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**MEET THE NON-PROFITS AT THE
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VISION

Our vision is for every individual to feel valued and for all learners to reach their potential.



MISSION

Our mission is to support all individuals in their development as successful learners, and as respectful, caring and responsible members of society.

VALUES

Responsibility to all learners

We believe that all individuals in our school district community have the capacity to learn and that we are responsible for supporting their learning.

Uniqueness of each individual

We value the uniqueness of each learner and embrace diverse ways of learning. We foster a variety of instructional methods and provide support to all learners so that they can realize their potential.

Diverse learning opportunities

We value choices for all learners, equity of access to all programs, and a holistic approach to learning. We encourage learning opportunities beyond the classroom. We support life-long learning.

Culture and community

We celebrate our many cultures and seek ways to appreciate and embrace diversity. We encourage interdependence and collaboration within the school district community. We value community partnerships.

Personal and social responsibility

We believe that a sense of belonging is at the heart of our school district community and is fundamental to the success of all learners. We are committed to acting as responsible stewards within our community. We cultivate a culture of care within our school district community, and seek to develop the leadership and citizenship capacity of all learners.

High expectations for success

We value the ability of all learners to set high expectations for themselves and to describe personal success. We believe success is measured through credible evidence of learning and rigorous self-assessment. We are committed to supporting all learners in achieving personal success.

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We hope you enjoy our annual *District Highlights* magazine — a round-up of stories from our school communities during the 2023/24 school year. Many of the stories in this issue come with video content. To access the videos that accompany the stories, click on the movie ticket/popcorn icon on the page.

Do you have an interesting story of student achievement that you would like to share with the community? Send your idea(s) to communications@sd42.ca.

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LETTER FOR FAMILIES FROM MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE RACHNA SINGH



Dear Students, Parents, and Caregivers:

As we have reached the end of the 2023/2024 school year, I would like to extend my sincerest congratulations to every student, parent and caregiver for their hard work and dedication. I share my deep gratitude to everyone who is a part of our greater school community. I hope you can take some time this month to reflect on your accomplishments this past year.

As a parent, I understand the need to keep building better education opportunities while creating spaces where all students and staff feel safe and welcome. I am grateful for everyone who has played a role in making this possible in the past year by working towards issues like student safety, inclusivity, and greater engagement in our schools. This includes making school environments safer by helping to support access zones around schools so BC's K-12 students and staff will be protected from any disruptive protests or harassment. Ensuring everyone can access schools without fear or intimidation continues to be a top priority.

To keep kids safe and healthy, we have also asked school districts to have policies in place by next school year that will restrict personal digital devices in schools so students can focus on their education. While technology is certainly a part of our lives, we are working towards providing kids and their families with the tools they need to develop healthy habits with devices.

Before we enter our summer holiday, I would also like to take this moment to highlight some of the other progress we have made this school year.

While schools across British Columbia are facing unprecedented enrolment growth, the Province has taken urgent action to make more spaces for students in fast-growing communities by funding new schools and expanding our current schools through prefabricated additions. Prefabs are new to most of the school districts in the province, and we have funded several projects this past year as an innovative construction option to build school additions faster as we welcome more students.

We have also remained focused on supporting students through initiatives like new early literacy screening for students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 which will begin to roll out in 2024/2025 school year. This includes funding for provincial outreach teams that will provide resources for students to support their progress and learning development.

Our government also understands that families are in much need of extra support due to the rising costs of living that are impacting all countries globally. This year, each school district received replenished funding through the Student and Family Affordability Fund to help support students and families who need it most to cover the cost of school related expenses. This is on top of the Feeding Futures funding to help expand school food programs throughout the province.

As the Minister of Education and Child Care, it has been one of my greatest honours to see the growth of our school communities throughout the year. These changes are a testament to all your hard work this year and I hope you feel proud of the milestones you have reached. I look forward to an even more exciting upcoming school year. To those graduating this year, congratulations and all the best with your future endeavours!

Once again, I am deeply grateful for your amazing work. Have a wonderful summer break!

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Singh', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Rachna Singh
Minister

MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS TERESA DOWNS

As the 2023/24 school year ends for most of our schools, I am also concluding my first 100 days as the new Superintendent of Schools for the Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District. The goal of my first 100 days was to prioritize learning the culture and context of this district. Our annual *District Highlights* magazine does a wonderful job of capturing some of this culture through the stories of our schools. I invite you to explore these stories.

Over the last 100 days, I have been incredibly fortunate to be able to visit each school and department and meet students, staff, and families. I have also been able to meet with Rights-holders, partners and many community groups.

Although it is difficult to capture everything I have seen, heard, and experienced, the following themes resonate with me as I reflect on all the reasons I am grateful to be a part of this district:

- This is a great school district with amazing team members who strive to support students in achieving their potential every day.
- Staff have an immense amount of well-earned pride in the work they are doing.
- This is a tightly connected and caring learning community.
- There is a deep commitment to inclusion in classrooms, schools, and across the district.
- Staff embrace the growing diversity of the communities we serve as a strength and an opportunity to deepen our work.
- The number of community groups who generously support the district, schools, and students is overwhelming.

As with all systems – even great ones – there are challenges. Like other school districts across the province and the country, the Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District is experiencing high levels of daily teacher absences that we are unable to fill. This past school year, we've seen a daily average of 20.5 instances where teacher absences could not be covered by a teacher teaching on call (TTOC). On some days, this number has been as high as 56. School teams have been attempting to manage these unfilled absences by having support teachers, English Language Learners teachers, librarians, principals and other such professionals cover classrooms when a certified TTOC is not available. While we appreciate the immense efforts of staff, this approach has created a significant strain on the system and is unsustainable in the long term.

So, for the 2024/25 school year, we will be joining other districts in the Fraser Valley – including Langley, Abbotsford, and Chilliwack – in addressing these unfilled absences by hiring educated and experienced yet uncertified individuals to join our team as uncertified teachers on call (relief teachers). We will be prioritizing applicants who have a post-secondary degree and demonstrated experience working with children/youth, including teachers who completed their teaching degree in another country. Relief teachers will be deployed in situations where we have exhausted our list of all available certified TTOCs. We look forward to seeing the positive impact these individuals will have in our system.

Thank you for the incredible work you have done this year. I know it has been challenging, and your efforts and contributions are truly appreciated. I wish you a wonderful summer and look forward to our continued collaboration in the 2024/25 school year.



Teresa Downs
Superintendent of Schools





Mural artist Jason Craft at work painting the Garibaldi Secondary cafeteria wall.

NEW MURAL AT GARIBALDI SECONDARY CELEBRATES INCLUSION

The cafeteria wall at Garibaldi Secondary School (GSS) is getting a makeover, with the painting of a new mural.

It's a project that has been in the works for the past two years by Brent McGimpsey, teaching chef in charge of the school's culinary arts program.

"We wanted to paint something on our wall in our cafeteria to make it a beautiful space that students wanted to be [in] and that they would enjoy," he said, adding he wanted it to reflect who the students are.

Once McGimpsey had the idea for an inclusion mural, he began consulting staff and students on what sort of elements to include.

"There was a lot of stopping and starting and rethinking, saying, 'OK, what do we really want this to be? What best represents inclusion at Garibaldi?'" he said.

The group brainstormed ideas, debating which elements to include. The result was a design including the iconic Golden Ears landscape, with word clouds, showcasing animals and different seasons.

"We came up with a word bank of inclusive words and caring words that represent our school community," McGimpsey said.

Then it was time to find an artist. They turned to Jason Craft, a local artist who has painted murals in several schools across the community.

"Brent gave me a grocery list of ideas," Craft said. "There are three elements in the mural that include word clouds. There's a bear, there's the water and the tree."

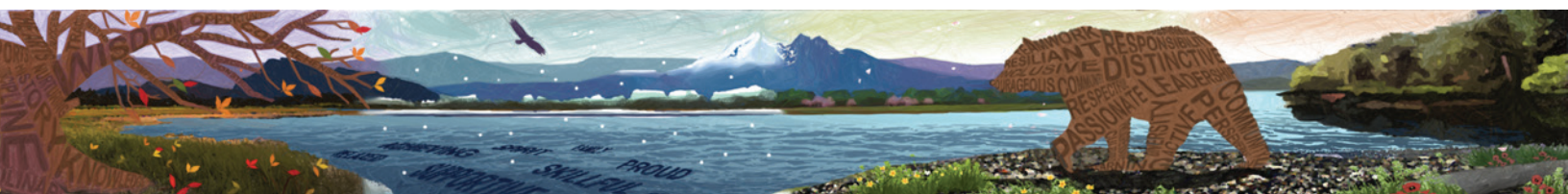
Craft put together a draft based on the ideas and sent it to McGimpsey.

"They look at it, and usually they'll say, 'we like this, we like this, but could you change this?' And that's what we do. We just went back and forth over the period of a year, year and a half," Craft said.

Eventually they arrived at the final design for the wall of the cafeteria.

McGimpsey hopes students feel a sense of inclusion when they look at the finished product.

"I want students to be able to see themselves reflected in a part of the school, no matter who they are, no matter their belief, their sex, their gender, anything," he said. "I want students to feel comfortable in their own skin and to enjoy being in the space."





Albion Elementary students cheer on the cyclists participating in Cops for Cancer Tour de Coast 2023.

COPS FOR CANCER TOUR DE COAST MAKES A STOP AT ALBION ELEMENTARY

There was excitement in the air at Albion Elementary. All the staff and students were outside, standing in front of the school. They held up signs with supportive messages, including, “Thank you for helping our community,” “Don’t give up,” and “Keep going.” For the first time ever, the school was one of the stops on the Cops for Cancer Tour de Coast route. The annual bicycle ride by first responders spans eight days and 800 kilometres across the province’s coast, raising money for childhood cancer research.

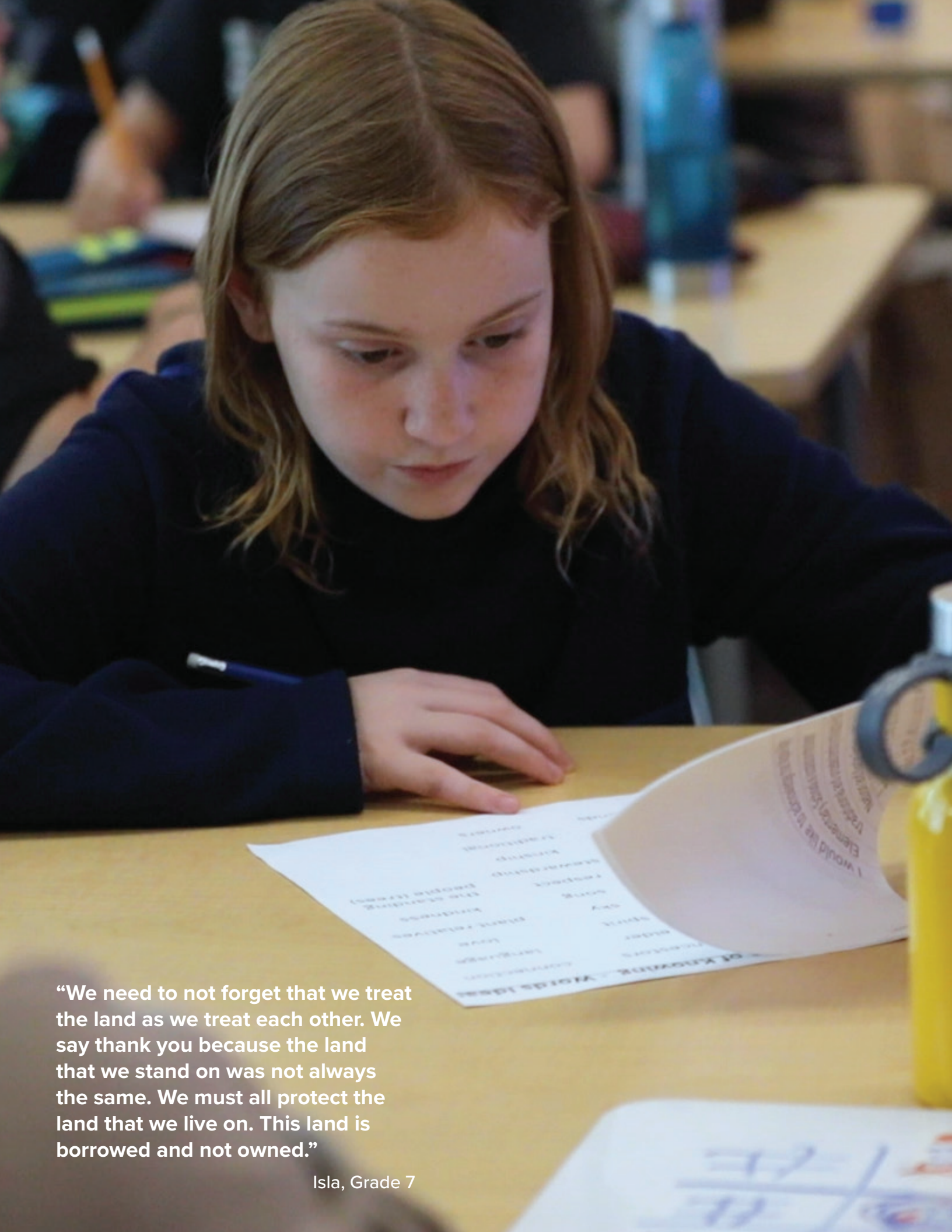
“We have a parent who is part of the team,” explained Tanya Dailey, Albion’s principal. “Brooke Brooks

approached us and it sounded like a good way to not only build school community, but also support a good cause.”

When the cyclists rolled into the school parking lot, the students began cheering. The riders parked their bikes, thanked the students for their support and handed out police sticker badges, before taking off to continue their journey.

“It was truly amazing!” Dailey said. “The kids were excited. They really enjoyed the stickers and getting high-fives from the officers and riders. They got to see and interact with the police in positive way.”

The school community raised \$638 for Tour de Coast 2023.



“We need to not forget that we treat the land as we treat each other. We say thank you because the land that we stand on was not always the same. We must all protect the land that we live on. This land is borrowed and not owned.”

Isla, Grade 7



TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION WEEK

MAPLE RIDGE STUDENTS LEARN HOW TO MAKE MEANINGFUL LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Grade 6/7 students at Maple Ridge Elementary learned how to write their own meaningful land acknowledgements as part of Truth and Reconciliation Week.

“A land acknowledgement is a recognition of us understanding the past, present and future,” explained Shelby Henry, an Aboriginal resource teacher with the district. “So that we recognize the past harms, the present work that we’re doing and the future reconciliation.”

Henry, who is Anishinaabe, led the hour-long lesson on Monday morning. She taught the students the importance of land acknowledgements and explained why they need to be meaningful.

“We want to get out of that scripted statement where, OK, this is what we have to do at the beginning of this assembly, meeting or event. We need to get out of that script and we need to bring meaning to it,” she said.

How you do that, Henry explained, is by understanding the history, the colonial harms and injustices Indigenous communities have faced for many years. It’s acknowledging the territory and the deep, meaningful connection Indigenous peoples have to the land.

The acknowledgements the students wrote all began with the same text. The protocol:

I would like to acknowledge that Maple Ridge Elementary School is



located on the shared, traditional and unceded territory of the Katzie First Nation and Kwantlen First Nation.

“After we say that protocol, which is important, then we get to our meaning,” Henry said. “Why is [the land] meaningful to us? And then bring it back to the Indigenous people taking care of it, the caretakers, and how thankful we are of them taking care of the land.”

Brynnley, one of the Grade 6 students in the class, wrote about how grateful she was for the land in her acknowledgement.

“I promise to protect this land because it is very special,” Brynnley wrote. “We say thank you for sharing the land, the trees, the traditions, the moss and the water. And for that, I am very grateful to the Katzie First Nation and the Kwantlen First Nation.”

Meanwhile, Isla, who is in Grade 7, wrote: “We need to not forget that we treat the land as we treat each other. We say thank you because the land that we stand on was not always the same. We must all protect the land that we live on. This land is borrowed and not owned.”

Grade 6 student Max wrote about the injustices faced by Indigenous

communities.

“The land was unfairly taken from the Indigenous people when the government came to take over and take the Indigenous children away,” she wrote. “The Indigenous people lost so much from their language and traditions. Their identity was taken away when the government broke the peace that the Indigenous people had with the spirits of nature, with the plants and everything on the land.”

“We need to put effort, care, time and heart into the land acknowledgements because it’s more than that,” Max continued. “It’s understanding that what we did in the past was wrong... cruel, unjust and scarring. We need to show them that we are ready to listen, we’re ready to care.”



TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION WEEK

ALOUETTE ELEMENTARY STUDENTS CREATE ARTWORK FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMUNITY EVENT



Alouette Elementary students show off the event posters they created for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Sitting on the steps inside Alouette Elementary, Brayden pointed at the middle of his poster.

“The kid at the bottom is supposed to be me going to residential school,” the Grade 7 student said. “Because I’m Indigenous as well, so it’s like I’m going to residential school.”

“And then there’s a cross at the very top, meaning since they’re trying to make them Christian and get rid of their culture.”



Brayden’s poster is one of six being recognized by the planning committee for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation community event being held in Maple Ridge.

The students had been asked to create thoughtful posters to advertise the gathering with the theme, ‘Healing Journey Continues Through Truth and Reconciliation.’

Elder Coleen Pierre from the Katzie First Nation has been organizing the event for the past 10 months, along with PLEA Community Services, the Fraser River

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Indigenous Society and other community members and organizations.

“How I came about that name is there will always be healing no matter what angle we look at,” she said.

Once the name of the event was determined, Pierre wanted to get students involved.

“I said, I want to know, I want to get it from a youth, a student perspective,” Pierre explained. “I want to know how they define it.”

Ayaan, who is in Grade 6, had the winning design that’s now being used to raise awareness about the event. He says the healing journey is a process.

“It means like maybe you won’t ever be the same, but slowly, you might try to get better and better, and eventually, you might be able to recover from that. But even if you don’t, it’s still good to be in a better mental place than you were before,” Ayaan explained.

When the planning committee saw the students’ submissions, they wanted to express their gratitude. They met with the students at Alouette Elementary to say thank-you and give each of them a gift card to express their appreciation.

“The students nowadays are so brilliant, their minds,” Pierre said. “And it’s not a matter of their minds wandering. They really got there.”

The illustrations are going to help them understand and come to terms with it all, Pierre added.

“It’s not just pictures, it’s their own thoughts.... And that gives me more reason to go for the gold,” she said.

“I’m determined to make my circle stronger – not every year – every day. And it’s through the goodness of their hearts and minds that is making it possible for what I’m accomplishing.”

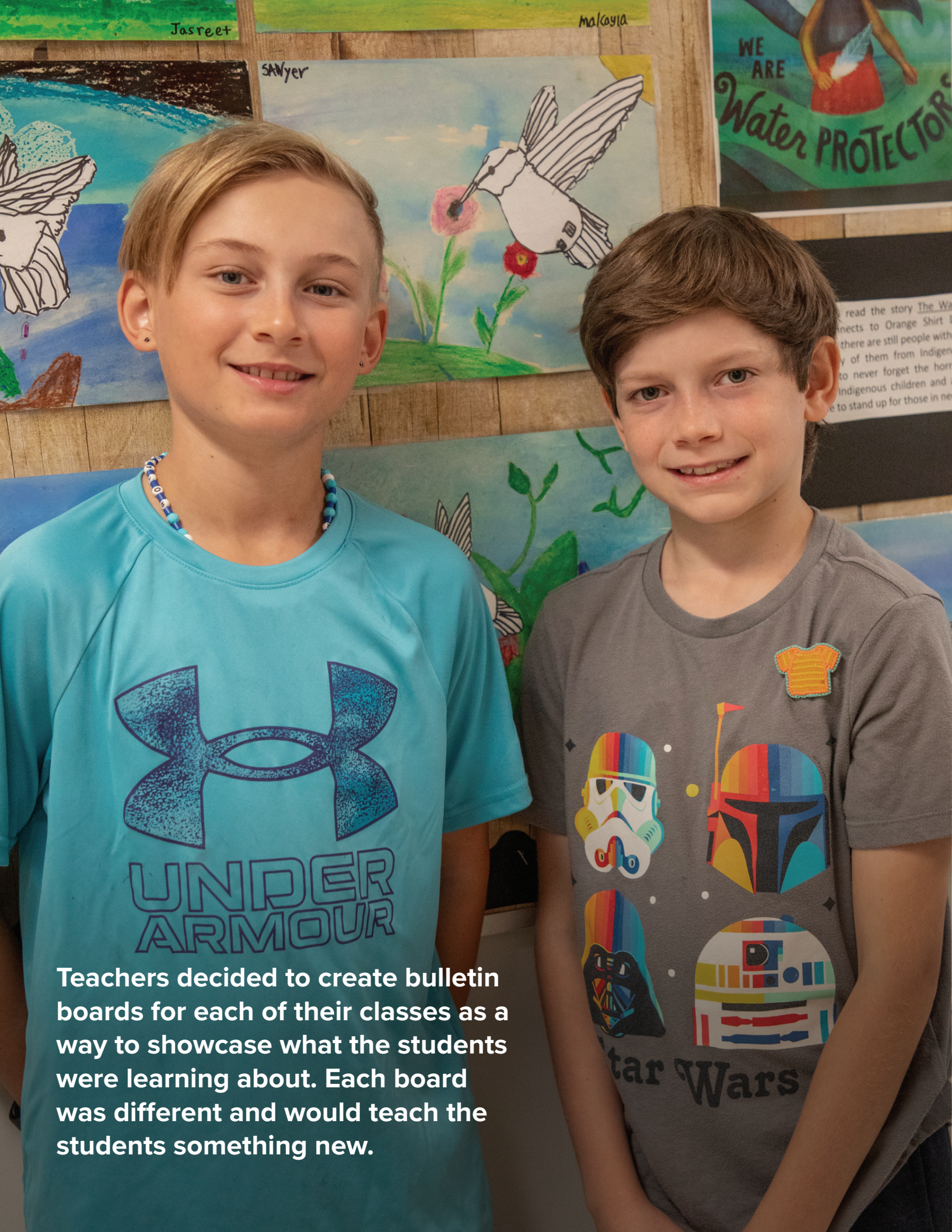
The community gathering was held between 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. on Sept. 30, 2023, at Memorial Peace Park. The collaborative event supported learning and healing, provided a safe space for those impacted by residential schools, and included Indigenous drum groups, special guest speakers, orange shirt painting, vendors, and the creation of a community art project.



