



# COMO LAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE BY DAVE CYR

Dear Parents/Guardians and Community Members,

It is hard to believe, but the holiday season is right around the corner, and if one were to determine its proximity by the marketing campaigns at local stores, then it started 3 weeks ago. November has been a month filled with amazing learning opportunities for our students. Genius Hour has returned and the energy on these Thursdays is mind blowing. The opportunity for our students to engage in personal passion projects with our teachers' support is special. It is always amazing to see the level of engagement that our students have in the work that they are doing, when the work is a project of their choosing. Watching the creative process evolve and our learners put their executive functioning skills to work is rewarding.

Volleyball season has wrapped up and we will be ending the season with a Staff vs Student Volleyball game on Friday, December 8. I want

to thank our amazing staff for taking on the responsibilities of coaching these young athletes. Our wrestling program will be kicking off soon, and in the New Year, basketball season will begin. Please continue to communicate with your child(ren) about all that Como is making available for them and what more they may want to see as opportunities. As the first week of December comes around so does our Como 12 Days of caring! This endeavor to make sure that families get the support they need through the Holiday season is fabulous. Empathy is at the forefront, but spirit is in the air.

I want to remind all of you that this year I have been given a monetary fund to support those in need who may be feeling the inflationary pressures that are developing. Feel free to contact me if you need support. The winter season and the holidays can bring even more stress for families. I am reachable by email or by phone and your inquiry will remain confidential. Take care and stay safe as the colder weather starts to roll in.



Como Lake spiritwear is now available to be purchased online, thanks to our leadership students who initiated this fundraiser! **Deadline for orders is Friday, December 1!**

<https://comolakespiritwear.itemorder.com/shop/home/>

- Youth and adult sized t-shirts, sweatshirts, shorts, sweatpants, hats and more!
- Online store opens November 21 and CLOSSES by the end of the day on Friday, December 1
- Items will be delivered to the school before our holiday break.
- No late orders will be accepted after store closes.
- All sales are final and we are unable to switch sizes after the order is placed.
- A portion of the proceeds of each sale will contribute to our fundraiser – 12 Days of Como Caring.

*IMPORTANT: Orders will be distributed to the students when they arrive. If your order was meant to be a gift for your child, please notify the office and we will hold on to your order for you to pick up.*



Terry Fox Leadership classes have designed new t-shirts and hoodies, "Be Kind" for Pink Shirt Day with hopes of raising awareness against bullying. Proceeds will go to to Kidsport Tri Cities to help youth get involved in organized sports. Staying active through sports creates a positive atmosphere for our youth in the Tri Cities.

The deadline for orders for Como Lake Middle School is December 1, 2023.

<https://sd43.schoolcashionline.com/Fee/Details/113469/108/False/True>

Pink Shirt Day is on Wednesday, February 28, 2024.

# DECEMBER IMPORTANT DATES:



**Friday, December 1**

- Pink T-shirt Orders Ends today
- Como Lake Spiritwear Orders Ends today



**Monday, December 4**

- 12 Days of Como Caring begins



**Thursday, December 21**

- Term 1 Learning Updates Published on MyEd Family Portal



**Friday, December 22**

- Last Day of Classes before Winter Vacation



**Saturday, December 23 – Sunday, January 7, 2024**

- School Closed for Winter Vacation



**Monday, January 8, 2024**

- School Re-opens

Calendar is available on our website under the heading 'On the Calendar' at

[https://www.sd43.bc.ca/school/como lake/Pages/default.aspx#/="](https://www.sd43.bc.ca/school/como lake/Pages/default.aspx#/=)



Support our Como Lake Leadership crew initiatives by donating your recyclables to the Return-It depot using School phone number: 604-936-1451.



# 12 DAYS OF Como Caring

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4 - TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19

We will be collecting non-perishable food items and money to build hampers for our community from Monday, December 4 - Tuesday, December 19. Last year, Como Lake was able to build 21 hampers AND made a significant donation to the Food bank. I am happy to share that we are also collecting money donations on our School Cash Online (KEV) system. Donations for \$25 and above will be issued a tax receipt. Money donations will be added to the class count as well.

