



Learning for a Lifetime

Superintendent's News & Events Report to the Board

Regular Board Meeting of January 18, 2022

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

1. A final decision has been made to determine which SD43 science experiment will go to space!

Team proposals from grades 5-12 students attending more than 30 SD43 schools were initially reviewed. Proposals were shortlisted and further reviewed by a panel of experts with science, technology and proposal writing backgrounds from School District No. 43 (Coquitlam), Simon Fraser University, IBM Canada, and Microsoft Canada.

From there, several proposals were further shortlisted and discussed in depth by the panel to narrow it down to the [final three](#) which were put forward to the Student Spaceflight Experiment Program (SSEP) and the National Center for Earth and Space Science Education (NCESE) in Washington, DC.

We are excited to announce that grade 9 Port Moody Secondary students J.E. Lee and Yong Lee submitted the final chosen proposal with their teacher Marina Mehai! Their experiment will blast off on a rocket heading to the International Space Station in the spring/summer of 2022. The chosen experiment will be conducted by astronauts on the ISS and is outlined below.

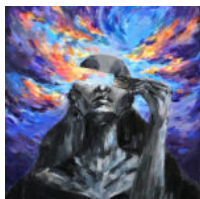
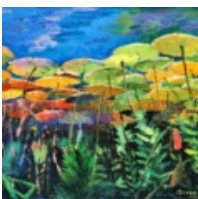
J.E. Lee and Yong Lee (Gr 9 with teacher Marina Mehai at Port Moody Secondary)

Microorganisms have been found to react differently in microgravity conditions. Bacteria composing the human gut microbiome provide many benefits and affect the host both physiologically and psychologically. Metabolites (from gut bacteria), specifically butyrate, an SCFA have been linked to many health benefits from reduced inflammation to autophagy, which will be beneficial for the reduction in frequent rashes or hypersensitivity, and loss of muscular mass commonly experienced in space. Knowing if the production of these beneficial compound's changes can greatly affect the wellbeing of future astronauts in microgravity long term. The investigation will look at the effect of microgravity in the production of short-chain fatty acids (SCFAs) by *Lactobacillus casei* (HA-108), *Lactobacillus rhamnosus* (HA-111), *Lactobacillus acidophilus* (HA-122), and *Bifidobacterium longum* (HA-135) in the fermentation of prebiotic fibers present in chia (*Salvia hispanica*) seeds.



2. Seventy-nine Grade 4/5 students in the Mandarin Bilingual Program at Walton Elementary are participating in virtual cultural workshops in the lead up to the Winter Olympics in Beijing, China. The students are interacting with Beijing instructors using Zoom and learning about sporting and cultural events including the upcoming Lunar New Year. Thanks to teachers Paul Zhao, Vivian Hsiao, Spencer Finlay and Principal Marco Jankowiak and Vice-Principal Leanne Kemp for supporting the students.

3. Until March 5th, you can enjoy artworks created by SD43 Grade 12 art students on display at Place des Arts. This show represents the 24th Emerging Talent student show and features various mediums of visual art. Presented with COVID protocols in place, the show is billed as 'an impressive display of talent and energy' and represents the achievements of promising student artists from across the district. For details including hours of operation, visit www.placedesarts.ca





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4. On the week of November 28th, Gleneagle Secondary School's leadership students organized a variety of fundraising activities to help Shares Society in supporting families in need this Christmas. Some of their fundraising efforts included setting up a karaoke tent outside the school, selling gingerbread houses and collecting non-perishable food donations. The students also hosted the 2nd annual Conxmas Concert where the CEO of Share Society, Claire MacLean made a special appearance.

5. SD43 is excited to announce the newest addition to the SD43 family of schools, Coast Salish Elementary, opening this September 2022. We look forward to welcoming the new students to their beautiful new building!

