



Superintendent's News & Events Report to the Board

Regular Board Meeting of January 19, 2021

Learning for a Lifetime

Serving the communities of Anmore, Belcarra, Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam and Port Moody

1. School District No. 43 (Coquitlam) will be conducting the Foundation Skills Assessment in February and March (postponed from January-February), in accordance with the School Act. The Foundation Skills Assessment measures literacy and numeracy skills set out in provincial curricula and is only one source of the data that teachers and the district use to establish comprehensive evidence of student achievement in the Coquitlam School District. [A letter regarding the Foundations Skills Assessment \(FSA\) Information for Grades 4 and 7 students was sent to Parents/ Guardians January 5th.](#)

2. Early (kindergarten) and Late Programs of Choice applications were accepted January 7th to 13th and January 8th to 14th respectively. Kindergarten registration for children that turn five this calendar year begins Wednesday, January 27th and remains open until Thursday, February 4th. A switch to a streamlined online process allowed families to apply for Kindergarten without visiting school sites to maintain a safe environment at SD43 schools. Cross catchment applications are being accepted Friday, February 5th to Wednesday, February 10th. Application packages and more information available on www.sd43.bc.ca.

IMPORTANT REGISTRATION AND APPLICATION DATES FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2021-2022		
	OPENS	CLOSES
Kindergarten Registration	Wednesday, January 27, 2021	Thursday, February 4, 2021
Early French Immersion Application	Thursday, January 7, 2021 at 9 am	Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 4 pm
Late French Immersion Application	Friday, January 8, 2021 at 9 am	Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 4 pm
Early Montessori Application	Thursday, January 7, 2021 at 9 am	Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 4 pm
Late Montessori Application	Friday, January 8, 2021 at 9 am	Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 4 pm
Mandarin Bilingual Application	Thursday, January 7, 2021 at 9 am	Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 4 pm
Reggio Influenced Application	Thursday, January 7, 2021 at 9 am	Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 4 pm
Cross Catchment Application	Friday, February 5, 2021 at 9 am	Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 4 pm

3. École Banting Middle School participated in the *Fresh to You Fundraising Initiative of BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation*, by purchasing bundles of locally-grown fresh fruits and vegetables and selling these to help raise funds for their school.



For each bundle purchased, Banting was given a complimentary bundle of produce for donation, while profits from the sale remained with the school. Thirty bundles of food were given to families at École Banting Middle School and other SD43 elementary and middle schools. The remaining vegetables (54 bundles worth) will be donated to SHARE Family and Community Services.

Thank you to B.C. Agriculture in the Classroom for helping promote and provide healthy food choices to our SD43 community!

4. Centennial Secondary Choir Students didn't get the chance to perform in front of a live audience this year, so they reached out to their neighbours at the Board Office, offering to bring out some cheer with song! Thank you to Ms. Baker and her group for a wonderful outdoor performance for all the staff.



- The Gleneagle Secondary Student Council and Ms. Morenz created a heart-warming video, sharing experiences with and expressing gratitude to, school custodians Stacey and Andy who have positively impacted their school community. Watch the video on Youtube here: <https://youtu.be/q2UYv4twOHg>.



- The official plaques at the new Minnekhada Middle have been mounted in the entranceway flanking the Minnekhada totem. Beautifully framed by the SD43 Maintenance Carpentry department, they feature the original George Pearkes Junior Secondary announcement on the right and the new Minnekhada Middle announcement on the left.



- Ocean Brands donated 45 cases of tuna, each containing 108 pouches for total of 4,860 pouches. With an estimated value of over \$10,000, the donation will provide some vulnerable families additional food security. Many schools received 2 cases for distribution. We appreciate Ocean Brands' support for SD43 and our most in-need students.



- U21 Poco Minor Hockey, like all sports associations, has had to make adjustments to their season in light of COVID-19. In November, before more stringent restrictions were put in place, an internal game series was set up as a 'Poco only' tournament. A cup named after respected long-time iceman at the Poco rinks Bob Davis, who recently passed, would be awarded to the winner. In addition to the tourney, donations were collected to help local families before the Christmas holiday. Hockey parents connected with other hockey parents until SD43 Learning Services and Inclusion Support Team member Tara Marinkovic was contacted. Ms. Marinkovic provided an introduction to Jeff Stromgren, SD43 Coordinator – Community Connections and Health Living. By mid-December Poco U21 Hockey had donated \$850 in support of local families! A great example of community members coming together to support local families. Head Coach Phil Stanyer had this to say:

"I can't tell you how great it felt to hand that money over to Jeff. It was an incredible feeling [that] touched my heart and it also made me really appreciate the job people like Jeff and Tara from the school board (and I'm sure there are others) are doing to help our city's needy children. In fact, I think helping these families could be our city's best investment."

