



NEW ART GALLERY AT PMSS HOSTS
First Exhibition

**SRT ROBOTICS TEAM
BUILDING MOMENTUM /**

**GSS GRAD HITS A HIGH NOTE
AT PRESTIGIOUS BERKLEE
COLLEGE OF MUSIC /**

**LEGENDARY FOOTBALL COACH
VISITS HARRY HOOGE /**

MAPLE RIDGE - PITT MEADOWS SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 42

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.



MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Our vision in the Maple Ridge - Pitt Meadows School District is for every individual to feel valued and for all learners to reach their potential. We know that every student's path is unique and are committed to supporting each individual journey.

This retrospective feature, which captures district highlights from the 2018/19 school year, documents just some of the many successes that unfold in our schools every day. Some of these successes are included in district highlights or published in the local paper, while others are of more modest fame but are just as important - just as meaningful.

I congratulate all our students on their hard work throughout this past year and give my sincere thanks to district staff at every level for their daily commitment to our learners. The hard work on both sides is reflected in the six-year graduation completion rates for our school district, which have shown a steady improvement across all categories and are well above the provincial average.

My deep gratitude also goes out to you, parents and guardians. Thank you for supporting our young learners as they find their way and work towards their personal success. Only when we work together to nurture the personal, emotional, and academic growth of our learners do they - and the district as a whole - truly thrive.

I hope you enjoy this issue of district highlights and look forward to many more success stories in the 2019/20 school year.

Sylvia Russell
Superintendent of Schools



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON

Congratulations to the entire Maple Ridge - Pitt Meadows School District community for another successful school year filled with curiosity, learning, and innovation. I want to thank our education partners for helping to create vibrant, healthy and connected learning communities that honour and celebrate our diversity and support all learners so they can reach their potential. Your passion for education has helped to enrich the experiences of our students and inspired them to pursue their aspirations.

You can see from our 2018/2019 highlights that it was a busy school year marked by student and staff success stories and achievements, special events and memorable experiences. I hope that you look back over the last year and remember your time fondly with friends and colleagues and take the time to celebrate your accomplishments. Your education journey is important, and the board of education is incredibly proud of your achievements.

And what a year it has been. We have improved our graduation rates in all three categories, created new creative spaces to showcase student artwork, cheered on our school sports teams, and opened new play spaces. On top of all this, our staff and students have won regional, national and international awards!

As we come to the close of the 2018/19 school year, the board of education would like to pass on our best wishes for a safe, restful and enjoyable summer vacation filled with family and friends. See you in September!

Korleen Carreras
Board of Education Chairperson

SECOND ANNUAL TRADITIONAL ABORIGINAL GAMES AT ERIC LANGTON



June 2019 - It's a warm, overcast day and students at Eric Langton Elementary are participating in the second annual Traditional Aboriginal Games.

"This event is so empowering for the kids," says Katrina Haintz, Aboriginal Support Worker at Eric Langton Elementary. "We are encouraging everyone to learn more about our culture as well as their own and keep traditions alive."

Haintz and the school's Grade 6/7 Aboriginal Leadership Students organized the event, which included eight different activity stations: Wrestling, Lacrosse, Hoop Jump, Fox Tail, Slahal, Double Ball, Bison Run and Rock Toss.

"The students researched each game during our lunch-time meetings, and the students took the information they learned together and created teaching to share with the school during our games. We try to find games from their cultural background if possible so they can learn more about their ancestors," she said.

Haintz explained that in First Nations culture, everything had a purpose, value or skill.

"Life was rich in relationships, teamwork, art, music, dance and gaming. Native games are more than just games. They build body and spirit through exercise and are played by all age groups - children, youth and adults. Many games have roots in ancestral tests of strength and sport

that reinforced group operation and sharpened survival skills in often hostile environments. For warriors, the games helped maintain their readiness and combat skills between times of war."



ÉCOLE PITT MEADOWS ELEMENTARY HOSTS AB ED GAMES



June 2019 - Eric Langton Elementary was not the only school in the district to participate in Aboriginal games. Students at École Pitt Meadows Elementary also participated in the games, with much success.

The Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District Aboriginal Education Department, members of the Katzie First Nation and intermediate teachers from the school organized the outdoor event.

“All of the students in our school participated,” said principal Shelley Linton. “We had several intermediate

teachers work with our Ab Ed teacher, Paula Howarth, to learn different Aboriginal games. They researched them, learned them and prepared them, then taught them to others. The students were very engaged.”

Some of the games included Slahal (a Katzie game), High Kick, and Rock Throw.

“We hoped that our students would appreciate other cultures and incorporate the games into their lives,” added Linton.



IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES! SUMMER READING CLUB 2019



The Fraser Valley Regional Library's *Summer Reading Club* includes special programs, as well as fun and prizes for preschoolers, kids, teens and adults.

The the best part? It is all absolutely free.

Summer Reading Club encourages families to enjoy reading together and helps children maintain or improve their reading levels over the summer.

Come to the Maple Ridge or Pitt Meadows Public Libraries to sign up for *Summer Reading Club* and begin a summer of reading fun!

Summer Reading Club is a provincial initiative, supported by the Ministry of Education.

sign up
starts in
JUNE!

IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES!

SUMMER READING CLUB 2019



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

Get a reading record, enter prize draws,
come to fun shows and earn a medal!
Visit your favourite FVRL location to join.

GARIBALDI SECONDARY SOFTBALL ACADEMY A BIG HIT WITH PLAYERS, COACHES

June 2019 - It's a hot, summer-like afternoon in May and Garibaldi Secondary Softball Academy head coach Katelyn Ross is running batting practice with her team at Cliff Park.

She's upbeat and insightful. "Rotate that back knee through," she says as the hitter cracks the ball. "Better!"

The academy, run in partnership with the Ridge Meadows Minor Softball Association (RMMSA), allows students to hone their skills on the diamond while also earning credits towards high school graduation.

The inaugural season has been a big hit with players and coaches.

"The best part is the girls see their own growth, which is awesome," says Ross, a former university fast-pitch softball star.

"[The players have] developed close friendships, love getting their practice during the day, not after school, love seeing how well they are doing on their out-of-school teams. The coaching staff are on a mission to assist the girls to grow in the sport and life."

This year 17 players from grades 8-10 signed up for the academy and 21 are already registered for next year.

"The partnership between RMMSA and Garibaldi Secondary (GSS) has enhanced the experience for these student-athletes," says Tom Levesque, vice principal at GSS.

"Partnering with our local community groups to create unique learning experiences that allow our student-athletes to explore their passion while remaining in their home school is a great opportunity, especially when we have access to outstanding coaching and mentoring in our hometown."

The academy is open to players of all skill levels. Some have dreams of playing softball after graduating from high school, which is something that Ross understands well.

She was one of the first RMMSA players to earn an international scholarship and finished her university career at Northwestern Oklahoma State University. She knows what it takes to play at a high level.

"Scholarships and opportunities are available for players who meet the requirements and are wanting to move forward with their softball," she says.

GSS teacher Heather Holland, an assistant coach with the academy, saw the student-players take great strides on and off the field this year.