Poster by Grade 7 student Brayden.



Grade 6 student Ayaan with his winning poster design.



Jasreet

malaysia

SAWyer

WE ARE
Water PROTECTORS

read the story The War
connects to Orange Shirt
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e to stand up for those in ne

Teachers decided to create bulletin boards for each of their classes as a way to showcase what the students were learning about. Each board was different and would teach the students something new.

Star Wars



TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION WEEK

LAITY VIEW ELEMENTARY TRANSFORMS HALLWAY INTO GALLERY TO TEACH ABOUT RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS



Grade 6/7 students Khushi and Della created flowers for their Every Child Matters bulletin board.

Walking down Laity View Elementary's intermediate classes hallway is a learning experience this Truth and Reconciliation week.

The bulletin boards lining the walls on either side are full of art, text, and a common theme: Injustices Indigenous communities have faced.

“The initial idea came from an intermediate teachers’ meeting that we had,” said Sara Maher, a Grade 6/7 teacher at Laity View. “We were discussing ways to honour the week for truth and reconciliation. We wanted to find a way to collaborate as a team.”



The teachers decided to create bulletin boards for each of their classes as a way to showcase what the students were learning about. Each board was different and would teach the students something new.

Some teachers read their classes storybooks by Indigenous authors and then had their students create art or poetry based on what they learned.

After the boards were completed, the intermediate students, ranging from grades 3 to 7, were able to walk through and look at the different displays.

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“From there, we asked primary classes to come down and do what we’re calling a gallery walk,” Maher said. “And we’re just hoping that when they come down with their teachers, it’ll spur more discussion, more questions around truth and reconciliation.”

Grade 6/7 students Khushi and Della created flowers for their bulletin board with each petal listing a right that was taken from children who attended residential school.

“I wrote, the right not to be bullied. The right to have fun and play, the right to live in a safe space, the right to live with your family, and the right to have good health care,” Khushi said.

Kelechi, whose Grade 5/6 class featured the medicine wheel on their display board, said it’s important to learn about the past.

“They did do something really wrong to torture those kids, tell them to cut their hair and not speak their own language,” she said.

Grade 5 student Brady also stressed the importance of knowing the history.

“Because if we didn’t know it, nothing would change,” he explained. “Because the more we know, the more change we can give.”

Grade 5/6 students Kelechi and Maya helped make their class’ medicine wheel display board.





ċəsqənelə ELEMENTARY CONNECTS SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY CENTRE WITH KINDNESS SNAKE

The trail behind ċəsqənelə Elementary is lined with painted rocks that form a lengthy snake.

“It looks like a real snake... that’s made out of rocks,” explained Abigail, a Grade 3 student.

The 157-metre path the snake is being built on connects the school and the neighbouring Albion Community Centre.

“Our goal was to activate the trail and we wanted to do it with the students and introduce it through a kindness project,” said Jen Baillie, the recreation coordinator at Albion Community Centre. “With the community centre and the school being on the same site, it’s important for



this to be one larger community.”

With the addition of the rock snake, that community connection is even clearer.

“It was like you were putting like a rock collection down,” said Julia, who is in Grade 2. “It was really pretty, I really

like what everybody else did.”

The students were able to paint their own rocks, with the theme of ‘kindness’ in mind, and place them on the trail to be part of the snake.

“We thought it would be a great way of bringing the kids together and encouraging them to access all of

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the great programs that are at the Albion Community Centre,” said Janet Smith, c̓əsq̓ənel̓ə’s teacher-librarian.

The community centre offers after-school programming, child care, and sport and fitness programs.

Some of these programs, Smith added, are even hosted at the school, including pickleball and basketball.

The ‘kindness’ theme points to the growing relationship and collaboration between the two facilities.

“We feel kindness is at the heart of our community,” Smith said. “Definitely the heart of our school.”

Grade 2 student Oliver says kindness is important.

“So you don’t hurt other people’s feelings,” he explained.

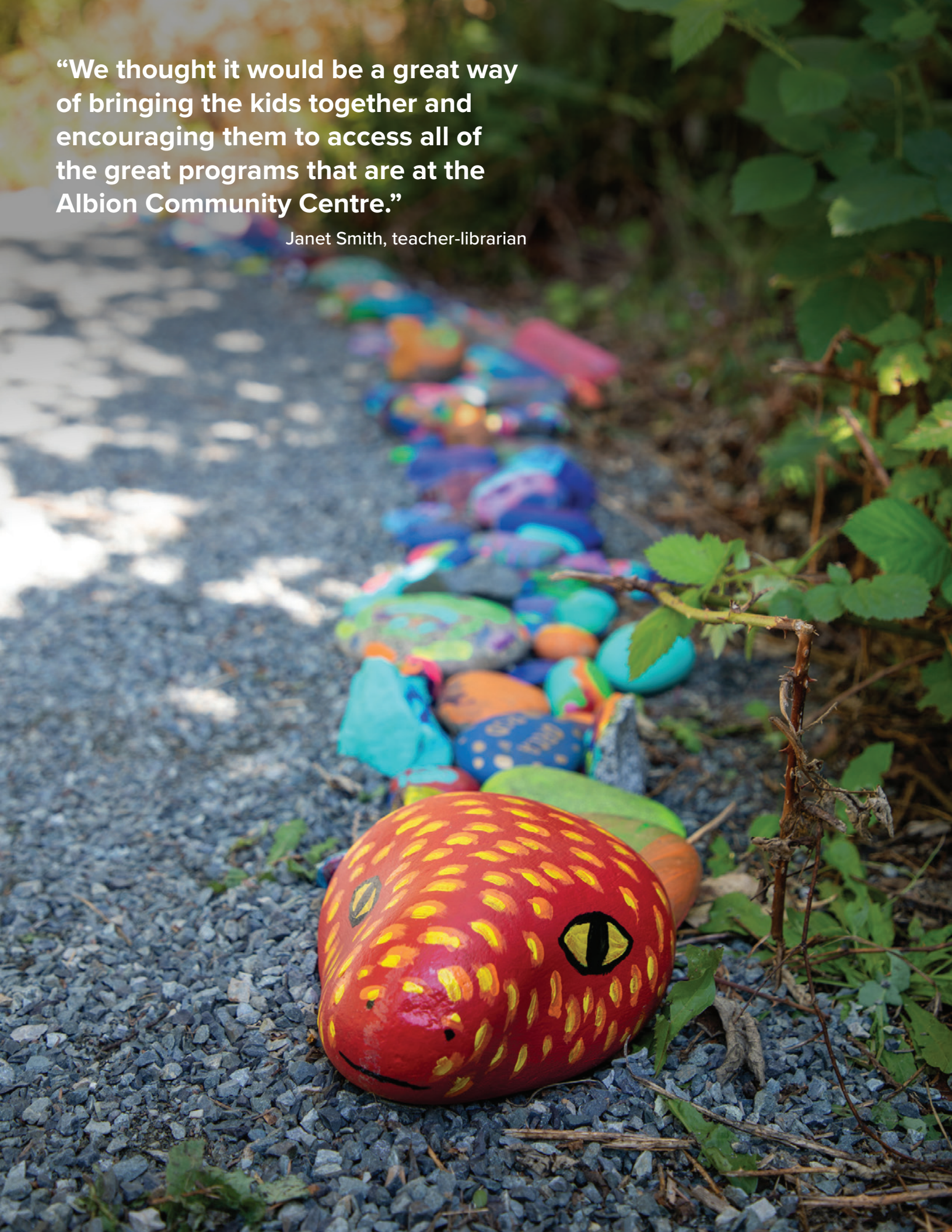
Preston, who is also in Grade 2, agreed.

“I think it was a good idea because if you’re kind and you ask people, ‘do you want to be [my] friend?’ they might say yes,” she said.



“We thought it would be a great way of bringing the kids together and encouraging them to access all of the great programs that are at the Albion Community Centre.”

Janet Smith, teacher-librarian





TERRY FOX RUNS

MAPLE RIDGE, PITT MEADOWS SCHOOLS RAISE TENS OF THOUSANDS



Whether it was throwing a pie in a teacher's face or participating in a school run, students in Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows found different ways to raise money for cancer research.

At least 18 schools in the district put on their Terry Fox Runs during the months of September and October, raising more than \$25,000.

“We hope that the kids take away the understanding of what Terry did,” said Chad Raible, principal of Kanaka Creek Elementary. “The fact that he gave to something that was more than himself.”

Kanaka Creek Elementary held its run through their neighbourhood, with help from staff and RCMP. Six hundred students from grades 1 to 7 ran out from the

Click here to view video
bit.ly/3RFOHO6

gym doors, through the school yard, across the street, around the Kanaka Creek Regional Park, and back.

It was important to participate, according to Grade 2 and 3 students Ella and Will.

“Because Terry Fox ran with one leg to raise money for cancer research,” Ella explained.

“Because we want to finish what Terry Fox started,” Will added.

Meanwhile, students at ƒəsƒənelə Elementary heard from a school ambassador with the Terry Fox Foundation before their run.

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The ambassador, Kayje Nogue, explained who Terry was and why he ran the Marathon of Hope.

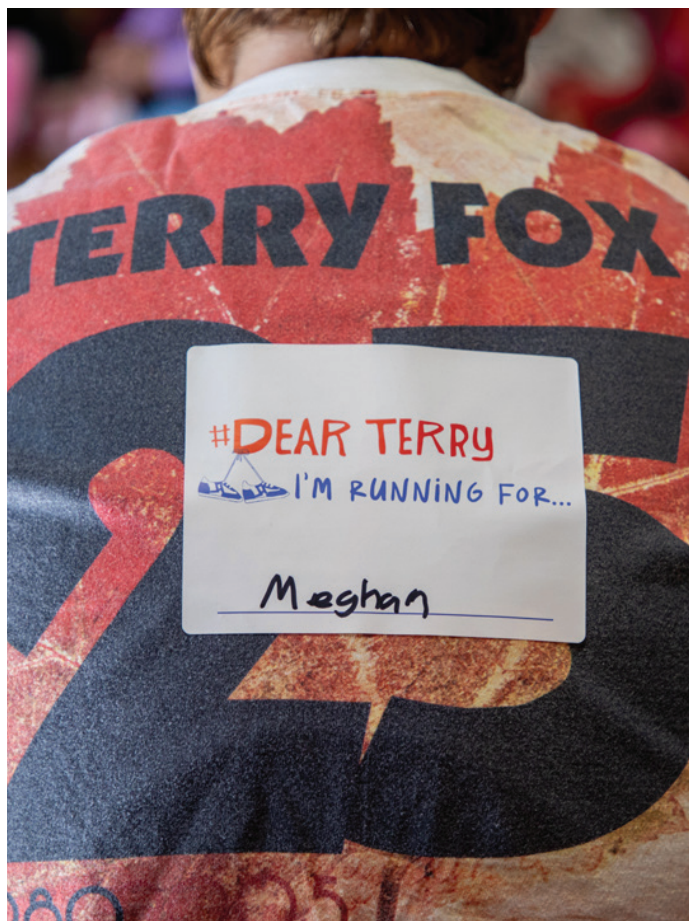
“Terry Fox set goals for himself and I want the kids to set goals for themselves,” said Nogue. “He trained 14 months before he started his Marathon of Hope. He knew to take his time and to start small. I want kids to think about that.”

Terry’s story shows the power of “yet,” which is an important lesson at ċasq̇anel̇ Elementary, according to Wes Reamsbottom, the school’s principal.

“[It] means if you can’t do something yet, it doesn’t mean that you won’t be able to do it eventually,” he explained. “Terry Fox was kind of an inspiration for yet. You know, he took it one step at a time.”

ċasq̇anel̇ Elementary raised more than \$5,000 for the foundation. Students who raised more than \$50 had their names entered in a draw to pie a staff member in the face.

“Kids really like to put pies in the faces of their teachers, vice-principals and principals,” Reamsbottom said, laughing. “But it was just an incentive... to honour the people that worked really hard to raise money for cancer research.”





Thomas Haney teachers Todd Goodman and Mark Biggar received a 2023 Premier's Award for Excellence in Education.

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

THOMAS HANEY SECONDARY TEACHERS RECEIVE PREMIER'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

Two teachers at Thomas Haney Secondary are being recognized by the premier for their collaborative approach to education.

Mark Biggar and Todd Goodman have taught several classes together: Law, human geography, computer programming, film production, media design, 3D modelling, architecture, and the list goes on.

“We collaborate on everything we do, all of our marking, all of our assessments, all of our planning and our creation, everything is together,” Goodman explained.



“And we’ve learned to be really efficient with the way we plan as well,” added Biggar.

It’s this sort of work that led to the two teachers winning the 2023 Premier’s Awards for Excellence in Education in outstanding team collaboration.

During class, both teachers are in the room. One of them may lead the lesson, while the other circulates the room to check for understanding and answer questions.

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But the collaboration doesn't end with the lesson.

"It's very common that we're here until 5 p.m. every single day, five days a week, and there are always still students in our room," Goodman said.

Goodman and Biggar run the video game club on Mondays, board game club on Thursdays, and run a role-playing game club with another teacher as well. Throughout the year, they put on special events for the clubs, including LAN parties, long board game nights, and a live action role-playing game (LARP).

"We try to foster a very healthy, welcoming, inclusive culture here at Thomas Haney," Goodman said. "We do a lot of that through our clubs and our after-school activities."

Grade 11 student Quinn Callander has taken several classes with the pair of teachers and participates in all the after-school clubs they put on. He spends a couple hours every day after school taking part.

"I like the atmosphere they bring to the room," Callander said. "They go above and beyond for their work."

After often hearing about his time in class and how much he enjoys tech lab, Callander's parents decided to nominate Goodman and Biggar for the award earlier this year.

The two were grateful to be nominated, and when they found out they had won, they were stunned.

"I kind of sat there for a minute, just trying to understand. I didn't think I was going to win, there are so many amazing teachers and educators in this province," said Goodman.

"It's too bad in some ways that this award does go to the two of us when we work with so many other people as well," added Biggar. "We wouldn't be here if it wasn't for everyone else that helped us along the way and also works with us."

What makes the win even more special was that it was a student who had put their names forward, the two teachers said.

"It feels great," Callander said, of them being chosen for the award. "It's nice to know that they're being recognized for the work they do."

Goodman and Biggar were two of 34 education professionals across the province who received the Premier's Awards for Excellence in Education this year. The award recipients were celebrated at a ceremony at Government House in Victoria on Oct. 26.





CELEBRATING THE FALL SEASON

HAMMOND ELEMENTARY PUTS ON OUTDOOR FALL FAIR

Students at Hammond Elementary put on their rain boots and celebrated the fall season with an outdoor pumpkin patch, a petting zoo, crafts, and fun games.

Each class was taken to the pumpkin patch on the field, where students were able to pick a gourd to take home.

Then they moved on to the crafts table, where they learned how to make and decorate Halloween stress balls.

The petting zoo was next, with a donkey, sheep, goats and bunnies.

After that, the students moved inside to play some fall-themed games in the gymnasium.





Members of  asq nel  Elementary's PAC stand in front of the new playground with their children.

OUTDOOR PLAY

NEW PLAYGROUND UNVEILED AT  asq nel  ELEMENTARY

 asq nel  Elementary has a new playground for students to enjoy, made possible because of a large community effort.

“We have a lot of great kids that are super happy to have the playground finally, to be able to play on,” said Chrystal Akiyama, a member of  asq nel ’s parent advisory council (PAC). “We have worked very hard over the past few years together as a PAC and a community with our parents and our team supporters throughout the school district.”

The playground took two years of effort, including

Click here to view video
bit.ly/3zpmG76

fundraising, finding a supplier, and building the structure.

“It was a long process, and all of our hearts went into it 150 per cent,” Akiyama said. “Honestly, we couldn’t ask for anything better. We got exactly what we set out to do.”

The PAC fundraised \$97,000 for the playground while the school district contributed \$61,000 in capital funds, and \$6,500 was raised in donations.

The school community wanted a playground that was

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“It was a long process, and all of our hearts went into it 150 per cent. Honestly, we couldn’t ask for anything better. We got exactly what we set out to do.”

Chrystal Akiyama, cəsqənelə PAC member



going to blend in with the surroundings but still offer a creative, challenging way to play, and that's where Habitat Systems, the playground equipment supplier, came in.

The new playground features multiple slides, monkey bars, spinners, nets, climbers and built-in shade, all tied together with the nature-inspired theme of "treetops."

"The concept behind the structure is as if you're hanging in the trees, swinging from branches, and at an elevation that's going to make you feel that you're up in the trees," explained Brad Neufeld, business development manager with Habitat Systems.

The idea, he added, is that there's something for everyone. There are all sorts of overhead components the children can swing from, and several different routes they can take, including some that are more accessible while others are more challenging.

The reviews from students so far are promising.

"I think it's definitely a tree," Grade 3 student Ella said, adding, "we learn a lot about First Nations, nature and golden eagles, so I think it does fit."

Boia, who is in Grade 2, says she will be using the playground often.

"It's really cool and fun to play on," she explained.

Grade 4 student Ainslea is a fan of the colours.

"It's really nice because it's like right in front of the forest and it matches all the colours and stuff," she said.

Part of the playground has a rubberized surface so mobility devices can access the structure as well.

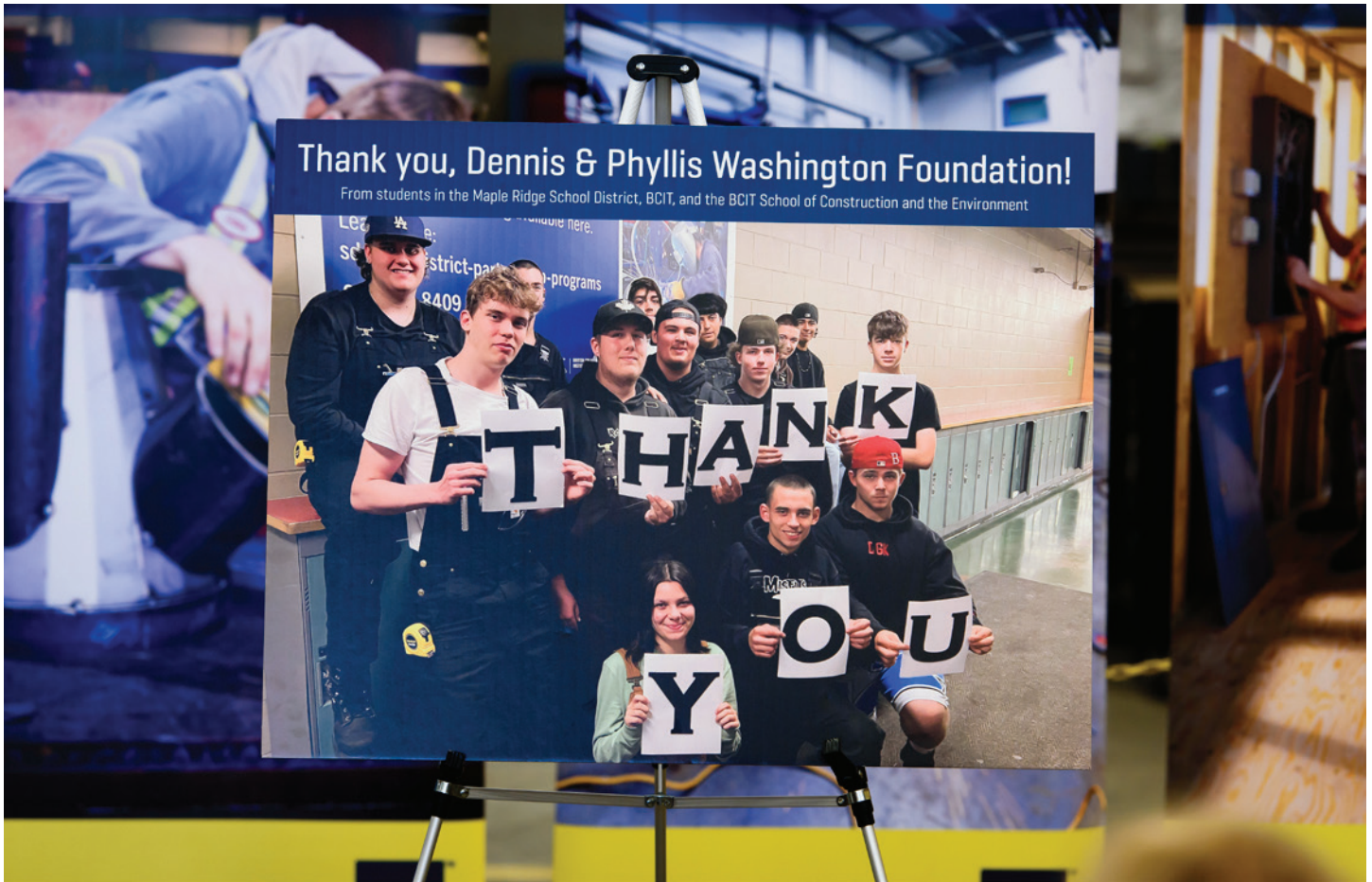
"We understand that this park gets used after hours or on the weekends," Neufeld said, "so if a grandmother is here with the grandkids, you want to have that accessibility."





TRADES AND APPRENTICESHIPS

MARINE FITTER CERTIFICATION NOW OFFERED TO MAPLE RIDGE, PITT MEADOWS STUDENTS



Secondary students in the district’s metal fabrication program express their appreciation.

Starting this year, students in the Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District taking the metal fabrication foundations program are able to receive a new, additional marine fitting certification.

“It’s a skill set that’s unique, that’s in demand and it’s also very sought after provincially and nationally,” said Brad Dingler, trades and apprenticeships coordinator with SD42.

