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ENERGY WIRE

SD43 Sustainability and Energy Management Newsletter

An initiative from SD43's Facilities Department - Energy Management and Sustainability

Issue No. 2 Date: December, 2021

About Us

We are the District's Sustainability and Energy Management Team.

We work with BC Hydro, Clean BC, and Fortis BC in finding ways to make our schools run more efficiently to reduce our carbon footprint and operating costs. New LED lights at your school? That was us. New efficient heating system? We were there too. Holiday Shut Down competitions, us too, and so much more.

This newsletter is designed to let everyone know about SD43 sustainability initiatives. All through the District, great things are going on to make our students, our community, and our world more sustainable. We want to know what you are doing and how you are doing it.

Calendar of Sustainable Events:

December – Participate in our District's Energy Shut Down. We will be running a competition to shut down our schools for the holiday break.

February – Participate in our Eco-Challenge.

The Eco-challenge is a 1-week competition challenging all schools to take part in 5 separate daily initiatives.

Schools will be provided with several initiatives to choose from, such as Lights out Lunch (all lights off over lunch), Zero Waste Day (what you bring to school leaves with you after school), Walk/Bike/Bus to School Day (no cars) or Write a Short Essay/Draw a Picture Day to illustrate how humans can do better job looking after the Earth. The final list of initiatives will be pre-selected by the individual school's Sustainability Leaders. At the end of the week, we will score the participation and give away certificates to all the winners and participants.

March – Time to get planting! We will develop a garden show and competition for schools with gardens to compete in a flower show, the tallest sunflower, best tomatoes etc.



Our School Tree Planting Program

Twenty-two schools participated in our District Tree Planting Program. This tree planting initiative provided an opportunity for schools to develop lessons around understanding the importance of trees, maintaining a balanced environment, and sharing the effects and solutions for Climate Change.

SD43 proudly partnered with both the City of Coquitlam and City of Port Moody and received a generous donation from Emperor Stone, a local business. Together, we were able to plant a total of 54 trees.

We are dedicating this issue of the monthly Energy Wire to illustrate some of the fantastic feedback from our students.



École Westwood Elementary School

Thank you for the helpful idea of giving us a special tree for our school. It is also helpful to save the endangered dogwood tree. We feel that we have planted the future. We hope that it will live long. We hope that no one abuses the tree. I know that the tree will be a part of our future. (Bryce, Grade 3 student at École Westwood Elementary School)



This tree means love to me. It is pretty and helpful to the environment. My class planted the tree. I am going to show my kids one day when I am older and married. (Hastie, Grade 3 student at École Westwood Elementary School)



This tree can help make a change in the world. It can make the world a better place. The tree could live to be 100 years old. If the trees go, the people will go. We would not want to be in a world without trees. (Devyn a student at École Westwood Elementary School)



This rare tree could live up to 100 years or more, if no one cuts it. I would show my kids one day that my class planted the dogwood tree. This tree can help make the world a better place. I wish that this tree will live for 400 years and live as long as it wants. When I pass away my kids can go to the tree. This could be a family tradition. Maybe my family can give water to the tree every day. Hopefully planting a new tree will be a family tradition. (Jia, Grade 3 student at École Westwood Elementary School)



Our tree means a lot to me, and I don't want it to die. If nobody touches this tree, it could live to 100 years. I love gardening. Trees give us oxygen, shade from the sun, and a place for birds to nest. My mom taught me about gardening when I was four years old. I want to take care of our tree. (Sana, Grade 3 student at École Westwood Elementary School)



When I grow up, I'm going to show my family the tree I help plant. I will tell them that when I was a kid our teacher said, "This tree is part of your future" If we take care of it, it could live for over 100 years! I hope that nobody "hurts it" and it will be alive. The tree will be a popular place in the school to sit in the shade. (Homa, Grade 3 student at École Westwood Elementary School)



Principal Mr. B. Williams helping us to plant the Dogwood tree.

Alderson Elementary School



Why Plant A Tree

By Abby

Why do we plant trees? These beautiful, lush trees give us oxygen and absorb carbon dioxide. Trees give mini homes for lovely insects, fungi, mammals and more. If we plant more trees, there may be a future for your kids or grandkids. We could stop global warming. These amazing trees have roots that soak up incredible amounts of water. Trees give us fresh, clean air. Plant a tree and you have helped the ecosystem. Please try your best and plant a tree and help our environment. Plant a tree anywhere. Please try your best. Please animals are begging you to stop cutting trees down and plant more. Respect animals' homes. Be a good example to others. Your future children would want you to plant trees and help stop global warming. Be good to the next generation.