"The girls improved their skills throughout the year. Not only did they improve their softball skills but their interpersonal skills as well. The girls have become more confident and skilled athletes. The coaches cannot wait for next year to start."

GSS SOFTBALL ACADEMY

The Softball Academy at Garibaldi Secondary offers students the chance to hone their skills on the diamond while also earning credits towards graduation.

Academy students will learn fundamental and advanced softball skills, tactics and strategies, as well as sport-specific mental skills to cope with pressure situations.

As the year progresses, the focus switches to transferring skills developed in training into the competitive environment with a greater emphasis on optimal team performance.

The academy is run in partnership with the Ridge Meadows Minor Softball Association (RMMSA).



THE LION KING AT LAITY VIEW

May 2019 - Laity View Elementary's recent production of the Lion King was a roaring success. More than 500 students from kindergarten to Grade 7 participated in the crowd-pleasing play.

"The students love the opportunity to perform and share their love of music and dance. [Music teacher] Mrs. Dahle has done an amazing job integrating the fine arts curriculum with all grades," said principal Kristi Blakeway.



SD42 STUDENTS RECEIVE 10 YOUTH WORK IN TRADES AWARDS



May 2019 - Ten students from Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District No. 42 have earned \$1,000 Youth Work in Trades (WRK) awards for sustained and exceptional work as apprentices.

To be eligible for the award, students must complete four classroom courses and 900 hours of practical, hands-on work experience.

Students who complete the program also earn 16 credits towards graduation.

“We are proud of the hard work and dedication of our students in their chosen trade,” said Brad Dingler. “These students are well on their way towards attaining rewarding, well-paying careers.”

In total, 13 SD42 students have earned the Youth Work in Trades Award this school year in the following career fields: horticulture, culinary, electrical, metal fabrication, parts and warehouse, construction and auto service technician.

SD42 TEACHERS RECEIVE AWARDS

- Maple – Ridge Pitt Meadows School District school-aged therapists **Renuka Preocanin, Julie Brown, Chelsea Hordichuk** and **Jessica Apedaile** received an award from the *Municipal Advisory Committee on Accessibility and Inclusiveness (MACAI)* in June. Each year the organization recognizes individuals, businesses, agencies and organizations who have made a difference in the lives of individuals with diverse abilities and challenges. Preocanin, Brown, Hordichuk and Apedaile had been selected based on “their outstanding and ongoing efforts to ensure that all students within School District 42 are included and have access to education.”
- **Kristi Lauridsen**, a district helping teacher who works with gifted students, was honoured with a **2018 Loran Teachers Building Leaders Award**. The award, presented by Loran Scholars Foundation and sponsored by the McCall MacBain Foundation, recognizes primary and secondary teachers who are integral in the development of young leaders of character who serve Canadian communities.
- **Carissa Keenan**, a Grade 5/6 teacher at Harry Hooge Elementary, was one of six BC teachers to win a **2019 National Inclusive Education Award**. Keenan was honoured for her ability to inspire students to work and learn together in a positive and inclusive environment. The school’s vice-principal Elena Digiovanni says, “Her passion is contagious and she inspires all around her to be the best that they can be.”
- **Kelvin Dueck**, a physics, science, and math teacher at Pitt Meadows Secondary, was one of two teachers in British Columbia to receive the **Prime Minister’s Award for Teaching Excellence in STEM**. The awards honour outstanding elementary and secondary school teachers in all disciplines for their innovative practices. “If it takes jumping out of a plane to engage his students in science and math, this teacher will do it; on the ground, he makes physics fun and relevant: they rip a phone book in half, pilot a toy hovercraft and try out a bed of nails,” notes the highlight section of Dueck’s award profile.
- Thomas Haney Secondary chef **Brian Smith** was named the **B.C. Agriculture in the Classroom Teacher of the Year**. The award is handed out by the B.C. Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation to a teacher in the province who has been a champion in agriculture education.

ON YOUR MARK, GET SET, GO!



May 2019 - More than 300 elementary students from the Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District participated in cross-country races this week.

Intermediate students raced in the woods at Alouette Lake on May 14, while the primary event took place at the Albion Sports Complex on May 15.

“Rain or shine, it’s fun for everyone,” said Carmela Bassetto, SD42 cross-country coordinator.

“My favourite part is seeing every school working together to help create lifelong memories for the students of SD42. It is a great way to celebrate community and inclusion. It is a lot of work for two afternoons, but it is worth it after seeing the looks on all the athletes’ faces as they cross the finish line and the smiles and excitement from the crowd of spectators who are there cheering on all of the runners.”

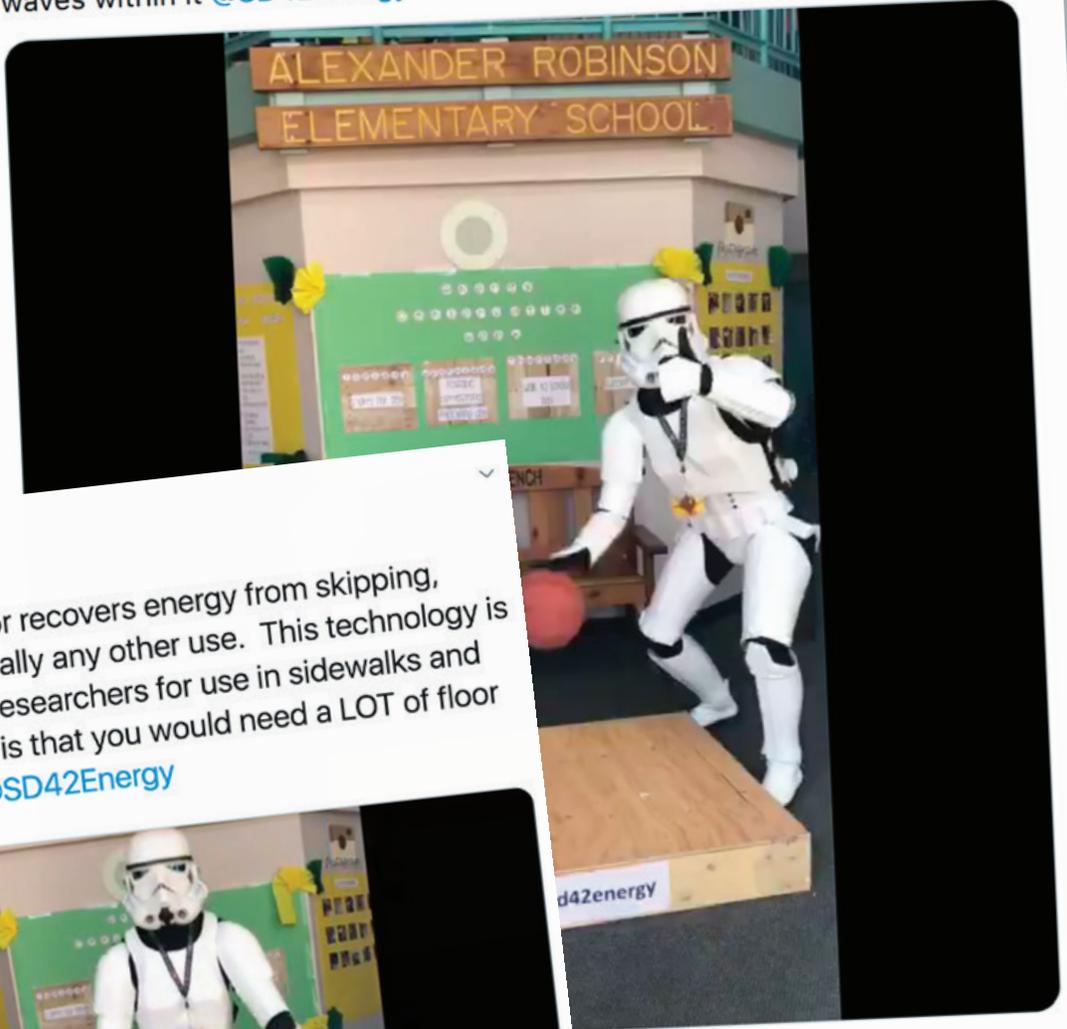
Bassetto said putting on the SD42 cross-country races would not be possible without the help from an amazing team of dedicated volunteers.

