

1. At an awards celebration hosted by the City of Coquitlam on Saturday, June 1, two SD43 teachers and Gleneagle Secondary's Green Team were honoured as environmental champions.



Joanne Peressin, a Grade 3 teacher at Nestor Elementary, received the Lifetime Achievement Individual award. She has been recognized for her efforts in teaching students about the salmon life cycle, culminating in the annual release of young salmon into the Coquitlam River.

Lynn Truong, an educational assistant at Baker Drive Elementary, was awarded the Teacher or Educator accolade. Her work with the Eco Bears Club, organizing clean-ups, and promoting energy conservation and mindful consumption among students earned her this recognition.

Additionally, the Green Team from Gleneagle Secondary was awarded the Youth Group, School or Club award. Their contributions include managing trails, supporting community gardens, and educating the public about salmon conservation in local watersheds. Read more on Tri-City News [here](#).

2. The Best Secondary community will benefit from the addition of 300 new student spaces, as part of the government's initiative to expand school capacity. This project includes constructing 12 new classrooms, corridors, and lockers using prefabricated materials to ensure a swift completion.

Students at École Dr. Charles Best Secondary have already been benefiting from the prefabricated classroom addition completed in February 2021. The upcoming addition is one of several new projects planned to be ready for students by fall 2025.

"We are pleased to add much-needed student spaces to Dr. Charles Best Secondary," said Michael Thomas, Chair, School District 43 Coquitlam Board of Education. "We are also very proud to have been leaders in utilizing this model of prefabricated classroom additions and know that this model will serve students for many years to come."

Read the full Government of BC News announcement [here](#).

3. On May 28th to 30th, over 400 students from 24 elementary and 7 middle schools gathered at the Hazel Trembath Gym for the STEAM Challenge Days. This event, aligned with SD43's Directions 2025 strategic objectives, aimed to "equip students for a world that requires practical scientific, technical, and innovation skills through STEAM and Career Education."



The theme for this year's event was sustainability, and SD43's "SuSTEAMability Superstars", engaged in activities focused on energy conservation, wind power, earthquake preparedness, and cleaning ocean waste. These hands-on challenges allowed students to showcase their creative thinking and problem-solving skills in the context of real-world issues.

During breaks, students further exercised their creativity and problem-solving abilities with Makedo Challenge Cards, Lego constructions, and other engaging activities. Principal of Technology Implementation, Dave Sands, highlighted the students' demonstration of strong 21st-century skills and core competencies from the BC curriculum. The innovative solutions produced by student teams were both impressive and enjoyable to witness.

4. On May 27, Trustee Christine Pollock attended the grand opening of the new Eastern Drive Park playground, located next to the Karen Kuong basketball court. The event honoured Karen Kuong, a former Terry Fox basketball player who passed away from cancer. During the ceremony, Karen's mother and teammates presented a \$2000 scholarship to Haitham Alhariri, a deserving Riverside student, and celebrated his accomplishments with a heartfelt speech.
5. On June 5th, the Board of Education honoured staff retiring from SD43. We thank Rouvin Seah and the Pinetree Secondary School Vocal Jazz Ensemble for their outstanding performance during the evening.



To all our retirees, we extend our deepest gratitude for your unwavering commitment and hard work. Your efforts have shaped countless young minds and enriched our community beyond measure.



Thank you for your years of service. We wish you all the best in your next journey and hope your retirement is filled with joy and fulfillment!

6. On May 8th, the Gleneagle Secondary School Life Skills program hosted its first annual "Marketplace." Life Skills students from across SD43 participated, selling a variety of creative and tasty products to raise funds for their respective programs' year-end social events. The products included arts and crafts, delicious baked goods, soaps, handcrafted kitchen cloths, candles, coasters, wooden signs, and plants.
7. To celebrate National Indigenous History Month this June, Port Moody Secondary School recently held an Indigenous History Month Gathering, led by Grade 12 students Emma Ward and Sam Westlands. The event showcased their teachings and featured a captivating performance by the Wild Moccasin Dancers. Additionally, the art teacher also presented a visually stunning Beaded Timeline representing the history of Indigenous people in Canada.