While families within Como Lake can make a monetary donation on School Cash Online, we also have a link available for additional friends and families who would like to make a monetary donation:

<https://sd43.schoolcashonline.com/Fee/Details/113964/108/False/True>

Different non-perishable food items have been assigned for various days (listed in green on the calendar below) but you do not need to adhere to those specifics, it's just easier when organizing the hampers, so we don't get too many of a certain item.

To coincide with our fundraising efforts, we have various ways for each class to earn Spirit Points including theme days...starting with Merry Morning Monday! So, break out your festive PJ's and get your cozy on! You will also notice on the calendar that there are various sales happening...details will be shared soon!

We are working as a Como Lake community to reach a community goal rather than competing within classes! We will still be counting SPIRIT points and items brought in everyday to hopefully reach our school wide goal of \$10,000 (food/money inclusive).

12 Days of Como Caring 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Dec. 4 <sup>th</sup> (Day #1) <b>Merry Morning Monday</b> (Just wake up and come to school in your P.J.'s or comfiest sweatsuit)  Breakfast food  Raffle	Dec. 5 <sup>th</sup> (Day #2) Jersey Day  Beverages (juice, hot chocolate, coffee)  *Hot Chocolate Sale*  Raffle	Dec. 6 <sup>th</sup> (Day #3) Whatever Wannabe Wednesday (Decade Day)  Canned soups  Raffle	Dec. 7 <sup>th</sup> (Day #4) Tropical Thursday (Hawaiian Shirts etc.)  Pasta and Sauces  Raffle	Dec. 8 <sup>th</sup> (Day #5) Favourite Flannel Friday  Canned fruit and veggies  Raffle
Dec. 11 <sup>th</sup> (Day #6) Dad-Core Monday (polo shirts, khakis and ball caps Think Adam Sandler style)  Gift Card's Candy Cane Grams Sale  Raffle	Dec. 12 <sup>th</sup> (Day #7) Ten-Galloon Tuesday (Wear your funniest and craziest hat)  Loonies & Toonies Candy Cane Grams Sale Raffle	Dec. 13 <sup>th</sup> (Day #8) Winter Wear Wednesday (Gloves, toques, scarves)  Cookies & Crackers Candy Cane Grams Sale Raffle	Dec. 14 <sup>th</sup> (Day #9) TSwift Thursday (embody your favourite musician and dress like them)  Toiletries Candy Cane Grams Sale  Raffle	Dec. 15 <sup>th</sup> (Day #10) Festive Friday (Wear your best ugliest sweater or your most festive attire)  Baking Items (oil, sugar, flour etc.) Candy Cane Grams Sale  Raffle
Dec. 18 <sup>th</sup> (Day #11) Candy Cane Colours Monday (Wear red, green, white or stripes)  Dinner Foods Candy Cane Grams Sale Raffle	Dec. 19 <sup>th</sup> (Day #12) Teacher Tuesday (Dress like a teacher)  Food Finale (anything goes) Candy Cane Grams Sale Raffle	Dec. 20 <sup>th</sup> Hamper Building with Staff @3:30	Dec. 21 <sup>st</sup>	Dec. 22 <sup>nd</sup> <b>Fabulous Festive Finale</b> <b>(Block 3 and 4)</b>  Candy Cane Grams Delivered

# GEAR UP FOR GIVING:

## Mountain Riders Program Seeks Winter Outerwear Donations



As the winter chill settles in, the excitement of the upcoming ski season is palpable. Families are dusting off their skis, waxing their boards, and eagerly anticipating the adventures that lie ahead on the snow-covered slopes. While you're going through the annual ritual of checking if last year's gear still fits, we invite you to consider making a difference in the lives of aspiring young snow enthusiasts through the Mountain Riders Program.