“Special thanks to Mike Keenan, Kira Sinow, the leadership students at MRSS, our rabbits and turtles, our many spotters, and the coaches from every school in the district. It really is a team effort to make it all come together.”



Alexander Robinson @AlexRDragons · Feb 27

When you bounce on the outside of the floor you cause sound and shock waves within it @SD42Energy



Alexander Robinson @AlexRDragons

The piezoelectric floor recovers energy from skipping, trying to skip, or virtually any other use. This technology is being pioneered by researchers for use in sidewalks and roads - the problem is that you would need a LOT of floor and a LOT of use. @SD42Energy

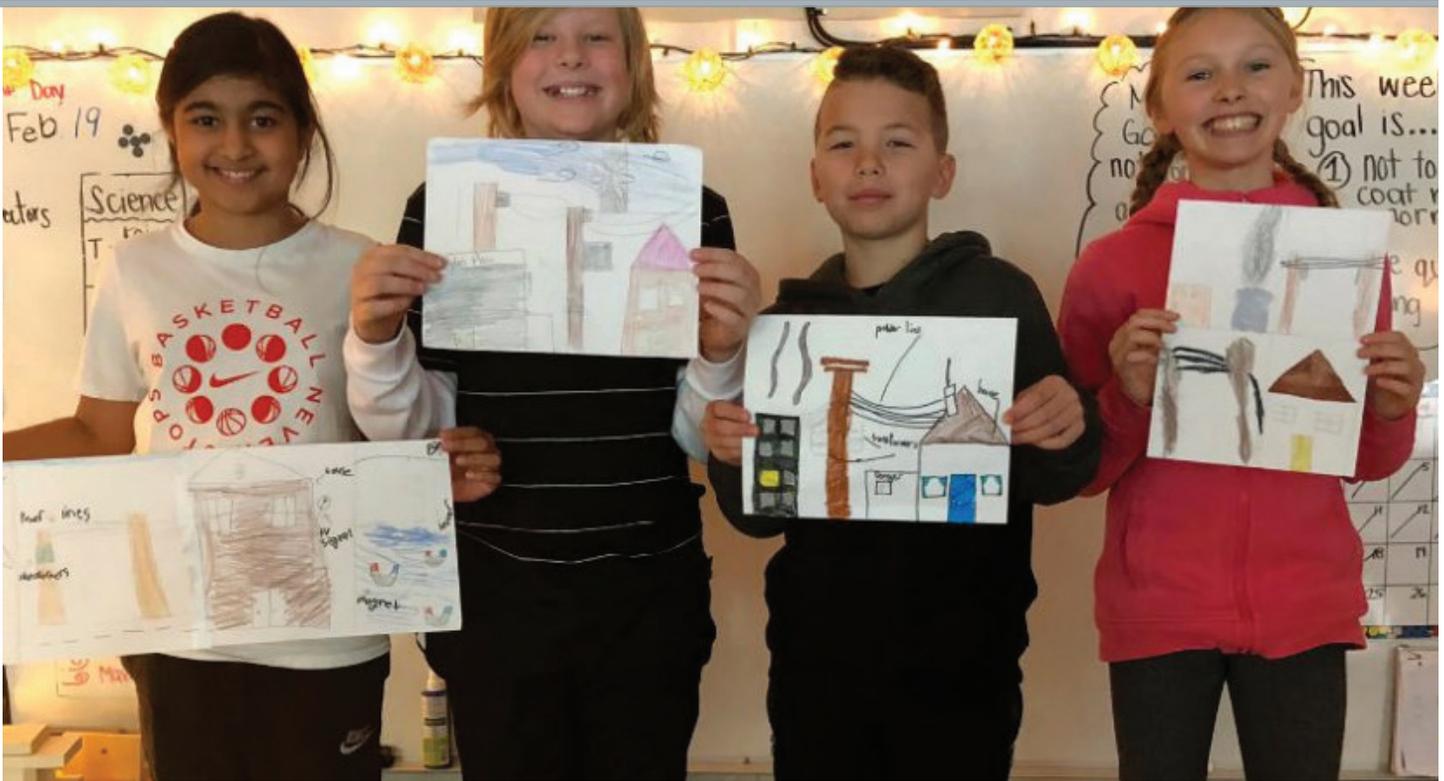


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2019 SD42 ENERGY CHALLENGE EDUCATES AND EMPOWERS STUDENTS



May 2019 - Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District No. 42 students and staff were up to the challenge.

During the month of February, 10 schools participated in the fourth annual SD42 Energy Challenge and completed over 424 energy-saving activities.

This year's highlights included sustainability pledge trees, art projects using upcycled materials, recycled clothing drives, social media contests, energy tip videos, garden reclamation projects, lights out lunches, and much more.

The student-led initiatives resulted in energy savings of 43,624 kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity and 169 gigajoules (GJ) of natural gas – enough to power five residential homes for an entire year.

“The goal of the Energy Challenge is

to inspire and encourage teachers and students to think about sustainability and energy savings in their schools,” said Alexandra Tudose, manager, energy & environmental sustainability.

This year's Energy Challenge champion is Alexander Robinson Elementary. With incredible participation from staff and students, the school produced a series of entertaining video tips featuring Imperial Galactic Stormtrooper called TC-1588 (see the school's Twitter feed) and undertook several other initiatives, including building a piezoelectric floor and a dramatic re-enactment of the Exxon Valdez spill.

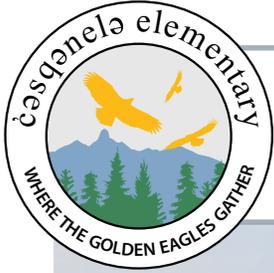
On May 8, the school received a trophy and \$350 to spend on an energy, sustainability or healthy lifestyle initiative at their school.

“The motivation part was simple - we want the Energy Challenge to exist

not as an event in February, but rather as a catalyst for a discussion and mindset that will last all year,” said principal Adam Stanley.

Honourable mention goes to Kanaka Creek Elementary for spearheading a “Glove Your Neighbourhood” recycled clothing drive, and to the Garibaldi Green Group for its impressive Instagram photo contest.

