



WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

Energy Team Welcome Message

As we begin the 2026-2027 school year, we are excited to welcome students, teachers, administrators, and staff back to another year of learning, leadership, and sustainability across School District 43. This year, our Energy & Sustainability Team has prepared a district-wide engagement plan designed to empower students to take meaningful action and help build a greener, healthier future.

From energy-saving challenges and waste reduction initiatives to Earth Day celebrations, school gardens, clothing swaps, and active transportation events, there will be opportunities throughout the year for everyone to participate, learn, and make a positive impact. Every action, no matter how small, contributes to a more sustainable district.

We also look forward to celebrating the incredible work happening in our schools. Through this newsletter, we will continue to showcase student-led projects, environmental clubs, and sustainability success stories from across SD43. Together, we can turn small actions into lasting habits and make the 2026-2027 school year our most impactful yet!

**WELCOME BACK TO A YEAR OF ACTION AND
IMPACT!**



What we did during your break

Maintenance Upgrades

Over summer, while students and staff enjoyed a well-deserved break, our District's Maintenance team were busy preparing schools for the new year. From essential upgrades to improvements that enhance comfort and efficiency, their hard work ensured your schools were ready to welcome you back.



Heating Systems Upgrades!

New high-efficiency heating systems were installed at several schools, including Walton, Ranch Park, Rochester, Blakeburn, Nestor and Glenayre. These upgrades will keep classrooms warm in the winter while also helping our district use less energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

New Domestic Hot Waters Systems

Domestic Hot Water upgrades at Gleneagle Secondary and Scott Creek Middle.



New Lighting Systems!

Over the summer our electricians were working hard on LED lighting upgrades at Anmore El., Porter Street El., Glenayre El. and Hillcrest Middle school.



Other work of our maintenance staff

Our Maintenance team were also busy with other important projects, including:

- Roofing upgrades at Central EL, Mary Hill EL, Miller Park EL, Terry Fox Sec, Mountain Meadows EL, Kwayquithlum Mid. and Scott Creek Mid.
- Exterior painting and repairs at Vanier Centre, Meadowbrook EL, Cedarbrook EL, Mountain View EL, Cape Horn EL, CAFE and Hillcrest Mid.
- Flooring upgrades were done at 9 schools.
- Gym floors were refinished at 14 schools.
- Retaining walls were replaced at Meadowbrook EL, Heritage Mountain EL, Como Lake Mid. and Cape Horn EL.
- Portable upgrades and repairs at Minnekhada Mid, Como Lake Mid. and Port Moody Sec.
- Fire Panels, Access controls, PA systems and elevators were done at 17 schools.

Thank you to all staff who worked throughout the summer to prepare our schools for the year ahead. Their dedication, hard work, and commitment have ensured a safe, welcoming, and inspiring learning environment for our students. We appreciate everything they do to support our schools community.

**THANK
YOU!**

☀️ Powering Our Schools with Clean Energy

School District 43 continues to invest in innovative technologies that support energy conservation, sustainability, and our greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals. This year, we are excited to highlight two new solar photovoltaic (PV) installations that are helping power our schools with clean, renewable energy.

The newly opened **Moody Elementary School** in Port Moody now features a **25 kW solar array**, while the new **Burke Mountain Secondary School**, currently under construction in Northeast Coquitlam, has a **100 kW solar array** as part of its sustainable building design.

These projects demonstrate the District's commitment to incorporating renewable energy solutions into new school facilities and creating learning environments that reflect our environmental values.



Expanding Electric Vehicle Charging Across SD43



We continue to invest in providing sustainable transportation across School District 43. Over the summer, we installed **four new electric vehicle (EV) chargers at Moody Elementary School**. This brings the total number of EV chargers to **64 located at 14 sites** throughout the district.

By expanding the access to EV charging, supports our district's objective to create low-carbon transportation.



Join Our Sustainable Leaders Committee!

Calling all Secondary and Middle school Sustainability Leaders. We want you to be a part of our Sustainable Leaders Committee this school year.

If you're passionate about sustainability, we'd love to have you on board!

Students representing their schools meet once a month online to discuss different sustainability ideas or initiatives they are planning. This is a great opportunity to meet like-minded students at other schools to collaborate and find ways to reduce waste.

If you're interested or want more information, please reach out to us at apettyfer@sd43.bc.ca or register the QR below to join our meetings.

If your school has any upcoming events that promote clubs, we would be happy to attend the event to let your students know about the District Sustainability Council (DSL). Please invite us.

Let's work together to make a difference!



Register Here!