The program expansion was made possible through the district’s partnership with the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT) to provide trades training to high school students in Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows.



SD42 is one of four districts chosen by BCIT to receive funding from a \$5.5 million grant donated by the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation in conjunction with Seaspac ULC and Southern Railway of British Columbia.

“It opens up opportunities for our students that were previously not available,” Dingler explained. “It allows us to offer students more industry-ready skills that enable them to enter the workforce with a greater understanding of the industry.”

The marine fitter endorsement extends the current

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metal fabrication program by three weeks to provide training in the shipbuilding and repair industry.

Students will learn how to create lofts, read blueprints, construct and repair ship structures, outfit ships, and erect hull blocks.

Grade 12 student Demetre Cherras is in the metal fabrication program and says this is a great opportunity.

“I’m thinking maybe I can get a job easier with it,” he explained. “It’s a pretty sweet job too, it’s pretty cool to say that I would be 18 and working in marine fitting, so I really like that opportunity. It’s going to be awesome.”

Student Kai Briggs, who is also taking the program this year, agreed.

“It gives you a lot more options on what you can do,” she said. “Especially at a young age, it’s good to have all of those things.”

Alexis Loukianov, another trades student, says he already works in the industry surveying and inspecting vessels, but this would change things.

“I see all that fitting and everything done,” he explained. “It would be a different story if I was doing it.”

The curriculum for the marine fitter endorsement was developed by BCIT in consultation with industry professionals and will be delivered by experienced instructors. Entrance into the program, however, is limited to students who have successfully completed metal fabricator level 1.

“The funding is going to benefit our students for seven years, which is a significant investment in not only the youth in our community, but the general trades availability in the future,” Dingler noted.

In addition to the new marine fitting certification, the funding will also be used to make the program more accessible to students by minimizing costs like transportation, textbooks and consumables.

“This funding has reduced that financial barrier so we can now offer it to youth who may not have thought of it as an option in the past,” Dingler said. “It’s made it not only accessible, but an increased in-demand trade in our school district.”

For more information about SD42’s apprenticeship training programs, including metal fabrication, visit apprenticeship.sd42.ca.





The Zanotto family visits their homestay student Pauline and her family in Germany.



INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

HOST FAMILY ATTENDS INTERNATIONAL HOMESTAY STUDENT'S GRADUATION IN GERMANY

German student Pauline took Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District's international education program in 2021 and lived with the Zanotto family as part of the homestay program.

Two years later and an ocean apart, they still talk every day.

"She spent a lot of time with us and we got really close," said Sara Zanotto. "When she's here, she's not a guest - she just lives here. I don't know, it just feels like home."



"Basically another kid," added her husband, Chris.

For their two children, Bella and Maxéa, Pauline was like an older sister.

"It just became normal and then when she left, it was like, where is she? And it [was] not normal," said Bella,

who is in Grade 6.

Pauline enjoyed her time in Pitt Meadows so much,

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**“It was really emotional for me
because I missed her so much.”**

- Maxéa, Grade 3



she came back the following summer in 2022 to visit.

“She still had one more year to do and she’s like, ‘it’d be cool if you came to my graduation,’” Sara said. “Chris and I kind of talked about it and we decided if we did a lot of overtime and worked really hard, we could take our family there.”

So in June this year, the Zanottos packed their bags and went on their first trip overseas as a family.

They had never met the rest of Pauline’s family in person, Sara explained, so they were feeling a little nervous.

“But as soon as we got there, it was like *su casa es mi casa*,” said Chris.

“It was really emotional for me because I missed her so much,” said Maxéa, who is in Grade 3.

Watching Pauline finally cross the stage at graduation was another emotional moment for the Pitt Meadows family.

“Oh, I bawled, of course,” said Sara.

“Like I said, she was like a kid to me, right?” Chris said. “My own kid.”

“She’s our family,” Sara added.

During their time there, they were also able to catch up with Tabea, another one of their homestay students who lives in Germany.

It is stories like this that are at the heart of the homestay program, according to Tricia McCuaig, international education principal with SD42.

“It’s really what the ultimate goal of the program is,” she explained. “Finding that connection with a person

and deepening an understanding of what it’s like to live in other places in the world.”

Hearing about the Zanotto family’s trip and seeing photos brought so much joy to the international education team, McCuaig said.

“To see it transpire where we get feedback from the host family saying this is why we do this, we do this for the connection, we do it for the relationships – it just supports everything that we do and everything we believe in in international education,” she said.

The district’s homestay program allows local families to experience another culture and in cases like this one, make a connection that could last a lifetime.

“It’s just so crazy that we didn’t know her at all and now she’s one of us,” Sara said. “Every single one of our friends and our family, when I say Pauline, they know who that is.”

“Yeah, she sends us Christmas gifts,” Chris said.

“And we send things back,” Sara added.

To learn more about becoming a homestay family and hosting an international student, visit inted.sd42.ca.





NEW PROGRAM

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION NOW A DUAL CREDIT OPTION FOR SD42 STUDENTS

Secondary students in Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows have one more option when it comes to picking their classes.

The Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District, in partnership with Ridge Meadows College, is offering an early childhood education (ECE) dual credit program for Grade 12 students.

“Students who love working with young children should consider the program,” said Will Carne, manager of Ridge Meadows College. “From birth to the age of 5 is a key developmental time for children. Early childhood educators can have a positive effect on a child’s life.”

The program is made up of two courses, one with a focus on health and safety, and the other on creative art.

Some of the things students will learn, Carne explained, is how to manage circle time and how to guide behaviour.

Students who complete the program will be eligible to receive their early childhood education assistant certificate, meaning they can start working in the field right away.

“This not only has the benefit of jump-starting career opportunities, but it also provides one more option locally for students to receive experience and training without having to travel to a post-secondary institution,” said Brad Dingler, trades and apprenticeships coordinator with SD42.

“Given the current economic climate and future demand for a skilled workforce, school districts, students, and communities only benefit by embracing more educational options.”



Dual credit programs such as this allow students to take post-secondary courses while still in high school. At the same time, the courses count as Grade 12 elective credit.

For this particular program, students who complete the program will earn 8 high school credits and 5 post-secondary credits.

Students then have the opportunity for further study to get their full ECE certificate or continue on to specializations in infant/toddler care or care for children with unique needs.

“The early childhood education field is in high demand right now, so there are a lot of job prospects,” Carne said.

Early childhood educators often work at child care centres, daycares and preschools.

This dual-credit program was made possible by a grant awarded by the Ministry of Education and Child Care that covers tuition for students.

To learn more about the program and admission requirements, visit the college’s website at rmcollege.sd42.ca.



Harry Hooge students strike a pose after performing a dance in their school's Diwali assembly on November 17, 2023.

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

HARRY HOOGE ELEMENTARY STUDENTS CELEBRATE DIWALI

Students at Harry Hooge Elementary danced, put on mehndi, and painted diyas to celebrate Diwali.

“Diwali is the festival of lights. It’s celebrated by Jains, Hindus, Sikhs and Buddhists around the world,” explained Kawaldeep Ghuman, an English Language Learners (ELL) teacher at the school.

Ghuman and her colleague, Grade 4/5 teacher Vibha Budshah, worked together to put on an assembly to mark the occasion.



The reason they celebrate, she added, is because it represents the students and gives them the opportunity to share their culture.

“They [see] themselves in the school, they feel acknowledged, they feel welcomed,” Ghuman said.

The assembly included a presentation explaining what Diwali is and why it’s celebrated, a read aloud of Thrity Umrigar’s book, *Binny’s Diwali*, and a

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cultural dance performance by a group of students.

The students practiced the dance for a month with Budshah before the big performance day.

“We just did a little bit at a time,” explained Grade 5 student Sophia. “The first time, we did four moves and we had to practice. We practiced every lunch time, basically.”

When it finally came time to perform, it was a little scary, according to Grade 5 student Maisha.

“Freaking out. Stress. But at the end, we were confident,” she said.

Myla, who is in Grade 4, agreed.

“The song is all hyper and it was a good feeling. It didn’t matter if you got messed up, it just mattered if you had fun,” she explained.

Grade 4 student Urwah really connected with the dance moves.

“I felt like I was moving emotionally, mentally and physically,” she recalled.

All the student performers especially enjoyed the audience’s reaction to their performance.

“People were cheering and we didn’t expect that to happen,” said Agrima, who is in Grade 6. “They were

clapping in between the dance and we didn’t expect it.”

Every student in the school was able to participate in the festivities, one way or another.

After the assembly, the school set up mehndi tables in the foyer with help from teacher and parent volunteers. Students were able to each get one hand adorned with different patterns and designs using henna.

Classrooms were also given their own set of diyas for students to paint with different colours.





Kanaka Creek Elementary students collected candies and packed them up in little holiday treat bags.

MESSAGES OF CARE

KANAKA CREEK ELEMENTARY STUDENTS MAKE THE HOLIDAYS A LITTLE SWEETER FOR THE COMMUNITY

Students from Kanaka Creek Elementary are using their Halloween candies this year to make Christmas a little sweeter for seniors living in centres and community members in need.

The school put together about 750 holiday treat bags to deliver to Maple Ridge senior and treatment centres as well as the food bank. It's a project Kanaka Creek has been doing for 12 years.

"It's about giving back to the community, making sure everyone feels special during this time of year," said Grade 3 teacher Debby Moran. "It shows how a little act of kindness can go a long way and teaches kids empathy and compassion for others."

The whole school donated candies for the project – everything from chocolate, lollipops and gummy bears, to licorice and caramel.

"Students look forward to this every year," Debby said. "They want to give back to their community and to

those less fortunate. Giving back makes them feel good and connects them to members of their community they wouldn't otherwise have connections with."

Once all the candies were collected, Debby and Paul Moran's grade 3 and 7 classes put them into treat bags, decorated with holiday drawings and messages.

The packages are then sent off to their final destinations, where they're received with lots of joy.

"The seniors are very receptive and look forward to their candy bags," Debby said. "They enjoy looking at the drawings and reading the messages on the bags from the children."



Kirsten Bailey's Grade 6/7 class shows off the toques they knit for donation.

COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS LAITY VIEW ELEMENTARY CLASS KNITS HATS FOR THOSE IN NEED

Grade 6/7 students at Laity View Elementary learned a new skill for a good cause this holiday season.

Kirsten Bailey's class of 21 students knit 85 hats to donate to those on the Downtown Eastside who could use a little extra warmth during the cold months.

"It gives the class a chance to do something for someone else rather than just focus on their needs," Bailey explained. "At this time of year, it's important to focus on things other than just gifts and entertainment."

The students worked on the wool hats for an hour and a half each day in class over the course of two weeks.

"They had the choice to take them home to keep going or wait until next class," Bailey said. "More than half of them took their looms home regularly."

Bailey has been doing this project in her class for the last eight years and it's something the students look forward to every year.

It has become such a tradition, she added, that new students already know about the project before she's even had the chance to tell them about it.

"This year, the kids were so eager to start that several of the students taught the rest how to do the knitting, so when I was ready to teach them, most of them already knew and had started already," she said.

The students were so motivated, Bailey added, they broke last year's record of 77 hats by eight.

"As they realize they were successful with their knitting and the hat looks good, there is a sense of pride and confidence they get and then they just keep going," she said.

The wool for the project was donated by student families, Bailey and another teacher.

The hats were handed over to the Beyond Hello project that distributed them to people in need on the Downtown Eastside.



COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS

MAPLE RIDGE AND PITT MEADOWS STUDENTS GIVE BACK THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Students across the Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District got into the spirit of giving this holiday season by putting on food drives, collecting donations for hampers, and making gifts by hand.

Environmental School students put together five Christmas hampers – three for Katzie families and two for seniors through a Maple Ridge community centre.

“It was amazing how many gift cards, toys and food were collected,” said principal Nicole McKenzie. “We are so grateful to our community for allowing us to play and learn in the many parks and forests. We love giving back to the community that we live in.”

Highland Park Elementary also helped put together hampers for families through the Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows Christmas Hamper Society. The school was able to support seven families through donations.

“We were able to fulfill all the children’s wishes on their lists,” said principal Jennifer Walker.

Laity View Elementary’s Grade 7 leadership team collected items for Christmas hampers as well.

They organized and ran a warm toque, sock, glove, mitten and scarf drive and filled up three boxes with items. The donations were shared with Westview Secondary for their Christmas hampers and the remaining items went to the Beyond Hello project for those in need.

A Grade 6/7 class at Laity View also knit 85 hats to donate to the Beyond Hello project for those on the Downtown Eastside who could use a little extra warmth this winter.

Other schools held food drives during their annual winter concerts and holiday community events, including

Pitt Meadows Elementary, Yennadon Elementary, Albion Elementary, and Eric Langton Elementary.

Yennadon Elementary raised more than \$1,200 for the Friends in Need Food Bank during their winter concerts along with multiple boxes of food donation, and nearly \$1,100 for the Children’s Hospital through a candy cane fundraiser.

In early December, Maple Ridge Secondary held its annual drive-thru food drive, raising more than \$2,000 in cash donations and 778 food items for the Friends in Need Food Bank.

Meanwhile, Davie Jones Elementary held a school-wide fundraiser the week before winter break, called the “Five Days of Holiday Giving.”

On Monday, the school collected new/gently used gloves, hats and scarves for the Food for the Soul Project Society. On Tuesday, students and staff brought in non-perishable food items for the Friends in Need Food Bank. Wednesday was all about donating new toys, and Thursday saw collection of new/gently used socks. On Friday, Davie Jones raised money for the annual Coins for Kids campaign supporting the Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows Christmas Hamper Society.

Students across the district also spread cheer and joy by writing cards for members of the community.

Yennadon Elementary made holiday cards for the Royal Canadian Legion, the Maple Ridge Seniors Village and Greystone Manor, while Kanaka Creek Elementary students made holiday treat bags for Maple Ridge senior and treatment centres and the food bank.



Students across the Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District got into the spirit of giving this holiday season by putting on food drives, collecting donations for hampers, and making gifts by hand.





“Non-profits in our community are a very integral part of our food programs because without their support, we just wouldn’t have the financial capacity to do all the programs that we’re currently doing.”

**- Jeannie Harnett,
Manager of Community Connections &
Healthy Living/Food Security**



NON-PROFITS FEEDING FUTURES

MEET THE NON-PROFITS AT THE HEART OF SD42 FOOD SECURITY PROGRAMS

From hot breakfasts and lunches to snacks, all of Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District’s food programs have another thing in common besides nutrition: The non-profits and volunteers behind them.

“Non-profits in our community are a very integral part of our food programs because without their support, we just wouldn’t have the financial capacity to do all the programs that we’re currently doing,” said Jeannie Harnett, the district’s community connections and healthy living/food security program manager.

This includes the Friends in Need Food Bank, Salvation Army Ridge Meadows Ministries, Youth Unlimited and the Meadow Ridge Rotary Club.

The Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District supports the vital work of these non-profits by providing some funding from the province’s Feeding Futures program that aims to expand access to healthy meals and snacks at school.



Friends in Need Food Bank

Karen Osborne is standing in front of a table, looking down at a school order form.

At the beginning of every week, Osborne, the school meal and snack program coordinator at Friends in Need Food Bank, goes through this list of food requests from schools in Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows.

“I order the food at the beginning of the week,” she explained. “I order the dairy from Save-On-Foods and I have other snacks ordered from other stores.”

On Fridays, Osborne packs the bins with the dry goods and non-perishables. Each bin labelled with a school’s name.

The following Monday, on the way to deliver the items to their destinations, she stops at Save-On-Foods to pick up the dairy in the food bank’s refrigerated van.

“Then we take it to the schools, fill the bins and deliver it straight to the doors,” Osborne said.

The food bank delivers weekly to 33 meal and snack programs at elementary schools, secondary schools, and outreach programs within the schools.

The school meal and snack program has been around since 2016.

“There was just a need in the schools for extra snacks and help with kids who were coming hungry,” Osborne said.

While the program has been around for eight years, Osborne has been coordinating it for seven.

“From doing this for so many years, I’ve seen and heard the impact of how when you’ve got a full tummy, you learn better, you concentrate better,” Osborne said. “It’s very rewarding, I love doing it.”

To donate to the Friends in Need Food Bank school meal and snack program, visit their [website](#). Select the program on the dropdown menu.



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Meadow Ridge Rotary Club

Inside a small room in the Friends in Need Food Bank, there are a dozen volunteers, chatting and laughing while filling up green reusable shopping bags with grocery items.

They move together in harmony like a well-oiled machine, each person with their own assigned task for efficiency.

Half of them move in two single file lines on either side of a table with grocery stacked on top, filling the bags with items as they go. Two volunteers tie the completed bags with twine, while another flattens cardboard boxes for recycling. A pair works outside, loading the bags into vehicles.

“This is our weekly work party and they’re all volunteers,” said Ineke Boekhorst, coordinator of the Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows Starfish Pack Program.

Boekhorst, like most of the volunteers putting together the packs, is a member of the Meadow Ridge Rotary Club.

“This is one of our community projects and our club is so emotionally involved in this,” she said. “All our members help in one way or another.”



The program began in 2016 with only four packs at Golden Ears Elementary. It was meant to fill a gap in the food program offerings.

“We felt that there [were] lots of programs in the schools for lunch, breakfast, there are all kinds of things,” Boekhorst explained. “But there [was] nothing for the weekend. This pack goes out on Friday with the kids.”

Eight years later, they’re putting together 300 bags for 27 schools weekly, and Boekhorst says the need continues to grow.

“We’re just hoping to help with the food security in those families that need a little bit of help,” she said.

To donate to the Meadow Ridge Starfish Pack Program, visit the Friends in Need Food Bank [website](#). Select the program on the dropdown menu.

Salvation Army Ridge Meadows Ministries

Vino Muthukkaruppan and his team of volunteers make more than 700 sandwiches a week.

They make ham and cheese sandwiches, turkey sandwiches, and vegetarian ones as well.

The sandwiches, along with a fruit and snack, make up lunch bags for students across Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows.



“The Salvation Army always tries to help people in the community,” said Muthukkaruppan, food services coordinator at the non-profit organization’s local chapter.

The lunch bag program is a way for them to help kids in the community who may otherwise go hungry, he added.

The program runs three days a week, on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Each week, there are about 10 volunteers assembling the sandwiches and packing them up, and another 10 delivering the bags to schools.

“The need for the bag lunches increases every year,” he noted. “So, we’re kind of helping as much as we can.”

To donate to the Salvation Army school lunch bag program, visit their [website](#). Select the program on the dropdown menu.

Youth Unlimited

Sandra Blechinger wakes up at the crack of dawn and makes her way to Thomas Haney Secondary.

Once she arrives, she begins to prepare a breakfast for the students and staff who will enter the cafeteria doors at 8 a.m. On the menu: pancakes, bacon and apple juice.

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Blechinger is a youth worker with Youth Unlimited. The organization runs a universal breakfast program at Thomas Haney Secondary and two other schools in Maple Ridge, Westview Secondary and Connex.



“I think that one of the most important pieces of serving a hot breakfast program is that these kids feel cared for,” Blechinger said. “They feel loved and there’s an opportunity to create connections.”

Not only are the students excited about getting a hot breakfast, but the social connection it provides, she added.

“They want to participate in just eating a meal with friends, sitting around a table, just having a conversation,” Blechinger said. “They light up.”

To donate to the Youth Unlimited universal breakfast program, visit their [website](#). Select the program on the dropdown menu.

Other Programs

There are several other community-based partners supporting the district’s food security programs.

The intergenerational garden is a partnership between seniors and students at Eric Langton to grow and harvest produce just around the corner from the school.

During the 20 peak growing weeks of the school year, the **CEED Centre Society** coordinates the purchase of fresh produce from local farmers that is then delivered to schools in bins once a week.

Two local businesses are supporting the district’s meal programs. **Humble Roots Cafe & Deli** provides lunch twice a week and **Simply Foods** supports SD42’s universal meal programs.

“We are grateful for both because they are offering us a very high quality, very delicious lunch,” Harnett said.

“There is also such a sense of generosity where they are providing a little extra where it is needed.”

All these food programs, made possible through these community partnerships, have a significant impact for students.

“There’s two things that these food programs feed,” Harnett said. “I think it feeds the soul and it feeds the body. There’s social connection, there’s just a joy in meeting other people [and] sharing food together.”

Where there is access to food programs in school, attendance improves, students are able to concentrate in class and it’s one more thing children can look forward to at school, she added.

“I love the saying that the heart of the home is the kitchen and I think that same applies, the heart of the [school] is where those food programs are running,” Harnett said.

To learn more about the food security supports and programs available to students in the Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District, visit the [district website](#).





SOCIAL JUSTICE FAIR 2024

MAPLE RIDGE SECONDARY STUDENTS HOST SOCIAL JUSTICE FAIR



Hundreds of people came out to Maple Ridge Secondary's (MRSS) second annual social justice fair to visit student display booths and participate in interactive activities.

The fair was put on by Grade 12 students taking the social justice course and Grade 11 students in the English First Peoples course. Some students from Thomas Haney Secondary also participated in the event on February 16.

"It was a resounding success," said MRSS teacher Douglas Jackson, who organized the fair alongside teacher Maria Trudeau.

More than 500 people attended the fair, including students, teachers, administrators, trustees, district leadership, and local politicians.