“This year we had a tight race to the finish. The Energy Challenge activities covered broader themes of sustainability and interconnectedness. All participating schools not only had fun but also aligned these themes with curriculum requirements. That is brilliant because energy conservation is only a small part of bringing sustainability into the classroom,” said Tudose.



ɔ̌sq̌ənelə elementary

WHERE THE GOLDEN EAGLES GATHER



In February 2017, the Ministry of Education announced funding for a new school in the Albion area of Maple Ridge. Shortly afterwards, the board of education began collecting community input on potential names for the new school.

In response to the passionate feedback received calling for a school name that recognizes and celebrates the First Nations history in the area, the school district requested that the Kwantlen and Katzie Elders undertake a process to select a hə́ŋq̌əmiḥə́m name for the school.

Fern Gabriel, a hə́ŋq̌əmiḥə́m language knowledge keeper and language and cultural teacher for Kwantlen First Nation, presented the name ɔ̌sq̌ənelə – ‘Where the Golden Eagles Gather’ – to the Superintendent of Schools on behalf of the Kwantlen First Nation.

The initial design for ɔ̌sq̌ənelə elementary was developed through a robust public consultation process. Participants who attended the open house workshop or provided feedback through an online survey shared their vision for the school. This vision included bright, open spaces that supported collaborative learning and both acknowledged and honoured local history.

Construction on the new school began in spring 2018, and although timelines are tight, the school is on schedule to open for fall 2019.

ɔ̌sq̌ənelə elementary will open with 19 divisions and approximately 430 students. The school has established a board-approved Parent Advisory Council (PAC) and has hosted a series of “power hours” for students wanting learn more about what

to expect at their new school and meet the school principal, Mr. Jon Wheatley. In May, nearly 80 new kindergarten families attended the schools first Welcome to Kindergarten event, hosted at Golden Ears Elementary.

Construction crews and district staff will continue to work hard through the summer to bring the project to completion and to outfit the new school with the furnishings, resources and technology it requires.

A big thank you to everyone in our community - from construction work crews to First Nations Elders to school district staff - for helping us make this new school a reality.



A PERFECTLY HATCHED EDUCATIONAL PROJECT

May 2019 - “I liked watching them hatch,” explains Ella, smiling as she stands in front the 17 fluffy, recently hatched chicks in her classroom. “It was kind of slow, but we saw the shell moving up and down.”

It’s all part of the life cycles project teacher Jeanne Jennings has been doing with her lower primary classes at Whonnock Elementary for the last two decades.

“It’s part of our curriculum. We started at the old school, and now we do it here. Each spring we incubate chicken eggs and learn about the development and life cycle of chickens. We also grow frog’s eggs and plants. It is a nice fit for spring and a renewal of life,” she said.

The eggs are supplied by a parent of a student who was in Jennings’ class 10 years ago and has been involved ever since.

Jennings says the project allows young students to make observations, care for the chicks and make announcements about the new hatchlings.

“We also integrate language arts and math into our theme.”

That means reading books about chickens, frogs, farming and doing various writing activities.

The children also present the play, “The Little Red Hen.”

“When our unit is complete, the chickens go home to families from our class that have the facilities to nurture our new babies. As this is a rural community, we have not ever been without caring homes for our class chicks.”





TRUSTEES VISIT THSS FOR STUDENT ROUNDTABLE



Pictured: Board chairperson Korleen Carreras in top photo; trustees Elaine Yamamoto, Collette Trudeau and Mike Murray in bottom row, left to right.

May 2019 - Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District trustees and staff visited Thomas Haney Secondary for a student roundtable discussion.

“The purpose of the roundtable at Thomas Haney was to listen and hear from our students about their education journey,” explained board chairperson Korleen Carreras.

“Our board believes in student voice and has made it a priority in our work

plan. The information that we hear during these events is integral to our work at the board table, and we very much value the students’ input.”

School District No. 42 hosts a district-wide student forum every two years and two to three school-specific roundtables like the event at Thomas Haney each year.

Approximately forty THSS students from grades 8-12 attended the roundtable talks on May 8.

“The students spoke about their passion for learning and how they will take that with them even after graduation and also their commitment to mentorship and creating the best community possible,” added Carreras. “The students at THSS truly represent the vision, mission, and values of our school district. These events are absolutely a highlight and make me proud to be a school trustee.”

GARIBALDI SECONDARY CELEBRATES EARTH DAY

April 2019 - Garibaldi secondary students participated in fun, environmentally focused activities to celebrate Earth Day.

The Garibaldi Green Group organized the April 16 event, which included rock painting, planting seeds, a plant sale, face-painting and temporary tattoos, snacks, board games and screening of the enviro-themed movie *Over the Hedge*.

“It was a successful event,” said teacher Moein Ferdosian, who sponsors the Green Group along with teacher Helen Carelse.

“The Green Team organizes activities to educate and encourage staff and students to make greener choices.”

Some Green Team initiatives include working with cafeteria staff to offer veggie lunches, providing pen/marker recycling boxes for classrooms, transforming the courtyard, and with the help of Keith Stewart and his carpentry class building a greenhouse and planter boxes to start growing veggies.

Ferdosian feels optimistic about the environmentally focused culture they are building at the school.

“I think today's youth have the opportunity to build personal and collective futures that have the environment as a major focus in daily activity. I think a dedication to saving the planet is the end goal of our group, but the means to get to that end is to, step by step, build habits that are personally, socially and environmentally conscious,” he said.

Garibaldi's Green Group is already planning for an even bigger Earth Day celebration next year.

“We are hoping to expand our network and to invite other schools to our activities.”



SRT STUDENTS EARN GOLD, BRONZE AT SKILL BC CHAMPIONSHIPS

April 2019 - For the second straight year, a Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows student has won top chef at the Skills Canada BC Provincial Competition.

Samuel Robertson Technical's Julia Broda showcased her culinary chops at the event and earned gold from the judges.

In the hairstyling competition, SRT's Kala'I Seaman won the bronze.

"We are extremely proud of all the students from School District No. 42 and all the competitors from schools across BC who participated in this competition," said Brad Dinger, secondary school apprenticeship and trades co-ordinator.

"Chef Steele has done such an amazing job preparing our student-chefs for these competitions. That's two years in a row now that an SD42 chef has won provincial gold. The year before that SD42 took silver."

Eight students from SD42 competed at the provincial championships, which took place on April 17 at the Tradex in Abbotsford and attracted more than 600 students to compete in 58 different categories.

A gold medal-winning performance by Julia Broda.

SRT's Carmen-Rosa Bilodeau won culinary gold at the 2018 provincial competition.

To secure a spot at provincials, students first had to earn gold medals at regional competitions. Gold-medal winners at this year's provincial championship earn a trip to the national competition from May 28-29 in Halifax, Nova Scotia.



SRT's Julia Broda (middle) took gold at provincials.

SD42 TRADES PROGRAMS

School District No. 42 has teamed up with several post secondary institutions and trades training organizations to offer apprenticeship training programs for Grade 10, 11 and 12 students and adult learners.

Students going into Grade 12 now have the option to graduate as well as earning first-year, post-secondary certification and apprenticeship training in one year with no tuition fees.

