

- SD43 is pleased to announce that Assistant Superintendent, Stephen Whiffin has recently been recognized for his visionary leadership by being selected as one of just 20 globally recognized system leaders to serve on the prestigious Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) Chief Academic Officer Advisory Council. ASCD is the world's largest professional association for education leaders with over 125,000 members in 128 countries and produces numerous publications including the iconic journal, "Educational Leadership". This committee develops future system visioning statements as well as the strategies to support implementation of that vision globally. Its work serves to provide governments and system leaders worldwide with tools to plan for the future of education. We congratulate Mr. Whiffin on this great honour.

Assistant Superintendent, Stephen Whiffin shares, "I am honoured to have been recognized by my international peers to serve such an influential leadership role in developing a future vision for education globally. I look forward to bringing the successes achieved in School District 43 to the global stage and am confident this opportunity to work with such an elite group of educational visionaries will lead to valuable ideas supporting our future work here in SD43."

- Congratulations to students Leah Oh and Martin Zylka, who have each received a \$45,000 scholarship for their post-secondary education from the Cmolik Foundation. These scholarships are awarded to students who have faced significant adversity yet responded with resilience and determination, successfully meeting their academic and social goals.



Beyond the financial support, the Cmolik Foundation offers recipients a dedicated mentor, a supportive network of scholarship peers and alumni, as well as access to exclusive events and professional development opportunities.

Leah Oh, a graduate of Centennial Secondary School, is starting her Bachelor of Science degree at University of British Columbia with aspirations to become a medical doctor. Martin Zylka, who graduated from Riverside Secondary School, is beginning his studies in the Physiotherapy program at Douglas College with plans to later transfer to UBC.

- On August 1 and 2, Trustee Carol Brodie welcomed SD43 business partners during the Opening Ceremonies for International Education Department's Summer ESL & Cultural Program.



The program welcomed over 16 groups of students to Pinetree Secondary this summer. Students studied English with SD43 teachers, experienced local excursions, and connected with other students from around the world.

The ceremony highlighted the vital role of SD43's business partners, whose collaboration and support have been instrumental in enriching student experiences and fostering global educational opportunities.



4. Last year, five divisions of Grades 4 and 5 Central Elementary School students participated in Build a Biz Kids, an engaging, hands-on program that introduced students to the world of entrepreneurship. With access to digital resources for product design, marketing, and budgeting, students were able to create their own mini businesses, developing both their creativity and business skills.

The program's highlight was the KidPreneur Fair, a winter market where students sold their products to peers and families. Held in classrooms with parent volunteers assisting at payment stations, the fair was an overwhelming success—selling out before 4:00 p.m. The funds raised contributed to the Grade 4/5 team's field trip.

Beyond the financial outcome, the impact on students was profound. Teachers and staff noticed remarkable growth in students' confidence and pride as they took ownership of their creations. Many students shared that the fair was the highlight of their school year, and several expressed plans to continue their business ventures beyond the classroom.

The Build a Biz Kids program not only supported academic growth but also fostered essential life skills like creativity, problem-solving, and teamwork. Congratulations to Central Elementary School students for their outstanding participation and success in the KidPreneur Fair!

Watch Principal Sean Della Vedova's testimonial as featured on Build a Biz Kids' YouTube Channel [here](#).

5. Hazel Trembath Elementary School students will soon enjoy the benefits of a new playground. The playground is expected to be completed by the end of October, and the structure will feature a range of accessible and multi-user components.



Designed specifically for primary-aged students, the new play structure will be located within a secure, fenced area at the Winslow site, strategically complementing the existing play areas at Winslow Centre and Como Lake Middle, which are geared toward older students.

6. Students and staff at Montgomery Middle School will soon benefit from safer and more modern classrooms, thanks to the recently approved funding for a seismic replacement of the school.

The Province has committed \$86.5 million to this project, which will create 600 student spaces and include a neighbourhood learning centre offering Indigenous programming. Aligned with the Province's CleanBC initiative,



Superintendent's News & Events Report to the Board

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the new school will be designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by over 75% compared to a standard LEED Gold building. The project is slated for completion by fall 2028.

"The seismic replacement of Montgomery Middle school will provide safe, modern classroom spaces for students, furthering the School District 43 Board of Education's goal to provide world-class learning facilities for the communities we serve," said Michael Thomas, chair, School District 43 Coquitlam Board of Education. "We are also pleased that the building will be built with environmental considerations at the forefront."

7. Congratulations to Callie Nedo, a graduate of École Dr. Charles Best, and Emily Yang, a graduate of Centennial Secondary School, for their recent participation in Camp Ignite, a youth firefighting mentorship program for girls in grades 11 and 12 in British Columbia. The camp took place from August 8th to 11th.

During the three-day camp, students were introduced to various aspects of firefighting, including fitness, nutrition, health, and teamwork. We extend a special thank you to Coquitlam Fire/Rescue for sponsoring these students and supporting their journey!

8. August 21st and 22nd, Board Chair Michael Thomas welcomed administrators and the district leadership team back to the ELC to kick off the Learning Without Boundaries (LWB) meetings. This event marked the beginning of the school year and provided an opportunity to come together, share ideas, and set the tone for a year of growth and innovation.



The meetings featured important discussions about our ongoing equity journey, emphasizing the collective responsibility as leaders to ensure that policies and practices would continue to create a supportive and inclusive environment for all. Attendees also participated in a breakout activity titled "Learning and Celebration: What Inspires You?", where stories of inspiration and achievement were shared, fostering a sense of community and motivation. Key topics included presentations from the district leadership team, including a session exploring the evolving role of AI in education and its potential to reshape learning.

Upcoming Events

September 30 – Truth and Reconciliation Day (no school)

October 17 – Mary Hill Elementary's 60th Anniversary

October 30 – Parents as Education & Career Coaches (6:30 – 7:45 pm) Online

November 16 – Riverside Secondary School Winter Market (10 am – 4 pm)