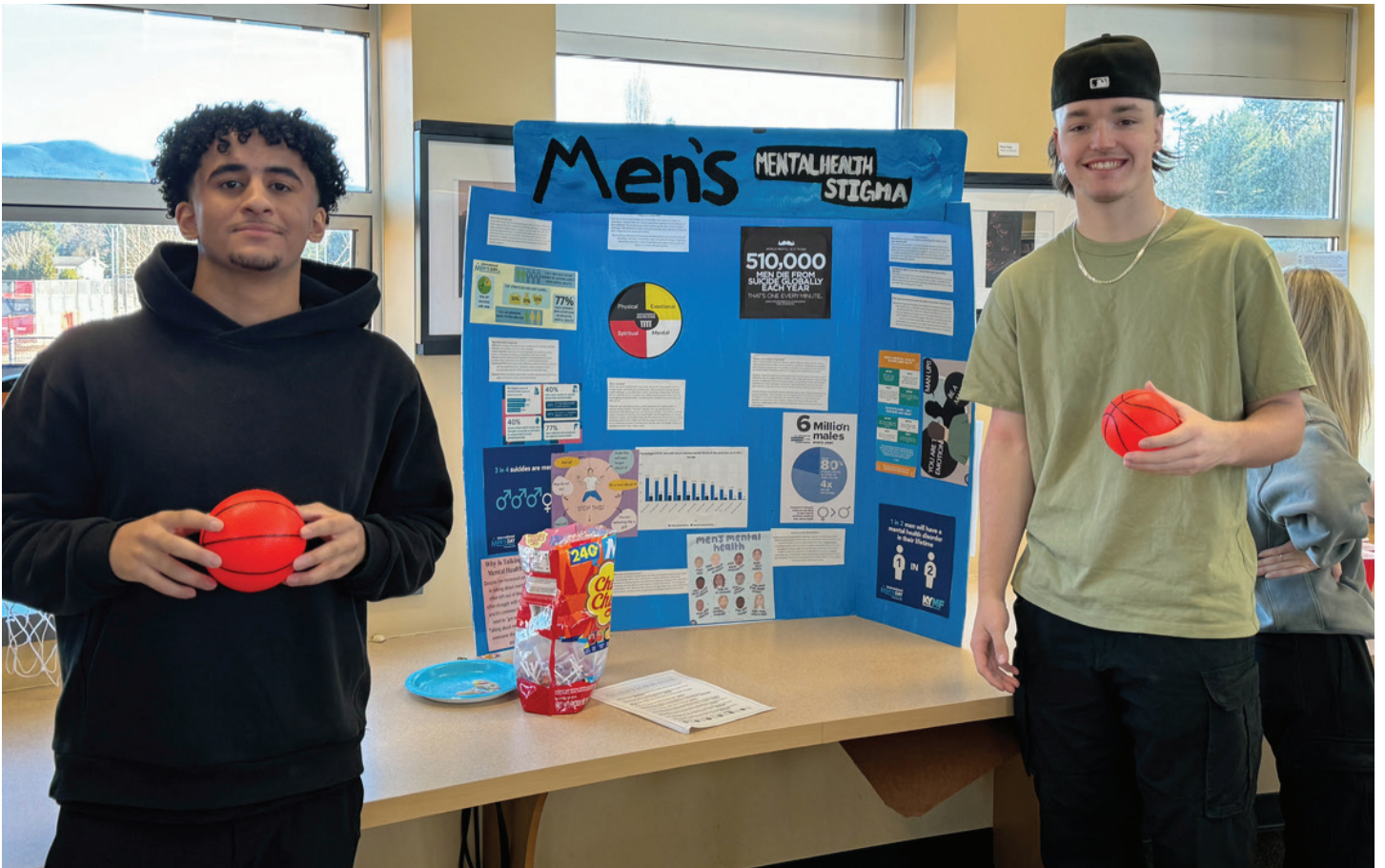
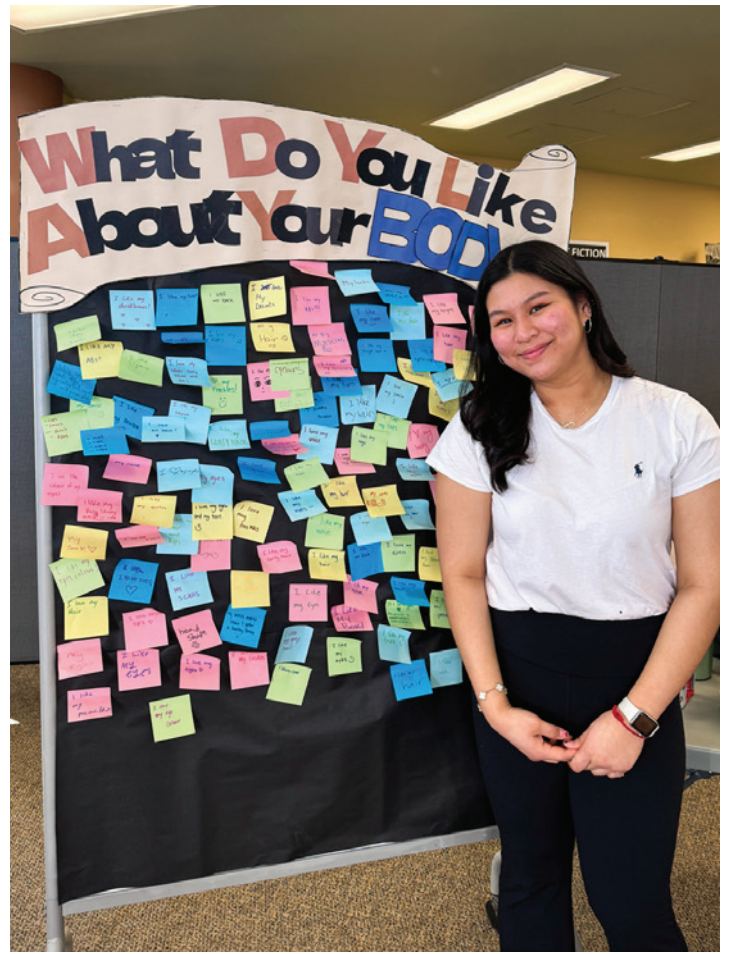
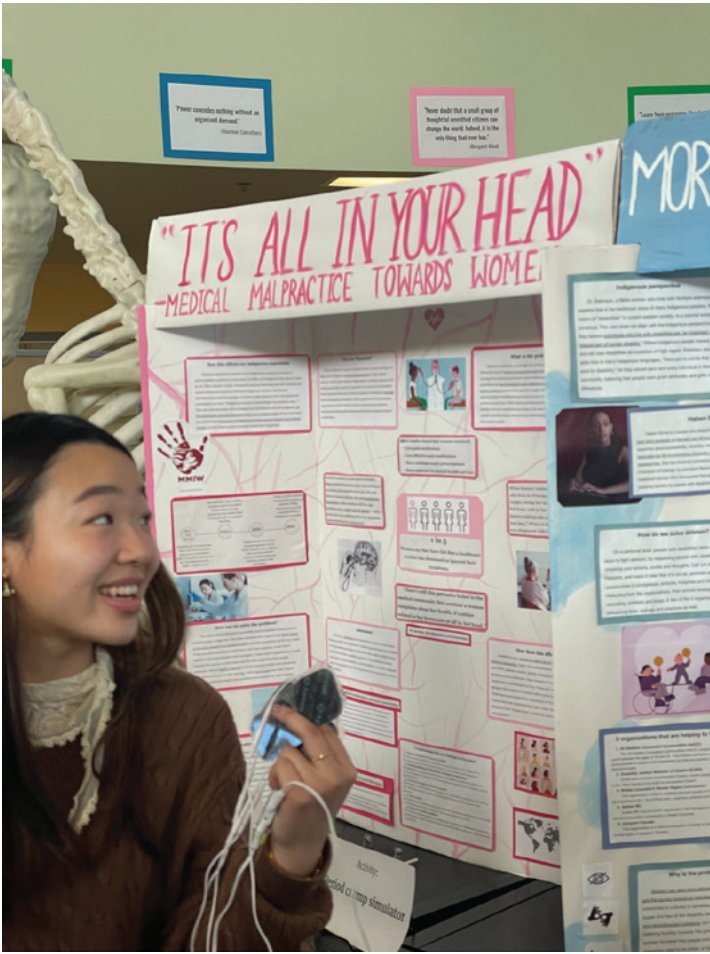
"It was remarkable and inspiring to see almost half the MRSS school community engaged and sharing conversations about social justice and Indigenous education," Trudeau said.

Students were tasked with choosing a social justice issue they found interesting or important, researching to learn more about it, and creating display booths with their findings to educate attendees.

A wide range of topics were chosen, including violence against Indigenous women and girls, drinking water crises in Indigenous communities, men's mental health stigma, medical malpractice towards women, the overdose crisis, and equity vs. equality.

The half-day event took over the MRSS library, with more than 50 students showing off their colourful display boards and presenting their findings to visitors.

"We were thrilled that our social justice and English First Peoples students really thrived," said Jackson. "They showed their passion for social change and their potential to be leaders in our community."





Marita Haavisto's Grade 4/5 class collected 210 pairs of socks for donation.

KINDNESS PROJECT

MAPLE RIDGE ELEMENTARY CLASS DONATES HUNDREDS OF SOCKS TO HOMELESS

A Grade 4/5 class at Maple Ridge Elementary (MRE) has donated more than 200 new pairs of socks as part of a kindness project.

“I’m very proud of the students in my class and our whole school community – the kids, staff and families,” said teacher Marita Haavisto. “We are donating two large boxes of socks, which I hope will be helpful to those who need them.”

Haavisto’s class was able to collect 210 pairs of socks in only one month for the Salvation Army Ridge Meadows Ministries. They made posters and hung them up

around the school, decorated their bulletin board with socks hanging from a clothesline, performed skits on the morning announcements and presented in MRE’s kindness assembly.

“It felt good to do something kind,” said Grade 4 student Jake.

The sock drive took place over February, often referred to as the “kindness month” by teachers in the lead up to Pink Shirt Day on the 28th.

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“This is not going to help the homeless with their biggest problems, but maybe it will help a bit with their health, [and] make someone more comfortable,” said Daniel, who is in Grade 4.

Daniel is referring to a **CBC News story** the class read about in the Canadian Reader, a classroom teaching resource that includes current event news stories written at a level students can understand.

In this particular story, they learned about Mary Crosby, a woman in Halifax who has made it her mission to help those in need keep warm with dry socks.

The CBC News article notes healthcare professionals in Halifax have been dealing with several medical conditions relating to feet when treating people who are homeless, including athlete’s foot, fungal nails and trench foot, made worse by damp weather and a lack of access to clean, dry socks.

With this in mind, the article continues, Crosby spends her time collecting and hand knitting thousands of pairs of socks for donation.

“And we thought, we can do that!” said Haavisto. “Linking it with February, the kindness month, was perfect timing.”

The students were excited to be able to help those in need, she added, and proud of how many socks they were able to collect by the end of the month.

“We heard from the Salvation Army that they are appreciative of our efforts and welcome as many sock drives as anyone can organize,” Haavisto said.

Salvation Army Ridge Meadows Ministries is always accepting new and unopened socks, along with other goods and items listed on its **website**.





PERSIAN NEW YEAR

WHAT IS NOWRUZ? SD42 STUDENTS EXPLAIN HOW THEY CELEBRATE IN NEW VIDEO



Fairview Elementary students Artin, Avin and Niki took part in the video explaining how Nowruz is celebrated.

Students from three Maple Ridge elementary schools are sharing how they celebrate Nowruz in a new informative video.

Fifteen students from Albion Elementary, Fairview Elementary and Harry Hooge Elementary participated, with guidance from English Language Learners (ELL) teachers Harjit Chauhan, Sukhdeep Birdi and Kawaldeep Ghuman.

“The students in the video were excited to participate and they were quick to add their own personal connections to our research about Nowruz,”



said Chauhan, teacher at Fairview Elementary.

Nowruz marks the Persian New Year and the arrival of the spring season. The 13-day festival is celebrated by millions of people with diverse backgrounds and faiths all over the world, including those from the Middle East, and Central and South Asia.

“Everyone can celebrate Nowruz,” explained Albion Elementary student Mahsa, who is in Grade 5. “I have been celebrating Nowruz since I was a little girl. I like this holiday because it’s [the] beginning of a new year and

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“We encourage everyone to learn as much as they can about the different cultures to foster a more inclusive learning environment.”

**- Kawaldeep Ghuman,
Harry Hooge teacher**



everything we do is new and everything we see is new.”

In the video, students explain the unique ways their families celebrate the festival, from their favourite foods to the items they add to their haft-sin/haftseen tables.

“Hearing how our students celebrate Nowruz was really enjoyable because they spoke about it with pride and joy,” said Sukhdeep Birdi, Albion Elementary teacher. “I loved listening to the students share their stories.”

The goal, added Harry Hooge teacher Kawaldeep Ghuman, is to reflect student voices and showcase the different cultures and traditions celebrated in the school community.

“We encourage everyone to learn as much as they can about the different cultures to foster a more inclusive learning environment,” she said.

In past years, the group of ELL teachers have produced other educational videos with their students highlighting different holidays and traditions, including **Ramadan** and **Diwali**. When these students saw the other videos, they felt inspired, Chauhan explained.

“After watching those videos, they wanted to participate in creating another video about Nowruz and educating their peers about the holiday,” she said.

Students and their families showcased their personal experiences by sharing photos and bringing in traditional items used to celebrate the holiday.

“They helped set up the haftseen tables,” said Birdi, adding the video was very much a collaborative project with families.

Ghuman agreed, noting the collaboration added a layer of authenticity to the process.

“We love learning from our students and families,” she explained. “It goes beyond the research available because we hear about their authentic experiences.”

Shabnam Momtahn, one of the district’s settlement workers in schools (SWIS), also spoke about her personal experiences celebrating Nowruz. In the video, Momtahn explains the tradition of Eidi, where children are gifted money.

“We are really thankful to all those who contributed,” said Chauhan. “The video wouldn’t have been possible without their help.”

This year, Nowruz fell on March 19, 2024.





Winners of the Skills Canada BC cabinetmaking regional competition pose with their medals.

SKILLS CANADA BC

STUDENTS SHOW OFF WOODWORKING, AUTO SERVICE SKILLS IN REGIONAL COMPETITION

Secondary students from across the Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District participated in the Skills Canada BC regional competition held at Westview Secondary this year.

“This is my favourite part of the year – watching these students – because they’re all dedicated,” said Westview woodshop teacher Andy Strothotte. “They want to be here. They had to earn a spot to be here.”



The regional competition was open to students in Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows, Coquitlam, Burnaby and Richmond.

Students competed in either the category of cabinetmaking or auto service for a chance to win gold and move on to provincials.

“Youth are able to compete and show their talents in their selective trades and technologies,” said Shoshawna Blair, social media and program coordinator for Skills

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“This is my favourite part of the year – watching these students – because they’re all dedicated. They want to be here. They had to earn a spot to be here.”

**- Andy Strothotte,
Westview woodshop teacher**



Canada BC. “It’s important because it gives them the exposure and an idea of what it’s like to have a future in the trades.”

Seven students took part in the cabinetmaking competition. They each had six hours to build a toolbox with prepared materials and plans.

“They had to cut out, lay out, make cuts and assemble the project,” explained Strothotte. “The quality of work was actually really, really high.... Everybody’s project came out well today.”

One of the contestants was Grade 10 Maple Ridge Secondary student Matthew Dailey, who won silver.

“[It’s] to show that you’re capable of building something that will put you to another level,” he said. “I did learn new skills today with different tools, tools I’ve never used and tools I’ve never seen.”

Dailey added he hopes to join the carpentry program at Samuel Robertson Technical (SRT) when he’s in Grade 12.

“I am interested in carpentry when I am older,” he said.

The auto service competition saw students go from station to station to demonstrate various skills, including brake inspection, electrical diagnostic, battery and alternator testing, compression testing, and a wiring board.

“This is the main thing I’ve wanted to pursue since I was younger – just working on cars,” explained Aaron Funnell, a Grade 12 Westview auto service technician student at BCIT.

The competition helps him get a sense of what a job in the field may be like and the experience needed to pursue it, Funnell explained.

For example, he added, “it’s the first time I’ve ever done a compression test. It benefits me because it’s a new skill I learned today.”

SRT student Rebecca Schwarz won gold in cabinetmaking and Westview/BCIT student Ryan Jorgensen got first place in the auto service competition. Both SD42 students moved on to provincials at the Abbotsford Trade and Exhibition Centre on April 17, 2024.





Albion students show off their garbage haul after the community cleanup.

Click here to view video
bit.ly/3VCdkwq
 ★ ★ ★



CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

ALBION ELEMENTARY STUDENTS CELEBRATE EARTH DAY WITH COMMUNITY CLEANUP

Albion Elementary students rolled up their sleeves and got to work on Earth Day to do their part in creating a cleaner, greener environment.

Armed with garbage bags and pickers, Jennifer Holman's Grade 4/5 and Cheryl Denton's Grade 3/4 classes made their way through the neighbourhood, cleaning the community one piece of litter at a time.

Holman said the students loved going out and making a difference.

"The students were competing with one another in who could collect the most and they were truly surprised by some of the odd items that were found," said Holman, adding they loved being able to go out and make a difference.

They found all sorts of items, from discarded wrappers and pop cans to a hanging flower pot and metal box.

Albion Elementary has been part of the Maple Ridge Adopt-a-Block program for several years and the Earth Day cleanup was one more way for students and staff to give back to the community.





Continuing Education graduate Channi Gonzales with instructor Kim Henneberry Glover.

CONTINUING ED VALEDICTORIAN

COMING BACK TO SCHOOL 23 YEARS LATER ‘CHANGED THE DIRECTION OF MY LIFE’

Channi Gonzales stood at the front of the stage, facing her classmates, teachers, family, and friends.

“I would like to start off by congratulating the graduates on completing this chapter of your journey,” she said into the microphone in front of her. “This is only the beginning.”

Gonzales is giving her valedictorian speech to the Continuing Education (CE) class of 2023. Her own journey to this moment spanned two decades, from the time she dropped out of school to crossing the stage at her graduation in 2023.

“I’ve never really had people to look up to in my life or many supports beyond the people and family I have



in this room,” she told the audience. “But I came to CE and I met extremely amazing people who pushed me, even when I felt defeated and wanted to quit.”

Now 38 years old, Gonzales was only 14 when she left school.

“My parents had been drug addicts my whole life and we’d been homeless for periods of time living in a car,” she said. “I had fallen really far behind and then eventually my parents moved away without me.”

Gonzales said she tried to continue her schooling, but it was difficult to support herself and study, so she ended up having to drop out and work three jobs instead.

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Congrats
GRAD

“As I step into my future, hopefully as a student at BCIT’s medical imaging program, and build a new life for my sons and I, I will look back at my time at Continuing Education as a place that forever changed the direction of my life.”

- Channi Gonzales



“I had always wanted to go back and finish school but life kept throwing me curve balls,” she said.

She was incarcerated for three months at the age of 19, got married at 21, and was a mom by 23. By 24 years old, she was pregnant with her second son and a single mom.

“At the end of 2016, I once again attempted to go back to school,” Gonzales explained, but in early 2017, her father died from an overdose. Over the next three years, she was in four car accidents that left her with injuries.

It wasn’t until her son’s grades began to slip that she was called to action – this time, with a fierce determination.

“My son was 14, the same age I was when I dropped out. His grades were slipping and I knew he could do more,” she said, so she decided to make a pact with both her sons.

“That if I enrolled in school and I got As and Bs, they would work to boost their grades as well.”

She wanted to lead by example – and she did.

Gonzales enrolled in Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District’s Continuing Education program in January 2022. Her first class was English 12 with Kim Henneberry Glover.

“It was really scary at first, but thankfully Kim was my first teacher,” Gonzales said. “It took me a while to get my bearings. She was really patient with me, super helpful, and I started doing better quality work.”

But her time in school wasn’t without its own challenges, Gonzales explained, and having someone like Henneberry Glover was a big help.

“Having mentorship and someone there to say, ‘you can do it, you’re almost done, you’ve done this much, don’t give up now’ – it pushed me to keep coming,” she said.

Henneberry Glover says listening to Gonzales’ valedictorian speech and watching her receive her BC Adult Graduation Diploma (BCAGD) was a special moment.

“When you’re helping an adult who is also working, who also has children, who also has other issues going on in their life, and you see them succeed, it’s an incredible feeling,” said Henneberry Glover. “Grad is always an incredible time for us.”

With diploma in hand and new goals in mind, this is only the beginning for Gonzales.

“As I step into my future, hopefully as a student at BCIT’s medical imaging program, and build a new life for my sons and I, I will look back at my time at CE as a place that forever changed the direction of my life,” she said.

To learn more about the SD42 Continuing Education program, visit ce.sd42.ca.



Left to right: Board Chairperson Elaine Yamamoto, valedictorian Channi Gonzales, Continuing Education teacher Kim Henneberry Glover.

We're ready for you!



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Monday - Thursday, 2 pm - 7 pm · Fridays 9 am - 3 pm

First day of classes: of Monday/Wednesday - Sept 4 · Tuesday/Thursday - Sept 5

High School Graduation and Upgrading Courses

Monday / Wednesday

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

English Foundations 1 - 4

English Studies 12

Anatomy & Physiology 12

Life Science 11

6:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Pre-Calculus Math 11 *

Pre-Calculus Math 12 *

Anatomy & Physiology 12

Life Science 11

Composition 10 & Literary Studies 10 (English 10)

English Foundations 5 - 7

English Foundations 1 - 4

Tuesday / Thursday

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Chemistry 11

Chemistry 12

English Foundations 4 - 7

6:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Physics 11

English Foundations 1 - 3

English Studies 12

Literary Studies 11

English Foundations 4 - 7

Workplace Math 11 *

Foundations of Math 11 *

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Garibaldi Secondary students Ethan Knowles and Alex Gibson hold their instruments, a euphonium and tuba.

PERFORMING ON THE NATIONAL STAGE

GARIBALDI SECONDARY STUDENTS SELECTED FOR NATIONAL YOUTH WIND ORCHESTRA

Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District students Ethan Knowles and Alex Gibson are striking a chord on the national stage.

The two Garibaldi Secondary students have been selected for the Denis Wick Canadian Wind Orchestra that is set to perform at MusicFest Canada in Toronto, Ontario, on May 17.



“I’m a little nervous, but mostly excited,” said Gibson, who is in Grade 11. “[It’s] made up of all the top performing students across the country.”

The Denis Wick Canadian Wind Orchestra is an honour group for students between the ages of 16 and 24 across the country. There are 50 spots on the ensemble that students need to audition for.