Students interested in these programs can contact Steve Wiebe at 604.318.9792 (email: steven_wiebe@sd42.ca) or Brad Dinger at 604.626.1176 (email: brad_dinger@sd42.ca). Students can also see their counselor, work experience coordinator or career planning assistant at their school.

MAPLE RIDGE SECONDARY CHEER SQUAD TOPS IN BC



MRSS cheer team competing at BC Provincial Cheerleading Championship. Photo: Michelle Roberts Photography.



April 2019 - The Maple Ridge Secondary cheer team has plenty to cheer about after returning from the inaugural BC Provincial Cheerleading Championship with a first-place title and scholastic grand champion title for earning the highest score of all school squads.

The team, which had a pair of zero-deduction runs, also earned the coveted full-paid World's bid, which means they have qualified to compete at the International Cheerleading Union's World School Cheerleading Championships in Florida next February.

More than 50 teams from across the province competed at the BC championship, which was hosted at the Tournament Capital Centre in Kamloops on April 13.

"We've had a great season. The kids work so hard through everything. We as coaches can only ask them to go out and perform their best and they did just that. We are all so excited for them, they've earned this!" said coach Sofie Van De Keere.

IT'S OFFICIALLY 'GAME ON' AT GOLDEN EARS FIELD



April 2019 - Local Little Leaguers joined the Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows Board of Education and Maple Ridge City Council for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially open Golden Ears Field on Thursday (April 4, 2019).

The new turf field, created through a partnership between the municipality and school district, is located between Golden Ears Elementary and the Arthur Peake Centre at 23125 – 116 Avenue.

“Golden Ears Field is a valuable addition for everyone in Maple Ridge. More field space means more games and more participation, creating a more connected community,” said Korleen Carreras, chairperson of the Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows Board of Education.

“This is an excellent example of great teamwork and a shared vision resulting in a benefit to the school district, sports user groups, and the community. Our children and youth will benefit from being physically active, and will also learn valuable life lessons about teamwork, leadership and good sportsmanship.”



SD42 SCHOOLS CELEBRATE PI DAY

April 2019 - Students at Westview Secondary had fun with math during the school's inaugural Pi Day Carnival.

Pi Day is a worldwide celebration of the "mathematical constant π " that takes place annually on March 14 because the date (3/14) matches π 's first three digits.

The Pi Day Carnival at Westview included games as such as pin the tail on the Pi-kachu, pi-neapple bowling, pi-ku poetry challenge, pi button/bracelet-making and the pi memorization challenge.

Westview teacher Susan Sarai, who organized the day with help from several other teachers and students, says the carnival allowed students of all grades to work together and participate

in some quirky math events.

"Math is often considered a subject that students struggle with. An event like this allowed students to put aside their anxieties and have fun with math," she said.

The Pi Trophy for memorizing the most digits of π was awarded to Grade 10 student Zach Chapman, who was able to recall 100 digits.

"The carnival was amazing," added Sarai. "It would not have been possible with the support of students, staff and admin."

At Pitt Meadows Secondary, nearly 300 students participated in the school's Pi Day event, which included pi decorating, scavenger hunts to pi, and pi throwing.

"Our math department organized the event and many of our staff volunteered to assist with overseeing the various activities," said principal Cheryl Schwarz.

"It was the first time that we held Pi Day activities and it was a huge success. It was an opportunity for students to engage with math by exploring various learning stations. The excitement in the room was contagious!"

Pictured below: Westview students celebrate Pi Day!



GARIBALDI STUDENT RECOGNIZED FOR HER VOLUNTEER WORK

April 2019 - Garibaldi Secondary student Victoria Gardner was writing a biology makeup exam when her teacher delivered the exciting news: she'd been awarded a Sovereign's Medal For Volunteers!

Fortunately, she'd already nearly completed the test. It was going to be hard to focus now.

The medal recognizes the "exceptional volunteer achievements of Canadians from across the country in a wide range of fields and pays tribute to the dedication and commitment of volunteers."

Gardner is a long-serving member of Garibaldi's ME to WE team and was nominated by the group's teacher-sponsor, Carlos Silva.

"I was thrilled. My whole family loves the queen, and this award is given on behalf of the queen! It started with my mom; she likes the royals," said Victoria, who is named after the queen.

We Day co-founder Craig Kielburger presented the Sovereign's Medal For Volunteers award to Victoria during a ceremony before the WE Day Vancouver event in November.

"It was pretty cool," said Victoria, who was impressed by the other young people in the room who also received awards. "These are the leaders of tomorrow."

Victoria joined Garibaldi's ME to WE group in Grade 8 and has become one of its leaders.

The group has raised money to build a school and water well in Ecuador and is now raising money to provide health care in Kenya.

The students raise money through food drives, clothing drives, bake sales, fun nights at the school and recycling refundable containers at Garibaldi, something Victoria and her friend Maddy do every Friday.

Members of this dedicated student group have also participated in 30-hour famines and vows of silence to raise awareness for important global causes.

"I like to think I'm a leader in the club," said Victoria, who always makes a point of empowering younger students in the club to become leaders so they can take on that role when she graduates.

"Simply, Victoria has been a wonderful ambassador for our group. Her leadership is often the inspiration and



We Day co-founder Craig Kielburger presented the Sovereign's Medal For Volunteers award to Victoria.

motivation that our group draws from to take action. Victoria has worked tirelessly to make our school a better place while also bringing attention to important issues that affect our community and the world at large," said teacher Carlos Silva.

Victoria's volunteerism doesn't end at school. She has also volunteered with Special Olympics bowling, the Pirates special needs softball team, Pitt Meadows Elementary after-school programs, and at Ridge Meadows Hospital, providing company for seniors.

She says her mom has been her role model when it comes to volunteering and she's always followed mom's life motto "be kind to everyone."

"I just love doing it. I find joy in making other people's lives easier, helping them out," said Victoria.

With high school graduation on the horizon, Victoria doesn't plan to stop her volunteer work.

She will be studying physiotherapy at university in England and says, "I've already started to look at different volunteer options."

ED COATES MEMORIAL FOUNDATION MAKES A DONATION TO THE PMSS AUTO PROGRAM



April 2019 - The Pitt Meadows Secondary School automotive program has received \$25,000 worth of new tools and equipment from the Ed Coates Memorial Foundation (ECMF).

“On behalf of School District 42 Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows I would like to thank the Ed Coates Memorial Foundation for their generous support of our secondary shop programs,” said Steve Wiebe, principal of Youth Train In Trades and Work In Trades Programs.

“They have gone above and beyond with their donations of high-quality tools and equipment to all of our secondary schools. I would like to mention specifically the donation the Ed Coates Memorial Foundation has made last month to Pitt Meadows Secondary School’s automotive and metal fabrication programs – their donation of a hoist, and an assortment of tools have enhanced these programs immeasurably.”

ECMF’s contribution towards the school’s automotive program includes tools, welding machines, spray guns and a brand-new hoist.

Ed Coates founded Lordco Auto Parts in 1974 and went on to establish Lordco as BC’s leader for automotive parts and accessories.

The Ed Coates Memorial Foundation (ECMF) was formed by his wife and children after Ed’s sudden passing in February 2014 to carry on his legacy of supporting his local community of Maple Ridge and other places across British Columbia in many ways through his business.