Trees

By Kayla and Shirley

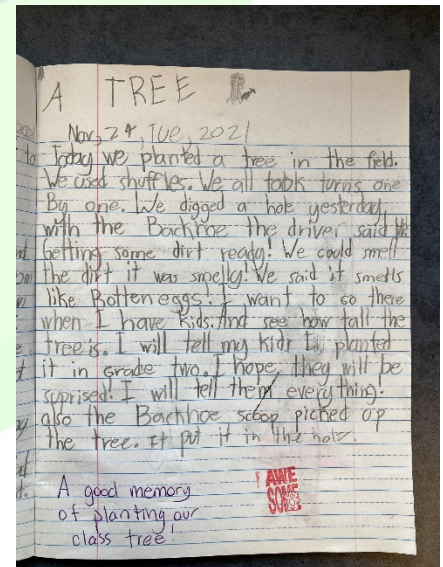
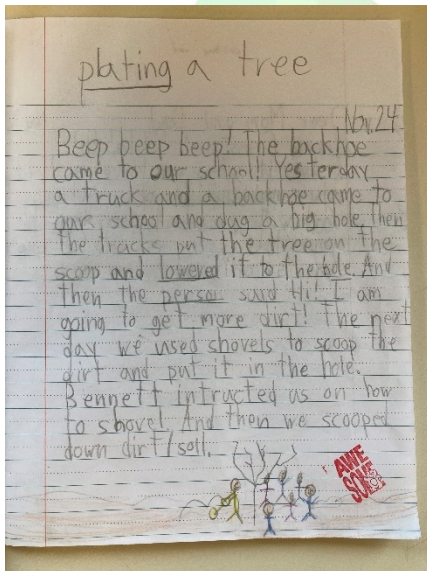
Tall gigantic trees
Rough mossy trees
Enormous chunky trees
Environment protect it
Strong think trees

Trees

By Caleb and Joseph

Tall
Resources
Environment
Enormous
Sapling

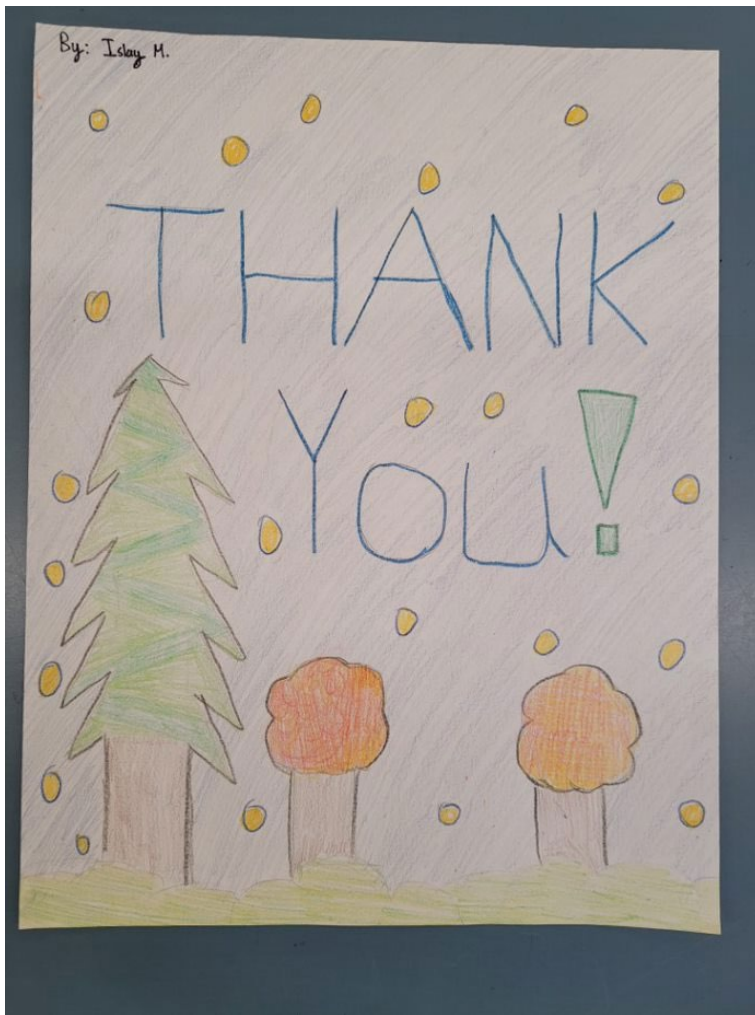
Blakeburn Elementary School



Pitt River Middle School Memorial Tree in Memory of Jessie Richmond.

We've planted a very special Willow Tree in honour of Jessie Richmond. I used to see Jessie sometimes at Mary Hill Elementary where she first went to school. Jessie always enjoyed school and always stayed very positive. She would say how at school, she felt like she really belonged and that it was always a safe space for her. She passed away a little while ago due to her condition, but she will forever stay in our memories. The tree not only is in honour of Jessie, but also the other students at Pitt River Middle. The Willow Tree symbolizes resilience, stability, hope, belonging and safety. Our school is a safe space for everyone, and Jessie will be dearly missed and forever in our hearts.

Mundy Road Elementary School



We want to thank all the students that shared their enthusiasm through the many photos, writings, and illustrations that we received for the tree planting program. We are sorry that we were not able to display all the great work in this month's issue of the *EnergyWire*.

Thank you for responding to our Sustainability Survey!

A big **THANKS** to all the school administrators for responding to our sustainability survey. We now have a contact at every school in the District to work with us and communicate our sustainability initiatives.

What is going on at your school?

If you or your school is doing something that will help sustain our world's environment, we want to hear about it and let everyone else know. Please contact us so we can help get the word out.

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