The emcees shared valuable insights on the Halkomelem (Hul'q'umi'num') language and introduced HIP (History, Identity, and Place), an initiative fostering community and reconciliation among Indigenous and non-Indigenous students across the country.

This event at Port Moody Secondary highlights our district's commitment to celebrating and honouring Indigenous history, culture, and contributions.

8. On May 10, Terry Fox Secondary School held a successful Mother's Day Tea event, organized by the Skill Development Team and a CLC-12 teacher in collaboration with students.



The event was designed to provide the "Helping Hands" team—comprising Grade 12 and Skill Squad Capstone students—with practical work experience in the food service industry. Additionally, it served as an opportunity to honour and connect with the elders in our community.

This event is a significant step toward achieving the school's longstanding goal of welcoming elders to share and learn together, thereby fostering intergenerational connections and celebrating the invaluable contributions of our community's elders.

The event also honoured Maxine Wilson, a valued supporter of SD43, former teacher, trustee, board chair, and former mayor of Coquitlam.

9. SD43 thanks the City of Port Coquitlam Public Works Department for their recent visits to Birchland, Central, and Hazel Trembath Elementary Schools. These visits provided students with a valuable opportunity to learn about the essential services provided by the Public Works Department and to explore the impressive machinery used in their operations. This hands-on experience was both educational and inspiring for our students.



10. On May 14, Centennial Secondary School received a generous donation of \$5,000 from the Coquitlam Express, dedicated to creating scholarships for students at Centennial Secondary and across the district.



[Photo Credits: Tricities Dispatch](#)

The annual contribution, as stated by Tali Campbell, general manager and chief operating officer of the Express, is a testament to their commitment to removing financial barriers for students who wish to pursue post-secondary education.

The scholarships, each starting at \$1,500, will be awarded to students who exhibit strong academic performance, leadership qualities, and community involvement. Applications for these scholarships will be open throughout the school year.

Principal Manjit Rai of Centennial Secondary acknowledged the significant impact this donation will have, providing essential support for our students on their academic journeys. This contribution aligns perfectly with SD43's mission to facilitate opportunities for all students to achieve their educational goals.

11. Congratulations to Jolaine and Jordan Bolam, two lacrosse-playing sisters from Port Moody, who have been recognized for their athletic accomplishments and leadership within the Indigenous community.



[Photo Credits: Tricity News](#)

The Bolam sisters are among 36 young First Nations athletes from across British Columbia to receive the 2023 Premier's Award for Indigenous Excellence in Sport.

With Sto:lo heritage on their father's side, Jolaine and Jordan were members of Team British Columbia's U19 women's box lacrosse team, which won a gold medal at the North American Indigenous Games in Halifax-Dartmouth last July.

Jolaine Bolam, the first of the sisters to take up lacrosse, was inspired by their father, Mike, who played the sport in his youth. Jordan followed in her sister's footsteps a year later. Both have played together in the Port Moody Minor Lacrosse Association and the Coquitlam Adanacs field lacrosse program. Read more as featured on Tri-City News [here](#).

12. On May 23, SD43's Student Wellness and Safety Team successfully hosted a virtual workshop titled "Understanding the Adolescent Brain" as part of the SD43 Family and Community Learning Series. The session was conducted by Shannon Sullivan, Coordinator of Counselling Services, and Sami du Sautoy, an SD43 Licensed School Psychologist.

This workshop provided insights into adolescent brain development, typical versus concerning behaviours, and effective communication strategies for parents and guardians. It also offered practical tools for setting limits, addressing challenges, and maintaining strong attachments with adolescents.

13. Congratulations to Gleneagle Secondary's Con X Team for successfully concluding the Talons Athletic Program!



Since November, this fantastic initiative has brought afterschool sports to three elementary schools—Westwood Elementary, Hampton Park Elementary, and Walton Elementary. Over three exciting rounds, nearly 200 kids participated in engaging group activities, mini-sports, and games, that fostered team bonding, fitness, and essential social interactions.

