



1. On April 8, A group of 30 Terry Fox Secondary School STEAM students participated in groundbreaking scientific research, the Solar Max International Animal Behaviour Eclipse Research Project in Fort Worth Texas. The data collected, combined the efforts of many other participants across North America will be the largest-ever scientific study of animal behaviour during a total solar eclipse.

The event was a phenomenal success, marked by a total eclipse, during which our students, under the leadership of Dr. Adam Hartstone-Rose from North Carolina State University, received training in research methodology, data collection protocols, and proper observational techniques.

The students' contributions were significant, adding fifteen new species to the observational data and enhancing the understanding of previously observed species through research done by Dr. Adam Hartstone-Rose in 2017. The results from the research are expected to close the gap in our fundamental understanding of the natural world and have implications for fields such as agriculture, ecology, biology, and astronomy. Our results will be compiled and published in a peer-reviewed journal.

The field trip was the culmination of a year's worth of fundraising efforts by our students, who managed the Ravens Nest store along with various other fundraisers. The group was very fortunate to receive significant financial support from Maxine Wilson and AHR's research funding, totaling over \$30,000 in value.

Edward Csuka shares, "I am incredibly proud of our group of our Terry Fox Secondary STEAM students who showed tremendous grit, determination, and perseverance to endure the rigorous requirements of high-quality biological research. Some of the students have committed to helping analyze the vast amounts of data that will come from across the continent to be included in the eventual project's publication."



2. Congratulations to the 12 grade 11 and 12 students who successfully participated in the Coquitlam Junior Firefighter program over spring break! These students underwent an intensive week-long training and got a chance to learn skills such as rappelling off towers, understanding fire behaviour, practicing fire ground drills, climbing ladders, performing auto extrication, and learning first aid. The program is a condensed version of the eight-week firefighter basic training, giving participants a glimpse into the daily challenges and rewards of firefighting. Thank you to Coquitlam Fire & Rescue for providing our students with this amazing opportunity!



3. Congratulations to the Port Moody Secondary School students for their outstanding performance at the 46th University of British Columbia Physics Olympics held March 9th. Competing against 930 students in 76 teams from across the province, our Grade 11 and 12 teams showcased exceptional perseverance and resilience.

The Grade 11 team excelled, reaching the Quizzics Final and securing a spot among the top 13 contestants. Meanwhile, the Grade 12 team not only placed third in the Sound of Science event but also achieved a remarkable victory by becoming the overall Physics Olympics Champions.

This achievement follows their impressive performance last November at the KPU Science Competition, where the students won 1st and 3rd place, continuing their winning momentum. Well done, students!



4. On March 13, Harbour View Elementary School gathered to celebrate a significant milestone: its 60th anniversary. This momentous occasion was honoured in the presence of distinguished guests, Trustees Carol Brodie, Jennifer Blatherwick, Chuck Denison, and Assistant Superintendent Carey Chute, who joined the celebration to pay tribute to the school's long-standing heritage and accomplishments.

The event featured particularly memorable speeches, especially from former Principal John Richardson, who led the school from 1997 to 2000. His reflections on the school's past achievements and community impact added depth to the celebration.

Highlighting the event were former teachers Aaron Rahn and Jean Glover, who captivated and delighted the audience with their humorous and entertaining speeches about their teaching experiences at Harbour View Elementary, offering a lighter and more personal perspective on the school's history.

The event was further graced by the presence of former administrators Ray Comeau (1990-1997), Sue Reynolds, Wendy Yu, and Michelle Reid, whose attendance underscored the strong sense of community and ongoing connection among the school's past leadership, a testament to the enduring legacy and influence of Harbour View Elementary School within the community.



5. A new nestbox project at Blakeburn Lagoons in Port Coquitlam was proudly completed by 27 students from Terry Fox Secondary's STEAM 10 class. Each student 3D-designed and laser-cut their own unique nestbox, custom-made for indigenous cavity-nesting bird species impacted by human development.

Each box was precisely engineered to specific dimensions with a tight friction fit, eliminating the need for glue, nails, or screws. A wide variety of designs was completed and laser-etched with fun facts, quotes, and poems.

Special thanks to John Sarembo and the Burke Mountain Naturalists Society for guiding the students with their nestbox designs!

Students were offered the opportunity to have their nestbox mounted at Blakeburn Lagoons in cooperation with the City of Port Coquitlam (Special thanks to Jamie Castro for mounting the boxes!).

Students Mason, Mayth, and Yari also signed a "Declaration of Nestbox Stewardship," demonstrating their commitment to ongoing cleaning, maintenance, and reporting of nestbox activity. Well done, students!

6. The SD43 Career and Trades Program is partnering with ACCESS BC to offer indigenous students in Grades 10 to 12 a three-day trades sampler at Port Moody Secondary from April 10 to 12th. This three-day experience will allow students to learn more about carpentry, welding, and CNC Machining.