The Mountain Riders Program is dedicated to introducing students to the thrill of winter sports, fostering a love for the mountains, and promoting an active and healthy lifestyle. Our mission is to break down barriers and ensure that every child, regardless of their background, has the opportunity to experience the joy of skiing or snowboarding.

This year, as you sift through your winter wardrobe, we encourage you to take a moment to identify gear that your family has outgrown but is still in good condition. Children seem to grow like weeds, and what fit perfectly last season may now be a bit too snug. Instead of letting those gently-used winter outerwear items gather dust in your closet, consider donating them to the Mountain Riders Program.

Your generous contributions will directly impact students who are just getting started in the world of winter sports. By providing them with access to quality gear, you're not only keeping them warm on the slopes but also opening doors to a world of adventure, skill-building, and camaraderie.

### Here's how you can contribute:

1. **Check Your Gear:** Look for gently-used winter jackets, pants, gloves, helmets, ski goggles and any other outerwear that your family has outgrown.
2. **Quality Matters:** Please ensure that the items are in good condition. We want to provide our young riders with gear that will keep them comfortable and protected.
3. **Drop-off Locations:** Collection bins will be available at the office and in MacD's Shop. Simply drop off your donations, and we'll take care of the rest.
4. **Spread the Word:** Encourage your friends, neighbors, and fellow winter sports enthusiasts to join the cause. The more, the merrier!

Your generosity will help make the upcoming ski season a memorable one for students in our community. Let's come together to ensure that every child has the opportunity to embrace the magic of the mountains.

Thank you for being a part of the Mountain Riders family and for helping us create lasting memories for our young winter enthusiasts.

Sincerely,

Chris MacDicken  
Mountain Riders  
Program





# STEAM

## *The Great STEAM Earthquake Challenge*

Our students are diving into an exciting and challenging competition that showcases their innovation, collaboration, and engineering prowess – The Great STEAM Earthquake Challenge!

### **The Challenge Overview:**

In this unique competition, students form teams and are tasked with designing and constructing a structure capable of withstanding an earthquake simulation for a staggering 30 seconds, all while supporting the maximum amount of weight. The catch? Teams must carefully manage a budget, submit detailed plans to receive funds (in the form of Richter Bucks), and navigate the bureaucratic hurdles of building permits and inspections.

### **THE PROCESS**

- 1. Planning Phase:** Teams begin by drafting detailed blueprints of their earthquake-resistant structures. These plans must be submitted for approval to receive their allocated budget. This phase encourages students to think critically about design, materials, and construction methods.
- 2. Budget Management:** Armed with Richter Bucks, teams must make wise financial decisions to ensure they have enough funds for all necessary materials. This introduces an element of strategic planning, adding an extra layer of complexity to the challenge.
- 3. Permit and Inspection Procedures:** Real-world challenges arise as teams navigate the process of acquiring building permits and undergoing inspections during construction. This not only adds realism to the competition but also teaches students about the importance of adhering to safety regulations.
- 4. Construction:** With plans approved, budgets managed, and permits in hand, teams set out to bring their structures to life. This hands-on phase encourages creativity, teamwork and problem-solving as students face the practical challenges of construction.
- 5. Testing Phase:** The ultimate test awaits as each structure faces a simulated earthquake, measuring its resilience and ability to support weight. The thrill of success and the lessons learned from any failures contribute to the overall educational experience.

