



1. SD43 schools celebrated Real Acts of Caring (RAC) Week from February 11th to 17th sharing positivity and genuine acts of caring and kindness in the classroom and the community. Below are some activities the schools participated in:

- RC MacDonald Elementary School had 11 enthusiastic students and four amazing parents who spread joy and music to the residents of Madison Care Centre to celebrate Valentine's Day. The students handed out handmade cards, each lovingly crafted by members of the school community.

The initiative began a few weeks ago, sparked by the school RAC committee's decision to create posters, and chocolate bouquets and even to perform a musical number for the seniors. It turned into a fantastic school-wide activity that encouraged many students to step out of their comfort zones!

The visit was a day of meaningful connections, as our students enjoyed speaking with the seniors, getting to know them, asking them questions, helping them read their cards, opening their chocolates, and even serenading them to classic melodies like "I See You" and "You Are My Sunshine"!

"This event not only brought smiles to many faces but also inspired us all to think about how we can continue to contribute to our community. A huge thank you to the parents who volunteered to drive and everyone who played a part in making this day memorable". – Mrs. Melanie Watts, School Counsellor

- Jennifer Hu, a grade 11 École Dr. Charles Best Secondary School student, took over the district's Instagram to share how their school celebrated RAC. She shared that their RAC Club created the "Kind Acts Box", an initiative where students and staff take a piece of paper from the box and share a RAC with someone in the school.
 - The RAC group received a proclamation from the SD43 Board of Education, the BC Provincial Government, and the municipalities of Port Coquitlam, Port Moody and Villages of Anmore and Belcarra.
 - Hariette Chang, RAC (Real Acts of Caring) Coordinator and Counsellor, along with some students, visited the Penticton School District to promote their initiative at one of their schools.
2. On February 14, SD43 Education Foundation Chair, Christine Pollock, received a generous donation from the Indigo Love of Reading Foundation of \$10,000 to support literacy initiatives for Hazel Trembath Elementary School.





3. During Pink Shirt Day, SD43's Board of Education proudly wore pink to show support for kindness, respect, and empathy in our schools and communities.

Across the district, our students and staff lifted each other up and celebrated Pink Shirt Day with acts of kindness and compassion.

- Harbour View Elementary School held an assembly and shared ways to be kind at school and in the community.
- At Inquiry Hub, students and staff proudly wore shirts designed and printed by the school's Marketing 11 class.

4. On February 28th, SD43's Student Wellness and Safety Team hosted its second session of the Family and Community Learning Series: Keeping Students Safe Through Sexual Health Education led by Kristen Gilbert, key presenter and Director of Education and Certified Sexual Health Educator for Options for Sexual Health.

The session provided over 215 families with an overview of sexual education covered in schools as well as the skills needed to help our youth navigate healthy relationships and understand their bodies. SD43's Well-Being & Positive Mental Health Coordinator, Shaunna Martin and Fraser Health's Healthy Schools Public Health Nurse also provided more resources and information to help continue the conversation and learning at home.

The learning series continued with a third session on Overcoming Addiction, Mental Health Challenges, and Homelessness with Guy Felicella on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, from 6:30 to 8:00 pm in the Centennial Secondary School Theatre. Community partners also shared information and resources to attendees (SHARE, PCRS, Spirit of the Children, Tri-Cities Community Action Team, NaloxHome and Family Smart).

5. Congratulations to the 2023-2024 Boys Junior Basketball Team for their outstanding achievement in winning the BC Provincial Championship Tournament. This victory is a testament to the hard work, dedication, and talent of all players and coaches.

Congratulations to students, Jayson Ikani, whose exceptional performance throughout the tournament earned him the MVP title, and to Marvine Reyes, who also earned the 1st Team All-Star title.



6. February is Black History Month. SD43 schools celebrated and honoured the rich history, achievements, and contributions of Black Canadians that have shaped our nation.

Schools participated in various activities to inspire and educate our students about the diverse and vibrant stories of Black people in Canada including:

- Centennial Secondary School held a monumental celebration of Black History Month. The school was privileged to welcome two inspirational speakers: Denise Nembhard, the Vice Principal of Port Moody Secondary, and Nadine Terlicher, a performance therapist for the Golden State Warriors. Sharing their unique journeys as the only Black students in their classrooms, they highlighted the critical importance of representation in all spheres of society. Their stories underscored a powerful message: the need to amplify diverse voices to mirror the true richness of our society.



- Highlighting the contributions of Black individuals continued with a student-led jazz band performance, celebrating the music of Bobby Timmons.
- Moody Elementary School was excited to hear the soulful melodies and inspiring stories of Krystle Dos Santos, a two-time Western Canadian Music Award-winning artist. Krystle captivated our students and staff, sharing her passion for music and highlighting the significant contributions of Black Canadian women in the music industry.



7. From February 4th to 10th, SD43 celebrated French Immersion Week, honouring the colorful culture and language of our renowned French Immersion Program. A trailblazer since launching British Columbia's (BC) first French class in 1968, SD43 now boasts over 3,500 students enhancing their education through this immersive language journey.

Celebrating French Immersion Week not only commemorates the program's historical significance and growth but also reaffirms the district's ongoing commitment to providing diverse and enriching learning opportunities for our students.