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“[We] would have been competing against some university students,” Gibson said, “so I picked about the hardest piece on tuba that I know of.”

Gibson has been playing the tuba for about two and a half years now.

“It’s very low and I like to be the bass of the orchestra,” he explained. “The one who makes the stage shake.”

Knowles, on the other hand, auditioned for the euphonium. The Grade 12 student has been playing the instrument for about eight years.

“It’s very virtuosic,” he said. “Gets a lot of solo bits within concert band music and I find I can express myself very well.”

Both students were trying out for one of only two positions on the ensemble for each of their respective instruments, competing against musicians from all across Canada.

“They gave us scale requirements as well as excerpt

requirements and then we got to choose our own playing sample,” Knowles said.

He began practicing in December and worked for a month straight before sending in his audition tape in January.

In February, both Knowles and Gibson received the news that they’d been selected for the band.

“I went downstairs to tell my grandma and I was practically jumping around the room,” said Gibson. “I called my mom too. And then I made an announcement on Facebook... the first thing I’d ever posted on Facebook in like six months.”

Knowles was excited, too.

“I’m really looking forward to getting to meet new people,” he said. “The networking opportunities are usually really, really great and you make lifelong friends.”

It’s also a great learning opportunity, Knowles explained, because he will be playing alongside and learning from more experienced musicians, including university instructors.

“The biggest thing that you come home with is confidence, which greatly improves your playing,” added Gibson.

The two spent a week at the University of Toronto with a rigorous daily schedule from 9 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. that included rehearsing, participating in workshops and attending concerts.

Gibson and Knowles performed as members of the Denis Wick Canadian Wind Orchestra on May 17, 2024, at the MacMillan Theatre.





The ThunderTech Robotics team shows off their award and robot at Thomas Haney Secondary after the competition.

THUNDERTECH ROBOTICS

THOMAS HANEY SECONDARY STUDENTS BUILD ROBOT FOR GLOBAL COMPETITION

Meet the ThunderTech Robotics team's newest invention: A nearly 130-pound industrial size robot that's twice as powerful as a Ford F-150.

"It's about as powerful as the latest Tesla Model S," said Matvey Okoneshnikov, a Grade 12 student at Thomas Haney Secondary and team leader of software. "That's a lot of power, but we needed that power for the robot to lift itself off the ground for the last part of the competition."



The Thomas Haney team built the robot for the FIRST Robotics Competition, an international contest where high school students design, build and program robots within six weeks to compete in a game against each other.

"Many people assume immediately it's kind of like BattleBots, but it isn't. You are not allowed to intentionally damage other robots," Okoneshnikov said.

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The game is different every year and comes with a 200-page rulebook. This year, the game required robots to pick up foam rings from the ground or a platform and shoot them into targets at different heights. The final challenge was for the robot to hang itself from a chain without touching the ground.

“It’s a very well-known competition and it’s a great opportunity for students to work with high-tech equipment and real-world applications of robotics,” explained Okoneshnikov.

Once the rulebook was published in January, the team got to work. They secured funding from sponsors – including the Thomas Haney Parent Advisory Council (PAC), Motorola Solutions Foundation, and McFarlen Engineering – and began building their robot.

Grade 12 student Daniil Batishchev, the hardware team leader, spent more than 600 hours working on the robot.

“Our main idea was to make everything from metal because metal is strong,” Batishchev explained. “The robot has three main parts: the drivetrain, arm and the shooter system. All three parts are replaceable so if something happens to our robot, we can always replace [it].”

When they finished building the robot, they came up with the perfect name: Cobra Chicken, a slang term for the Canada goose.

“We named it that because if we made it to Worlds, we wanted to be able to represent Canada to its fullest,” said team leader of electronics and Grade 10 student Logan Humeniuk. “We also leaned into some of the other stereotypes, such as plaid flannel jackets and embracing the flag’s colour scheme in our logo.”

At the end of February, ThunderTech Robotics travelled to Victoria to take part in the Canadian Pacific Regional event of the competition.

And that’s when it all fell apart.

“We got to the competition and we rebuilt every single part of this robot,” said Humeniuk.

“Everything that could have gone wrong did go wrong,” added Okoneshnikov.

It started with the robot’s frame, which they discovered was six inches over the allowed specifications.

“Nobody thought that a rookie team was going to be able to pull past that,” said Humeniuk. “But we got in there with angle grinders. We were cutting parts of the robot off and we stuck it back together, and sure enough, within an hour we were back on the field playing with a certified robot.”

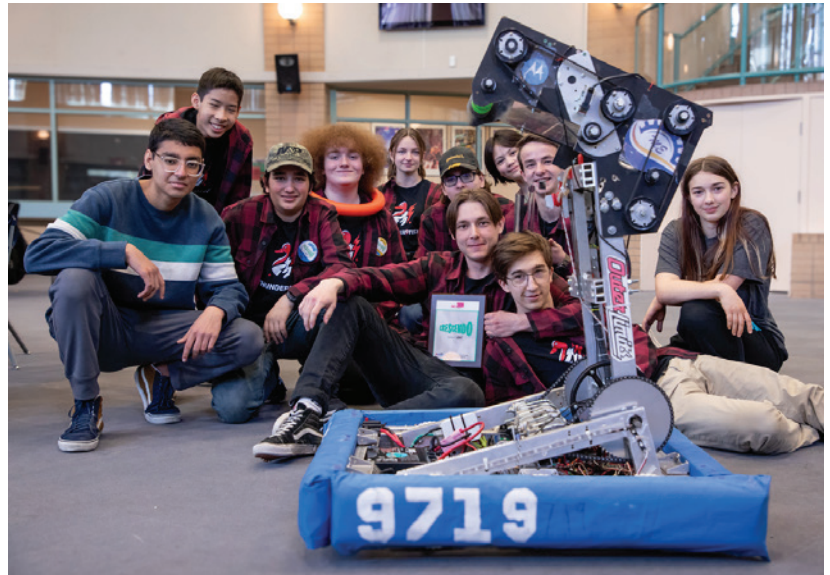
But the problems didn’t end there. The team also had to rebuild the intake and shooter mechanism and replace the main computer that controls the robot.

“Even with all that, we still had a very impressive showing on the field,” Okoneshnikov said.

Although they didn’t place or move on to Worlds, ThunderTech Robotics still ended strong, winning the 2024 Innovation in Control Award.

“We were blown away. There are no rookie teams that we’re aware of that have gotten the award in the past, so it’s a huge deal for us,” Humeniuk said. “It’ll hopefully allow us to get some more sponsors so that we [can] fund our robot for next year.”

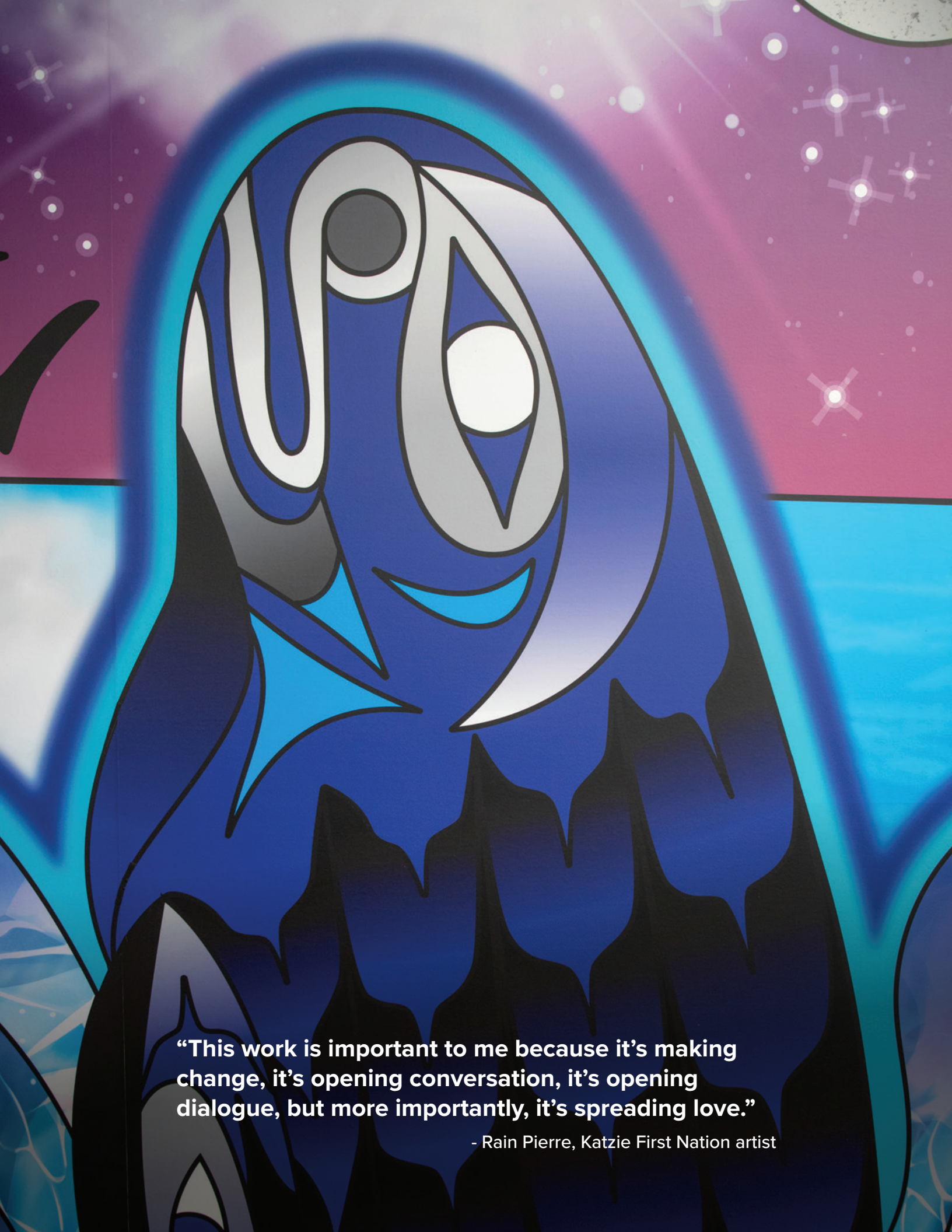
“It’s kind of the crown jewel of our collection.”





“We were blown away. There are no rookie teams that we’re aware of that have gotten the award in the past, so it’s a huge deal for us.”

- Logan Humeniuk, Grade 10



“This work is important to me because it’s making change, it’s opening conversation, it’s opening dialogue, but more importantly, it’s spreading love.”

- Rain Pierre, Katzie First Nation artist



COLLABORATIVE ART

LAITY VIEW ELEMENTARY UNVEILS NEW LEGACY PROJECT MURAL WITH KATZIE FIRST NATION ARTIST



Katzie First Nation artist Rain Pierre speaks with Laity View Elementary students about the process of creating the mural.

The library at Laity View Elementary is home to a new mural created by Katzie First Nation artist Rain Pierre in collaboration with students.

The vibrant blue and purple mural features a salmon breaching the water, with silhouettes of mountains, birds and trees set against a night sky with a glowing moon and stars.

“This work is important to me because it’s making change, it’s opening conversation, it’s opening dialogue, but more importantly, it’s spreading love,” Pierre said. “When someone walks in and sees the mural, I want them to feel safe and feel home.”



It’s the first thing you see when you walk into the library, which is considered the central hub – or heart – of the school.

“It is an honour to have this original piece in our school,” said Laity View Elementary vice principal Suzanne Collette. “The mural encourages us

to continue learning about local Indigenous cultures as well as to strive to take care of the land around us. Our next steps will involve working with our staff to create curriculum specific to this mural.”

The mural is what Pierre calls a RainAwakens legacy project, where he works with students to create art that represents their school community.

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“I want to create artwork that isn’t just mine within schools. I want to have it mean something more than just myself,” he explained. “I want it to mean what the school represents and what the community represents.”

And how he does that, Pierre continued, is by collaborating with youth on the mural and using art as a way to heal and move forward on reconciliation with the next generation.



Work around the Laity View legacy project began in spring 2023 and took a little more than a year to complete.

The entire school participated in an art contest, with each class selecting one piece of artwork to submit to Pierre. He reviewed all the submissions and chose two to incorporate in the design: Salmon artwork by Grade 6 student Emily L., and a landscape drawing by Isabelle B., who is in Grade 8.

“I chose the salmon because the salmon is very close to our people as Katzie First Nation. We smoke it, we fish it, and we eat it in so many different ways,” Pierre explained. “I grew up on it and I wanted to show that homage or tribute to our people.”

At the same time, the scenery in Isabelle’s drawing reminded Pierre of Pitt Lake.

“Pitt Lake is where our ancestral territory is and Katzie

is originally from there,” he said.

He merged the two designs with his own ideas and came up with the art for the piece. The mural was installed in the Laity View library in April 2024.

Pierre hopes the legacy project inspires students to follow their dreams and do what makes them happy.

“If there’s anything that I can leave with people through my work, [it’s] don’t give up on your dreams and who you could be in this world,” Pierre said, using himself as an example.

“I’m from this tiny little island called Barnston Island and now I’m taking global platforms and reaching the world with my artwork, and you can do it too.”





Grade 4 students Lucy and Emma G. performing the Romanian song “Aseara Ti-Am Luat Basma” by Maria Tanase.

MAPLE RIDGE, PITT MEADOWS STUDENTS CELEBRATE CULTURE AND DIVERSITY

Two schools in the Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District are celebrating culture and diversity with delicious food, traditional outfits, and student performances.

Highland Park Elementary put on their third annual World Culture Day in May, starting the day with a school-wide assembly.

“I think we can celebrate cultures every day but this... was a special showcasing of people’s specific cultures and it seems to be something that’s really important to students,” said English Language Learners (ELL) teacher Leah Kitamura, who organized the event.

“It’s important that everyone feels they are seen and appreciated,” she added, “and I think it’s important that everyone feels they belong every day.”



The assembly featured storytelling, songs and dance. Grade 7 student Roshana Q. and Grade 6 student Vanshdeep M. gave speeches about moving to Canada and what their cultures mean to them.

“I hope that people will learn and accept other people’s cultures because everyone is different and unique in their own way,” Roshana said.

“I hope that [people] learn that it means more than just fancy shmancy dresses to some people,” Vanshdeep added. “It’s way more than that.”

Grade 4 students Lucy and Emma G. performed the Romanian song *Aseara Ti-Am Luat Basma* by Maria Tanase.

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“We get to show everybody our culture,” Lucy said.

“And we get to show what language our parents speak,” Emma added.

In the assembly, students and teachers also formed a long line and shared how they say thank you in their different languages. There was a bhangra dance and a sing along of *My Ancestors*, written by Lilly Teare Cunningham and her sisters, and gifted to the school. Students also did a read aloud of *The Lost Dumpling* by Kirstin Hepburn, which includes characters representing different cultures.

“I feel very proud of the students for summoning the courage to be leaders and to share their talents with everyone,” Kitamura said. “It takes a lot of courage and I really appreciate their bravery.”

Meanwhile, Garibaldi Secondary students held their own Culture Day, featuring vibrant outfits, a bake sale, and lunch specials with food from around the world.

“The goal is to celebrate diversity, promote cultural understanding, and foster a sense of unity among students,” explained Grade 11 student Mannat Bains. “Organizing such an event provides an opportunity for students to showcase their heritage, traditions, and customs.”

Bains is part of Garibaldi’s Student Voices for Equity group and one of the organizers of the event.

“I think it went well and everyone learned something new,” she said.

Students and teachers dressed up in traditional clothing and enjoyed food from the Philippines, Iceland, India, Holland, England, and more. The cafeteria also featured special menus for a week with food from India, Mexico and Egypt.

“I hope other students learned the importance of being proud of your ethnicity and background,” said Tisha Chand, who is in Grade 11.

“It’s a community coming together,” added Bains.





“The goal is to celebrate diversity, promote cultural understanding, and foster a sense of unity among students. Organizing such an event provides an opportunity for students to showcase their heritage, traditions, and customs.”

- Mannat Bains, Grade 11 student



Blue Mountain students installed several communication boards around the school, including at both playgrounds.

GRADE 7 INQUIRY PROJECT

BLUE MOUNTAIN ELEMENTARY STUDENTS INSTALL COMMUNICATION BOARDS FOR ACCESSIBILITY

Grade 7 students at Blue Mountain Elementary have installed communication boards around the school to support children who have difficulties speaking or communicating.

The group put up communication boards in every classroom and on both school playgrounds as part of their inquiry project.

“Communication is essential for everybody and doesn’t have to be just from talking,” said Grade 7 student Hajir. “I have way more knowledge than before about many different disabilities, as well as different types of communication boards. I’m so honoured I get to do this, and it feels good to try and make a difference in the community.”

A communication board is a low-tech assistive tool that displays symbols, images and words that children can point at or touch to form sentences and communicate with those around them. The boards put up at the playgrounds, for example, include pronouns, nouns, verbs and phrases that target play-specific activities.

“Through this inquiry project, I learned how many kids

aren’t able to communicate through their words,” said Sydney, who is a student in the class.

“Making this communication board helped me understand the importance and the connection it can provide,” added Arianna, another student.

The idea for the project came from lessons about communication in Cassie Tripp’s Grade 6/7 class, in collaboration with support teacher Julia Tchoi and Danielle Bigioli, speech and language pathologist.

“The students learned about what goes into making a ‘core’ board, such as understanding what core versus fringe words are, and identifying what messages are most important to have access to,” Bigioli explained. “They learned about why it is so important to support all types of communication, not just verbal.”

After learning about diverse communication needs, the students came up with an action plan to make a difference.

“If we all work together, we can make the world a welcoming and supportive place,” said Grade 7 student

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Victoria, and that's what they hoped to do at the school with the boards.

The students went into different classes and taught lessons on the subject and installed communication boards in the classrooms. They then looked at the school's communal areas and identified the playgrounds as high traffic areas that would benefit from the addition of communication boards for accessibility.

"Both playground areas are used by our students who require communication supports, so they were a natural fit for this project," Tchoi said.

The students looked into different designs for the playground communication boards and ended up going with a design that had already been put together for Fairview Elementary, as it fit their vision for the space. They fundraised the money to purchase the large outdoor boards and installed them one month later.

"I hope that other districts and schools take this as an example for their schools, and that we have a positive

impact on the future," said Timothy, a student in the class.

Watching the students bring their vision to life was inspiring for the teachers.

"They truly delivered the essential message that communication is a right that everyone deserves access to," Tchoi said. "These boards are a legacy of values and beliefs that I know these students will continue to spread."

Bigioli agreed, noting this is the first step in making a difference.

"My hope is that the more we can educate this generation around communication diversity, the more normalized alternative communication becomes," she explained.

Tripp says she's proud of her students and hopes they can see the positive impact their efforts are having on the school community and will continue to have for years to come.

"They can be the voice of change," she said.





Led by Aboriginal support worker Katrina Haintz, Eric Langton students prepare to drum “My Ancestors,” gifted to the school by Katzie youth, Lilly Cunningham and Kiera Meunier.

CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON ERIC LANGTON ELEMENTARY EXPANSION IN MAPLE RIDGE

Students will soon have a new, seismically safer and expanded learning space as the replacement project begins at Eric Langton Elementary school.

“I’m proud that our government continues to make important investments in seismic upgrades and school expansions in B.C.,” said Rachna Singh, Minister of Education and Child Care. “Schools just like Eric Langton will offer safer, more spacious learning environments for years to come because of this government’s commitment to invest in growing communities.”

The province’s \$46.4 million is on top of the school district’s contribution of \$2.5 million, which will create 215 additional seats and bring the school’s capacity to 680. The school will be built to LEED gold standards and will also include energy-saving measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. A neighbourhood learning centre will be included in the seismic replacement and expansion project, which will be used to provide services, such as child care, and for community groups to deliver support services and programming in Maple Ridge.

“It’s very exciting to be breaking ground on a brand

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new safer, bigger school at Eric Langton Elementary, which will be such an important addition to our community,” said Bob D’Eith, MLA for Maple Ridge-Mission. “Investing in growing communities like Maple Ridge shows how committed our government is to supporting students and families throughout B.C.”

Throughout the design process, the school district worked with the Katzie First Nation to incorporate design elements that reflect Indigenous ways of knowing, such as the importance of storytelling, traditional ecological knowledge and local teachings, which will forge a genuine connection between the school and the land.

This project is part of the province’s work with B.C. school districts to provide students with access to seismically safe schools. Over the past seven years, the government of B.C. has announced seismic upgrades or replacements for 66 schools, ensuring over 35,000 more students are attending schools that are seismically safe with more than \$1.6 billion from the province.

Since September 2017, the B.C. government has provided more than \$4 billion for new and improved schools, as well as land purchases for future schools throughout the province. This has resulted in more than 25,000 new student spaces and 35,000 seismically safe seats at B.C. schools.

Budget 2024 includes \$3.75 billion for school capital projects over the next three years, including new and expanded schools, seismic upgrades and replacements, and land purchases for schools.



Eric Langton students Cadu, Abigail, and Somi provide territorial acknowledgement.