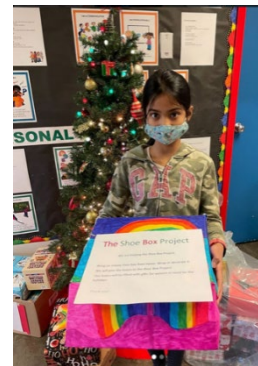


6. On December 6th, the SD43 Career and Trades Department collaborated with the BC Centre for Women in Trades by hosting a virtual meeting for high school females in the province. Participants had the opportunity to learn from women in trades about their jobs, to ask questions, to learn about scholarships, as well as network and gain insight for employment opportunities.



7. RC MacDonald Elementary School collected, decorated, and donated a total of 116 shoeboxes to The Vancouver Shoebox Project, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping women impacted by homelessness through the distribution of gift-filled shoeboxes.

A local organizer for The Shoebox Project partnered with Shoppers Drug Mart and Chapters to fill each shoebox with gifts.



8. SD43 celebrated the 100th anniversary of the discovery of insulin by Dr. Charles Best and Sir Fredrick Banting. This discovery saved millions of lives from diabetes, and we are proud to have schools in SD43 named after these amazing researchers.

This pictured monument was designed and commissioned by the Sir Frederick Banting Legacy Foundation and is found in Alliston, Ontario, the birthplace of Sir Frederick Banting.





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9. Maliyah, a Grade 8 Citadel Middle School student and Maya, an École Dr. Charles Best Secondary School graduate, started a small online business on Etsy called, DoubleMDesigns20, selling mask lanyards, gemstone jewelry, tote bags, macrame, and more..

In December, the students also joined the Archbishop Carney Secondary Craft Fair and the Port Moody's Farmers Market and were so happy with the outcome that they decided to donate part of their profits to help fill hampers for the Tri-Cities Moms' Group. They have donated a total amount of \$2492 and plan to continue to help more charities as listed on their Facebook and Instagram pages.

The students have also been featured in Jillian Harris' Little Leaders series here:

<https://jillianharris.com/little-leader-series-maliyah-chung-and-maya-buchko>



10. On December 16th, Ms. Chand's grade 6/7 class at Minnekhada Middle School donated a total of \$12,916 for flood relief with a coin drive and online fundraiser. The provincial and federal governments matched the donated amount, and with their support, nearly \$40,000 has been donated to the British Columbia Floods & Extreme Weather Appeal to support BC flood victims.

Read the Tri-City News article [here](#)



Image: Tri-City News

11. On December 17th, Dr. Charles Best Secondary School's Leadership students got their school to participate in the Jingle Hoops fundraiser for local families in need. Participants donated \$5 to the fundraiser and had 90 seconds to get as many points as they could through free throws and 3-point shots for a chance to win spirit wear.



12. During the holiday season, SD43 students, parents, and staff came together to create and donate holiday hampers for families in our community. Como Lake Secondary School raised a total of \$4000 and created 19 food hampers at the end of their "12 Days of Como Caring" event.





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13. On December 29th, former SD43 Trustee, Diane Sowden, was named a recipient of the Order of Canada. The Order of Canada honours people who make extraordinary contributions to the nation.

Diane Sowden founded the Children of the Street Society in 1995 and retired in June 2019 when PLEA Community Services took over. Later this year, she will be presented with her insignia at investiture ceremonies "for her leadership in raising awareness of and preventing the sexual exploitation of human trafficking of children and youth."



Image: Tri-City News

Read the full article from the Tri-City News [here](#)

14. The International Education Department hosted a logo design contest for international students of all grades in SD43. Students had to create an original logo that represented Coquitlam School District International Education. On January 14th, one design was chosen, and the winner received a \$1000 scholarship.



15. Congratulations to the senior girls' volleyball team at Riverside Secondary School for winning this year's provincial championships.

Swimmers from Riverside Secondary School received individual medals for their provincial match.



