Mehai nominated Rona for the scholarship as she has shown a natural gift and passion for arts and fashion. They have also shared that Rona is doing better in her math classes as she is able to confidently apply more of her numeracy skills honed from her sewing skills and techniques using geometric patterns, working on measurements, and more!



8. On January 30, students in the district addressed City of Coquitlam Council about Real Acts of Caring (RAC) Week from February 12-18, a week promoting being caring and being kind to one another. This year is also focusing on taking care of our environment. The SD43 Board of Education has also presented a proclamation to the RAC organizers, pledging their support. Student representatives have also visited Victoria to witness the reading of the provincial proclamation presented in the legislature. RAC continues to spread across BC!

9. Kindergarten registration was open from January 31 to February 2, and we've welcomed many new families to the district. The cross catchment process started on February 3 at 9 am will end on February 8 at 4 pm.



10. The SD43 Career and Trades Program will be hosting a virtual information session on February 15 at 6 pm for students and their families interested in working and training in the trades. Register online [here](#).





11. On January 24, École Maillard Middle School Community was visited by special guests from the Breakfast Club of Canada and the Grocery Foundation of Canada, who launched a new initiative called #Toonies4tummies.

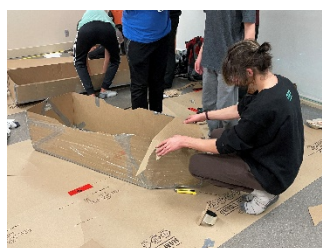
#Toonies4tummies is a community initiative where every toonie donation collected at local Save on Foods and Sobey's retailers will support SD43 breakfast programs.

Thank you to the retailers and brand ambassadors who came out to raise awareness of this new initiative and help feed our students.

12. Congratulations to Pat Dennett and the Mossom Creek Hatchery & Education Centre on achieving a gold certification from the Rick Hansen Foundation. The Port Moody hatchery's accessibility efforts will allow more SD43 students, including those with diverse abilities, to more readily visit the facility as part of their science education program.



13. Last week, Miller Park Community School had an extra special morning thanks to a visit from four RCMP officers, who helped prepare and serve them breakfast. The students were so happy to see some new faces in the neighbourhood! Thank you to Coquitlam RCMP for stopping by and spending your morning with our students.



14. On January 17, Terry Fox Secondary School STEAM 9/10 students went to Hyde Creek Pool to test out their creative nautical designs during the Terry Fox STEAM Boat Design Challenge.

A week prior, the students attended a workshop by Seaspan, a Canadian company and leader in shipbuilding, ship repair and marine transportation, to learn about the basics of boat design and construction. Then, the students constructed a prototype with materials provided by the Construction Foundation of BC.

The students were then allotted a total of three hours to build a full-sized cardboard version of their 16 boats. More than half of the boats made the challenging journey to the other end of the pool and two boat designs also managed to stay afloat for over 20 minutes. Well done students!

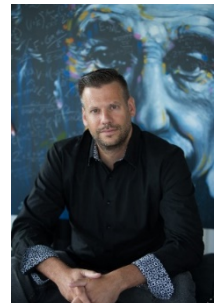
15. This February, three great SD43 musical theatre productions hit the stage:

- River's Edge Theatre presents "Little Women, The Musical" on February 2, 3, 4 to February 9, 10 & 11 at 7:30 pm. Tickets are being sold for \$10 at Riverside Secondary (2215 Reeve St., Port Coquitlam). Purchase your tickets [here](#).
- Pinetree Secondary theatre students will be taking the stage on February 1-3 & 8-10 at 7 pm in their production to "Matilda the Musical, inspired by the twisted genius of Roald Dahl. Purchase your tickets online [here](#).
- Centennial Musical Theatre invites the community to watch "Rock of Ages: Teen Edition" this February directed by Talia Petrescu and choreographed by Amber Hipditch. Buy your tickets online [here](#).



Rock of Ages is a hilarious musical with classic rock anthems like "Don't Stop Believin'", "We Built this City", "The Final Countdown", and many more! Set in one of Sunset Strip's last famous venues, aspiring rock star Drew and small-town girl Sherrie, long to be the next big thing. When developers sweep in and threaten to take away the strip, their future is uncertain. Only the music from these legendary bands holds the answers.

16. Terry Fox Secondary Teacher Edward Csuka has been awarded the 2022 CAP Award for Excellence in Teaching High School/CEGEP Physics (British Columbia and Yukon) by the Canadian Association of Physicists in recognition of his passion for teaching physics, his leadership in organizing the Power of Ideas Exhibit and his dedication in seeking funding to launch a new STEAM program in the school.



Edward shares "In 2023, I am looking forward to travelling with this CAP award to a world-class physics institute where I can share ideas with leading physicists. I am also excited to see the continued thriving growth of our innovative Terry Fox STEAM program."

17. SD43 has been named a K-12 Provincial Online Learning School (POLS) and will soon be able to offer K-12 educational programs to students across BC. Previously, Coquitlam Open Learning offered courses to grades 10-12 students. The POLS designation will allow the district to expand its online offerings for local and distant learners which is a great advantage for students to further their educational goals as more courses and subjects become available. SD43 submitted an expression of interest in becoming a POLS and, after passing a panel review, the district will offer online learning to a much wider audience starting September 2023.
18. Coquitlam Centre Mall is replacing the furniture in the food court and has generously offered the existing tables and chairs to SD43 schools that may wish to install them. The donated furniture will be available around the end of March or early April. Thank you to Coquitlam Centre for your support of local schools.
19. On January 23rd, BC Minister of Education and Child Care Rachna Singh announced the launch of the new provincial K-12 Anti-Racism Action Plan. The action plan is intended to create change in BC schools by empowering students and educators to identify and take action against racism and discrimination in schools. The plan will raise awareness and include training and the creation of resources to support action. The goal is to improve the school experience for all but, in particular, racialized students, staff, and families so that everyone feels a strong sense of



Superintendent's News & Events Report to the Board

Regular Board Meeting of February 7, 2023

Learning for a Lifetime

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belonging. Further, the action plan will support school districts in their commitment to anti-racism initiatives in their communities. The action plan was developed over three years with students, indigenous partners, education partners, educators, staff, and community organizations. SD43 already has some policies and procedures in place but is looking forward to incorporating more anti-racism initiatives into school communities.

Upcoming Events

February – Black History Month

February 12 – 18 – Real Acts of Caring Week

February 15 – SD43 Trades Programs Virtual Info Session at 6 pm

February 22 – Pink Shirt Day

February 25 – Gleneagle Secondary Music Department presents the 13th Annual Jazz Gala Dinner & Silent Auction