### **JUDGING CRITERIA**

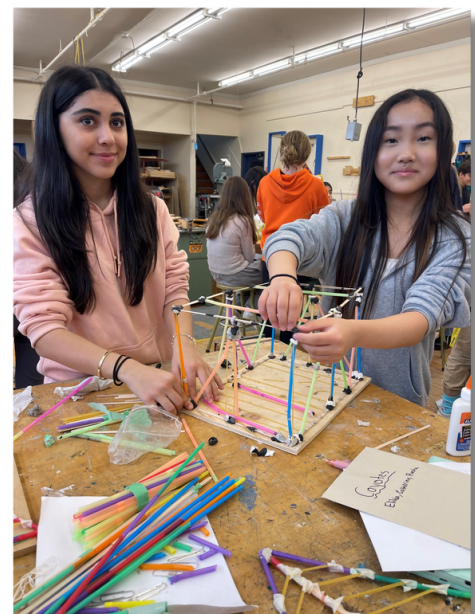
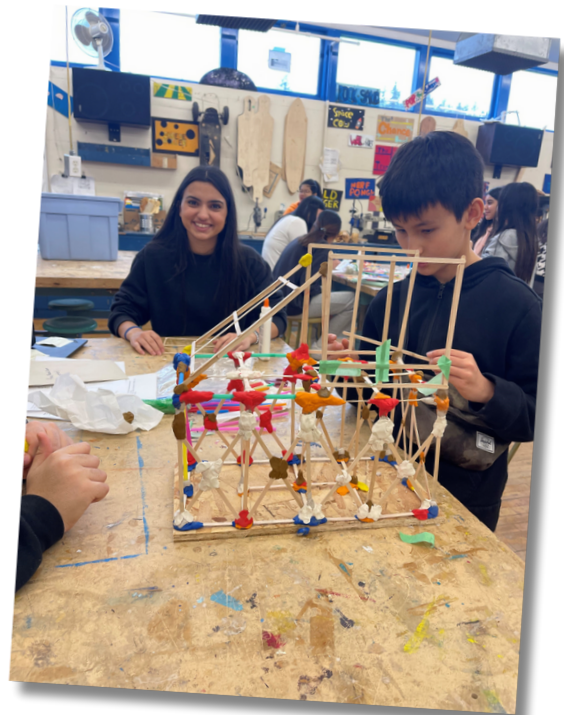
The winning team will be determined based on a combination of factors:

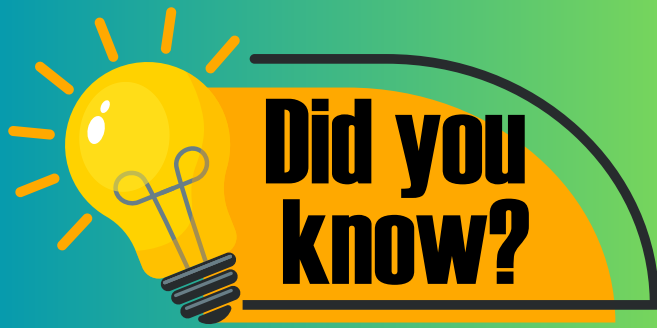
- **Budget Management:** Teams that effectively allocate their funds will gain an advantage.
- **Structural Integrity:** The ability of the structure to withstand the earthquake and hold the maximum weight.
- **Innovation:** Judges will consider creative solutions and unique approaches to the challenge.

### **CELEBRATING LEARNING THROUGH COMPETITION:**

The Great STEAM Earthquake Challenge not only promotes hands-on learning but also emphasizes skills such as teamwork, critical thinking, and effective communication. As our students immerse themselves in this exciting competition, they are not only building structures but also laying the foundation for a future filled with scientific discovery and engineering excellence.

Join us in cheering on our young innovators as they embark on this thrilling journey in the world of STEAM!





## CHANGE IN HOME ADDRESS?

Home address changes must be reported to the office along with 3 of the required support documentation from the following:

- BC Driver’s License
- Long Term Tenancy Agreement - showing name & address
- Property Purchase Agreement - showing name & address
- Income Tax Statement – showing name & province of residency
- Property Tax Statement – showing name & address
- Utility Bill
- BC Vehicle Registration
- Canadian Bank Account Statement - showing name & address
- Canadian Credit Card Statement - showing name & address



OPT-IN to receive e-mail notifications for new fees/permission forms assigned to your student and updates on school related activities on School Cash Online. To do this, log on to your account, and click on “My Account”, then scroll down to “Manage Email Notifications.” Check that the box is marked indicating that you want to receive email notifications. You may also select the preferred language for e-mails from School Cash Online here.