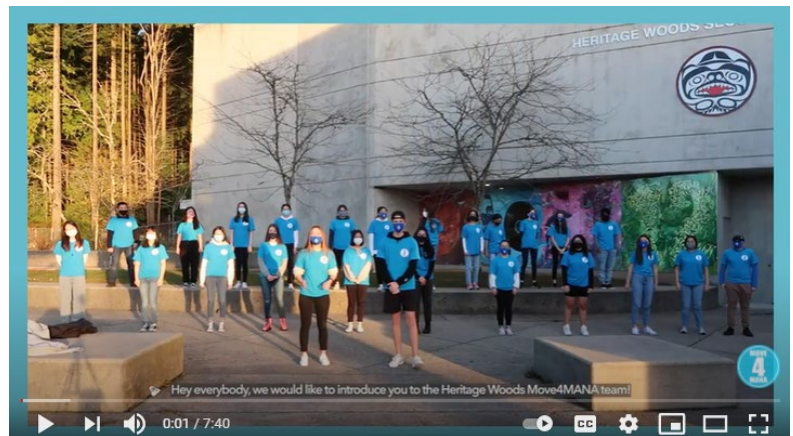
9. Porter Street Elementary has officially opened its new playground as of January 11th! The new accessible playground replaces older structures that had reached the end of their lifespan. Principal Ashif Jiwa was pleased to make the completion announcement and is proud of the new accessible swing, spinner, slide, climbing equipment and sensory games. The new structure was made possible as a result of a Ministry of Education Playground Equipment Program grant for \$125,000 as well as a financial contribution from the PAC. [Video Montage here.](#)



10. Congratulations to Heritage Woods students Max and Leo who won the grand prize at the **Global Minecraft Education Build Championships** in early December. Their build, The Turtle Research Campus, was selected over entries from around the globe submitted by students 8-18 years old. The challenge was to 'redesign our human environment to accommodate the animal world' with creative solutions that would allow humans and animals to share space. You can view a 'walkthrough' of their Minecraft build online at <https://youtu.be/U6jVQ7BrqNE>.



11. What an amazing feat! Thanks to the Move4Mana Heritage Woods Secondary students for all your efforts in getting your community active, while providing aid to malnourished children in Afghanistan in the form of 70,247 ready-to-use therapeutic food packets. Students encouraged and challenged each other to walk to and from school in addition to quick outdoor class activity breaks to 'move for mana'. Watch the HWSS Move4Mana Report 2020 here: <http://ow.ly/8zwQ50Clozh>.



12. Baker Drive Elementary took ugly Christmas sweaters in another direction with their first, and hopefully last, ugly MASK contest this Christmas season. Principal Jill Reid explains she got the idea from a tweet that said, "Who needs an ugly sweater when you can wear an ugly mask?". The school then sent an email out to families encouraging them to craft one-of-a-kind masks for the contest. The result was a three-way tie for winner and lots of fun for all!





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13. Congratulations to Grade 12 Pinetree Secondary student Adam Campbell for participating in the SD43 work experience program and for being the youngest recipient ever to receive the '**Volunteer of the Year 2020 Award**' from SHARE Family and Community Services. Adam volunteers as a Peer Mentor and Group Leader for the teen boys with autism group. Thank you, Adam for your contributions to the students of SD43 and to your community—well done!

"Getting this award is the next step for going into a successful future, finding the right area of expertise for me. I plan to keep volunteering for at least a few extra years. It helps me build myself while building others in the process"

- Adam Campbell



14. On January 14, 2021 administrators and district leadership focused their *Learning Without Boundaries* session on an opportunity to wrestle with the concept of Equity, specific to the Equity Scan recently completed within SD43. After an initial introduction, break out groups worked through exercises that guided individuals to have their ideas, understandings and perspectives enhanced by hearing from others. Through the protocol, the groups explored and clarified their thinking and had their assumptions, beliefs and questions addressed to gain a deeper understanding of how equitable opportunities may be improved for indigenous learners.
15. Coming up on Friday, January 22nd, Board Chair Kerri Palmer Isaak, Superintendent Patricia Gartland and Secretary Treasurer Chris Nicolls will be participating in a Virtual Partner Liaison Meeting with the BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA). The half-day online session includes opening remarks from the Honourable Jennifer Whiteside, Minister of Education and BCSTA President Stephanie Higginson in addition to break out sessions covering a variety of topics. Speakers Dr. Reka Gustafson, Deputy Provincial Health Officer and Professor John Hattie, Director of the Melbourne Educational Research Institute at the University of Melbourne, Australia will round out the morning and close the event.