

# Superintendent's News & Events Report to the Board

Regular Board Meeting of March 4, 2025

Learning for a Lifetime

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



1. On February 23, the Riverside Rapids defeated GW Graham Secondary School 57-47 during the 43rd Annual Junior Girls Basketball Provincial Invitational Tournament Championship. With a roaring crowd behind them, the Rapids tied the game at halftime (35-35) and finished with a powerful fourth-quarter push.

Coach Desha Puri shared, "I'm so proud of our girls' resilience in the finals. After falling behind, they stayed positive and never lost hope. They took it one possession at a time. All of their hard work and countless hours of training this year paid off. The gym was packed, and Riverside showed up with tons of fans and support. The building was electric!"

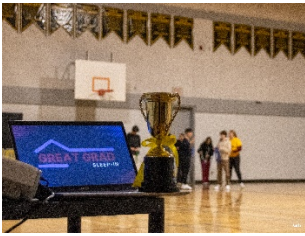
Congratulations to the tournament's Most Valuable Player, Francesca Salonga, and First Team All-Stars, Caitlin Moore and Henna Virk!



2. An integral part of the French Immersion Program is providing cultural activities that allow students the opportunity to learn French culture and interact in the French language.

This year, following the fall launch of the District's Core French elementary and middle school programs, Core French students participated in a district-wide tour by the Maple Man (La Grande Coulée). Students enjoyed traditional French Québécois music and dance and learned about making traditional maple syrup. Students were treated with authentic maple taffy and stories about the sugar shack (cabane à sucre).

The Maple Man also visited all 10 French Immersion Elementary Schools and all 15 of our Middle Schools. C'était fantastique!



3. Gleneagle Secondary School's Grad Class of 2025 hosted the Great Grad Sleep-In from January 31 to February 1, raising nearly \$4,000 to support Covenant House Vancouver.

Throughout the night, students played classic childhood games, watched movies, made balloon animals, posed in a photo booth, got their faces painted, competed in team challenges, and enjoyed delicious food. Beyond the fun, they also learned about youth homelessness and how to support teens in need.

This event was a huge success thanks to the dedication of students, volunteers, teachers, sponsors, Gleneagle's administration and custodial team, and Pauline Correa from Covenant House Vancouver. Congratulations to the Gleneagle community for demonstrating leadership, compassion, and a commitment to social change!



4. February was Black History Month, and schools across SD43 celebrated the many achievements of Black Canadians who continue to shape Canada's cultural, economic, political, and social success.

Many schools hosted assemblies and prepared Black History Month displays in libraries and foyers, offering students opportunities to learn more about Black history and culture. Students were also encouraged to engage in conversations about the impact of racism and the importance of equity, respect, and inclusion for all members of the community.

### Highlights of Black History Month school events included:

- Centennial Secondary School's Black History Month Club organized an assembly celebrating Black artists and creatives, with a focus on hair, food, entertainment, and music. Students also welcomed guest speaker Mr. Morrison, a talented stunt double actor who shared his journey of overcoming challenges as a youth and achieving success through focus and hard work.
- Centennial Secondary School students organized a Jamaican Patty workshop led by Vice-Principal Ms. Nembhard and her mother, Mrs. Mavis Nembhard, where participants learned about Jamaican culture and made traditional patties.

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- A hair workshop was also held, where student entrepreneurs Flourish (Port Moody Secondary) and Anelka (Terry Fox Secondary) taught their peers about the cultural significance of specific hairstyles in Black communities.
- Pinetree Secondary hosted its first Speaker Series (Feb 21-27), where students engaged with professionals from diverse backgrounds who shared their career journeys, experiences, and insights on navigating the working world. Among the invited speakers were Denise Nembhard (Port Moody Secondary Vice-Principal) and Larry Ryan (Seaview Elementary Principal), who provided valuable perspectives on leadership and education within SD43.

- February 26 was Pink Shirt Day and the Board of Education proudly wears pink and stands together with the SD43 community in all efforts to erase bullying.

This year's theme, "Let Kindness Grow," reminds us that even the smallest acts of empathy and inclusion help nurture a sense of belonging —at school, at work, and in our communities.



Inspired by a movement that began in 2007, Pink Shirt Day has become a powerful symbol of respect, inclusion, and standing up for others. While the day itself is marked once a year, the message it carries continues throughout the school year—kindness is something we cultivate daily.

- Gleneagle Secondary's ConX Leadership group will be hosting a second round of Talons Tutoring, a free and accessible after-school program for students in grades 4-8 across the SD43 district. In addition to offering support in core subjects such as Math, English, Science, and Social Studies, the group will offer: Music and Foreign Languages, allowing students to enhance both their academic and artistic skills.

Tutoring sessions will take place at Gleneagle Secondary School from 4:00 to 5:15 pm from March 11<sup>th</sup> to May 16<sup>th</sup>.