<https://sd43.schoolcashonline.com/>

# MYED BC PORTAL CORNER

## Learning Updates:

Learning Updates will be published to the Family Portal after 4 p.m. on Thursday, December 21. The reports will be found under the “**Published Reports**” section of the portal.

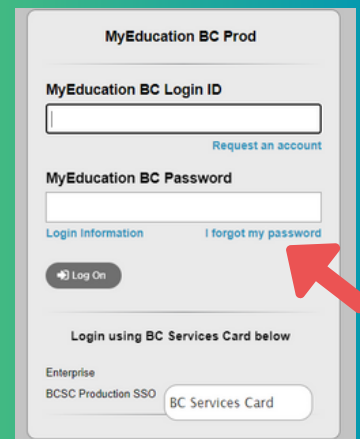
## Login TO MYED BC Portal

Access to the portal can be found [HERE](#). It is best practice to go to our school website and click on “MyEdBC Family Portal” under “quick Links. Avoid using google to search for MyEd BC because it often takes you to a different link and it won’t work properly!

Your MyEd BC Login is 43-youremailaddress. Please note that every three months, the system requires you to create a new password. This is for security purposes and we suggest you have your passwords written down somewhere safe to refer to! If you can't remember your password, you can request for a Password Reset when logging in (see below).



You can reset the password for MyEd Portal by clicking on “I forgot my password”



## Verification Form:

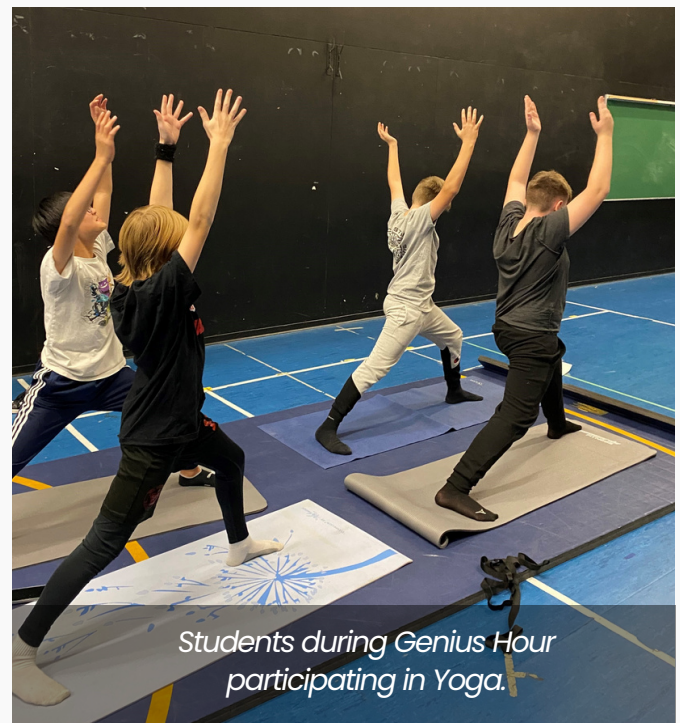
This form contains demographic information that each family has shared with the school upon registration. If any of the information is incorrect, please print the form and write the updated information. Form can then be sent to the office for us to make the necessary changes on our MyEd system.