NEW ART GALLERY AT PMSS HOSTS FIRST EXHIBITION

March 2019 - The Meraki Gallery at Pitt Meadows Secondary hosted its first-ever art show last week. PMSS students and art teacher Carla Dearman created the new permanent hallway gallery that's located in the school's art wing.

"It was something we first started talking about at the beginning of the year," said Dearman.

Nearly 20 art students began meeting in early November every Friday during Flex period to plan the gallery and its debut art show.

"They did all the planning and designing and curating and framing and hanging and organizing of the event and naming of the gallery," said Dearman. "[They planned] this big opening night where we could display not only the work from this gallery but work across all grades."

The brochure for the grand opening of the gallery included quotes from several student-artists about why it was important to create this art space. "I wanted to be part of the creation of this gallery because I wanted the artwork in the school to have a place to be represented," said one Grade 11 student.

The gallery space, which has good natural light, will include a comfortable bench where students can sit and appreciate and discuss art.

Student Dacia Farrance, who has plans to attend art school in the future, had four pieces on display at the grand opening.

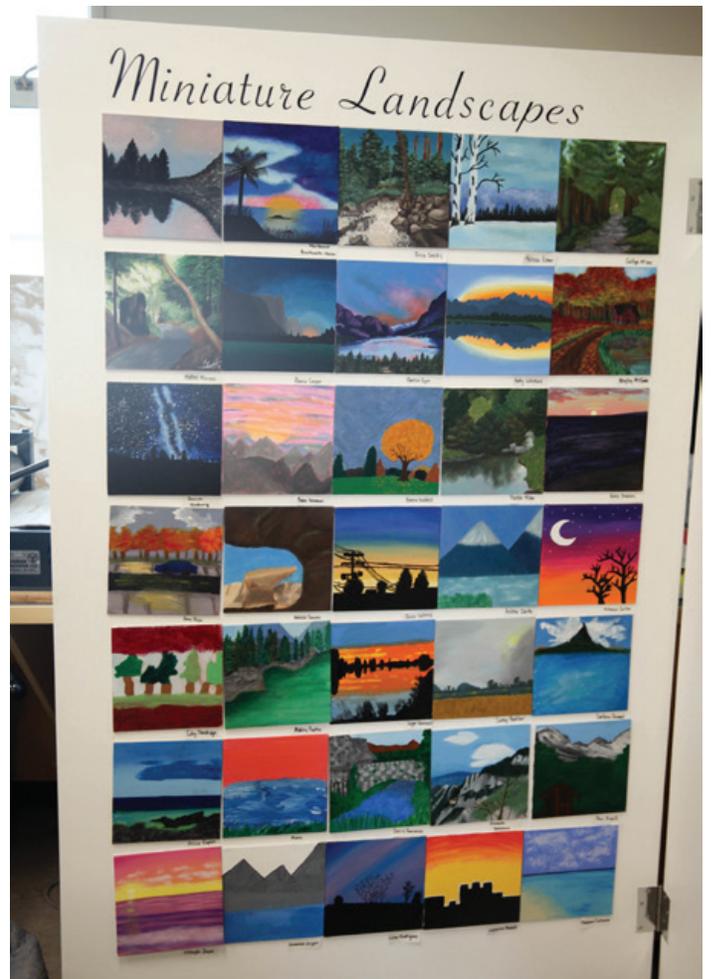
"I've never [displayed my art in public] before. It was really cool... people complimented me; it was really nice. Everyone was supportive."

Over 100 people attended the grand opening of the gallery on March 7 and enjoyed snacks, live music and amazing student-created art.

"It was very busy; there was a lot of excitement," said Dearman about the opening night. "This is a permanent space and then when we do our opening nights or exhibition nights we have portable walls and we fill the whole space with art and music."

PMSS principal Cheryl Schwarz was among those in attendance on opening night.

"I'm inspired by our students' creativity and their courage to share the gift of their artistic talent with our school community," she said.



The Meraki Gallery

MERAKI (μεράκι)

TO DO SOMETHING WITH SOUL,
CREATIVITY, OR LOVE;
TO PUT SOMETHING OF YOURSELF
INTO YOUR WORK.



INDIGENOUS GAMES GIVE STUDENTS AN INTERACTIVE LESSON IN CULTURE AND HISTORY



March 2019 - Some of the traditional games played by indigenous groups across Canada were used to sharpen skills for hunting and fishing.

The “finger pull” – where two opponents lock middle fingers and pull until one gives up – for instance, strengthened fingers for fishing in the Canadian Arctic.

This week, Grade 8 students at Garibaldi Secondary played this and several other contests during an Indigenous Games event organized by the school’s Link Crew leadership team.

The well-attended event gave students the chance to interactively learn more about indigenous history and culture through a series of games that are significant to indigenous groups across Canada, including the Blackfoot, Cree, Dene, Inuit and Salish.

While some traditional indigenous games were played to enhance hunting and fishing prowess, others were

performed at community gatherings to acknowledge the passing of community leaders (including the “pole push”, pictured below) and others still were played merely to pass the time on long winter nights, explained Jaelyn Gibbs, leadership teacher at Garibaldi.

“So many of the sports we play today were created in indigenous communities. Some of which include: lacrosse, hockey and even kite surfing and snowboarding,” Gibbs added.

Garibaldi’s Link Crew made many of the implements used for the games, while Ms. Elke’s First Peoples class created the sewn-leather sling balls.

“We have collaborated with Aboriginal Support Workers from around the district to help teach the leaders the history of Indigenous games with the hope of students learning and enjoying in this new cultural experience,” said Gibbs.

“With help from the district Ab Ed department and specific oversight by Jessica Knott, we learned about the long history of indigenous people in Canada and the importance of acknowledging their role in Canadian history.”

SD42 STUDENTS PUT TRADES TALENTS ON DISPLAY AT SKILLS BC REGIONALS



March 2019 - Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District students competed at the Skills BC regional competition hosted at Westview Secondary on February 27.

The day-long event included automotive (secondary) and cabinet making (secondary) categories.

Students from Westview and Samuel Robertson Technical participated in the cabinet-making event, which is the first in a series of competitions culminating in a bi-annual international event.

Students from Richmond, Burnaby, Tri-Cities and Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows districts are invited to compete at regionals. The winner

from the regional event qualifies to compete in the provincials on April 17 at the Tradex in Abbotsford. Gold-medal winners from that event move on to the nationals.

For many, last week's regional event marked the first time that they've competed under this kind of pressure. "Regardless of how they place, each student walks away with a great experience and they always say that they have learned a great deal about woodworking as well as themselves," said WSS instructor Andy Strothotte.

Students from SRT took top honours in cabinet making: Aidan McKay (gold) Nathan Unruh (silver) and Hannah Simard (bronze).

Students from Westview and Maple Ridge secondary schools competed in the automotive contest, which included a 50-question test and six troubleshooting stations, like, for example, diagnosing a "check engine" light.

Westview students earned the top three automotive spots: Detroit Hambly (gold), Chris Krystik (silver) and Russell Bergenstein (bronze).

