

1. In support of the transition to both remote and limited face-to-face learning during the month of June, SD43 Technology and Mentor Support Teachers are working together to provide a series of "District-wide Learning Events".

Highlights include the Minecraft Fantasy Home Festival, an instructional event which is the center of Math instruction for 600 grades 4-8 students. Students participate in a weekly large group webinar where students learn Minecraft and some math concepts. Their classroom teachers then use grade-appropriate supporting packages to provide students with activities that relate to the math they are learning. The students then practice this math through the work of constructing their "Fantasy Homes" in Minecraft. Math activities range from calculating material quantities and costs for budgeting to determining sizes and weights of various materials. This project-based approach is providing effective math instruction to students in both remote and classroom settings for the entire month of June!



Similarly, the team is offering a series of smaller district-wide learning events focused on literacy. The "Just Press Play" series are short, 5-10 minute district-wide webinars for elementary students to collectively engage in a fun learning activity together. Like the Fantasy Home Festival, the event provides teachers with grade-specific supporting materials that can work in the classroom or in a remote learning setting. Hundreds of students have participated in each weekly webinar so far and plans are to continue these activities into September.

2. Congratulations to Parshan Pourbakht, Terry Fox Secondary student, for being featured on [CityNews and News1130 on the Great Grads of 2020 segment](#) and for earning a full scholarship to his university of choice, Simon Fraser University.

Throughout Parshan's four years of secondary school, he has been heavily involved in the community from working at a golf course, teaching little kids how to play basketball at recreation centres, waking up at five in the morning to help make breakfast for the Breakfast Program and helping teach his peers math at school. Well done Parshan!



[Watch his interview on CityNews and News1130 here.](#)

3. Congratulations to the School District 43 YELL (Young Entrepreneurship Leadership Launchpad) students for winning this years Venture Challenge Finals on June 6th. For the second year in a row, the district won first place, and took second place as well, competing against 34 teams across the province. Bravo students!

- 1st Place – Team AIDA –Artificial Intelligence Driving Assistant for student drivers

Congratulations Darwin Park (Pinetree Secondary), Lynne Shi (Charles Best Secondary), Liam Bondi (Heritage Woods Secondary), Maggie Sew (Heritage Woods Secondary), Leon Mintu (Pinetree Secondary)



- 2nd Place – Team CocoBaby – Turning Wasted Coconut husks into useful products such as baby clothing, toys and packaging

Congratulations Aly Dhanani (Heritage Woods Secondary), Aryan Bamzai (Port Moody Secondary), Joanne Chung (Heritage Woods Secondary), Julie Vo (Heritage Woods Secondary), Sara Bahreini (Pinetree Secondary)



4. Jayden, a Riverside Secondary grad committee member and student shared her experience about graduating this year and her successful petition to Port Coquitlam Mayor Brad West to declare June 14-20 as Riverside Grad Week. The class had also been raising funds for their graduation but have donated all the funds to charitable causes in their community.



[Watch her interview on News1130 here.](#)

[View the proclamation news from the City of Port Coquitlam here.](#)

5. Congratulations to Pinetree Secondary students Hana Cho and Igklas Chattermohamad, who were awarded Best Athletes of the Year and were featured on Sportsnet 650 radio. Hana is going to play NCAA Division 1 Tennis next year at Idaho State University while Igklas has been a top athlete at school playing Senior Soccer, Basketball and Cross Country.

[Listen to their radio feature here.](#)



- The Student Leadership Committee hosted its Open House on June 10th and introduced the 2020-2021 executive members and theme for the year. Two meetings were held for the Middle and Secondary level and both Superintendent Patricia Gartland and Assistant Superintendent Reno Ciolfi were in attendance.



- The School District 43 Community Connections have been working hard to develop strong relationships within the community to help secure food for our most vulnerable families in our community.

The Lunch Lady

School District 43 Community Connections and Learning Services Staff have partnered with The Lunch Lady, a well-known food provider in schools, by delivering prepared meals and groceries twice a month directly to the homes of those families in need. The Lunch Lady has also set up a donation button in their site for anyone who wishes to support more families with meals beyond COVID-19. Learn more by emailing healthyliving@sd43.bc.ca or donate by visiting www.thelunchlady.ca.



Projects currently underway are the following:

- Caring for the Community, a Local Love Food Hub sponsored by the United Way of the Lower Mainland in the Blue Mountain Neighbourhoods**, is a partnership that aims to supplement fresh food and proteins to families who are unable to get enough. The group is supported by a volunteer force from Blue Mountain Church, the United Way of the Lower Mainland, and the SD43 Community Connections.

Currently, families have been identified to join the project and have received a welcome letter, along with a grocery gift card. Future opportunities for this project include food deliveries from other donating partners, a potential community gathering and family mentoring.

- Hi Neighbour!** is another collaboration with United Way of the Lower Mainland that helps families with grocery shopping, complimentary hot meals, food hampers, emotional support through phone calls, free support groups, free/low-cost counseling, IT support and access to computers and laptops to give or loan to families or any support necessary for those seeking this.

8. Terry Fox Secondary students and teachers have collaborated in creating signs with student's artwork portraying positive messages for the community. Thank you to the City of Port Coquitlam these have been installed along the 25 kilometre Traboulay PoCo trail.

Pete Haerdi, Terry Fox Secondary Tech Ed Teacher shares "For our community, I wanted messages that are positive and encouraging during a time when there is so much hate, violence and racism on the news and social media. I wanted to include a few different departments, so I had Tech Ed students make the signs, Art and Link students painted the signs and the PE department is turning it into an assignment for their students to show they are still physically active."

[Watch this news on Global TV here.](#)



9. June is Indigenous History Month and the SD43 Indigenous Department has shared resources for teachers and families to help create awareness and to help celebrate this occasion.

- June 2nd – Links were shared from the Government of Canada & Indigenous Corporate Training Blog. [Celebrating National Indigenous Peoples Day Through Dance.](#)
- June 8th – Indigenous artists donate art images for colouring & a local territory acknowledgement with an English visual
- June 11th – Filmed [Connecting to Nature](#) at Suwa'lkh and invited Indigenous herbalist, Lori Synder to discuss how we are connected to the natural world.



10. Pinetree Secondary VP Beth Applewhite has been featured in the June 2020 issue of Principl(ed) magazine. The article is part of a continuing series in the publication called 'A Day in the Life' which features BCPVPA members and provides a 'snapshot' of their "...roles, and shares their contemplations, their focus on their practice, and why they love what they do". Congratulations Beth on being recognized by your peers around the province and thank you for your work and positive reflection of SD43! [Read more in Principl\(ed\).](#)



11. Coquitlam School District International Education Department has accomplished the following achievements within the 2019-2020 school year.

- The Department achieved over \$33 million gross revenue
- Student enrolment: 1800 students enrolled from 35 countries
- Gross International Education Revenues (1999 – 2019): over \$398 million
- English Language Learner Data: District Average - level 4.3. 61% of our students are level 5 ELL.