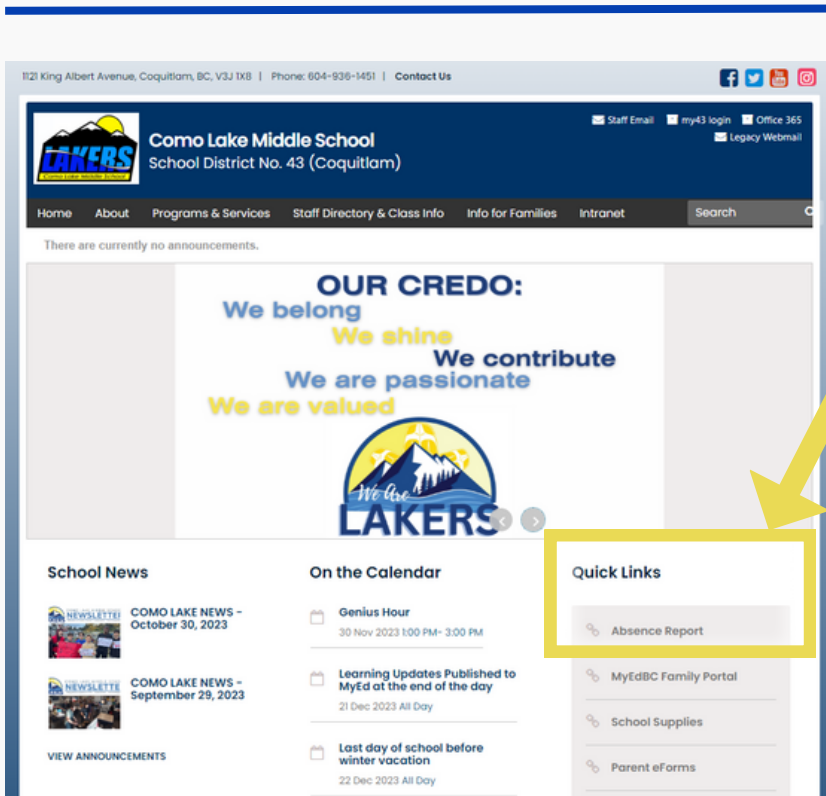


## Your stuff misses you too

Small and valuable items lost such as earbuds, jewelry, etc, are kept in the office. We have a small collection of items waiting for their rightful owner. All other items such as clothing, waterbottles, containers, etc, can be found in the "Lost & Found" bin/table (hallway in front of the office). Items are collected every second Friday as we accumulate lost items quickly. Please remind students to check for items lost regularly and please LABEL all items with student's name! **Unclaimed items will be donated to Big Brother before we go on Winter Break.**



# STUDENT ABSENCES



## ABSENCE REPORT

- Visit Como Lake website at <https://www.sd43.bc.ca/school/comolake/Pages/default.aspx#/=>
- Quick Links > Absence Report
- Use when submitting absences, late arrivals, and early dismissals

Morning bell rings at 8:35 a.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and at 8:55 a.m. on Wednesdays. Students are expected to arrive to school on time, giving them the opportunity to prepare for learning (getting their materials organized, removing outdoor wear, going to lockers, etc.).

# INQUIRY HUB OPEN HOUSE

Come join us on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
7PM-9PM (Doors open at 6:15 for student-guided tours.)  
1432 Brunette Ave, Coquitlam, BC



Reserve a  
spot at our  
Open House



You are coming to the end of your Middle School years and it's time to think about high school. Are you going to your local neighbourhood school or are you choosing a school that meets your interests and needs?  
**Inquiry Hub Secondary School** is an innovative secondary school, in SD43, where students pursue their own personal interests and dreams. Students have scheduled standard classes with a focus on collaborative project-based learning, and some time that is left unscheduled. This unscheduled time is for individual passion projects, group work, and getting school work done.

**RSVP to: [inquiryhub.org/open](https://inquiryhub.org/open)**

Is your child a self-directed learner, interested in following their passions and interests at school?

Inquiry Hub Secondary is an unique public secondary school – Gr. 9-12 – part of our school district where self-directed students pursue their personal interests and dreams.

Having students lead the school is one of Inquiry Hub's core concepts. You will see: Students presenting about the school, their peers, and their passions.

iHub describes itself as the Dream, Create, Learn school. Come to iHub Open House on Thursday, December 7th at 7pm and learn from students about the ways this comes to life.