EVOLVING TALENT DISTRICT 42'S YOUNG ARTISTS



From left to right: Emily Senko, Chelsey Nguyen and Clair Belson.

February 2019 - Talented student artists from Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District No. 42 showcased their artwork during an exhibition at The ACT Art Gallery.

EVOLVING TALENT: District 42's Young Artists ran from March 2 to April 7 and featured approximately 65 works by grades 8-12 students from Pitt Meadows,

Westview, Samuel Robertson Technical and Thomas Haney secondary schools.

District art teachers and the gallery collaborated to put together this juried exhibition “to celebrate emerging artists in the community.”

Parminder Cruikshank, an art teacher at Westview, felt that the exhibit was a wonderful opportunity for students to show the community their talent and skill.

“Many of our students see this as the beginning of their journey to a career in visual arts, or careers that incorporate visual arts. Through a show like this, students are able to experience a more personal response to their work, which has nothing to do with the curriculum or grading, but more to do with the joy or meaning it brings to individual viewers of their art,” she said.

Twelve Westview students displayed a total of 16 paintings at the exhibition.

“It’s really a good opportunity, and it makes me feel proud of what I’ve done,” said student Clair Belson.

SRT ROBOTICS CLUB BUILDING MOMENTUM

February 2019 - Team 10445 is busy gearing up for the VEX Robotics Competition this weekend at Ever Creek in Surrey.

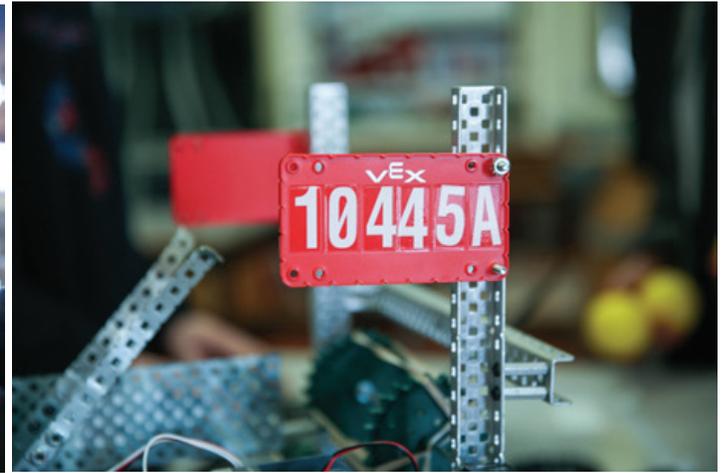
“These guys are really fine-tuning. They are making sure that their robots are ready to go,” says Brent Crich, teacher-sponsor of the SRT robotics club.

It’s just after 3 pm, and inside Room 2110 there are 14 members the Samuel Robertson Technical robotics club – aka Team 10445, a numerical nod to school’s street address – gathered to make the final tweaks and adjustments to their robotics before the competition.

The students exchange good-natured banter but they are clearly focused on the task at hand.



The SRT robotics club now has three robots and 16 members in grades 8-12.



The stakes are high. If the team makes the final at Ever Creek they will guarantee themselves a spot at the provincial championship.

Since its inception six years ago with just a single robot, the SRT robotics club has been trending up. The club now has three robots, 16 members in grades 8-12, and it has become a force to be reckoned with on the VEX competition circuit.

“The A Team came first in their pool of about 80 schools at competition just before Christmas in West Vancouver. It just blew a lot of people away,” says Crich. “So, these guys are starting to get recognized.”

Grade 12 student Orlando Torres is the team’s captain and longest-serving club member.

“I hope our team makes it to the provincials this year by placing in the final of this next qualification,” says Torres.

“The competitions are really big because they have teams from around the Lower Mainland and BC, sometimes teams from the States. These competitions have around 60 teams every time. Referees, spectators, it’s a big thing. It’s really intense when you get in there because everyone is just watching you.”

For the uninitiated, here’s how it works. Competitions take place inside a 12-foot by 12-foot field and feature opposing teams of students, red

and blue squads known as alliances. Matches start with a 15-second autonomous period where student-programmed robots perform functions or tasks on their own.

Next, the teams of student-operated robots face off in the square as they attempt to score by toggling flags, flipping caps and maneuvering robots onto parking platforms. High flags can only be toggled by firing balls from your robot. The goal is to get more points than the opposing alliance.

“The robots are remote-controlled, sometimes by wire and sometimes just by Wi-Fi. Basically, the kids have built and designed them to do the gearing or lifting or pushing that they want them to do,” says Crich.

Problem-solving under pressure can make the difference between winning and losing during the competitions.

“It’s very exciting,” says Mark Smart, a Grade 11 student who has been on the team for three years. “It brings a lot of challenges that you have to overcome and build around.”

At the team’s last competition, for instance, they encountered an electrical issue. “Our driving [system] wasn’t working very well, so we were trying to figure out how to get it working, switching wires around to see what was wrong to fix it. We got it to work better by the end.”

Crich, who is a physics teacher and with a background as a geo-technical

engineer, says the students deserve all the credit for the success they have achieved.

“These guys truly are the masters and they are the ones who have achieved the success. We have just provided things like rides to the competition and buying parts. They’ve looked at other people’s designs, talked to other people, YouTubed until they are blue in the face and improved. It really is quite impressive.”

Crich, who oversees the program along with teacher-sponsor Steve Demos, believes that the members of the SRT robotics club will enjoy continued success when they graduate from high school.

“It’s high-tech, and there are lots of careers in high-tech,” he says. “Not in just BC, but in the world. I want to have something that’s high-tech like this that exposes them to what is out there. The contacts that they meet at these competitions could also lead to careers for them or at least get them thinking about what those careers might be. They may start with robotics here and realize that 10 years down the road they are working at Boeing putting jets together. We’ve got a couple who’ve actually gone on to have careers in robotics.”

SENATOR MARTIN VISITS ALOUETTE ELEMENTARY TO DISCUSS HER ROLE IN OTTAWA

February 2019 - Last week students at Alouette Elementary learned about the Senate of Canada – from an actual senator.

Senator Yonah Martin, a former BC teacher, visited the Maple Ridge school to give a presentation to a pair of Grade 5/6 classes.

Martin, the first Canadian senator of Korean descent and the first Korean-Canadian to serve in parliament in the country's history, gave an overview of what life is like for a senator in Ottawa.

"She gave examples of her own work as a senator; in particular, her work in organizing the Imjin Classic hockey tournament that commemorates the ice hockey played by Canadian soldiers during the Korean War," said teacher Nancy Rupert.

Rupert said the students expressed their gratitude that the BC senator made time to talk to them and help them learn more about the Canadian system of government.

"Some of my students were quite taken with Sen. Martin's Asian roots which are like their own. I think they were also quite interested in the fact that she had once been a teacher."

In November 2018, Rupert attended the Teachers' Institute on Canadian Parliamentary Democracy. While there, she met Senator Martin – who gave her a business card – and met a team that works on behalf of the Senate and arranges school visits.

"Shortly after the trip, they contacted me and asked if I wanted to book a visit with a BC senator, and I requested Sen. Martin," said Rupert.

All the students who attended Sen. Martin's presentation are currently studying Canadian government.

