

550 Poirier Street, Coquitlam, British Columbia V3J 6A7 ● Phone 604-939-9201 ● Fax: 604-939-7828

Welcome back to the New Year! We have much to look forward to in 2015.

I am pleased to lead our school district forward as the new Superintendent of Schools. Having grown up in the tri-cities, attended school here, and served in various SD43 leadership roles throughout my career, I am steeped in the culture of our close-knit and progressive communities. I have had the opportunity for many years to bring our school district to the forefront of the world stage in terms of academic excellence. Following a year of budget restraint, I see a new year filled with promise.

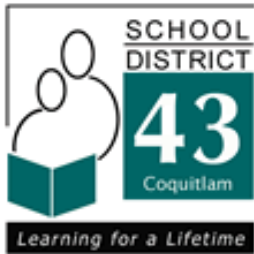
It is an exciting time in education, with knowledge and access to information at our fingertips, providing a global reach for our learning. It is my belief that we must inspire our children and help them to find their strengths and passions. With this in mind, it is the goal of our Board of Education to embrace Learning Without Boundaries: Success In Life For All*. It is incumbent upon us all to play an active role in guiding and supporting the children in our communities, to participate in their education and help them achieve their full potential as learners and citizens.

In this high-octane world of communication, we have an enormous opportunity to engage our community, students, parents, teachers, principals and vice-principals more rapidly than we have in the past, through the use of technology and social media. We must assist our children to navigate this world and develop important digital citizenship skills.

This year, we will implement the Ministry of Education's new student tracking system called MyEducation BC, which will eventually have a portal for parents to access their children's records; and KEV, a new accounting system, which will facilitate the tracking of school funds. The new system will make it easier for students, families and teachers to engage in school activities; exploring tools to facilitate the new ways to track learning; and focusing on social responsibility, including digital citizenship.

The district will continue to find ways to support teachers in learning about the changes to the K-12 curriculum. We will remain focused on literacy and numeracy, as well as social responsibility, with an increasing emphasis on critical and creative thinking skills and cross-curricular projects.

Community service and leadership roles continue to bring students from observer to participant in preparation for post-secondary experiences. Our students will face an innovative and changing world of work, requiring understanding of the global nature of social and economic forces, the need to embrace and adapt to new ways to use and conserve energy and resources, to tackle the problems of environmental depletion, and to excel in the mastery of an expanding range of technology.



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Kindergarten students will have increased opportunities for participatory and personalized learning experiences. Students will be expected to take greater ownership of their own learning in terms of goal setting and accomplishments.

We will continue to provide professional learning opportunities for teachers, principals and vice-principals, and support staff, including making the district's www.sd43.bc.ca website a more robust source of information.

With a recently-balanced budget under our belt, the district will now be able to refocus on the learning agenda and continue to provide the outstanding academic results for which it is known.

We all play an important role in the education of our students. I wish to encourage you to read books, learn a new language, discover a new culture, make new friends, pursue an interest, explore nature, perform random acts of kindness and make a difference in our world!

Sincerely,

Patricia Gartland
Superintendent of Schools
School District No.43 (Coquitlam)