



ABOUT US

Greetings from 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.

Spring Break Down Competition

Thanks to all the schools that participated in shutting down your schools during the Spring Break.

Cape Horn Elementary is the winner of the pizza lunch this Spring. Their checklist was randomly selected from among the other participants. Congratulations!



Cape Horn Elementary Winner!



Before you leave for the holidays...





Eco-Challenge – Earth Day week

April 22nd to April 26th

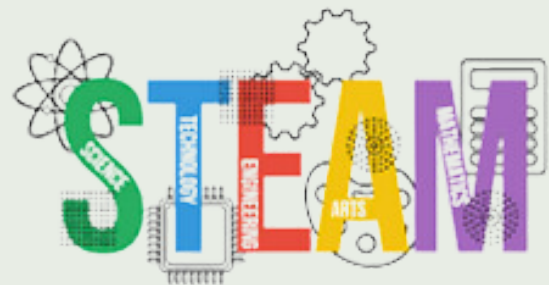
- Day 1 – Earth Day - Climate Action Commitment Pledge Day. (Monday)
- Day 2 – Reduce Electricity (Tuesday)
- Day 3 – Reduce Natural Gas (Wednesday)
- Day 4 – Reduce Waste (Thursday)
- Day 5 – Walk, Bus, Bike, Scooter to school (Friday)

Friday, April 26th - District Sustainability Fair



Get ready to be amazed by the brilliance and dedication of our students! For the past six months, they've been hard at work, crafting solutions to make things more sustainable in and around our environment. This will be a fantastic way to finish up Earth Week.

We hope as many schools can attend it!



Location:

Winslow Centre, 1100 Winslow Ave
Coquitlam, BC V3J 2G3



Agenda

9:00-10:00	Secondary teams welcome and set-up
10:00-11:30	Rotations including fair
11:30-12:00	Secondary team lunch
12:00-1:30	Rotations including fair
1:30-2:00	Fair Awards



The plants are growing, are you ready for them?

SPRING GARDENS

There are 41 garden clubs signed up to get starter plants again this spring. Each registered school will receive 106 assorted herbs and vegetables which will be delivered by our Grounds department in late April.

If I missed, please let me know ASAP.

List of recipients:



- Alderson
- Aspenwood
- Baker Dr.
- Birchland
- Blakeburn
- CABC
- Cape Horne
- Castle Park
- Centennial
- Citadel
- Coquitlam River
- Dr Charles Best
- Eagle Mtn.
- Eagle Ridge
- Gleneagle
- Hampton Park
- Heritage Mountain
- HWSS
- Kilmer
- Kwayhquitlam
- Leigh
- Maintenance
- Miller Park
- Millside / iHub
- Minnekhada
- Montgomery
- Mountain View
- Mundy Road
- Pinetree Sec
- Pitt River
- Porter
- R.C MacDonald
- Riverside
- Riverview Park
- Rochester
- Roy Stibbs
- Scott Creek
- Seaview
- Smiling Creek
- Terry Fox
- Walton

ZERO WASTE AND VANCOUVER LANDFILL

Day: June 7, 2024

The open house event offers students a fantastic opportunity to see firsthand and learn about where their garbage goes, as well as about recycling and environmental protection outside the classroom. Metro Vancouver will be offering bus tours of the landfill, educational booths, and interactive displays.

Link: [Zero Waste and Vancouver Landfill Tour School Day](#)

If you have a class or group that would like to attend let me know as I have some spots reserved:
apettyfer@sd43.bc.ca



Giant Pumpkin Competition Update

Exciting news! We currently have 24 schools enrolled in our eagerly anticipated Pumpkin Growing Competition, and the journey has already begun. Your pumpkin plants are officially on their way to greatness!



Dave Keen, our local Giant Pumpkin growing expert along with a couple of his buddies have selected two seeds for each school. One is from Dave's monster winning pumpkin and the other is from a Prize winning large but not a Giant that will have a better chance to survive the summer ahead.

They have planted the seeds in pots and have them in a greenhouse to get them started. Depending on the weather we expect that they will be ready for planting in your pumpkin growing beds around the end of the month. So, select a spot and get it ready.

A pumpkin does not need an elaborate planting spot, you can plant it on school grounds, or a school can 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.

BC Lions Energy Champions

The BC Lions visited the following schools from our district last month for their Energy Champions Program:

- Feb 9: Baker Drive Elementary
- Feb 9: Mundy Road Elementary
- Feb 21: Leigh Elementary



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.

ECO BEARS ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB EDUCATIONAL VIDEOS



Mrs. Trong and the ECO bears have developed some great videos to educate their school on the importance of preserving the environment.

