

1. Coast Salish Elementary School celebrated their official opening Wednesday, November 15 with an open house and ceremony. The event attracted many students and families to tour through the new school, watch the festivities, and enjoy some cake and refreshments. Hosted by Coast Salish Principal Frank Pearse, the event program included Minister of Education and Child Care Rachna Singh, Coquitlam-Burke Mountain MLA Finn Donnelly, Kwikwetlem First Nation Councillor John Peters, in addition to Board Chair Michael Thomas, SD43 trustees, Superintendent Patricia Gartland and the District Leadership Team. Special guests included Coquitlam Mayor Richard Stewart and members of Coquitlam City Council and representatives from Chandos Construction.

Coast Salish Elementary School is designed to accommodate 430 students and includes a before and after school program to serve the community. Representing extensive research in design and progressive building, Coast Salish nears 'net-zero' in its carbon footprint in addition to aligning with SD43's *Directions 2025* goals of providing world-class facilities for students.



2. Also on Wednesday, November 15, a new school addition to Scott Creek Middle School was announced to increase capacity at that site. With \$15 million in funding from the BC Government, the new addition will include ten new classroom spaces and the equivalent of 250 new seats at Scott Creek. The new classrooms are expected to be ready for students in the fall of 2024. The addition to Scott Creek is custom-made and prefabricated off-site which allows for expedited construction. The design and build is sustainable, energy efficient, and built to last. SD43 has been leading the way in developing this new design in school additions and this is a great example of the district's commitment to providing modern educational facilities for students.



# Superintendent's News & Events Report to the Board

Regular Board Meeting of November 21, 2023

Learning for a Lifetime

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

"Increasing school capacity is important for our growing community," said Michael Thomas, board chair, Coquitlam School District. "Supported by our SD43 strategic plan, our district utilizes best practices and facilities research to create world-class facilities. We know this model works and we are confident this addition at Scott Creek Middle will serve students well for years to come."



(Pictured L to R: Scott Creek student Parmis, Vice Chair Craig Woods Scott Creek Student Sophie, MLA Finn Donnelly, Minister of Education and Child Care Rachna Singh, Board Chair Micheal Thomas, Trustees Denison, Blatherwick, Pollock Brodie, and Palmer Isaak)

- Five athletes from the Tri Cities participated in the 2023 Pan American Games, including two SD43 Alumni. Kaila Butler, a Terry Fox grad, earned a bronze medal for Canada in the women's hammer throw with a best throw of 65.10 metres. Earning her first medal in international competition, Kaila remarked, "It's a lot. It's overwhelming. This is my first international medal ever, so it's a really big deal to me. I've worked really hard for this for the last year and a half and to come here – and to get off to a bit of a rough start – to overcome the weather and the emotions and to keep going was really, really, special and I'm really proud of myself."

Addy Townsend is a Dr. Charles Best graduate and competes in the women's 800 metre. After finishing second in her semi with a time of 2:06:62, she qualified for the final and placed 8<sup>th</sup> with a time of 2:09:02.

- The Centennial Centaurs defeated the Terry Fox Ravens 21-20 to win the SD43 JV Football Championship and take home the Dan Doyle Cup on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Well done on an exciting game that came down to the wire! Congratulations to all that participated.
- Students across the district participated in assemblies recognizing Remembrance Day and the sacrifices of those who served to protect our freedoms. Services were held in elementary, middle, and secondary schools across the district and included poetry, songs, and stories of family members while honouring those who served. Veterans, peacekeepers, legion members, first responders, and cadets marched at many locations as part of the ceremonies.



(Pictures: Colour guard at Port Moody Secondary and Cadets waiting to march. Photo credit: TriCity News)

- An information session for families of children that will be starting Kindergarten in September of 2024 is being held Tuesday, November 28<sup>th</sup>. The session will cover everything important to families about Kindergarten, including Kindergarten Programs of Choice like Reggio Emilia, Montessori, Mandarin Bilingual, and French Immersion. Everyone is welcome at the Education Learning Centre, 1080 Winslow, 6:30-8:00pm.

### Upcoming Events

- November 30 – Long Service Recognition at Westwood Plateau
- December 22 – Last day in session before Winter Break
- January 8 – Schools re-open