- Heritage Woods Theatre presents The Drowsy Chaperone, a hilarious musical comedy that parodies the Golden Age of Broadway. This Tony Award-winning production is directed and choreographed by Julia MacLean, with artistic direction by Shanda Walters. Hayley Perkins leads the musical elements as Music Director, while Olivia Niese oversees the technical aspects as Technical Director. Show dates are February 28, March 1, 7, and 8. Purchase tickets here:

<https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/6504941>







On February 19th, École Kwayhqitlum Middle School held a ceremony where the *kʷikʷəłə́m*, Kwikwetlem First Nation, presented the school with a flag—a meaningful gift symbolizing recognition, respect, and the strengthening of relationships between the school and the Indigenous community.

The ceremony was led Kristina Joe, *kʷikʷəłə́m* and Councillor Jon Peters, *kʷikʷəłə́m*. Following process and protocol, three witnesses—Principal Ms. Sviatko and two Kwayhqitlum students—were called forward and gifted blankets before the flag was officially brushed off with cedar.

The ceremony featured inspiring speeches from Kristina Joe and Jon Peters, who spoke about the flag's deep significance. Kristina also shared a powerful song that she wrote. The event began and ended with powerful drum performances by Kwayhqitlum drummers, led by teacher Ms. Ledoux's, Fishing Lake First Nation. Many students joined in to keep the rhythm of the final song. Special guests, including the District Principal of Indigenous Education, Nicole Durand, Anishinaabe, *kʷikʷəłə́m* Education Coordinator, Carnell Turton, Kwayhqitlum teacher, who shared his learning through a land acknowledgement and two RCMP officers, were also in attendance.

This was a historic and significant moment for Kwayhqitlum Middle School. Receiving this flag is more than a symbolic gesture—it is a commitment to Truth and Reconciliation and a reminder that the school stands on the traditional lands of the *kʷikʷəłə́m* First Nation. By displaying this flag, Kwayhqitlum Middle honours the original stewards of the land and fosters deeper connections with Indigenous communities.

This ceremony was a collective collaboration between *kʷikʷəłə́m* Nation, and Kwayhqitlum School. Thank you to the planning committee who included those mentioned above and Danielle Kraichy, Métis, Principal Ms. Sviatko, Jody Rowat, Ryan Williams, Métis, and Frank Lore.

8. Congratulations to the Nestor Elementary School community for making a difference!

After learning about adaptive sports during a school assembly, students were inspired to support the athletes who play them. Their enthusiasm turned into action, raising \$420 for the Invictus Games Foundation and \$420 for BC Blind Sports—a testament to their commitment to inclusivity and community support.



This initiative began when Ms. Loss introduced the Invictus Games—an international multi-sport event for wounded, injured, and sick service personnel and veterans—to the school community and her colleagues. Moved



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by the powerful stories of resilience, she reached out to BC Blind Sports, who later visited the school to introduce students to sit-down volleyball, giving them firsthand experience with adaptive sports.

To show their support, students participated in Jersey Day on February 7, proudly wearing their favourite team jerseys and bringing in donations. But the excitement didn't end there! A group of students were invited to personally deliver the donation and attend the Invictus Games opening ceremony, making this an unforgettable experience.

9. Continuing Education is pleased to offer students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 the opportunity to enhance their learning, explore new subject areas and earn course credits. Learn more about the registration and eligibility process here:

<https://ow.ly/PRQQ50UCj6C>

Registration Opening Dates:

- Elementary Skill Building – March 4th at 6:00 am
- Middle Skill Building – March 7th at 6:00 am
- Secondary School – March 7th at 6:00 am

10. SD43 invites parents/caregivers of children ages three to five years old to Ready, Set, Learn, an early learning initiative sponsored by the Ministry of Education beginning this March and April. Families will have the opportunity to participate in a drumming circle, storytelling and other fun early learning activities as well as meet with early childhood experts and community agencies. Register today: <https://ow.ly/kTcF50V2gQi>

## Upcoming Events

- February 28, March 1, 7, 8 – The Drowsy Chaperone Musical at Heritage Woods Secondary School
- March 8 – International Women's Day
- March 17 – 28 – Spring Break
- March 21 – International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- April 10 – Jill of All Trades Event with BCIT (open to Grades 9 – 12)
- April 15 – 17 – Indigenous Students in Trades Sampler
- April 30, May 1, 2, 7, 8, and 9 – Mean Girls at Gleneagle Secondary School

**2025 Registration Dates**

Elementary:  
Tues, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 am

Middle & Secondary Skill Building:  
Fri, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 am

High School Credit:  
Tues, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 am



WWW.SD43SummerLearning.ca  
Phone 604-936-4261

**READY, SET, LEARN**

**IN SD 43!**

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Come and connect with others in your community!  
Families will have an opportunity to participate in a drumming circle, storytelling and other fun early learning activities and meet early childhood experts and local community agencies.

All sessions: 9:30am - 11:30am

March 12: Cedar Drive Elementary  
April 15: Roy Stibbs Elementary  
April 22: Kilmer Elementary  
April 23: Aspenwood Elementary  
April 29: Irvine Elementary

**ALL EVENTS ARE FREE TO ATTEND.**

For more information, visit [www.sd43.bc.ca/ready-set-learn](http://www.sd43.bc.ca/ready-set-learn) or call 604-936-4261.