



1. On December 5th, the Board of Education hosted a reception to celebrate employees who have reached an incredible milestone—25 years of service. The Board of Education recognizes all staff for their dedication and extends a special congratulations to those celebrating 25 years with the district. Your service is truly appreciated.
2. On January 6th, SD43 Education Foundation received a \$50,000 donation from the Coquitlam Firefighters Charitable Society (CFCS) to support vital food security initiatives in School District No. 43 (Coquitlam). This funding will directly enhance breakfast programs, ensuring that students who face food insecurity have access to nutritious meals.



This generous financial contribution is further amplified by the involvement of CFCS members, who are committed to going above and beyond. In addition to providing funds, firefighters plan to assist with special events and offer logistical support wherever possible. They will also be visiting schools to connect with students and staff, witnessing the meaningful impact of their efforts firsthand.

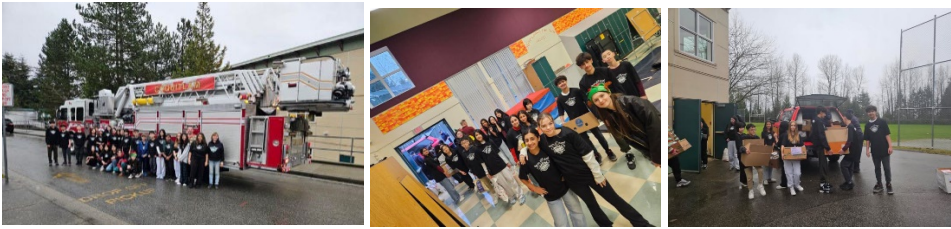
“This partnership with the Coquitlam Firefighters Charitable Society demonstrates the power of community,” said Jeff Stromgren from SD43 Community Connections. “Their commitment to supporting food security and well-being aligns perfectly with our mission to address inequity and foster inclusion in our schools.”

The SD43 Education Foundation has played a pivotal role in ensuring that every dollar of this generous contribution is allocated to its intended purpose. By working closely with community partners, the Foundation maximizes the impact of donations, creating meaningful and lasting change for students and families in need.

This collaboration between CFCS and School District No. 43 (Coquitlam) exemplifies the power of community partnerships. Together, they are taking bold steps to ensure that every child in Coquitlam has access to nutritious meals, fostering greater academic success and personal well-being.

Community members who wish to contribute to these initiatives can contact the SD43 Education Foundation or the Coquitlam Firefighters Charitable Society to learn how they can help make a difference.

For more information, please contact: • SD43 Education Foundation: +1-604-937-8108 | Foundation@sd43.bc.ca
• Coquitlam Firefighters Charitable Society: info@coquitlamfirefighterscharity.com



3. Congratulations to Summit Middle School's Leadership Program for organizing another successful annual food drive for the SHARE Food Bank.

Over the course of two weeks, families contributed non-perishable items and, this year, successfully collected approximately 1000 kilograms of food.

With the help of the Coquitlam Firefighters Department, Summit Middle School delivered the donations to the SHARE Food Bank. The firetruck was almost overflowing with contributions! These efforts, along with various fundraisers organized by the leadership program throughout the year, help support the SHARE Food Bank.

SD43 would like to thank everyone who supported the SHARE Food Bank and our community members this year!

4. Parents and caregivers who are interested in enrolling their child in one of SD43's Programs of Choice — such as French Immersion, Mandarin Bilingual, or Montessori — are encouraged to apply online. Application forms are available until January 15 at 4:00 pm. For more details, please visit the programs page on our website [here](#).



5. On December 18th, Inquiry Hub Secondary School hosted its first Community Fundraising Dinner, welcoming over 70 alumni for an evening of connection, reflection, and celebration. The event brought together graduates from as early as 2016, some of whom have established families, to share their post-secondary journeys, career accomplishments, and personal milestones.

Throughout the evening, guests reconnected with former classmates and teachers, won some door prize draws, and joined the community dinner. The event showcased the strong bonds within the Inquiry Hub community while celebrating the lasting achievements of its graduates.

6. Ten families from three SD43 community schools had their Christmas "wish lists" fulfilled thanks to the generosity of Starbucks patrons across the Tri-Cities.