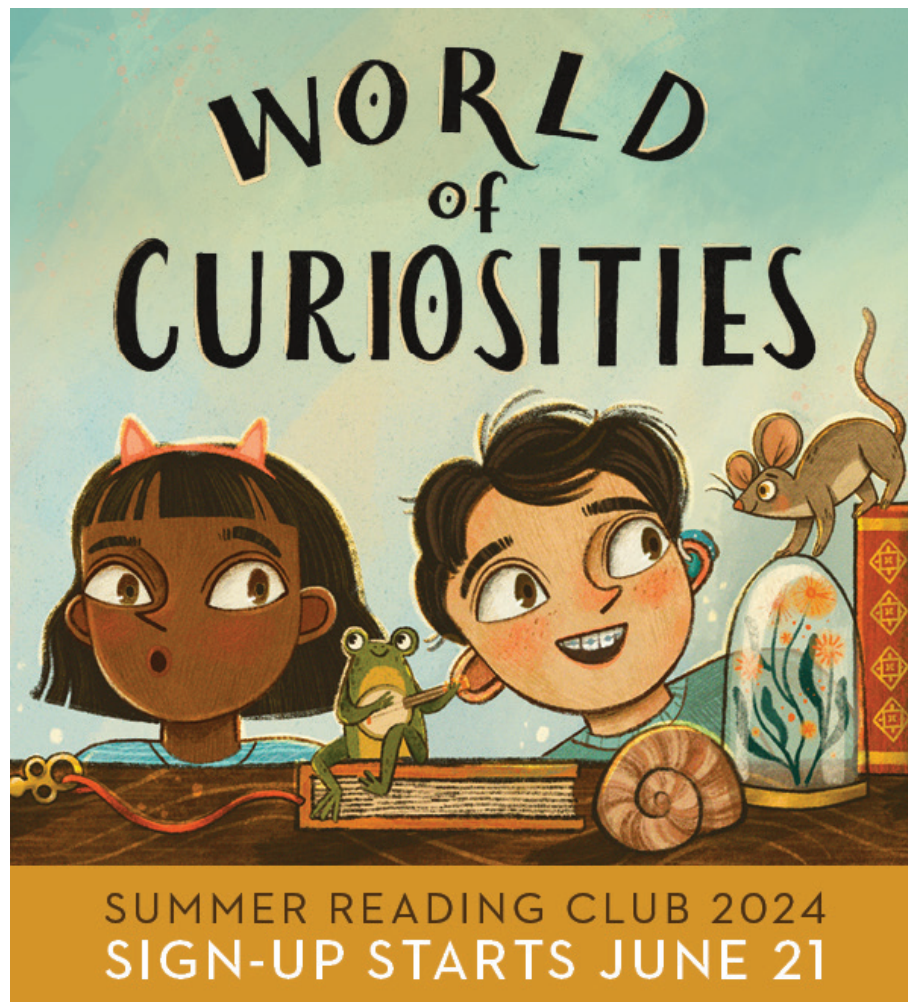
Left to right: Minister of Education and Child Care Rachna Singh, MLA Bob D’Eith, Board Chairperson Elaine Yamamoto, and MP Lisa Beare with daughter Brinley.





#FRIDAYREADS ROUNDUP

Throughout the school year, teacher-librarians, staff, and students shared weekly book recommendations to provide learning resources, foster literacy, and encourage a love of reading. The following pages include a roundup of all the #FridayReads recommendations from the 2023/24 school year.



Get a reading record, see amazing performers, participate in online activities, enter prize draws and earn a medal! Register in person or at www.fvrl.ca.



Read. Learn. Play. | www.fvrl.ca



When We Were Alone by David A. Robertson and Julie Flett

Aboriginal Education teacher-librarian Alison Garneau

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is on September 30th and this is my favourite picture book to read to students about the experiences of Indigenous people in residential schools. I think the simple honesty of David Robertson's words, combined with the gentle illustrations by Julie Flett, work together to create a heartbreakingly beautiful story that is accessible to all ages. It is available to check out from the Aboriginal Education Library in French and English.

In this story, an Indigenous child is asking her grandmother questions about the colours she wears, the way she wears her hair long, the Cree words she speaks, and the family she spends time with. With each answer, the grandmother contrasts the way she grew up in her community to the way she had to live in residential school. She explains to her granddaughter that she does the things she does now because she couldn't do them when she was at school.

This is a story that I love to explore deeply with students over several days. The grandmother's answers for her granddaughter really prompt us to wonder about the 'why' when we think about residential schools and our journey for truth and reconciliation.

Gratitude is my Superpower by Alicia Ortego

Webster's Corners Elementary teacher-librarian Lindsay Lane

One of my favourite series for teaching a growth mindset is *My Superpower Values* by Alicia Ortego. With Thanksgiving upon us, it is the perfect time of year to talk about gratitude so I am recommending the book *Gratitude is my Superpower* for children of all ages. This book shows us that happiness is in everyday things, both big and small.

Whenever little Betsy starts to feel upset, she pulls out her magic stone to see the bright side of things. For example, rain helps the plants grow and rivers flow. Eventually, Betsy is able to feel gratitude without the stone because she discovers that it comes from her heart. When Betsy notices others who are down, she makes sure to pass on a stone so they too can experience the magic of gratitude.

This book helps us appreciate our family, friends, and the world around us.

"Gratitude's in all of us and all we have to do, is stop and think how thankful we are, instead of feeling blue!"



The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie by Alan Bradley

Garibaldi Secondary teacher-librarian Sharmila Miller

October is Women's History Month in Canada and this book highlights women in STEM with a strong, independent, and intelligent female main character in Flavia de Luce. This book was originally gifted to me as a high school graduation gift from a friend. That summer, I read it, and didn't look back as this book is the first in a wonderful series that follows Flavia through 10 novels!

When mysterious events start occurring, after a dead Jack Snipe bird is found on the doorstep with a Penny Black stamp on its beak, 11-year-old Flavia de Luce must leave the sanctuary of her beloved chemistry lab to discover the truth and clear her father's name. Written by a Canadian author, Alan Bradley, this murder mystery features the 11-year-old female genius chemist and amateur sleuth, Flavia de Luce, who solves crimes using her extensive knowledge of poisons. I hope you enjoy Flavia as much as I have.



#FRIDAYREADS ROUNDUP

The Loud Librarian by Jenna Beatrice

Westview Secondary teacher-librarian Krystyna Eddy

October is Library Month and in B.C., we celebrate School Library Day on October 23. Students drop everything and read to celebrate the importance of literacy and school libraries.

I was so lucky to have been gifted this book last year and I fell in love with it because the main character, Penelope, and I are so similar. Everyone who meets me knows that I can be LOUD! So much so, that when I told my friends and family I wanted to be a librarian, they were shocked and even laughed! But guess what?! I have so many skills that make me a great librarian, including how loud I am. I hope you enjoy this book and its beautiful art as much as I do!

Penelope is a young person whose dream is to be a student-librarian helper for Ms. Berry, the school librarian. Penelope has been practicing all year to be an excellent helper in her school library. There's just one problem: Penelope is LOUD! So loud that the Earth shakes and they can hear her in space! But when all hope of her dream seems to be lost, Penelope discovers she may have a gift that makes her perfect for her new role.

This book shows how sometimes the things about us that seem too much, or not good enough, may actually turn out to be the thing about us that others love and appreciate.



Stumpkin by Lucy Ruth Cummins

Harry Hooge Elementary teacher-librarian Fiona Bisset

There is so much to love about this story! I was attracted to *Stumpkin* by Lucy Ruth Cummins as soon as I laid eyes on it. The vintage-style illustrations remind me of the books I used to read as a child. The limited colour palette make the gorgeous orange pumpkins jump off the page. The human characters are set in silhouette, as part of the background, so that the real focus is on Stumpkin and its “facial” expressions. At its heart, *Stumpkin* is the gently told story of how it feels to be left out and what it really means to be “home.” I highly recommend this book!!

Stumpkin takes place near Halloween, on a busy city street market with lots of other pumpkins for sale. Stumpkin really wants to be chosen and taken home to be carved into a jack-o'-lantern. It becomes increasingly sad, as one by one, the other pumpkins (and even a warty gourd) are bought instead, and set in the windows around the shop. Even though Stumpkin is “a handsome pumpkin, as orange as a traffic cone and big as a basketball,” no one seems to want a stemless pumpkin. Will Stumpkin find a home in time for Halloween?

For King and Kanata, The Corvette Navy, War on Our Doorstep, and The Regiment

Garibaldi Secondary teacher-librarian Keith Thomson

This November 8th and 11th, as we remember those who have fought and died for Canada over the years, I encourage you to pick up a book and find out a bit more of their story. There are many books about the First World War and the Second World War, but until recently, there were not as many books talking about the Canadian role in these wars. This has been changing, though slowly, with the publication of some excellent histories by Canadian authors including Mark Zuehlke, Terry Copp, Tim Cook and J.J. Granatstein.

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The following four recommendations are a few of the lesser-known books available that touch upon some of the parts played by Canadian service persons and illustrate the range of Canadian involvement in both wars.

For King and Kanata by Timothy C. Winegard is about the experiences of Indigenous peoples in Canada during the First World War and the changes that followed when they returned home. This is particularly relevant for November 8th, Indigenous Veterans Day.

The Corvette Navy by James B. Lamb tells the Second World War stories of the Royal Canadian Navy and the Battle of the Atlantic. This is one of the most crucial theatres in the war, and one in which Canadians played a significant role. Lamb served as an officer on several corvettes, eventually commanding HMCS Camrose.

War on Our Doorstep by Brendan Coyle is the story of the war in the North Pacific from the Aleutian Islands invaded by the Japanese, the shelling of a Canadian lighthouse, the torpedoing of a Canadian ship in the Strait of Juan de Fuca and the balloon bombs that drifted across the Pacific.

The Regiment by Farley Mowat is the story of the Hastings and Prince Edward regiment in which Mowat served during the Italian campaign in the Second World War. This covers the regiment's experience from the start of the war in Canada, the trip to Britain, the invasion of Sicily, and the fight up Italy (the Moro river, the Liri valley and the Gothic line) until the battalion was transferred to the First Canadian Army in Northwest Europe. This year is the 80th anniversary of the start of the Italian Campaign and I would encourage you to also read the histories of Canadian battles in Sicily, Ortona, Cassino, the Moro River and the Gothic line.



Binny's Diwali by Thrity Umrigar

English Language Learners teacher Sukhdeep Birdi

Each year in mid-October to early-November, Sikh and Hindu communities around the world celebrate a festival called Diwali. This year it begins on November 12. Many of our students are South Asian and may celebrate this festival. Diwali means “rows of lighted lamps” and is commonly known as the “festival of lights.” Wherever Diwali is being celebrated, you will see shops, houses and public places decorated with lights and oil lamps, called diyas. People celebrate this festival by decorating their homes, making rangoli, sharing sweets, exchanging gifts, offering prayers, and enjoying festive fireworks. Diwali symbolizes light over darkness and is a joyful time of connecting with family and friends. Traditionally, this festival is celebrated over five days with each family celebrating this beautiful holiday in their own unique way.

I celebrate Diwali and as a teacher, I want my students to understand Diwali in a simple way and connect as closely as possible to the experiences that I share about my tradition.

Binny's Diwali is a sweet story of one girl's victory of goodness and light. Binny is tasked with sharing her favourite holiday, Diwali, with her class. Plans are set, jalebis and pedas are made, but when it comes time to present, Binny doesn't know what to say. Remembering the guiding lights of the diyas, Binny overcomes her fear and shares the beauty of Diwali with her class. Binny shares her love of fireworks, sparklers, lighting diyas, giving gifts and making rangoli.

As an ELL teacher, I try to make sure I have lots of diverse books so that all my students are able to see themselves in the illustrations. This is a great story for your holiday collection. The illustrations are absolutely beautiful and each page shines with its own light.



#FRIDAYREADS ROUNDUP



Our Table by Peter H. Reynolds

District teacher-librarian Leanne Dunbar

I love the story *Our Table* by Peter H. Reynolds because of its timely message to us all about the importance of spending time connecting with our loved ones. As we kick off the holiday season with Hanukkah, I am reminded of gathering around tables over the years with my family and loved ones, and the lasting importance of those connections.

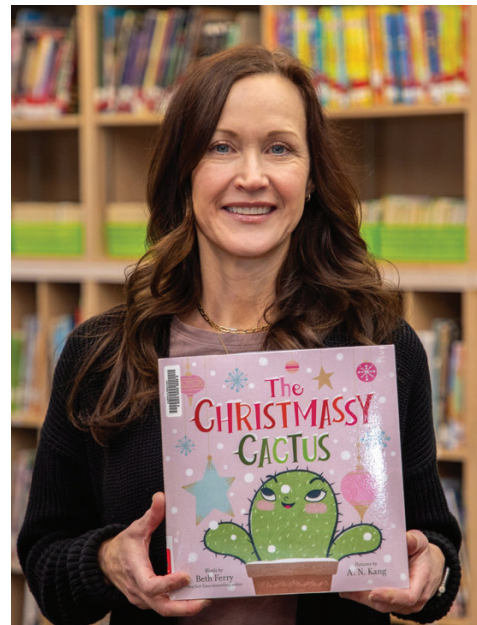
This story opens with Violet alone at her family’s table. She notices everyone is too busy to come and sit with her. Gradually, the unused table disappears before her eyes, and Violet must find a way to get it back. She helps her family reconnect with each other as they build and gather around a new table. The message about the importance of connectedness is augmented by the beautiful watercolour illustrations done in Peter H. Reynold’s signature style. I hope you enjoy this story as much as I have.

The Christmassy Cactus by Beth Ferry

Albion Elementary teacher-librarian Jennifer Mountfort

Beth Ferry’s new picture book, *The Christmassy Cactus*, is a delightful story about an adorable tiny cactus who is excitedly waiting to be decorated when she sees her home being transformed for the Christmas season. She eagerly anticipates the moment when her little girl will add shimmering and sparkling things to her cactus spines, or twinkling, tinseling things like the giant pine tree in the living room. With each passing day, she becomes disheartened when her spines remain plain and unadorned. Her friend, Elephant, helps her continue to wish and believe in the magic of Christmas, even though she doesn’t feel like she’s a part of Christmas. In the end, her wish comes true in a very unexpected way!

This lovely book has sweet and enchanting illustrations by A.N. Kang. The little ones in our library thought the cactus was “very cute” and were very happy for her when her wish finally came true. They were very pleased she had her good friend, Elephant, so she wasn’t lonely. I loved this completely new and original holiday story that celebrates the special gift Tiny Cactus brings to Christmas. Beth Ferry is also the author of *Stick and Stone*, *Stick and Stone Best Friends Forever*, and *The Scarecrow*.



Elves are the Worst! by Alex Willan

Laity View Elementary teacher-librarian Natalie Clark

Elves are the Worst!, the fourth book in Alex Willan’s enchanting series, is an absolute delight from start to finish. With its vibrant illustrations and whimsical storytelling, this book is a true gem that will captivate readers of all ages.

Willan’s clever and humorous narrative takes a unique twist on the traditional portrayal of elves, showcasing their mischievous nature in a light-hearted and entertaining manner. The book’s underlying message of embracing our differences and celebrating the magic of friendship is beautifully conveyed, making it a perfect read aloud for children and adults alike.

Whether you’re a fan of the series or discovering it for the first time, *Elves are the Worst!* is sure to leave you with a smile on your face and a warm feeling in your heart.



The Most Magnificent Thing by Ashley Spires

District helping teacher for Grade 6/7 inquiry, K-7 numeracy, and ADST (applied design, skills and technologies), Yas Mann

The Most Magnificent Thing, by British Columbian author Ashley Spires, is a classic for a reason! This book shows us that sometimes making something magnificent is harder than you think it will be. Creating and inventing can be frustrating and maddening, and you may even want to give up on the whole idea, but in the end, creating is always worth it. The feeling of taking an idea from your brain and turning it into a real life invention, artwork, or piece of writing is what is truly magnificent!

I love this book and have used it for many years when introducing STEM and ADST concepts to students of all ages. Pictures books are truly for every age and grade level. Readers and listeners love the way that Ashley tells the story with humour and honesty so everyone can relate to the experience of creating and inventing. Of course, it always helps when there is an adorable furry sidekick to help tell the story.

I hope you get inspired to be creative on Kid Inventors' Day this January 17.



When the Stars Came Home by Brittany Luby

Deputy Superintendent Cheryl Schwarz

As we celebrated education around the world this week, we also expressed gratitude for the diverse cultures woven into our school communities. Each day, we have the privilege of learning side by side with individuals from various backgrounds and it is through the stories we share that we deepen our connections.

When the Stars Came Home is a beautifully illustrated book that explores the significance of storytelling and tradition, emphasizing the idea that one carries the essence of home even when relocating to a new place. Like the main character, Ojiig, I also left the town where I grew up and moved to B.C.

The quilt created for him by his mother evokes cherished memories of a quilt I made with my grandmother. I remember hanging on to every word of the stories she shared with me while we carefully stitched each piece of fabric together. You carry that feeling of home with you wherever you may live or adventure. I hope readers experience the same warmth that I did from the book.

Pies from Nowhere: How Georgia Gilmore Sustained the Montgomery Bus Boycott by Dee Romito

Edith McDermott Elementary teacher-librarian Krista Kong

This picture book tells the story of Georgia Gilmore, an important figure in the civil rights movement whose role isn't widely known.

Pies from Nowhere takes place in the United States, when Black people in Montgomery, Alabama, boycotted the buses to protest segregation, following the arrest of Rosa Parks.

Georgia was a cook at the National Lunch Company at the time and when she found out about the boycott, she immediately jumped into action. She used her skills as a cook to organize the "Club from Nowhere," a group of women who baked pies and



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#FRIDAYREADS ROUNDUP



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other food to sell in support of the movement. The money raised helped pay for a carpooling system they could use while boycotting the buses to keep the movement going.

Even though Georgia wasn't in the spotlight herself, she was still able to support the movement in a significant way.

As we learn about the life of Georgia Gilmore this Black History Month, we are reminded how one person can make a big difference in their community and spark change.

Sam and the Lucky Money by Karen Chinn

Highland Park Elementary teacher Yin Tsia

Sam and the Lucky Money by Karen Chinn is one of my favourite books to read during the Lunar New Year. The story is beautifully depicted with its vibrant watercolours capturing the boy's emotions and the Chinatown backdrop. Reading this book brings back fond memories from my own childhood, when I accompanied my mom as we explored the bustling streets of Chinatown.

The author skillfully integrates cultural elements and language, exploring the boy's compassion as he gives his New Year's money (hóngbǎo/lai see) to a homeless man. The book highlights important themes such as empathy, compassion and kindness.

I believe showing characters from different backgrounds, cultures and perspectives in books fosters a richer, more inclusive reading experience. It provides readers with a broader understanding of the world and promotes empathy by showcasing diverse voices and experiences. This book does a lovely job of that.



A Family Is a Family Is a Family by Sara O'Leary

Kanaka Creek Elementary teacher-librarian Jodie Nagy

A Family Is a Family Is a Family, a picture book written by Sara O'Leary and illustrated by Qin Leng, is a playful and amusing look at the diverse families that make up our communities. I love this book because it prompts us to think about those people who mean the most to us. It's a great read-aloud choice to celebrate Family Day!

When the teacher in the story poses the question, "What makes your family special?" each student shares how their family is different and unique. We learn that there is a great deal of variety when it comes to 'the family unit,' including blended families, foster families, families with two moms or two dads, families with parents living apart, culturally diverse families, and families with disabilities. We also learn that, regardless of what a family looks like, all families are special and that caring about each other is the most important part.

This story is best suited for kindergarten to Grade 3 audiences and aligns with B.C.'s curriculum, under the positive personal and cultural identity core competency. It's also a great choice to spark conversations at home with your children.



The Kindness Book by Todd Parr

Blue Mountain Elementary teacher-librarian Amanda Terris

On Pink Shirt Day, we look at ways to be kinder and more inclusive towards everyone we meet. The littlest gesture of kindness towards another person can make them feel seen and less alone and that's something we should remember on Pink Shirt Day and every other day of the year.

“What is kindness?” This is the essential question and theme of *The Kindness Book* by Todd Parr. Parr uses his trademark inclusive colours in his illustrations to make every reader feel comfortable and seen in this book. Throughout the book, there are simple examples of what kindness is that show you can find kindness almost anywhere. Kindness is helping your family, friends, community, and even yourself.

I think the most important thing that Todd Parr tells us in *The Kindness Book* is that “kindness is free.” If we remember that it doesn't cost anything to be kind, and that kindness can brighten someone's day, then we can all make the world a kinder place.



Firekeeper's Daughter by Angeline Boulley

Thomas Haney Secondary teacher-librarian Megan Fulgeras

On this International Women's Day, I highly recommend Angeline Boulley's *Firekeeper's Daughter*, a young adult thriller, to readers in our district.

Daunis Fontaine, a recent high school graduate, has deep connections to both her late father's large Ojibwe community and her mother's small European family. Shortly after witnessing her best friend's murder, Daunis becomes an undercover informant for the FBI. As she finds herself in extraordinary circumstances and comes to terms with the trauma she experiences, Daunis is surrounded by an amazing, supportive community of women.

Daunis' amazing scientific mind, knowledge of Ojibwe medicine, and incredible determination make her an intriguing protagonist. *Firekeeper's Daughter* explores difficult topics while engaging readers in an action-packed plot. The book itself is an example of perseverance; Angeline Boulley has noted that she spent 10 years writing this award-winning novel.

Readers here at Thomas Haney often comment that they couldn't put the book down. Many Thomas Haney students have read this book as part of their English First Peoples 11 curriculum in recent years.

Seven Special Somethings: A Nowruz Story by Adib Khorram

SD42 settlement worker Shabnam Momtahn

Nowruz is a celebration of the arrival of spring and the new year. “Now” means new and “ruz” means day. This year, it falls on March 19.

The haftseen table is one of the main features of the holiday and it's a display of seven items that start with the letter “S”. In the book, *Seven Special Somethings: A Nowruz Story* by Adib Khorram, the items displayed on the table are symbols of rebirth, wealth, health, beauty, bravery, sunshine, and patience.

Like Kian, I also helped my parents set up the haftseen table in our home, and I often added more items to the table for good luck. Kian is keen to add his cat, Sonny, to the



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#FRIDAYREADS ROUNDUP



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table but his cat wrecks it. He decides to create a new haftseen table, and as he quickly zooms around his house in search of items that begin with the letter “S”, he discovers that the items are connected to the relationships he has with his family. Kian learns that family and happiness are the true meaning of Nowruz.

Some of the best memories of my childhood are dressing up for Nowruz, jumping over a fire for Chaharshanbe Suri, visiting our loved ones, and receiving Eidi, which is the tradition of gifting money to children.