16. On December 23rd, Blakeburn Elementary School donated over 400 cereal boxes and milk cartons to SHARE Society as a part of this year's 'Cereal Box Challenge'. The cereal boxes and milk cartons were distributed to families and individuals in the communities.

SHARE society is a non-profit, independent, community-based organization providing leadership and programs in response to the social needs of the residents of the Tri-Cities, New Westminster, and adjacent communities.





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17. Gavin, an 8-year-old student from Rochester Elementary School donated nearly \$1700 to Central Fraser Valley Search and Rescue by making and selling clay Christmas tree ornaments over the Christmas break. Well done, Gavin!



18. SD43's Sustainability and Energy Management Team worked with Fortis BC, Clean BC and BC Hydro and had 22 schools in the district participate in the District Tree Planting Program.

École Westwood Elementary School had their students and principal plant the endangered dogwood tree. After participating in the tree planting program, Alderson Elementary School had their students create poems about trees. Pitt River Middle School planted a willow tree in memory of a former SD43 student Jessie Richmond and as a symbol of resilience, stability, hope, belonging and safety.



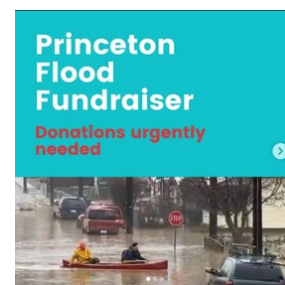
19. From January 6th to January 12th was the registration period for Programs of Choice in SD43. Parents and guardians were able to register their eligible children for the programs SD43 offers like French Immersion, Mandarin Bilingual, Montessori, and Reggio.



20. On January 5th, Gleneagle Secondary School held a one-day blood drive for students and teachers. People over 17 years old were able to sign up and donate to Canadian Blood Services.



21. From December 13th to 17th, Gleneagle Secondary School students collected donations to raise funds for flood relief in Princeton. Students could either make cash donations in their block 2 classes or purchase ice cream bars at lunch on December 13th and 14th with all proceeds donated to the relief efforts.





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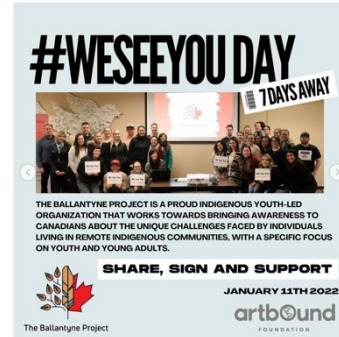
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22. Scott Creek Middle School had a '12 days of giving' event from November 29th until December 13th as a part of the We See You Campaign from The Ballantyne Project. The 12 days were mixed with both class challenges and individual challenges where students would collect canned foods, coins, grains, pasta and "remote activities" which included playing cards, crayons, and puzzles. After the 12 days of donations were completed, Scott Creek Middle School donated their full boxes to The Ballantyne Project.

The Ballantyne Project is an Indigenous youth-led organization working to raise the awareness of Canadians about the unique challenges individuals living in remote Indigenous communities face.



23. Congratulations to the senior boys' basketball team at Centennial Secondary School on winning the New Westminster Bob Gair Classic tournament.

Also, congratulations to Nick Yang from Centennial Secondary School on winning one of the five Kodiak Klassic \$1000 scholarships.



24. On December 10th, Terry Fox Secondary School organized a Believe Leadership Inspiration Fair. The Believe Initiative is a youth organization founded by Olympian Sarah Wells and the fair showcased all the passion projects that Terry Fox students had been working on.

Upcoming Events:

- January 12th to 20th- the Canadian Universities Event, a digital event that offers contact with university representatives from over 50 Canadian universities
- January 24th to 28th-SD43's grade 12 students will complete the provincial literacy assessment required for the BC graduation program.
- February- Eco-Challenge for students, hosted by SD43's Sustainability and Energy management Team??
- February 1st - 4th – Kindergarten Registration
- February 4th – 9th Cross Catchment Registration