

1. On February 8, BC Minister of Education Mike Bernier **announced** a \$33.3 million funding to seismically replace Minnekhada Middle School. [The announcement took place at the current Minnekhada Middle school.](#) Among those in attendance at the announcement included SD43 trustees Kerri Palmer Isaak (Board Chair), Carol Cahoon (Board Vice-Chair), Barb Hobson, Chuck Denison and Michael Thomas, SD43 Superintendent Patricia Gartland, Port Coquitlam Mayor Greg Moore, Port Coquitlam MLA Mike Farnworth, Coquitlam MLA Linda Reimer, Minnekhada Principal Susan Ross, Minnekhada Grade 8 student MacKenzie Frizzell, as well as members of SD43's district leadership team and other guests.
2. SD43 Superintendent Patricia Gartland, Centennial Secondary Principal Jon Bruneau, Gleneagle Secondary Principal Ken Cober, along with SD43 students from the two aforementioned schools as well as Coquitlam Mayor Richard Stewart had the privilege of being invited to the residence of Ms. Asako Okai, the Japanese consul general in Vancouver, for a [special reception on February 15 to honour and recognize those who took part in the Kakehashi project "Japanese friendship program."](#)
3. SD43, in conjunction with Lanzhou University, hosted a special **Chinese Lunar New Year gala** on February 15. The event attracted an audience of over 400 attendees, including SD43 trustees Kerri Palmer Isaak (Chair), Carol Cahoon (Vice-Chair), Chuck Denison and Keith Watkins, the educational consuls of the Consulate General of the Peoples' Republic of China in Vancouver, City of Coquitlam councillors, and Port Moody – Coquitlam MP Fin Donnelly.
4. Inquiry Hub students Ethan Moore and Brandon Mayhew have been selected to take part in the [Forum for Young Canadians](#) where they will have the opportunity to travel to Parliament Hill in March for a week to get a behind-the-scenes look at the world of federal politics and share their ideas with fellow participants.
5. Riverside Secondary grade 10 students in the [Bicycle Maintenance and Repair Course are giving back to the local community](#) by inspecting bicycles and returning those that pass the safety test to KidSport for their bi-annual Used Sporting Good sale which will also be hosted by Riverside Secondary on March 4.
6. Anmore Elementary is [auctioning off exclusive student artwork](#) in a fundraising endeavour. Online bidding remains open until 9 p.m. on Saturday, February 25. Visit facebook.com/anmoreschool for information.
7. Riverside Secondary presents **Rock of Ages** at River's Edge Theatre. Show runs February 23-25 and March 1-3. Tickets available on the [school's website](#).



8. [Riverside Secondary will host The Rotary Club of Port Coquitlam Centennial's winter blues festival](#) on February 26. The event raises money for the **Starfish Pack initiative** which helps feed Port Coquitlam students. Food at the event will be served by **Riverside Secondary culinary students**, while the lineup features **SD43 teacher Steve "Mud Dog" Sainas**, who helped found the Rock School program at **Terry Fox Secondary**.



9. Plenty of SD43 success stories from the courts and the turf including:
- **Heritage Woods Secondary's junior boys and junior girls basketball teams** both capturing their respective district championships.
 - **Centennial Secondary's grade 9 boys basketball team** capturing the district championship.
 - **Port Moody Secondary's senior competitive dance team** competed at the FOOTLOOSE dance competition at RC Palmer Secondary in Richmond on Friday, February 17 placing 7th out of 16 teams.
 - **Terry Fox Secondary student Matthew Shuen** (football) and **Gleneagle Secondary student Nadia Hakeem** ([soccer](#)) will be taking their talents to Simon Fraser University in the fall.
 - **Eagle Mountain Middle grade 8 student Kyler Arnold** won the gold medal in the cadet 57kg Olympic black belt division at the U.S. Open Taekwondo Championships in Nevada in January. He will be competing in the national competition in Calgary in May and hopes to qualify for Team Canada at the Cadet Pan Am Games in the fall.
 - **Heritage Woods grade 12 student Ashlyn Arnold** will be competing at the senior national Taekwondo championships in Montreal in March and hopes to have a chance to represent Canada at the world championships in Korea this summer.
 - The **Riverside Secondary senior girls soccer team** is fundraising to participate in an exchange program with a school in Ottawa. To support their cause, visit www.gofundme.com/rside-girls-soccer-ottawa-trip-17.
10. The [third annual SlamJam](#), an event organized by **students at Gleneagle Secondary** featuring spoken-word poets and musicians, takes place on March 2 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Eagle Ridge United Church. Proceeds from the event supports the Homes for Good Society.
11. **Pinetree Secondary graduate Arash Khakpour** will be appearing in [Penumbra](#), a show by Kinesis Dance somatheatro that will have its world premier at the Vancouver International Dance Festival in March.
12. **Gleneagle Secondary graduate Rob Taylor** will read and sign copies of his new poetry book titled "The News" on Saturday, February 25 at Chapters on Lougheed Highway in Coquitlam from 1 to 3 p.m.



Read many more SD43 stories on our website at: www.sd43.bc.ca/Pages/news.aspx