As part of this experience, students will be building "buddy benches" for Hazel Trembath Elementary School. Register [here](#).

7. On April 4, the SD43 Student Wellness and Safety Team successfully conducted a session in the Family and Community Learning Series, focusing on crucial topics such as Social Media, Exploitation, Digital Citizenship, and Cyberbullying. The event was led by Carol Todd, SD43 Coordinator for Digital Literacy/Citizenship, and Colton Easton, who is a key presenter and the Training Manager at Safer Schools Together.



REGISTER NOW!

FREE EVENT FOR FAMILIES!

Social Media, Exploitation, Digital Citizenship & Cyberbullying

Thursday, April 4, 2024
6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
via Zoom link

Carol Todd
SD43 Coordinator for Digital Literacy/Citizenship

Colton Easton
Key Presenter
Trainer & Training Manager

This session is for families with children in grades 4-9.

Register today at:
sd43.bc.ca/familyseries

SD43 FAMILY AND COMMUNITY LEARNING SERIES 2024

This free session, tailored to families with children in grades 4-9, delved into the complexities of digital trends and their impact on child development. Attendees explored strategies for creating a safe and healthy digital environment at home. This included establishing family rules, implementing parental controls, and developing insights into current app and platform trends to ensure online safety.

For more information and upcoming sessions, please visit sd43.bc.ca/familyseries.

8. On March 20, many schools in the district embraced the spirit of Nowruz, the Persian New Year. Many families were excited to share their traditions as the celebration marks a beautiful beginning to spring and a fresh start to the year ahead.

Below are some highlights of how schools celebrated Nowruz in the district:



(Miller Park Community School)

Miller Park students hosted an event featuring a special dance and a presentation about the Nowruz tradition and the Haft-sin table. They learned that each item on the table starts with the letter 'S' and symbolizes different hopes for the New Year. For example, 'sabzeh' (sprouted wheatgrass) represents rebirth and renewal, while 'seeb' (apple) symbolizes health and beauty.

In the afternoon, parents served tea and sweets from a Persian bakery to all the families, enhancing the festive atmosphere. This gathering was particularly meaningful as it was part of the school's diversity project and welcomed many new families from Iran, fostering a deep sense of belonging and community. Well done, Miller Park Community School!



(Hampton Park Elementary)

Hampton Park Kindergarteners participated in a symbolic "paper fire" jump, an activity that represents the tradition of leaving behind the old year's woes and welcoming the new year's vitality. They also learned about the haft-sin table, set up at the school's entrance, and its significance in celebrating the new year.

Inspired by the hyacinth, a key element among the Haft-Sin's seven 'S' symbols, the students created beautiful floral artwork. The celebrations were further enhanced when a staff member brought Persian bread and feta cheese, sharing a taste of the culture with the team, and adding to the festive spirit.

- On April 9, the Tri-Cities Enchantment Committee held a successful event at the Montgomery Centre Gym as part of the Enchantment Project. This initiative aligns with the belief that every student deserves to feel confident, beautiful, and excited about their graduation, regardless of their financial or personal circumstances.

The event provided a private and supportive setting for students to select their graduation dresses. It embodied our commitment to inclusivity, ensuring that all students have access to attire that makes them feel special during one of life's significant milestones. The Enchantment Project stands as a testament to SD43's dedication to celebrating every student's achievement and supporting their journey with dignity and joy.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone involved in this event and to all the donors for your generous contributions!

- Coquitlam Summer Learning offers students currently in Kindergarten through grade 12 the opportunity to build skills, explore new subject areas, or earn course credits.

Learn more at <https://ce43.augusoft.net/info/landing/summer-learning> and register for these courses on the dates below:

- Elementary: Tuesday, April 30th 6:00am
- Middle & Secondary Skill Building: Friday, May 3rd 6:00am
- Secondary Full Credit: Wednesday, May 8th 6:00am



**2024
Registration
Dates**

Elementary:
Tues. April 30th, 6:00 am

Middle & Secondary Skill Building:
Fri. May 3rd, 6:00 am

Secondary Full Credit:
Wed. May 8th, 6:00 am

WWW.SD43SUMMERLEARNING.CA
Phone 604-936-4261



Superintendent's News & Events Report to the Board

Regular Board Meeting of April 9, 2024

Learning for a Lifetime

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

Upcoming Events

April 11 – Secondary Spring Sing at 7:00 pm Riverside Secondary School

April 16 – Board Meeting for Budget Feedback at 6:30 pm

April 18 – “Screenagers: Next Chapter” Skills for Stress Resilience” at 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm Centennial Theatre

April 19 – Student Leadership Council Leadership Summit at Heritage Woods Secondary School

April 23 – Regular Public Board Meeting Final Budget Presentation at 7:00 pm