Families in need were invited to share their unique "wish lists," including items to bring comfort and joy—everything from toys and blankets to diapers and thoughtful gifts for parents.

Starbucks staff and customers came together to collect amazing donations, filling hampers with meaningful gifts for each member of these ten families.

A special thank you goes to Silvia, SD43's Community Development Facilitator and to Jessica Hendriks, Starbucks Manager of loco Road in Port Moody, who not only supported families with weekly food donations but spearheaded this heartwarming initiative.

SD43 would also like to acknowledge the kindness of those who contributed to this initiative. Your generosity truly brightened the holidays for these families!



7. Congratulations to Riverside Secondary School's senior girls' basketball team for an outstanding start of the season! The team achieved an impressive third place ranking among AAAA girls' teams in B.C. and captured the championship title in their division at the prestigious Cactus Jam Phoenix Hoop Classic, held from December 26 to 31.

The students demonstrated exceptional skill and teamwork, winning two of their three games in the "Jam" division. They defeated Shorecrest High School (Washington State) 73-61 and the Sturgeon Spirits (Alberta) 67-39, narrowly falling to Washington's Mercer Island team, 59-52.

A special shoutout to Jorja Hart and Annabelle Neufeld, who were recognized for their outstanding performances and named to the division's all-tournament team.

8. On January 6th, Cam Fraser, a teacher at Port Moody Secondary, was honoured with the BC Premier's Excellence Award. Fraser was nominated by Cameron Black, a former student and active member of the Western Command Society, for his exceptional contributions to educating students about Canada's military history and inspiring them to honour veterans.

Since 2017, Fraser has collaborated with the Western Command Society to organize annual Remembrance Day events at the school. These events feature restored World War II vehicles and equipment displays, giving students and their families a unique opportunity to connect with Canada's past. Fraser's dedication has been instrumental in the event's continued success.



Cameron Black, who was part of the inaugural event, shared a brief testimonial:

"Mr. Fraser has been an incredible help in organizing our Remembrance Day events every year at Port Moody Secondary. We started in 2017, when I was in Grade 11, with a small display of equipment indoors and a vehicle display outside. Over the years, it's become a highlight for students and their families. We always get fantastic



Superintendent's News & Events Report to the Board

Regular Board Meeting of January 14, 2025

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feedback. Mr. Fraser puts in his own time to coordinate everything on the school side, and without his efforts, these events might not have been possible. We look forward to continuing this tradition and are eager to bring these displays to any school in the Lower Mainland."

The Port Moody Secondary community celebrates Fraser's well-deserved recognition and extends its gratitude for his unwavering commitment to honouring veterans and bringing history to life for students.

9. Centennial Secondary School Theatre proudly presents **Grease, the Musical**. Experience the iconic story of Rydell High's class of 1959, brought to life by talented students, a full live orchestra and incredible choreography.

The show dates are on February 6, 7, 8 (matinee), 13, 14, and 15 (closing night). All shows are 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm except for the Saturday matinee at 1:00 pm.

Some adult themes and suggestive language. Suitable for ages 12 and up.

Prices: \$15 for staff/student/senior (age 55+) and \$19 for adults. There will also be a \$10 Valentine's Day special for the community on Friday Feb. 14. Purchase your tickets here: <https://centmusical.brownpapertickets.com/>

The show runs approximately 2 hours and 15 minutes, including intermission. Directed by grade 12 students Siryn Cowie and Phoenix Cowie. Choreographed by grade 12 students Makenna Jung and Tessa Jung. Pit band conducted by Mr. Byrd.

10. **Nominations are open for the upcoming SD43 School Trustee By-Election on February 22.** Prospective candidates can download the nomination package online or may request a printed package by contacting the elections office at elections@coquitlam.ca.

Those who are interested in running, must submit their nomination before January 17, 2025. Learn more: <https://ow.ly/sxX150UAJqv>

Upcoming Events

January 29th – SD43 Trades Program Open House

January 29th – Lunar New Year

February 9 -15 – Real Acts of Caring Week

February 17 – BC Family Day

February 22 – Gleneagle 15th Annual Jazz Gala Dinner & Silent Auction

February 22 – SD43 Trustee By-Election

February 6,7,8,13,14,15 – Grease, The Musical at Centennial Secondary School