



# EW ENERGY WIRE

## SD43 Sustainability and Energy Management Newsletter

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

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### 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. 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:

**February** – RAC week 13<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup>

**March-** The Eco-challenge Feb 28 -March 4.

**April** – 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.



## Sustainability Art

If you have a piece of artwork that you feel illustrates your interpretation on the concept of sustainability please let us know so we can feature it.



**Jade Toth, *Last Line of Defense*, 2021, Oil on wood, 91x30cm (PMSS Graduate)**

Many young peoples' interactions with nature lean towards a sadness that if they do not try to save it, it may be lost along with their own futures. Often, we feel like our voices don't matter to the rest of the world and that we are the last line of defense before the earth can't be saved.

REAL ACTS of Caring (RAC) week is now, get involved!

Help RAC grow! WE NEED YOU!  
Let's make RAC Week February 13-19  
2022 as caring as possible, please:

- Promote RAC Week through social media
  - Repost caring and kind stories from our RAC platforms (Twitter, Facebook and Instagram)
- Wear purple!
- Practice RAC in your classrooms and communities
- Invitations for our students to present to different organizations virtually about RAC and RAC Week.
- A videographer who can help us to make an updated RAC video

# Join the RAC Climate Change and COVID Caring movement.



RAC Week is February 13-19, 2022! RAC was created by grade 4 and 5 students in the Coquitlam School District in 2005 and is doing something caring and kind and not expecting anything back. Coquitlam leadership students have just been successful in convincing the provincial government to have a proclamation passed again which recognizes RAC Week, *our seventh one!* This year the focus of RAC Week is **Climate Change and Covid Caring** and we are encouraging as many students as possible all over BC to get involved in supporting this goal in a safe Covid way. Please see our RAC website for more information about RAC at:

<http://www.realactsofcaring.org>

Check out the [RAC Educator's Manual](#) which has 25 Covid friendly RAC lesson plans and ideas which also support the New BC Curriculum (contact Harriette Chang at [hchang@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:hchang@sd43.bc.ca) for information).

The RAC Educators' Manual, like the RAC program it evolved from, is about promoting genuine caring and kindness in the classroom, the school, and the greater community. The lessons

- ✓ are user-friendly and inclusive
- ✓ can be adjusted for younger or older students
- ✓ provide students with exciting opportunities to contribute in meaningful ways to the world around them
- ✓ develop an increased sense of pride and interest in their community
- ✓ build self-esteem and leadership skills, and
- ✓ create positive and lasting connections with others.



Try out one, some, or all of the ideas in this manual, and even create your own! RAC is a powerful, positive way to make a difference not only in our students' lives but in the lives of those around us. We believe that RAC is a fantastic student initiative that has been around for 16 years. RAC is listed as a resource on the provincial ERASE website which advocates that we erase bullying by embracing kindness. See:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/erase/bullying>

# District Eco-Challenge Feb 28-March 4.

We're excited to announce the District-Wide Energy Challenge week. February 28th – March 4<sup>th</sup>.

Our District is committed to reducing the impact we have on the environment. We are developing a sustainable culture of care in our students as they will be the ones most impactful in the fight against climate change. Join the Challenge!



**The Eco-Challenge is easy to be a part of. With 5 challenges:**

**Monday** – Electricity - Lights out Lunch

**Tuesday** – Gas Reduction - Sweater Day, turn down the heat

**Wednesday** – Reduce Emissions – Walk, ride, transit to school, say no to the car.

**Thursday** – Waste Reduction – Litter less lunch, what you bring to school leaves the school.

**Friday** – Declaration – List and Sign a declaration of what you can do to help fight Climate Change.

BC Hydro and Fortis BC will be providing \$2,200 for prizes.

For more information or to receive the material Toolkit of instruction, point tracking, Posters etc. please contact Adrian Pettyfer at [apettyfer@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:apettyfer@sd43.bc.ca)

## Get your Garden ready.



Spring is about spring! Gardeners and garden clubs should start getting their planting plots ready.

This year we will be developing some fun competitions to see how green your thumbs are. We are working with an organization called Urban Roots Garden Market, that provides communities with a local nursery experience. Their goal is to help promote food security, food literacy, and sustainability.

Urban Roots have offered to donate plants for our gardens. The donation will take place in late March and would include vegetables like tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, lettuce, and herbs.

We have notified schools to this opportunity and those that have responded will be included. Please let us know if your school wants to be included.

## 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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