Night of the Moon: A Muslim Holiday Story by Hena Khan

Glenwood Elementary student Alishba Zeeshan

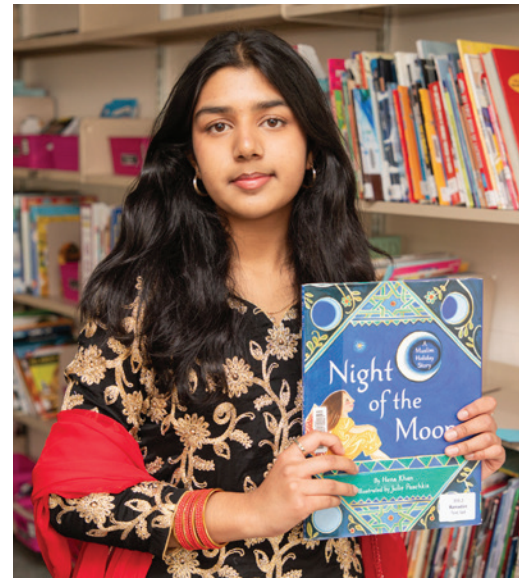
Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar. This year, the holy month of Ramadan began on March 10 and ended on April 9, 2024.

I adore the feelings of love and joy it brings to families as people come together. During Ramadan, you fast from sunrise (suhor) to sunset (iftar). Although it is sometimes difficult to fast, it is a reminder to be grateful for the food you have and to practice patience. As a little kid, I simply couldn't wait to fast for the first time and I was thrilled with my first experience.

I recommend the book *Night of the Moon: A Muslim Holiday Story* by Hena Khan because it covers all the main points of Ramadan, such as praying, fasting, donating, family dinners, and gift-giving. It shows how Ramadan is more than not eating and drinking. It also talks about Eid, my favourite holiday!

Eid al-Fitr is a celebration after the last day of Ramadan where families get together and exchange money and gifts, wear beautiful traditional clothing, and eat mouthwatering foods.

My favourite part of this book is how it shows the phases of the moon as the month progresses. I also love how relatable it is to my experience with the parties and mehndi (henna) designs. I hope you enjoy it as much as I have, and maybe learn something new about this wonderful holiday in the process.



Maya & Neel's India Adventure Series, Book 7: Let's Celebrate Vaisakhi! Punjab's Spring Harvest Festival by Ajanta Chakraborty and Vivek Kumar

English Language Learners teacher Harjit Chauhan

Let's Celebrate Vaisakhi! Punjab's Spring Harvest Festival by Ajanta Chakraborty and Vivek Kumar is a delightful story that captures the essence of Vaisakhi. Siblings Maya and Neel along with their pet squirrel, Chintu, travel to Punjab, India, to visit their chacha (uncle) and chachi's (aunt) farm. While helping out at the farm, the children learn about the harvest, Punjabi, food, bhangra, music, outfits, and Sikh traditions. Members of the community join in to help, and at the end of the day, they all celebrate with a Vaisakhi parade.

Weaved throughout the story is the recurring message that when people work together and help each other out, it boosts productivity and creates a happy atmosphere.

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I love the beautiful examples in this story as my parents come from a farming background in Punjab and I grew up enjoying the colourful traditions of Vaisakhi. I recommend this story as a springboard for the study of the plant cycle, agriculture, spring festivals and local farming in Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows. Vaisakhi takes place on April 13 or 14 annually. This year it fell on April 13, 2024.



Butterfly Park by Elly MacKay

Alexander Robinson Elementary teacher-librarian Anita Neufeld

As a gardener, I am passionate about pollinators! Often overlooked, these small creatures are vital to our existence here on Earth and I am in awe of their diversity.

I chose *Butterfly Park* for an Earth Day read because it is a beautiful mentor text that shows how a community can come together to 'green up' an urban environment. The illustrations in this book are also intricate and diverse.

Butterfly Park is the story of a girl who moves from the country to the city and finds she misses the green spaces, wildlife and especially the butterflies of her home. She finds Butterfly Park and waits with anticipation for the butterflies, but they don't come.

It isn't until she comes together with her new community and they commit to noticing the small, overlooked things that they begin to rewild the landscape and bring back the butterflies. In the process, she finds she is starting to belong as well.

Clap When You Land by Elizabeth Acevedo

Samuel Robertson Technical teacher-librarian Adria Schafer

In honour of April being Poetry Month, I picked a novel written in the style of a poem by Elizabeth Acevedo. Her novel in verse powerfully explores grief, complicated family relationships and forgiveness, as two teens navigate family secrets and tragedy.

Clap When You Land pays tribute to the American Airlines flight 587 tragedy and reflects the pain, anguish, and heartbreak that was felt throughout the Dominican community after the crash.

Camino lives in the Dominican Republic and Yahaira lives in New York. Both have no idea that the other exists, or that their shared father was living two lives, until their father is lost in a plane crash. Told in alternating perspectives, we learn the secrets, lies, and pain that binds these two young women together as they navigate mourning their father, meeting each other for the first time, and the struggles they face in their lives.

This is a fantastic read that is beautifully written as it explores sometimes difficult topics. Samuel Robertson Technical students enjoy the unique experience of reading a novel in verse, and soon learn to follow the rhythm and flow of the book. Our students have also enjoyed other books by Elizabeth Acevedo, including *The Poet X* (also written in verse) and *With the Fire on High*.





#FRIDAYREADS ROUNDUP

A Day with Yahyah by Nicola I. Campbell (K-5), Missing Nimama by Melanie Florence (Gr. 5+), and Highway of Tears by Jessica McDiarmid (Gr. 11+)

Aboriginal support worker Melinda Mouland and ̓əsqənelə Elementary teacher-librarian Janet Smith



Red Dress Day is held every May 5th to remember and honour the missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and two-spirited people across Canada. Red dresses are displayed in public spaces to raise awareness and serve as a visual reminder of the violence and the lives lost.

After a conversation with Alysha Collie, a Coast Salish artist and educational storyteller, ̓əsqənelə Elementary began teaching and learning around Red Dress Day with increasing bravery, honesty and intention. Alysha helped us understand the lingering brutal effects of Canada’s colonial racism and genocide from the female perspective.

This topic can be addressed with care in all grades, from K to 12. In the early grades, we can begin by teaching about the importance of loving and caring for each other and connecting to family and community. We suggest *A Day with Yahyah* by Nicola I. Campbell for students in K-5 to support this learning.

Teaching about systemic racism and the ongoing effects of the residential school system in the intermediate grades and high school can lead to learning and understanding of more complicated topics such as gender-based violence and femicide. These are topics many adults do not fully understand as they were not included in our own education.

For students in Grade 5 and higher, we suggest *Missing Nimama* by Melanie Florence and for those in Grade 11 or 12, we suggest *Highway of Tears* by Jessica McDiarmid. Both these books should be used with supports available for anyone who may be triggered by their content.

We also recommend that all adults read Jessica McDiarmid’s *Highway of Tears* to grow their own understanding.

The Lost Dumpling and Be You, Mandu! by Kirstin Hepburn

Highland Park Elementary English Language Learners teacher Leah Kitamura and Grade 5 international student Addison H.

May is Asian Heritage Month, and at Highland Park Elementary, we are exploring some noteworthy Canadians with Asian heritage. One local role model is Gina Chong, who started the annual BC Dumpling Festival that takes place every summer at Lafarge Lake in Coquitlam. She was inspired to create the festival to celebrate our diverse community and bring together families, friends, and neighbours from various cultures to share food, entertainment and laughter.

At Highland Park Elementary, we are having our third annual World Culture Day on May 24, 2024. It’s a celebration of cultural diversity with songs, speeches, and interactive language activities, and this year, we will also be offering a dumpling tasting! This makes Kirstin Hepburn’s dumpling series (*The Lost Dumpling* and *Be You, Mandu!*) the perfect books to read, with its diverse group of characters represented by dumpling foods from across the world.

One of my students, Addison, likes the cute characters and the book’s message of being proud of yourself and who you are.

“I think with these books, we can learn about other cultures and their traditions around food,” she said. “I also want other people to know about Korean culture.” Addison is looking forward to celebrating World Culture Day.





The Name Jar by Yangsook Choi

Glenwood Elementary teacher-librarian Michiyo Watanabe



The Name Jar is a touching and uplifting story about a little girl named Unhei who has just moved to America from Korea and is trying to find a way to fit into her new world.

When Unhei shares her name with some of the other kids on the school bus, they struggle to pronounce it because it's unfamiliar to them. When Unhei arrives to school and her teacher asks her what her name is, she feels so embarrassed that she tells her class she will choose a new English name.

Her new classmates help out by filling a glass jar with different names like Daisy and Tamela, but when she reads the names, none of them feel right to her. With the help of her family and some new friends, she's reminded of the beauty and meaning of her own name. In the end, she realizes the best name for her is her own: Unhei, which means "grace."

I chose *The Name Jar* for Asian Heritage Month because it helps us understand what it means to move to a new place from another country. It can be hard to fit into a new world at the beginning and unfamiliar names can be challenging for English speakers. But if newcomers feel like they have to change or hide their heritage, they lose something important in the process.

This book helps us appreciate the value of our culture and teaches us to be proud of our heritage. It teaches us to have an open mind and be willing to accept people's different backgrounds and birth names, even if they are unfamiliar. In that way, we all gain.

Prince & Knight by Daniel Haack

Yennadon Elementary teacher-librarian Candace White

Who doesn't love a fairytale? This one has everything!

A king and queen looking for a princess for their son, the prince, to help rule his vast kingdom.

A terrible dragon wreaking havoc on a kingdom.

A prince rushing to save his people.

A fearless knight racing to the rescue.

A prince and a knight that fall in love and get married.

Wait... what? The prince doesn't marry a princess? And everyone is just... OK with that? Well, yes! The prince and knight meet during the battle and fall in love, knowing that they are simply meant for each other.

The king, queen, and indeed, the entire kingdom are incredibly happy for them and celebrate the couple's love without question or hesitation. Because that is the way love should be celebrated and that is why I chose this book!

Yes, the illustrations and rhyming text are fun, and some may see this as a "twist" on a classic fairytale, but I see it as so much more.

This is a book where people simply and readily accept everyone's choice of what love means to them and that is powerful. Everyone deserves that respect and acceptance. As we have all heard by now, "love is love."





#FRIDAYREADS ROUNDUP



Be a Good Ancestor by Leona Prince and Gabrielle Prince

Aboriginal Education acting vice principal Joseph Martin

I picked one of my all-time favourite picture books, *Be a Good Ancestor*, illustrated by Carla Joseph, in celebration of National Indigenous History Month this June.

Each stunningly illustrated page reminds us of our interconnectedness to all life, the ecosystem, and Mother Earth. *Be a Good Ancestor* reminds us of our personal and social responsibility to respect the land and each other through our thoughts, words, and actions.

This is an excellent classroom resource for teaching the Personal and Social Core Competency through an Indigenous worldview that reinforces First Peoples/ Indigenous Principles of Learning within a circle pedagogy framework.

The Tree House that Jack Built by Bonnie Verburg and Mark Teague

Hammond Elementary teacher-librarian Kristen Power

Summer is on the way! I chose *The Tree House that Jack Built* because, to me, summer represents creativity, imagination, and having fun. Summer is a time to celebrate creating stories, making memories, and enjoying the outside world.

In his tree house, Jack is surrounded by nature and animals. His interactions with his surroundings lead to amazing experiences that help shape him. Summer is such a great time to be outdoors, have fun, and make meaningful memories just like Jack.



Walking Together by Elder Dr. Albert D. Marshall and Louise Zimanyi, illustrated by Emily Kewageshig

Aboriginal Education district principal Kathleen Anderson

Walking Together is a wonderful book celebrating the brilliance of the land and waters that can guide and nurture humans of all ages.

With artistic flair capturing the 6 Rs of Indigenous World Views, I enjoy the images of respect, relevance, reciprocity, responsibility, relationships, and resiliency. Every time I read this book, I am reminded of something powerful like the words on the last page: "When we walk together in a good way, we learn to know the world through two eyes." A powerful message of hope.

National Indigenous Peoples Day is on June 21 of each year.





Maple Ridge - Pitt Meadows School District No. 42 is located on the shared traditional and unceded territories of Katzie First Nation and Kwantlen First Nation. We recognize all First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students and families in our schools and community, and celebrate the many different cultures of which our school district is composed.



Dear graduating class of 2024,

Congratulations on reaching this significant milestone in your academic journey.

Throughout your educational endeavors, I trust you have embraced opportunities to discover your strengths, passions, and the boundless potential within you. These experiences have equipped you with the determination and courage to confront the challenges that lie ahead.

May the knowledge, confidence, and humility you have cultivated serve as pillars upon which you build your future endeavors. As you embark on new chapters, may you do so with a clear vision of the person you aspire to become and the positive impact you wish to impart on the world.

Thank you for entrusting us with a part of your educational journey. As you commence this new chapter, remember that the possibilities are limitless, and the world eagerly awaits the mark you will leave upon it.

Congratulations once again, and best wishes for the future.

Teresa Downs,
Superintendent of Schools

Congratulations to the class of 2024!

As you reach the end of your high school journey, we celebrate your achievements and the perseverance you have shown. This moment marks the culmination of years of dedication and learning, and reflects all your hard work and resilience.

Consider the experiences and friendships that have shaped you and let them guide you as you move forward. Your ideas, energy, and commitment have the power to influence the world in meaningful ways.

We have great faith in your ability to navigate the future with confidence and to leave a positive mark on your communities. Pursue your dreams with determination and continue to seek out knowledge and growth.

Congratulations class of 2024. On behalf of the Board of Education, we celebrate your achievements and look forward to seeing the impact you will make.

Elaine Yamamoto,
Board Chairperson



We would like to congratulate all of our 2024 graduates!



Ali Hasan Abdul Saboor	Callum Davie	Hailey Im	Melissa Matthews	Lucas Russell
Brennen Adams	Kaitlyn Davie	Xander Intong	Ryan May	Avi Saeed
Ireland Adamthwaite	Ludovica De Bernardi	Zouxi Jaques Familia	Brayden McFadden	Jesse Sam
Zariyah Ali	Asher Dees Woodcock	Nethmi Jayakody	Ojay Mendiratta	Ann-Louise Schade
Vialysse Allock	Tristan Delagiraudais	Mudiyanselage	Noah Meyer	Thomas Schillings
Kodai Arakawa	Brian Donaldson	Nathan Johnson	Niki Molnar	Jake Severin
Finn Leonard Arp	Cameron Downes	Tatum Jordan	Payton Moon	Zaydan Shafique
Aidan Aviss	Maxwell Driscoll	Jasmine Kaler	Beckham Mork	Nastaran Shah Faizullah
Benjamin Barnier	Rachel Dunaway	Taisei Kasaoka	Riley Morris	Saleh Shan
Kaylie Bates	Melissa Duran	Ireland Katsionis	Madden Mott	Mabel Shorter
Elise Baumgartner	Charlotte Erickson	Luke Kilvert	Fahima Murad	Sterling Simson
Angelina Belsey	Tyler Errett	Jenny Kim	Wyatt Nahrebeski	Noelia Singh
Klara Belsey	Miguel Farinha	Brady Knopp	Brooklyn Nasr	Gavin Small
Dawn Bernard	Siena Faulkner	Ethan Knowles	Alexander Neal	Aidan Smith
Taiya Blair	Daniil Felixov	Niklas Koehn	Brody Neighbour	Joshua Smith
Nathan Bossons	Casey Fiebelkorn	Oleg Koptev	Aria Newton	Amity Solvey
Gabriel Bousquet	Natasha Fitkall	Allison Lacroix	Cierra Norberg	Gwenith Sparrow
Kaleb Bowen	Henry Fong	Jeffrey Lam	Austin Noren-Bereti	Lalin Sriracharak
Isabella Brady	Brienna Fontaine	Nadia Laquitara	Max Norris	Kaylis Standing Ready
Nyla Brant	Garrett Frew	Ashton Latimer	Christopher Nunes	Elexus Sterling
Chetanbir Brar	Eva Funk	Madison Learmonth	Diustin Luivi Nunura	Riley Tan
Cassia Brown	Myra Gartry	Myrna Lee	Baylon	Breanna Tannar
Will Bryant	Ashlyn Gelinis	Connor Leggett	Colton Olive	Lise-Ann Theunissen
Daniel Budiwan	Jack Gibbons	Ethan Leggett	Brennan Olund	Tyson Timmins-Smith
Olivia Bzowski	Madisen Glynn	Mackenzie Leleux	Erick Ouchterlony	Dharma Traina
Bella Cable	Arrow Goodpipe	Alex Lind	Dominick Palazzo	Christy Tsang
Noah Cadigan	Jasper Gorman	Teagan Lindgren	Amalia Paolino	Diego Ureta
Brenden Cash	Jetta Griffith	Leonardo Lopez	Evan Patrick	Marlee Van Balkom
Eshan Chand	Sophie Gunn	Jesse Ly	Sean Paul	Jaylynn van de Polder
Lucy Chen	Deston Harding	Alec Lyotier	Addie Penner	Andrew Vickers
Makenna Chisholm	Laycee Hardy-Parsons	Flora Ma Tran	Carter Pitt	Xavier Vidal
Hayne Cho	William Heaney-McDonald	Greta MacLellan	Iman Rahmaty	Kailey Vincent-Hartley
Brendan Christensen	Natalya Hebner	Aiden Magee	Jaxon Ramos	Abby Vossenaar
Brandon Christie	Dominic Herndier	Oakley Magee	Aaryan Rayat	Isabella Welch
Harvey Corrales	Evynn Hewitt	Casper Mahoney	Abigail Reid	Madison Williams
Morgan Criss	Cheyenne Higham	Zoe Manousakis	Emyilee Reinelt	Michael Williams
Jack Croteau	Alexis Hillman	Jaxson Marsh	Pierina Reyes Estrada	James Yanik
Mary Shane Crucillo	Emi Hughes	Alitza Martin	Emma Richardson	Julie Yim
Hannah Daley	Cole Humphries	Allora Martin	Edgar Rodriguez	Carys Young
Rachel Dan	Mariana Hyson	Julia Martin	Siwat Rojanapaitoon	Furqan Zaheer
Sakura Daughton	Kavish Ihalage	Liam Martin	Nikolai Romanow	Ezra Zepeda

Garibaldi Secondary School

24789 Dewdney Trunk Rd, Maple Ridge, BC V4R 1X2 | (604) 463-6287

secondary.sd42.ca/gss/



The staff of Maple Ridge Secondary and Outreach Alternate Secondary Schools are proud to recognize our graduating class of 2024! Congratulations to you for thirteen years of achievement and, as you embark upon the next chapter in your lives, we wish you all the very best for your future endeavours!



- | | | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Farabi Ahadi | Gabriele De Francis | Ella Howell | Giorgia Marzotto | Caleb Scott |
| Fatema Al-Lami | Maia Decker | Ethan Hunt | Daichi Matsui | Ashton Senko |
| Emma Allan | Gray DeCorby | Evan Hurren | Logan McDonald | Mya Shackley |
| Aimee Alvani | Rahjean Dela Cruz | Griffin Hutchison | Luke McGaughey | Matthew Shanley |
| Ali Ameen | Dima Demchenko | Anett Iachoukov Klym | Trey McKinney | Omar Shehata |
| Dylan Andre | Tasha Desaulniers | Guea Iampimon | Elijah McLeod | Hudson Silcox |
| Aubrey Andrews | Juliana Dhembi | Suzu Imai | Tavis Medley | Kimberly Sinow |
| Keegan Araki | Abbi Doucette | Rory Inglis | Marcus Menic | Sheridan Sinow |
| Noah Augustine | Morgan Downey | Liam Jacobsohn | Naomi Meston | Fiona Sirovyak |
| Natasha Badesha | Carter Dowsley | Corina Jamault | Towa Metcalfe | Jada Smith |
| Cheza Balauro | Keegan Drinkle | Jacob Jarnell | Charley Metz | MinGyu Song |
| Sage Barrett | Liah Duerichen | Ava Jenkins | Soleil Migneault | Easton Sparrow |
| Caroline Bastiaanssen | Meaghan Durupt | Meghan Jennings | Emily Morton | Addyson Speers |
| Noah Bates | Ava Eliason | Monica Fernanda Jimenez Zarate | Quinn Mulcahy | Cadance Squires |
| Jake Bell | Kaia Erenli | Nithikorn Jiwatjanarodom | Shekinnah Ndiom | Justice Stewart |
| Riyah Biln | Aidan Evans | Kaileia Johnson | Jesse Neil | Maya Stoiber |
| Austin Blackstone | Tessa Fawdry | Emma Johnston | Zachary Neufeld | Aidan Stone |
| Chelsey Blais | Jake Fendick | Isabel Johnston | Jacob Nguyen | Declin Stregger |
| Riley Bowser | Owen Fernandes | Austin Johnstone | Nektaria Nikolopoulos | Jayda Sulina |
| Nile Brar | Sam Fontaine | Zayda Joseph | Adam Noori | Cael Sumbo |
| Mariana Brinez | Autumn Fuller | Liam Kanders | Neve Paliotti | Kaity Sushelnitsky |
| Nate Bromilow | Abigail Funk | Vasanthi Kasturi | Ben Parno | Lauren Tamminga |
| Punika Burapachonlatid | Jacob Gaden | Vasavi Kasturi | Parmida Pasandideh | Hayden Tann |
| Pierina Bustamante | Nico Gahangiri | Aidan Kelly | Sean Patterson | Mikaela Taylor |
| Karys Cabot | Vanessa Gavigan | Cameron Kew | Jonathan Paul | Kiril Tchepichev |
| Erin Canning | Farzan Ghorbani | Artem Khamzin | Celina Pearson | Syann Temple |
| Christopher Carter | Aiden Goerzen | Alishah Khan | Brodie Pellerin | Kaleb Therrien |
| Bianca Chan | Matthew Grainger | Lily Khorasani | Zoe Penner | Phyllissidy Thiphavong |
| Joanna Chen | Adrianna Grattan | Minkyu Kim | Owen Phelan | Jasmine Thomas |
| David Choi | Max Griffith | Adam Konowalchuk | Michael Pilkey | Gabby Thompson |
| Lucas Churchill-Browne | Evelina Grill | Krittamet Kramnaimueang | Joey Pitcher | Jamie Thomson |
| Vincent Ciach | Rowan Grout | Christopher La Grange | Mikayla Pratt | Sophia Timar |
| Chayse Clancy | Evan Gruningner | Tatyana Lagrange | Naomi Prem | Dayton Tvedt |
| Morgan Clark | Mercedes Gysbers | Bradley Laity | Caleb Presber | Shigetora Uchiyama |
| Gavin Clayton | Daniel Hai | Keegan Laity | Alyssa Pretzer | Colby Van Hullenaar |
| Kaleigh Cochran | Kynan Haintz | Gabby Laramee | Yousuf Ram | Kalia Vink |
| Brenna Collins | Danica Hall | Khailan Last | Emma Ramos | Daanish Vir |
| Emily Cooke Spiess | Preston Hall | Arielle Lee | Roshan Rana | Brad Vis |
| Rene Corado | Haydar Hamad | Maika LeFloch | London Rath | Sofi Wagner-Stiles |
| Vixia Corfe | Dylan Hamaliuk | Antonia Liu | Abby Reid | Pam Wannapintu |
| Olivia Cormier | Jenna Hampton | Kirsten Liu | Mackenzie Rekdal | Kennedy Weger |
| Jonathan Couthe | Jessica Hanzlik | Mia Loewen | Adera Riggs | Skyy Wheatley |
| Euna Cruz | Eric Harrison | Oscar Longstaff | Ben Robertson | Scotty White |
| Zeta Cruz | Reese Hartley | Kennedy Lonson | Jamie Rodriguez | Chase Wilkne |
| Lauren Curtis | Hans Hartmann | Makenah Lovitt | Aubrey Rooney | Danika Wilkes |
| Amira Dahle | Elijah Headley | Braden Lowe-Bliss | Jordyn Ruppel | Elayne Williams |
| Lydia Danyal | Lyla Heath | Joshua Lyle | Macy Ryder | Summer Wright |
| Abigail Davis | Carter Horstman | Parker M'Lot | Katrin Rytir | Prisha Yanes |
| Brayden Davis | Alexis Horton | Ainsley MacDonald | Tami Ryu | Laam Yiu Cheuk |
| Kaylin Davis | Gabriel Houle | Reka Madari | Clarence Sacalle | Lisa Zaghi |
| | | Marcelino Magar | Meghan Salt | Yiran Zeng |
| | | Caden Maguire | Paul Saman | |
| | | Colin Mandell | Liam Sampson | |
| | | | Noah Santos | |



We would like to congratulate all of our 2024 graduates!



