



1. On May 7, SD43 Continuing Education's Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC) 4, 5, and 6 students participated in the Creative heARTs program at Place des Arts with local artist Molly Gray.

During the two-hour guided workshop, students explored haiku poetry, stamping, collage, and watercolour painting. Each participant received a blank art booklet and informative handouts to support both their English language learning and artistic inspiration.

For many students, this was their first time visiting an art gallery or creating art in Canada. The experience was not only culturally enriching but also therapeutic and calming. It gave students an opportunity for self-expression in a welcoming and inclusive space. Some parents with young children were also able to participate, making the session even more meaningful for families.

Thank you to the Hamber Foundation for funding this incredible experience, and to Place des Arts for creating a space where students can feel seen, supported, and inspired to create.

2. On May 4, the SD43 Education Foundation hosted its annual Charity Golf Classic sponsored by Open Road Tri-Cities at the GreenTee Country Club Westwood Plateau and raised \$31,499.87 in support of KidSport Tri-Cities.

For the past 10 years, the tournament has brought the community together and supported student well-being through sport.

The SD43 Education Foundation and the organizing committee would like to thank everyone who helped make this year's event a huge success especially to all the golfers, volunteers, hole sponsors and prize donors!

3. On June 2, Grade 12 Indigenous Students were honoured at the Indigenous Grade 12 Honouring Ceremony at the Port Coquitlam Arena. Graduates and audience members were drummed in by the Indigenous Education staff and student drummers. Elder Stephen Armstrong from the *kʷikʷəłəʼm First Nation*, welcomed the graduates and audience members to the ceremony, and two graduating students also shared a land acknowledgement on behalf of the graduating class. Congratulations to all of our students on this outstanding achievement!



4. On May 21, students from Westwood and James Park Elementary Schools participated in an exciting hands-on public works showcase thanks to the City of Port Coquitlam.

The City brought in a fleet of service vehicles, including excavators, a dump truck, a remote-control mower and more. This event gave students the opportunity to meet with operators, explore various types of machinery, and watch live demonstrations.

Congratulations to Westwood students Fernando Sanchez Wada (Grade 5) and Sofia Shams (Grade 3), who were named winners of the city-wide colouring contest. Fernando received a ride on a garbage truck, while Sofia's artwork will appear on a City of Port Coquitlam digital billboard.

Special thanks to Principals Misti Askew and Rob Wright, and Head Teacher Ally Smith for coordinating this valuable learning experience for students. Their efforts also helped increase attendance at the City's Public Works Open House.



5. PoMoArts is celebrating Pride Month this June with True Colours, its fourth annual art exhibition that supports and celebrates queer, questioning, and allied youth in the community.

The exhibition creates a safe and welcoming space where LGBTQIA2S+ youth, their families, and allies can express their individuality and share their unique perspectives.

Middle and secondary students across the district were invited to submit original artwork exploring themes of identity, family, and culture. Minnekhada Middle School's SOGI Club submitted a piece that is now on display until at PoMo Arts until July 6th 2025.



6. SD43 schools once again demonstrated outstanding community spirit and leadership by raising an impressive \$153,032.77 for the Terry Fox Foundation through the 2024 Terry Fox School Runs.

This collective effort reflects the compassion, initiative, and determination of our students, staff, and families in supporting cancer research and continuing Terry Fox's enduring legacy.

Congratulations to all participating schools, with special recognition to our top fundraisers:

- Castle Park Elementary
- Eagle Mountain Middle
- Citadel Middle
- Centennial Secondary
- Coast Salish Elementary
- Terry Fox Secondary



To celebrate Terry Fox's 45th anniversary of the Marathon of Hope, several SD43 schools had the honour of welcoming Darrell Fox and the National Ride of Hope team on June 9th at Terry Fox Hometown Square.

7. **On June 5, the SD43 Board of Education recognized teachers, staff and administrators for their contributions to the school district during the annual SD43 Retirement event held at the GreenTee Westwood Plateau.**

The Board also extends its appreciation to Centennial Secondary's Vocal Jazz band under the musical direction of Rachel Goetz and Senior Jazz Band under the musical direction of Marquis Byrd for their outstanding musical performance during the evening.

The Board wishes all retirees the very best in their future endeavours and thanks them for all their contributions to education in SD43.

8. **On May 23, Kwayhquitlum Middle School celebrated its 30-year anniversary bringing together students, former principals and staff.** The school also celebrated this milestone with a spirit assembly followed by a reunion of staff and students in the learning commons.

9. **On May 22, Grade 12 Indigenous students from SD43 and the Delta School District celebrated their graduation through a symbolic canoe journey, marking their transition from high school to the next stage of their lives.**

The day began with a traditional cedar brushing ceremony, a sacred act of cleansing and protection, before students launched their canoes into the Fraser River. Traveling together, students made their first stop at the Elliot Street Wharf, where they shared stories, reflected, and enjoyed lunch. Nathan Wilson, from the Musqueam First Nation shared opening words on behalf of the Delta School District. Elder Stephen Armstrong from the Kwikwetlem First Nation was also in attendance and shared important words with the students.