Below are some examples of how schools participated during the week:

- Students at Banting, Maillard, Monty, Moody, Maple Creek, and Pitt River Middle Schools explored French-Canadian traditions in a workshop led by The Maple Man. They discovered the art of transforming maple sap into syrup, moved to the traditional French-Canadian rhythm using wooden spoons, and indulged in the sweet taste of real maple taffy.
- At Montgomery Middle School, students used the Mood Meter/Compteur sentimental and added magnets with their names to show how they were feeling throughout the day.
- Students have also participated in a three-month simulation called Kepler's STARS/Les STARS de Kepler. Developed by former SD43 teacher Marian Wagner, students create imaginary countries on the exoplanet Kepler 452b. They work together to face natural disasters, envision a common future for humanity based

on scientific and technological advances, address diverse community needs, and focus on environmental care. The final project involves designing a refugee camp following UNHCR guidelines.

- Students maintained a pen pal correspondence with students at École secondaire De Rochebelle in Quebec City and will spend a day with them during their upcoming May Quebec trip.

8. On Valentine's Day, students at Hazel Trembath Elementary School were treated to an extraordinary morning by firefighters from Port Moody, Coquitlam, and Port Coquitlam. For the first time, all the Tri-Cities' firefighters joined forces to whip up a delicious pancake breakfast for our students.

It was a great morning of connection as our students got to meet and learn more from our firefighters and even had a chance to hop inside a fire truck for a once-in-a-lifetime experience.



9. On February 26, the ConX leadership students hosted the "Gleneagles Golden Gala", a fundraising event in support of the Michael Cuccione Foundation.

The evening began with a moving keynote from Gloria and Dominic Cuccione, sharing their son Michael's battle with cancer, emphasizing the need for advanced cancer research. Attendees were treated to a lovely dinner, participated in a silent auction and raffle, and enjoyed performances from Maia, Juho, Dani Black, and Jian Ross.



This event, attended by over 120 guests, successfully raised more than \$3,500! It was initiated by three exceptional students, Jaiyana, Zoey, and Joanna, in collaboration with the entire Con X class and other student volunteers.

"One of the main highlights of organizing this event was seeing how well it all came together and how successful the event was. We are extremely proud to get to donate the \$3500 we raised to the Michael Cuccione Foundation to support childhood cancer research." - Jaiyana

10. On February 13, the SD43 Career & Trades Program hosted a successful open house at Centennial Secondary School, attracting over 240 attendees. The event showcased a wide range of opportunities available in the skilled trades, featuring presentations from notable organizations such as Skilled Trades BC, ICBA, ACCESS BC, STEP BC, BCCWITT, and an inspiring testimonial from our TRAIN in Trades alumni, Heidi Mueckel. Heidi's journey from completing the Level 1 Carpentry Program during her Grade 12 year to achieving Red Seal Certification in Carpentry by age 22 exemplifies the success achievable through our programs.

Following the presentations, attendees had the opportunity to engage directly with representatives from these organizations, as well as with our Level 1 TRAIN in Trades program instructors and various partner institutions, in the school's foyer.

This event not only highlighted the apprenticeship pathway, employment opportunities, and available supports, including financial assistance but also reinforced our district's commitment to fostering skilled trades education and career development among our students.

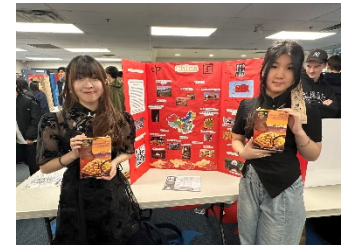


11. From February 20th to 22nd, Port Moody Secondary School hosted its second annual UNICEF Multicultural Fair, organized by students Kyan Ho and Mason Mattu, and teacher sponsor Ms. Angela Chan. This event not only celebrated diversity but also highlighted the important humanitarian efforts of UNICEF across the globe.



From lively dances and melodies to storytelling and a food fair, our students brought the world to our doorstep. Below are some highlights of the activities during the week:

- Indigenous, Korean, Chinese, Bangladeshi, and Russian students shared their rich cultural heritage through amazing dance performances.
- The EAL students and student culture clubs created enlightening poster boards, diving deep into their home countries' traditions, foods, and landscapes.
- The students enjoyed sharing and trying different snacks and treats from their different home countries.



Thank you to everyone who participated and made this event a journey of discovery and celebration!

12. On February 24, Gleneagle Secondary School students hosted a successful Jazz Gala, an evening showcase of talent and entertainment.

This evening event highlighted the incredible talent within our Gleneagle Jazz programs, including both the Vocal Jazz group and the Jazz Band. Each group performed a variety of songs and solos that captivated everyone in attendance. The festivities kicked off with an engaging set from our guest performers, the Inlet Jazz Band.



Thank you to Mr. Trovato and the dedicated parent volunteers, whose collective support was instrumental in orchestrating a wonderful evening.

This gala not only showcased the musical prowess of our students but also underscored the vibrant community spirit that supports arts education within our district.

Upcoming Events

- March 12 – Parents as Education and Career Coaches. Learn more:
- March 13 – Harbour View Elementary School celebrates 60 Years from 3:30 – 5:00 pm
- March 18 – 29 – Spring Break