Adolph, Maya	Dhothar, Dilshaan	Kizina, Daniela	Naugle, Alyssa	Slade, Carson
Aghitoaie, Hollis	Dierks, Erin	Klassen, Tyler	Nepaul, Noor	Slanisky, Caleia
Almasyabi, Yousif	Dirlau, Mara	Kornatowsky, Sophia	Norris, Joseph	Smit, Oliver
Alvarado, Dominique	Dosanjh, Jannat	Kukka, Ava	Ogmundson, Jacob	Smith, Julia
Ashley, Kaeden	Elchaar, Dina	Kumar, Aditya	Okada, Noa	Smith, Noah
Aujla, Anveer	Ellis, Jaida	Kunnatan, Nongnapat	Olmstead, Alexandra	Sobolewski, Mathew
Aung, Zoya	Estrella, Gabe	Kwannimit, Panuwich	Oomurb, Jin	Soltesz, Taylor
Baldwin, Andrew	Farrell, Emma	Leopardi, Victoria	Osborne, Brandon	Sorokin, Timur
Basco, Margarette	Fazal, Mohammad	L'Esperance, Knox	Paterson, Alex	Strange, Saylor
Bassi, Jasandeep	Fitzmaurice, Rowen	Leung, Tessa	Paul-Balogun, Gerrard	Strohm, Kylee
Bateson, Cody	Forsberg, Megan	Leyh, Anderson	Peacock, Ella	Supakit, Kornisasi
Bender-Eriksen, Ava	Foster, Abbie	Lin, Tony	Pellicano, Melanie	Swecera, Julian
Bennewith, Ella	Foxley, Jackson	Lind, Jake	Pereira Morais, Gian	Templeton, Caleb
Betker, Brian	Franklin, Adam	Lorenson, Jett	Lucca	Tessier, Daniel
Bigioli, Hannah	Funnell, Aaron	Magnuson, Hayden	Pernoski, Kamryn	Thomas, Danika
Blais, Davyn	Gore, Gibson	Malhi, Dayven	Philbrook, Hannah	Thomas, Trevor
Boggio, Alessandro	Gow, Evelyn	Mandin, Joshua	Phung, Lily	Thurbide, Maggie
Boros, Cadence	Green, Nic	Martinez De Jesus,	Piasaun, Aiko	Thukida, Takenori
Bourgeois, Amber	Greening, Brendan	Alejandro	Pickering, Jazz	Unrau, Simon
Bowes, Aiden	Gubert, Sienna	Mashchenko, Daniil	Popoff, Madisyn	Valiquette, Lauren
Boyes, Rebecca	Hall, Jordyn	Massey, Nicholas	Potter, Coleton	Virginillo, Shantelle
Braghis, Sanda	Hamid, Leen	Mazur, Jesse	Price, Aaron	Vukonic, Julia
Busby, Silas	Hanna, Jax	McCarron, Maya	Principe, Giuliana	Wagstaff, Nathan
Caldwell, Amelia	Hawthorne, Angus	McKanna, Carolynne	Rajesh Nair, Hrishitha	Walker, Alfie
Canega, Earl	Haycock, Kloey	McLean, Kali	Rebelo, Joanna	Walker, Derek
Casacop, Vin Alled	Her, Nouji	Mcphee, Ryan	Reese, Jessica	Wallace, Samuel
Cheema, Neela	Hidalgo, Moses	Meaden, Trent	Rittich, Andrew	Wandler, Ashton
Chen, Dana	Hoffman, Avrim	Meszaros, Hana	Robinson, Nolan	Wang, Peter
Chisholm, Cole	Hsiung, Abby	Miklos, Peter	Rosary, Jude	Watanabe, Yuka
Cipllaka, Kristofer	Hsu, Ryan	Miller, Gavin	Rotach, Aidan	White-Burns, Mia
Clark, Eva	Huppee, Ryan	Miller, Riley	Sakuljitjinda, Munin	Wilkinson, Jeremy
Cook, Hayden	Jackson, Dominic	Molander, Niels	Sanchez Martin, Diego	Williams, Wyatt
Cook, Jaden	Jiang, Yichen	Morrison, Kyle	Sanchez, Eder	Wishart, Cooper
Cullen, Emmi	Job, Siobhan	Moss, Jayden	Sandhu, Gurtej	Woodburne, Georgia
Cusbert, Mattheu	Keszeg, Daniel	Munro, Cormac	Savard, Kienan	Zhu, Carina
Davies, Carter	Khun Khun, Jared	Myden, Breeanna	Shavaga, Logan	
Della Peruta, Sofia	Kirkham, Jake	Nagli, Irene	Shaw Jaworek, Presley	

Pitt Meadows Secondary School

19438 116B Ave., Pitt Meadows, BC V3Y 1G1 | 604-465-7141

secondary.sd42.ca/pmss/



**Congratulations Connex and Reconnex
graduates on your accomplishments!
GRADUATION 2024**



Connex Graduates

Tiara Bilodeau
Julia Booth
Justin Bronswyck
Robert Chisholm
Tyler Colpitts
Lili Contreras
Jim Dandy
Alyssa Ding
Lauren Duval-Johnson
Faith Fitchett
Taylor Gehring
Jayda Glowa
McKenna Gottfried

Rhyah Halbgewachs
Riley Harder
Devon Hearts
Ryan Hone
Makayla Hubbard
Noah Isidro
Tasha Jackson-Vanderkuip
David Keresztes
Aleena Lewis
Esme McEachern
Chayna Morell-Sidhu
Cass Neufeld
Ava Nicolle
Liam Reyda-Crape
Lily Risebrow

Alex Rodriguez
Mayank Sami
Damien Sebert
Ace Stewart
Tess Venchuk
Cody Votkin
Brenna Weller
Sydney White
Lee Wyatt

Reconnex Graduates

Eathen Blyth
Nataya Bergen
Kaden Causevic
Zack Chagnon

Jaeda Collie
MacKenzie Dennison
Rachel Ewart
John Hetherington
Robbi Inglis
Rayden Keleher Luis
Alex Lau
Elliott Law
Hudson Maloney
Emily Newcombe
Ella Pelletier
Trinity Sadleir
Sofie Visscher
Chicory Walton
Ethan Williams

23125 116 Avenue Maple Ridge BC V2X 0G8 | 20575 Thorne Avenue Maple Ridge V2X 9A6



**We are very proud of our 2023 - 2024 graduates and
these 10 have agreed to be publicly acknowledged.**

Congratulations to all!

Jonathan
Brubacher
Emily Cheung
Navraj Singh Gill
Conlon Hughes
Jessica Inman

Karline Neumann
Robert McDonald
Trevor Terblanche
Kristina Villon
Scott Weighton

Riverside Centre | 20575 Thorne Ave M. R. V2X 9A6 | 604-466-6555



We would like to congratulate all of our 2024 graduates!



Atasha Abroguena	Nathan Dagg	Ruby Jordan	Delaney Mostrenko	Alimorteza Seyfi
Colby Allison	Hunter Delalla	James Kitsch	Taasyn Murray	Emma Smith
Ethon Alupului	Xander Desjardins	Parker Knill	Kevin Nguyen	Tyson Sponchia
Aida Aminzadeh	Gurarpit Dhillon	Cole Koerner	Wyatt Nice	Lucas Steen
Eric Anderson	Lucien Dixon-Lawless	Charlotte Lackey	Olivia Nickel	Layne Sterling
James Anderson	Caitlin Donnelly	Aiden Ladret	Jesse Nolin	Venicio Stewart-Parsons
Presleigh Bailuk	Tye Dosanjh	Xavier Lewis	Ethan O'Farrell	Emilia Stratopoulos
Gavin Bassetto	Jacob Douglas	Abby Libby	Liam O'Farrell	Cameron Sweeney
Tristan Bates	Brielle Dureau	Breanne Lind	Dino Omicevic	Dylan Tomlinson
Madeleine Beaudry	Parker Duthie	Kayleigh Lind	Austin Otteson	Madison Toolsee
Sage Beever	Cobyn Emmerich	Mateo Lopez	Madelaine Palko	Markus Toolsie-Worsnup
Joshua Bettsworth	Ashley Eros	Alexis Loukianov	McKenna Parkinson	Gabriela Torres
Dominykas Birsenas	Alexander Evans	Alexandra Loukianova	Cade Peden	Jason Viskovic
Rhythm Black	Spencer Fowle	Zachary Lovett	Alex Popa	Ryan Wall
Jenna Borland	Destiny Gratzler	Lucas Lovig	Matteya Porteous	Cameron Walt
Shawn Brar	Danica Grzac	Easton MacLeod	Sophia Porter	Lauren Webb
Isabel Braun	Kayla Hachey	Keeley Mahoney	Samantha Power	Nathan Wheeler
Joel Breedveld	Dakota Hallett-Tanner	Catherine MacAlpine	Keely Przybylak	Logan Wiebe
Kailyn Briggs	Emma Halliwell	Mainhout	Joshua Puffer	Scott Williams
Kayden Brockbank-Kion	Mia Hancock	Joshua Mak	Alexa Reginato	Elijah Williamson
Jordan Buljan	Devon Hearts	Kyle Martin	Ranelxson Rodriguez	Wesley Wilson
Declan Bushell	Hunam Hedayati	Nicholas Masaro	Reyes	Maxwell Wingrove
Kyle Causey	Delfina Hillar	Logan Mate	Ben Roman	Brooklyn Wiseman
Moises Chavez-Ferretti	Paige Hook	Kaley McIsaac	Joshua Roper	Brett Wocknitz
Genevieve Chenard	Zoey Horn	Carter McLaren	Mohammad Mehdi	Taylor Wojtun
Markus Chenard	Laina Hyland	Liam McNeilly	Safdar Ali	Dawson Wood
Demetre Cherras	Rocco Jenson	Sofia McPhie	Tyler Sanderson	Brady Yardley
Ethan Cormack	Sydney Johansen	Ryleigh Meredith	Hannah Sandry	Blake Young
Maia Cretu	Alexander Johnson	Cristian Milushev	Chanel Sansalone	Cole Zilkowsky
Stefana Cretu	Jesse Johnson	Brooke Moffat	Rebecca Schwarz	
Cooper Crowe	Parker Johnson	Luke Moffat	Gage Scott	

Samuel Robertson Technical Secondary School
10445 245 St, Maple Ridge, BC V2W 2G4 | (604) 466-8409



We would like to congratulate all of our 2024 graduates!



- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Ahern, Poppy | Erwin, Jacob | Johnson, Tea | Mohara, Rin | Smeed, Jack |
| Allen, Iris | Escano, Jazel | Jones, Emily | Moore, Aiden | Smith, Daniel |
| Amatul Qadeer, Shadan | Estella, Ysabelle | Kang, Changbean Eric | Mudry, Grayson | Smith, Keira |
| Ancheta, Ralph | Ethier, Cassie | Kaschula, Jennifer | Murphy, McKinley | Socha, Julia |
| Anderson, Lily | Faulkner, Allison | Kawakita, Haruna | Murray, Marcos | Soltsez, Kalib |
| Apolzer-Swan, Jada | Ferreira, Sage | Kayemba, Priscila | Nahal, Aishleen | St-Amour, Brody |
| Badesha, Alpit | Ferrero, Tyler | Keeler, Caitlin | Neustaedter, Kayden | Stewart, Jordan |
| Baines, Molly | Firth, Gracie | Keilty, Gavaen | Nguyen, Duc Ziang | Stojkovic, Rachel |
| Baldassi, Danielle | Fitzgerald, Izzy | Kennedy, Cole | Nguyen, Hewson | Suddaby, Lucien |
| Baniya, Sabina | Flores, Angelina | Khazir, Sanaz | Nickel, Addie | Suhl, Aaliya |
| Bartsch, Alex | Forsgren, Jordyn | Kirigaya, Tamaki | Ninomiya, Kotone | Sul, Daniel |
| Batishchev, Daniil | Foster, Morgan | Kitchener, Elayna | O'Brien, Ryker | Suman, Savinder |
| Begg, Libby | Friend, Brady | Knight, Jesse | Oguz, Ela Naz | Takasaki, Mika |
| Black, Zoe | Futamura, Mei | Labastilla, Harvey | Ojo, Ugue | Tattersall, Ruby |
| Bonifazi, Alyssa | Gander, Keenan | Labian, Rayne | Okoneshnikov, Matvey | Taylor, Sydney |
| Brar, Udhav | Geissler, Aidon | Lachance, Nikolas | Opartrungson, Kanda | Terashima, Ryo |
| Brekkaas, Shayla | Gibbons, Mariana | Lao, Sophie | O'Rourke, Victoria | Thompson, Vann |
| Buonafede, Joey | Gill, Zara | Laundrup, Annika | Page, George | Tremblay, Justine |
| Carruthers, Paige | Godfrey, Molly | Lew, Veronica | Park, Lewis | Veras Silva, Matheus |
| Cartwright, Mikayla | Golshani, Roz | Linde, Kiana | Paulsen Sandvik, Alysha | Vermerris, Jessica |
| Casey, Brielle | Gordon, Georgia | Liu, Ricky | Peryk, Shaelyn | Villanueva, MacKenzie |
| Castellan, Cowan | Graham, Emmy | Lot, Nathan | Pire, Madison | Villeneuve, Taylor |
| Celentano, Talia | Grant, Lucan | Lutwyche, Jay | Potter, Abby | Walker, Evan |
| Cerhit, Nate | Griffith, Riley | Lutz, Logan | Pukesh, Taylor | Wang, Emmy |
| Chavez, Marco | Guimaraes, Nicole | Lycan, Ally | Punzalan, Levine | Wang, Eric |
| Chen, Addison | Hall-Finley, Hannah | Lyons, Erin | Pye, Melanie | Warden, Natalie |
| Chen, Coco | Hall-Finley, Sarah | MacDonald, Jenna | Rico, Dany | Wardrope, Alethea |
| Chhetri, Bidan | Hankey, Tristan | MacDonald, Michaela | Roberts, Finnigan | Watts, Mya |
| Colangelo-James, Jessica | Hanning, Alexa | Mah, Vivian | Robinson, Charlotte | Wawia, Elle |
| Connaughton, Leif | Hapangama Arachchige, Kavindu | Making, Gavin | Rogalski, Katherine | Wilcott, Nixin |
| Coolidge, Christina | Hashim, Deema | Mallinson, Trinity | Rose, Donovan | Williams, Ava |
| Copland, Noah | Heard, Hannah | Mariano, Ezequiel | Roy, Hailey | Williams, Jorja |
| Craig, Sadie | Hinder, Evan | Markin, Sienna | Sadeghpour, Nahal | Wilson, Madison |
| Crawford-Koykka, Jyneva | Hong, Nicholas | Martins, Tani | Saunter, Ava | Winterton, Tyler |
| Dafoe, Jaxon | Horvath, Brooke | Massey, Finn | Schier, Teagan | Woodland, Jaycub |
| Dawe, Olivia | Houshyar, Nejdana | McCarron, Madison | Schmohl, Anna-Lise | Wu, Alanna |
| Dias, Elias | Huber, Isaac | McDonald, Katelyn | Schwarz-Wall, Adriyana | Wyatt, Tyler |
| Dickson, Makaila | Hurtado, Logan | McNally, Olive | Seabrook, Tayja | Xing, Ian |
| Dionisto, Katelyn | Hurtado, Logan | Medley, Lou | Serediuk, Zoe | Yang, Ariel |
| Dmytrenko, Misha | Idler, Heidi | Mehat, Jasmeen | Shahri, Mohammadreza | Ye, Reyna |
| Dobbyn, Rhiannon | Interiano, Tyrell | Meier, Hayden | Shalay, Kaitlyn | Zambolin-Jeans, Zachary |
| Dragan, Ana Maria | Jeeves, Ken | Meszarosova, Sara | Shellborn, Lily | Zamboni, Zoe Naja |
| Dubuc, Matteo | Jeon, Tay | Mohammadi, Aftab | Shinyei, Gracyn | Zhang, Juana |
| Duong, Angie | Jiang, Alice | Mohammadi, Diba | Silver, Svea | |
| Dyrmore, Katie | Johnson, Aron | Mohammadinasab, Mahan | Smail, Ethan | |

Thomas Haney Secondary School

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We would like to congratulate all of our 2024 graduates!



Ahmadi Zahra	Dozie Chikamso	Khadem Ahmad (Faizan)	Morrison Kayleigh	Sarkozi Zachary
Anderson Aidan	Dubon Melania	Knittel Nicholas	Mullen Cadence	Schwartzman Matthew
Bailuk-McClelland Lana	Dubon Chavarria Mario	Labbuanan Aljon	Nacion Shanon Gabrielle	Scramstad Austin
Banman Darien	Dudley Logan	Labrecque Lukas	Narciso Benicio	Seaton Ella
Barclay Marissa	Dulay Karman	Larssen Ceirrin	Nguyen Elijah	Seekins Mackenzie (Mack)
Bedi Jaspreet	Dulay Manvir	Law Elliott	O'Sanlou Marcello	Shannon Kailee
Beliveau Bauer	Enoki Kaito	Lee Chaewon	Olsen Kaitlyn	Sharma Arjun
Bhuller Rasik	Fairburn Lyndon	LeMasurier Brandon	Ortega Gabriella	Skoro Audrey
Biles Trey	Fisher Stephanie	Leon Mackenzie	Ostapovich Averey	Smith Byron
Boyd Kenzie	Freer Lachlan	Lindsay Alexander	Parsad Jaya	Smith Liam
Bucholtz Kai	George Alaura	Llagas Ashley	Patch Geena	Symmes Charlie
Buerk Maya	Gillmore Kai	Lu Jessica	Patrick Archer	Tan Noah
Bulacu Alexandra	Godinez Jeffrey	Lubchynski Caden	Payne Lila	Thompson Kayse
Burke Marissa	Goncalves Andrew	Ludviksson Aston	Penner Jacob	Trulsen Niya
Burzynski Emma	Gottfried Ariana	Lutz Jacob	Perler Anthony	Tuck Emmett
Campsall Lucas	Grewal Harleine	MacKenzie Lindsay	Pervaiz Bryan	Vallieres Hailey
Chislett-Lefor Alexander	Hanko Joey	Makela Andrew	Phillips Brodie	Vamplew Sam
Cho Seohyeon	Henry Zakaraya	Maloney Angel	Poole Samantha	Vanderwal Caden
Choi JiSung	Hritcu Nicoleta-Caterina	Manzi Obed	Pope Edward	Vasaylaje Vincent
Chuy Luo Kenneth	lbediro Uloma	Marsen Bethany	Pranjic Lana	Walker Nolan
Claydon Nathan	lpince Tristan	Marshall Ryder	Ram Akash	Ward Brayden
Cruikshank Cole	Iwai Yuki	Martin Duncan	Reimer Nolan	Weel Madison
Cruikshank Darcy	Jackart Noah	Mc Lean Marin Steven	Renaud Max	Whitfield Lyle
Davidson Austin	Jackson Lexi	Melonie Aidan	Reynolds Derek	Wilding Max
Dela Cruz Malia	Jaramillo Montoya Laura	Memoracion Kiah	Robinson Caleb	William Crystal
Charisse	Johnson Kaden	Mertz Kaleigh	Rogge Sarah	Wong Ethan
Delorme Noah	Joo Yewon	Miller Bailey	Russell Sierra	Zilliax Francis
Dersch Luke	Kellas John	Mohammed	Sangha Savek	Zivin Vienna
		Kendra	Sansalone Rocco	

Westview Secondary School

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School District 42
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