These are each really quick 3-min videos that remind us all about the importance of taking care of the environment. They also contain easy, quick tips, photos and light discussion opportunities. We hope that you can take a moment to watch them and acknowledge all of the children featured in the videos for all of their efforts. They would really love the recognition.

Hi all, here is this week's video - What is climate and what is climate change?

[What is Climate Change.mp4](#)

[New Years reintro.mp4](#)

[4Rs.mp4](#)

Note: Access to the links is limited to users with sd43 devices only.

POWER SMART EFFORTS AT ROCHESTER EL

Inspiring story of how one teacher, Alison Wagler, transformed her classroom into a hub of environmental action and consciousness. Read how her efforts go beyond conventional classroom activities to cultivate a genuine sense of care and responsibility for our planet among her students and the broader community.

Discover how a simple question sparked a movement that engaged entire communities, leading to innovative challenges like the Power Out Challenge and neighborhood cleanups.

You can read the article [here](#).





 **Free Field Trips!**

Hands on agricultural field trips

Immersive learning for students grades 2-7

Water Cycles	Pollinators
Beekeeping	Sustainability
Invasive Species	Plant Life Cycles

STABLE HARVEST FARM
EST. 2011

HYDE CREEK FRY RELEASE & TOUR DAY

Day: April 20, 2024

- Book a guided tour of the Hyde Creek Education Centre & Hatchery (up to 10 people per group)
- Tour Times: 9 am to 3 pm. Guided tour approx. 20 minutes.
- Also help release Chum fry into Hyde Creek as part of the tour.
- Donations are gratefully accepted to enable our community work.
- Booking: Send an email to hcws.info@gmail.com with your name, phone number, preferred time & number of people in your group. Space is limited.



Information about our facility at www.hydecreek.org

UNLOCK YOUR POTENTIAL: DIVE INTO DYNAMIC PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES!

Great news! The Cheese4Change sustainable youth program that awarded more than \$25K in cash prizes to Canadian schools last year is back with more opportunities to win.

This year, schools can also earn points towards their EcoSchool certification when they enter Cheese4Change as part of an exciting new partnership.

The deadline for submissions is on Earth Day - April 22, 2024. We hope you'll encourage all of your schools to enter as several past winners have said it was the "easiest \$5K they've ever made for their schools" and "telling the kids they won was the best part."

Please note, photo submissions are also accepted if videos are too challenging. To enter, click [here](#).

There are also **\$500 cash prizes available for students**, so if you're able to share this news too, one young winner told us "It was like winning a million dollars."





TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Come learn with us in the Garden! The VBGA is pleased to welcome educators & teachers to our online and in-person Teacher Professional Development workshops at VanDusen Botanical Garden and Bloedel Conservatory.

Throughout the academic year we strive to offer engaging educational courses to help develop your gardening and botany skills, deepen your knowledge of our local ecology, and inspire you to step outside and explore with your students in the great outdoors.

Find the perfect fit for you and your teaching team.



2024 Teacher Professional Development Workshops:

- +(April 22) Nature-Based Games for Taking Your Students Outside
- +(April 22) Iconic Trees of Vancouver & Forest Bathing Workshop
- +The Garden Classroom Series 2023-2024 with Megan Zeni
- +Private Teacher Professional Development Workshops
- +Free courses for K-12 teachers

Keep Plastic Bags Out of the Green Bin



WHY?

When they end up in the green bin, they can cause operational problems, may not break down properly during processing, and may contaminate the finished compost.

Parchment and Wax Paper Go in the Garbage



WHY?

Most parchment and wax papers today have a plastic coating so don't put them in the green bin.

Do the Tea Bag Tear Test



WHY?

If your tea bag tears easily when wet, it's made of paper and can go in the green bin. If it doesn't rip easily, it's probably made of plastic, and goes in the garbage.

MEET OUR NEW TEAM MEMBER!

Meet Katerin Osorio Vera our district's new Energy Specialist.

Katerin is a BSc Electrical Engineer and a MSc in Business Administration with over eight years of experience in the energy sector. She moved to Canada from Colombia two years ago and is looking forward to working with us all in making our schools more energy efficient while supporting the sustainability initiatives throughout our district.



WHAT IS GOING ON AT YOUR SCHOOL?

Your efforts deserve recognition, and we want to inspire others to join the movement. By sharing your stories, we can collectively amplify the positive impact on our environment.

BE A PART OF
OUR
SUSTAINABILITY
SPOTLIGHT!

At Coquitlam School District, we believe in the power of collective action for a sustainable future. If you or your school is making a positive impact on the environment, we want to celebrate and share your achievements with the community.

Connect with Adrian Pettyfer at apettyfer@sd43.bc.ca to share your eco-champion stories. Let's work together to get the word out and inspire more positive change.



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ENERGY WIRE