SD43 students paddled in the SD43 Indigenous Education's Waverunner canoe, continuing the journey to Wellington Point. The District Principals of Indigenous Education from both school districts addressed the students and presented them with gifts in recognition of their achievements.

Rob Cowie, SD43 Indigenous Resource Teacher, shared, "Together, they move forward with one voice, one heart, and one community."

Throughout the day, students learned and honoured important teachings, such as how to paddle in unison, respect cultural protocols like not pointing at eagles, and participate in ceremonial practices including singing and cedar brushing. The experience served as both a celebration and a powerful reminder of strength through unity, identity, and shared tradition.



10. **On May 30, Port Moody Secondary welcomed families, students, business leaders, Mayor Meghan Lahti, and representatives from the Port Moody Police and Fire Departments to the Relentless Pursuit of Excellence Breakfast.** The event brought together the school community to celebrate its history, honour distinguished alumni, and support student initiatives.

The school invited two accomplished alumni to share their stories. Sophie Lui (PMSS Class of '92), Global BC News Anchor and award-winning journalist, who spoke about the support she received from teachers across the region throughout her education. Justina DiStasio (PMSS Class of '10), world champion wrestler and Olympian, reflected on the lasting impact of her high school days from coaches, Selwyn Tam, Dino Bolognese, and Cam Fraser.

Port Moody Secondary School thanks the SD43 Education Foundation for its generous support in making this event possible.



11. **From May 20 to 23, thousands of students, athletes, coaches, organizers, teachers, principals, parent and student volunteers gathered at Coquitlam's Percy Perry Stadium for the annual SD43 Elementary Track and Field Meet.** Students from across the district competed for ribbons in events like the 100m, 400m, 800m, 1500m races, long jump, high jump, shot put and discus.

Thank you to the following 2025 District Track Committee Members:

- Karen Ciolfitto (Blakeburn)
- Chealsy Stachow (Westwood)
- Jenny Kask (Hazel Trembath)
- Jeff Smith (Hazel Trembath)
- Rika Kubota (Westwood)
- Cameron Nakatsu (Westwood)



The committee was very impressed with the perseverance and sportsmanship of all runners and thanks everyone involved in participating in another great meet!

12. **SD43 proudly celebrates Kobe, a Port Moody Secondary graduate, who earned one of thirteen Terry Fox Humanitarian Awards valued at \$28,000. This scholarship recognizes exceptional student leaders making a difference through humanitarian work.**



Kobe fell in love with basketball at a young age and drew inspiration from Kobe Bryant's values of perseverance and hard work. When he received a diagnosis of severe myopia in Grade 3, he faced unexpected challenges—but he turned those obstacles into purpose.

While completing the IB Diploma Program at Port Moody Secondary, Kobe researched the effects of sleep on teenage myopia for his extended essay, worked at Westwood Eye Doctors as an optometric assistant, and co-founded the 20/20 Mission, a nonprofit organization that collects and redistributes used eyeglasses to underserved communities.

Since launching the foundation, Kobe and his team have collected more than 4,000 pairs of glasses and formed over 40 partnerships with clinics, schools, and businesses. In April 2024, he travelled to a rural town near Mixco, Guatemala, where he and his team provided eye exams and distributed glasses to more than 450 people, in collaboration with Rayjon Share Care.

Kobe now studies Biomedical and Mechanical Engineering in McMaster University's iBioMed program and continues to champion access to vision care around the world.



Upcoming Events

Commencement Ceremonies

- June 19 – Continuing Education (CE) – Inlet Theatre Port Moody (6:00 pm)
- June 20 – CABB – CABB Secondary (11:00 am)
- June 21 – Heritage Woods – Simon Fraser University Burnaby (2:00 pm)
- June 22 – Gleneagle – Orpheum Theatre Vancouver (11:00 am)
- June 22 – Riverside – Simon Fraser University Burnaby (11:00 am)
- June 23 – Centennial – Simon Fraser University Burnaby (5:00 pm)
- June 23 – Pinetree – Orpheum Theatre Vancouver (7:00pm)
- June 23 – Inquiry Hub – Inlet Theatre Port Moody (6:30 pm)
- June 24 – Dr. Charles Best – Simon Fraser University Burnaby (6:00 pm)
- June 24 – Terry Fox – Orpheum Theatre Vancouver (11:00 am)
- June 24 – Encompass & Customized (CLC) – Vanier Centre (3:30 pm)
- June 25 – Port Moody – Orpheum Theatre Vancouver (7:00pm)
- June 26 – Last day of school for all students
- June 27 – Administrative Day