

Superintendent's News & Events Report to the Board

Regular Board Meeting of February 11, 2025

Learning for a Lifetime

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



- 1. The City of Port Coquitlam has proclaimed January 31, 2025, Andrew Corbould Day, recognizing his 34 years of service as an educator and community leader.**

Throughout his career as a teacher and principal, Andrew has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to students, colleagues, and the community. His dedication to lifelong learning and passion for education have positively impacted countless lives. Beyond the classroom, he has also contributed through extensive volunteer work, including officiating as a lacrosse referee. SD43 celebrates Mr. Corbould's incredible contributions and lasting legacy and wishes him all the best in his future endeavors.



- 2. Across our schools, students welcomed the 'Year of the Snake' with fun and engaging activities—creating beautiful artwork, hosting assemblies, and exploring the rich traditions of this special celebration.**

At Scott Creek Middle School, students organized a Lunar New Year carnival, where the entire school joined in on interactive games like snake pong, snake fishing, fortune telling, river race plinko, zodiac match, and more. The students had so much fun that they even shared their excitement with younger students at Walton Elementary School.

At Walton Elementary School, students gathered for a special assembly, where students from the Mandarin Bilingual Program shared cultural traditions, such as tidying up before the new year for a fresh start, giving red envelopes as a symbol of prosperity and celebrating with family over dumplings and hot pot. The highlight of the assembly was the lion dance performance, where students cheered as they caught the lettuce, a symbol of luck, prosperity, and fresh beginnings.

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3. **On January 24, Harbour View Elementary School hosted a special event to unveil its millennium time capsule, marking a significant milestone in the school's history.** Principal Daren Fridge, accompanied by former principal John Richardson, opened the wooden box to reveal a fascinating collection of artifacts from the early 2000s, including newspaper clippings, CDs, a VHS tape, a Harry Potter book, photographs, and a letter from Mr. Richardson addressed to the school's future principal.

Former staff members and students who attended the event shared fond memories and reflected on their time at the school. Diane Lyttle, who served as the school's secretary at the time, spoke about the strong sense of community Harbour View has always fostered. She shared, *"Harbour View Elementary School is such a community. People come and go and have the best experience ever. My heart just swells being here."*

4. **On January 22, students from Hazel Trembath Elementary School had an exciting opportunity to learn about lacrosse,** Canada's national summer sport from coaches Bailey and Cole of PoCo Saints Minor Lacrosse.

Students explored lacrosse's rich history as part of Indigenous culture, where it is often referred to as "The Creator's Game" or "The Medicine Game". They also discovered why it's known as "the fastest game on two feet," with three 20-minute periods of non-stop action. To top it all off, students got hands-on experience by learning how to scoop, pass, and shoot like pros!



A huge thank you to Bailey and Cole from PoCo Saints Minor Lacrosse for sharing your time, skills, and passion for the sport.

4. **SD43 welcomes new students and families to the district.** Families with children entering Kindergarten this September have been invited to register during the February 4 to 6th registration period.

Families with children who are currently from another district or those who are wanting to move schools may do so using the cross-catchment process. Cross Catchment application forms will be posted on the front page of www.sd43.bc.ca from February 7 at 9:00 am to February 12 at 4:00 pm. Learn more at www.sd43.bc.ca/crosscatchment



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5. **On January 23rd, 70 STEAM students showcased their creativity, teamwork, and engineering skills during the 3rd Annual Hyde Creek Boat Race—a hands-on learning experience that brought shipbuilding and hydrodynamics to life.**

With guidance from Seaspan, a leader in shipbuilding and marine transportation, and the generous support of Construction BC, an organization dedicated to strengthening the construction industry, students designed and built their boats using only cardboard and tape.

Terry Fox Secondary's STEAM students raced for three coveted trophies: Fastest Boat, Longest Float, Spectacular Sinkage

Beyond the competition, this immersive STEAM experience gave students a deeper understanding of engineering principles, problem-solving, and potential career paths in shipbuilding and marine technology.

A big thank you to Seaspan and Construction BC for making this event possible, and congratulations to our STEAM students for their creativity and enthusiasm in this year's race!

6. **On January 29th, the SD43 Career and Trades Department organized a trades open house, welcoming over 250 students and parents to learn more about opportunities in the skilled trades.**

The evening began with a panel discussion, featuring industry experts from First District Mechanics, Ozz Electric, Skilled Trades BC, ACCESS BC, BCCWITT, and SD43 TRAIN in Trades Alumni. Panelists shared insights into apprenticeship pathways, industry opportunities, and the support available for aspiring tradespeople.



Following the discussion, attendees also participated in an open house session, where they had the opportunity to connect one-on-one with panel members, SD43 TRAIN program instructors, and representatives from BCIT, KPU, VCC, and STEP BC.

The event was a wonderful opportunity for students and parents to engage with industry professionals, ask questions, and gain a deeper understanding of careers in the skilled trades.

7. **Gleneagle Secondary School's Theatre students are proud to present Mean Girls: The Musical based on the hit movie and Broadway show.** The musical features Cady Heron who navigates the complexities of high school social hierarchies, learning lessons about friendship, identity, and staying true to oneself. Tickets are for \$17 for adults and \$13 for students and seniors (the show is not suitable for children under 10). Early bird prices are \$2 less until April 1st (code: MG2025). A Flexpass also available later on for those who want to see all 6 shows for a reduced price of \$72.



Show dates are April 30th, May 1st, May 2nd, May 7th, May 8th, May 9th at 7pm. Purchase your tickets here: <https://cur8.com/projects/23030>. Thank you to student artist JooYeon Lee for designing this year's promotional poster and logo.

8. **Porter Street Elementary School welcomed the Honourable Lisa Beare, Minister of Education and Child Care, MLA Jennifer Blatherwick and Trustees Carol Brodie, Chuck Denison and Zöe Royer in celebration of Real Acts of Caring (RAC) Week from February 9 to 15.** During the visit, students shared the inspiring history of RAC, highlighting how their initiative transformed from Random Acts of Kindness to Real Acts of Caring—a meaningful shift emphasizing genuine, intentional acts of kindness. Teacher Harriette Chang, a long-time advocate for RAC, shared a personal story of how students led this change, ensuring kindness is not just spontaneous but deeply authentic. The Minister also engaged in meaningful discussions with students, answering their questions and commending their leadership in fostering a culture of compassion.

This year, RAC expanded even further, thanks to the support of ERASE BC, which distributed RAC resources to educators in various districts across the province. As a result, more schools than ever will participate in RAC Week. A major milestone was achieved in Penticton School District, where students led the first-ever annual RAC virtual assembly, bringing together nearly 10,000 students and educators from across B.C. to celebrate and promote acts of caring in their communities.



Upcoming Events

- 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
- April 30, May 1, 2, 7, 8, and 9 – Mean Girls at Gleneagle Secondary School