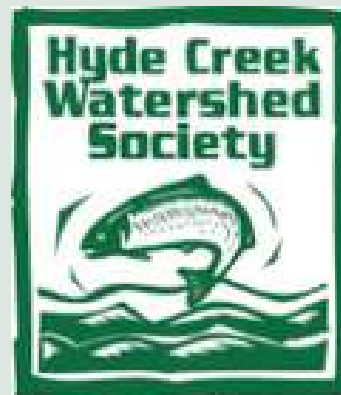
NEXT

HYDE CREEK SALMON RETURN TOURS

Join the Hyde Creek Watershed Society for the Annual Salmon Return and witness one of nature's most remarkable events. Learn about the salmon life cycle, explore the hatchery, and discover how healthy watersheds support local ecosystems.

Free guided tours will be offered on **Saturday, November 21, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** This is a wonderful opportunity for students and families to connect with nature and learn about environmental stewardship in our community.

📍 3636 Coast Meridian Road, Port Coquitlam
✉ hcws.info@gmail.com for tour bookings and details.



AUTUMN HARVEST PUMPKIN PLANTER WORKSHOP



Celebrate the beauty of the fall season by creating your own pumpkin planter at the Autumn Harvest Pumpkin Planter Workshop hosted by GARDENWORKS Coquitlam.



GARDENWORKS
Autumn
Harvest
Pumpkin
Planter
Workshop

Participants will plant seasonal flowers and foliage in a pumpkin while learning tips and techniques for creating a festive autumn display. The **one-hour hands-on workshop takes place on October 10, 2026**, and is part of the **Art of Autumn celebration**.

Click [here](#) for more information



NEXT

TROPICAL TERRARIUM WORKSHOP

Bring a touch of nature indoors by creating your own tropical terrarium at the Tropical Terrarium Workshop at GARDENWORKS Coquitlam. Participants will learn the basics of terrarium design and plant care while building a custom glass terrarium using tropical foliage, moss, and natural decorative materials. No experience is required, and expert guidance will be provided throughout the workshop.



GARDENWORKS
Tropical
Terrarium
Workshop

Click [here](#) for more information

Professional Development



Educate CONNECT 2026

Explore educational pathways and careers in sustainability at **Educate CONNECT | Virtual Environmental Education Fair**, hosted by **ECO Canada**. This free virtual event brings together leading environmental and sustainability programs from colleges and universities across Canada, allowing participants to connect directly with educators, admissions teams, and industry experts.



Whether you're supporting students exploring post-secondary options or interested in learning more about environmental career pathways, this event offers valuable insights into emerging environmental professions, workforce trends, and educational opportunities. The event will take place on **October 6, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. MT**.

Click [here](#) for more information

SFU Empowering Educators 2026



High school educators are invited to attend **2026 SFU Empowering Educators: BC Teacher Professional Development Day**, hosted by Science ALIVE and the SFU Faculty of Applied Sciences. This free event features hands-on workshops, classroom-ready resources, and practical strategies for integrating emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and STEM concepts into teaching and learning.



SFU Surrey Campus



October 23, 2026 | 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.



Free registration click [here](#)



OCTOBER - GLOBAL AWARENESS & CELEBRATION DAYS

Students, staff, and families can celebrate these awareness days by learning about sustainable communities, appreciating educators, supporting mental well-being, reducing food waste, choosing sustainable products, and taking actions that contribute to a healthier and more sustainable future.

World Habitat Day



Date: October 5th , 2026

Observed on the first Monday of October, World Habitat Day encourages us to reflect on the importance of sustainable, inclusive, and resilient communities. The day highlights the role we all play in shaping towns and cities that provide safe and adequate shelter for everyone.

More information, click [here](#)

World Teachers Day

Date: October 5th , 2026

World Teachers' Day celebrates the invaluable contributions of teachers in shaping future generations. Established by UNESCO, the day recognizes the importance of supporting the teaching profession and ensuring quality education for all.

More information, click [here](#)



World Cotton Day

Date: October 7th , 2026

World Cotton Day raises awareness of cotton's role in livelihoods, international trade, and sustainable development. Cotton supports millions of farmers and workers worldwide while remaining one of the most important natural fibres used in everyday life.

More information, click [here](#)



World Mental Health Day

Date: October 10th , 2026

World Mental Health Day promotes awareness of mental health and encourages action to support well-being in schools, workplaces, and communities. The 2026 theme, "*Lived Experiences Heard: Real Voices, Real Change*," highlights the importance of listening to and learning from people's lived experiences.

More information, click [here](#)



World Food Day

Date: October 16th , 2026

World Food Day marks the founding of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and raises awareness about hunger, food security, and sustainable food systems. It reminds us that everyone has a role to play in building a future where healthy, nutritious food is accessible to all.

More information, click [here](#)



What is going on at your school?



Every action, project, and conversation about sustainability helps build a culture of environmental stewardship in our schools. By working together, we are empowering students to become thoughtful leaders and creating a more sustainable future for generations to come.

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.