The energy and enthusiasm were infectious, with students enjoying games like Mayhem, Capture the Flag, and Skittles. Over the past eight months, these young participants have not only had fun but also developed valuable social skills and maturity, forming relationships they might have missed in the classroom or during the pandemic.

Kudos to the inspiring student role models from Con X and Gleneagle for making this program a tremendous success!

14. On May 30, Eagle Mountain Middle School celebrated its 10th anniversary. The celebration featured honoured guests, inspiring speeches, outstanding student presentations, and exceptional band and choir performances. The festivities concluded with a barbecue, providing opportunities for past and present students, staff, and



visitors to socialize and celebrate the school's achievements. The event successfully acknowledged the school's past, celebrated the present, and inspired the community to look forward to a bright future.

15. On May 29, Port Moody Secondary School celebrated its 50th anniversary.

Principal Jeremy Clarke remarked, "It was amazing to have over 750 former students and staff visit our open house to explore our evolving campus. A special thank you to Assistant Superintendents Carey Chute and Anthony Ciolfitto, both former vice principals at Port Moody Secondary, for joining former principals Karen Jensen and Glen Conley as official guests for the evening. Additionally, it was wonderful to have Board Chair Michael Thomas, a former Port Moody graduate, in attendance along with our Port Moody Trustee Zoe Royer."



The event was a remarkable celebration, highlighting the school's rich history and the strong connections within the community.

16. On May 21, thousands of students, teachers, and parent volunteers gathered at Coquitlam's Percy Perry Stadium for the annual SD43 District Track and Field Meet. Students in grades 3 to 5, competed for ribbons in events such as the 100m and 400m races, long jump, high jump, and more. The excitement and energy of the participants highlighted the spirit of competition and camaraderie within our district. Well done students!



17. Congratulations to the talented high school students from Port Moody, Gleneagle, and Heritage Woods Secondary Schools who showcased their artwork at the Coquitlam Centre Mall Art Exhibit last month. Their impressive collection included paintings, photographs, and multimedia art pieces, prominently displayed near H&M and Walmart. Many of these students are graduating and planning to further their studies in art schools across North America. We are immensely proud of their achievements and look forward to their continued success in the arts.



[Photo Credit: Tricity News](#)

18. On June 5th, 2024, Terry Fox Secondary School hosted its largest STEAM Fair to date in the Learning Library Commons. Seventy-five STEAM students from grades 9-11 showcased over 60 passion projects, including drones, robots, musical instruments, and a weather station. This year's event demonstrated the remarkable creativity and innovation of our students, highlighting their dedication to science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics.



19. Sean Duncan, a student at Terry Fox Secondary School and standout player for the Langley Blaze in the BC Premier Baseball League, is gaining international recognition for his talent. His impressive skills on the mound have the potential to propel him to the Major Leagues in the future. Read more on City News [here](#).



[Photo Credit: City News](#)

20. Congratulations to Eagle Mountain Middle on their successful annual 24-Hour Famine event! The participants raised nearly \$2700 for famine relief efforts worldwide. Through this impactful experience, both students and staff gained a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by those who experience hunger. Participants learned firsthand how the lack of nourishment can impede one's ability to function productively and focus on daily activities.

Thank you to Thrifty Foods Suterbrook for their generous donation towards the school's celebration breakfast.

Upcoming Events

June 27 – Last Day of School for all students
June 28 – Administrative Day

District Graduations/ Commencements

June 15 – Heritage Woods Secondary School
June 19 – Encompass
June 21 – CAFE
June 22 – Terry Fox Secondary School
June 23 – Riverside Secondary School
June 24 – Centennial Secondary School
June 25 – Ecole Dr. Charles Best Secondary School
June 26 – Pinetree Secondary School
June 26 – Inquiry Hub