

EW ENERGY WIRE

SD43 Sustainability and Energy Management Newsletter

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

Issue No. 18 Date: December 2023

About Us

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

We work with BC Hydro, Clean BC, and Fortis BC to find ways to make our schools run more efficiently to reduce our carbon footprint. 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:

Winter Shutdown Competition – Dec 22nd.



As we do every year, we will be asking your school to participate in shutting things off or down before the two-week winter break. An information email will be sent out to all schools on December 14th. The top 2 schools will win a pizza lunch in January 2024 on the day of their choice.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2024!!

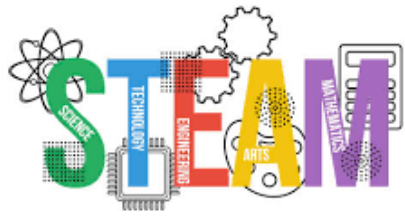
MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR
Let's celebrate, sustainably



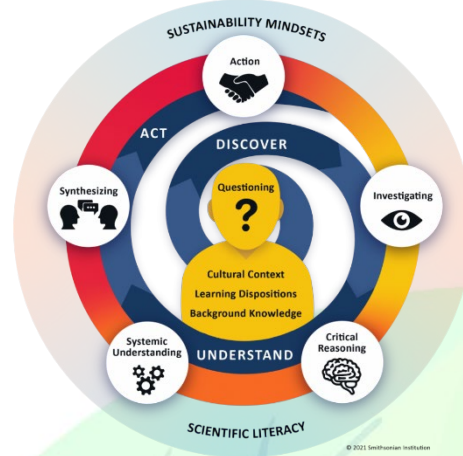
Save The Date 2024 Eco-Challenge – Earth Day week. April 15 -22nd 2024.

Please plan to participate in the Earth Day Eco-Challenge week.

This will be a similar challenge to the one we ran last year structured to bring awareness to Climate Action and Sustainability. Stay tuned.



GLOBAL GOALS ACTION PROGRESSION



SD43 Sustainability Project (Gr. 9-12)

The District's Sustainability and Energy Management Team has partnered with the District's STEAM Team on a secondary-focused [Sustainability Project](#).

Between November 2023 and April 2024, secondary school teams will investigate and document sustainability action inquiries. All of our secondary schools have nominated STEAM Ambassadors. STEAM Ambassadors are students involved in promoting STEAM ways of learning, and the Sustainability Project.

The Sustainability Project will focus on the UN Sustainable Development Goals 11, 12, and 13: *Sustainable Cities and Communities*, *Responsible Consumption and Production*, and *Climate Action*.

For example:

- Inquiry Hub Secondary's focus is "...observing our school's structure and our surrounding area ... find[ing] materials that can help withstand the shock of an earthquake, and how we can incorporate it into a school".
- Centennial plans to, "...raise awareness about sustainability issues, influence behavior changes, and design potential improvements to transportation and waste issues in our city".
- One of Dr. Charles Best's teams, "will be focusing on making the area surrounding our school safer and more accessible to bicycles".
- Pinetree Secondary's team, "would like to address the problem of waste created by fast fashion and consumption culture in general".

As their next step, all project teams will consider their chosen topic through the use of the SD43 STEAM Lenses / Optique STIAM. Following this, teams will undertake STEAM Action/Design to solve the problem, meet the challenge, and/or learn more. Finally, teams will communicate their learning at a district Sustainability Fair in the spring of 2024.

The goals of the project are action-oriented; to have students involved in STEAM ways of learning and to contribute through positive local action (which has a larger impact because of the involvement of all schools).

For more information about STEAM in SD43: <https://www.sd43.bc.ca/Programs/steam>

Blakeburn Tree Planting

Two years ago, Blakeburn Elementary participated in a district-wide Plant a Tree program. Unfortunately, the tree planted did not survive the dry summer.

Recognizing that the school was still in desperate need of some shade, the school's Sustainability contact teacher Dianne Pidlisecky, along with the support of Principal Tara Fisher, reached out to our Sustainability Team to ask if we could help them with a replacement tree.



Blakeburn Tree Planting

Giant Pumpkin Competition – Planting in April.

\$200 for the winner.



We will be having a Giant pumpkin-growing competition starting this Spring.

We have contacted Dave Keen, our local Giant Pumpkin growing expert who is happy to provide us with seeds from his biggest pumpkin and assist us with growing tips and encouragement.

The pumpkin seeds will need to germinate and then be planted by the schools. A pumpkin does not need an elaborate planting spot, you can select a spot on school grounds or a school could select an alternative planting spot such as a staff, student, or neighbor's place to provide better care over the summer.

\$200 will be given to the school with the biggest pumpkin to spend on anything to do with sustainability education. The big weigh-off will take place on Halloween 2024.

We now have six schools signed up to be a part of this. Who else is interested? Please email me apettyfer@sd43.bc.ca.

Inquiry HUB Fall Garden

Once again, the Inquiry HUB Garden club has knocked it out of the park. Look at these beautiful pictures of colour and life.



INQUIRY HUB FALL GARDEN

BC Lions Energy Champions! Who's interested?





Energy Champions is presented by FortisBC and the BC Lions to get kids excited about saving energy, improving safety, and sharing the importance of environmental responsibility. Through the power of the Internet, BC Lions football players are now able to huddle remotely with elementary school Grades K-7 throughout the province for interactive presentations that inspire students to become the next generation of energy Champions.

Request an Energy Champions presentation for your school this year.

There are only a very few presentations done each year. We had 7 schools receive them last year. If you'd like to have the BC Lions visit your school this year please let us know your interest ASAP or contact the BC Lions directly through Brittany Sundher at bsundher@bclions.com or visit the BC Lions website.

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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