"I hope they will all become engaged citizens as they grow older and participate actively in democracy," Rupert said.

Pictured below: Senator Yonah Martin, a former BC teacher, talks to Grade 5/6 students at Alouette Elementary.



GLENWOOD ELEMENTARY WINS SD42 HOLIDAY SHUTDOWN

February 2019 - Before staff at Glenwood Elementary left for winter break, they made sure to switch off lights, unplug appliances and turn down the heat.

In total, they turned off or shut down 285 items, which earned the school energy cost savings over the holidays.

It also made the school the winner of the second annual Maple Ridge - Pitt Meadows School District No. 42 Holiday Shutdown.

“I want to thank all the staff at participating schools for their efforts,” said Alexandra Tudose, SD42 manager, energy & environmental sustainability. “The energy savings really add up.”

A total of eight schools signed up for this year’s shutdown and more than 500 pieces of equipment and lights were turned off or shutdown.

“Glenwood staff were excited to work together to minimize our ecological footprint over the holidays,” said vice-principal Jennifer Beveridge. “End of day before the Christmas break we were all eagerly unplugging.”



Alexandra Tudose, SD42 manager, energy & environmental sustainability (left) and Glenwood VP Jennifer Beveridge.



From L to R: Tammy Lumbis, Jennifer Fitzpatrick and Jennifer Beveridge.

LAITY VIEW GETS NEW ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUND



February 2019 - Recess and lunch hour just got even better at Laity View Elementary.

Last Thursday (Jan. 31), the school held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially open its brand-new accessible playground.

Laity View Parent Advisory Council (PAC), with the help from Ridge Meadows Rotary, raised \$85,000 for playground.

“We are proud to have a fully accessible playground allowing students of all abilities to access a safe play area,” said principal Kristi Blakeway.

“For some of our students, this is the first time they have been able to play on a play structure with their friends. We are thankful to our parent community and Ridge Meadows Rotary for raising the funds to make this possible.”

SD42 STUDENT LEADERS READY TO TAKE ACTION ON SUSTAINABILITY

January 2019 - Elementary and secondary Student Voice leaders from across the Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District are ready to be the change. Last week the students attended an event hosted at Westview Secondary that included a keynote presentation by Maureen Jack-LaCroix of Be the Change Earth Alliance.

Be the Change supports global sustainability through education that empowers behaviour change.

“Most importantly I wanted [the students] to understand that they can be a powerful force for positive change; that in living systems change happens from the bottom up,” explained Jack-LaCroix. “Our youth are part of the most diverse, inclusive, techno savvy and communication connected generation that humanity has ever seen, and we welcome them to this great turning from an industrial – consumer economy to a life-sustaining society.”

Afterward, a trio of leadership students from the Delta School District shared an inspiring presentation on some of the sustainability initiatives at their district.

Alexandra Tudose, SD42 manager, energy & environmental sustainability, helped organize the event and encouraged students to take sustainability action at school and at home by taking a ‘green’ pledge, signing up their school for the annual SD42 Energy Challenge, which takes place during the entire month of February and starting a Green Team at their school.

“Many people often overlook an idea or never take action on something because they believe they can’t make a difference. Small changes can add up to big results. I hope that what students heard at Student Voice will encourage them to take action on climate change and sustainability,” said Tudose.

Added Jack-LaCroix: “Judging from the Maple Ridge student leaders' enthusiastic pledge of actions, they are obviously keen to come on board.”



Maureen Jack-LaCroix of Be the Change Earth Alliance talks to students about taking action on climate change.

NATIONAL CHAMPION STUDENT-CHEF EARNS YOUTH WORK IN TRADES AWARD

January 2019 - Carmen-rosa Bilodeau, a recent graduate of the Samuel Robertson Technical culinary arts program, has earned a Youth Work in Trades Award.

The \$1,000 prize is awarded to students “for sustained and exceptional work as an apprentice.”

Bilodeau won a national title at the Skills Canada National Competition in 2018 and has been working as

an apprentice chef at Swanest Bay Resort & Country Club.

“Carmen has excelled in every aspect of her career training as a professional chef,” said Brad Dingler, secondary school apprenticeship and trades co-ordinator at SD42.

“What started off as an after-school job has resulted in a passion for culinary arts. This passion was complemented by the benefits of

participating in both the Work in Trades Program and Train in Trades Program. She’s well on her way to a rewarding, well-paying career. She is a very deserving recipient of this award.”

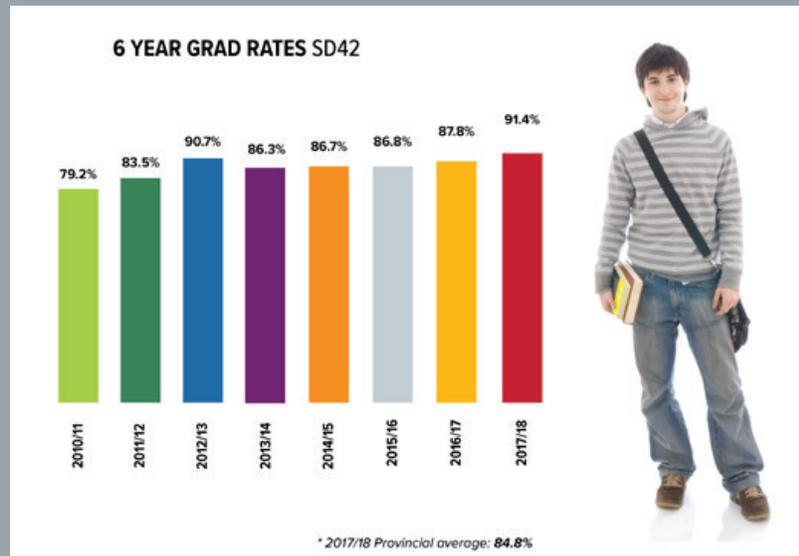
Pictured below: Award-winner Carmen-rosa Bilodeau and Brad Dingler, secondary school apprenticeship and trades co-ordinator at SD42.



SD42 SIX-YEAR GRAD COMPLETION RATES CONTINUE TO RISE

In December, Superintendent Sylvia Russell shared the school district's six-year grad completion rates for 2017/18, which show three years of steady improvement across all areas for the district.

Completion rates for all students have gone up from 87.8% in 2016/17 to 91.4% in 2017/18, which is well above the provincial average of 84.8%; grad rates for students of Aboriginal ancestry have gone up from 83.5% in 2016/17 to 85.1% in 2017/18; and grad rates for students with special needs have gone up from 74.2% in 2016/17 to 81.4% in 2017/18.



LAITY VIEW PE TEACHER GETS SURPRISE 'JERSEY RAISING' TRIBUTE



January 2019 - Patrice Tremblay, a longtime PE teacher at Laity View Elementary, recently had his jersey retired by the Chicoutimi Saguenéens of the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League (QMJHL) during a home game attended by 3,000 hometown fans.

Tremblay (pictured above) played for Chicoutimi from 1985-1989 and he's the club's all-time leading goal-scorer with 225 goals in 273 games. He is also the first player raised in the region to have his jersey retired by the local team.

On Thursday, he received another roaring ovation from another home crowd as 400 students and staff at Laity View held a surprise 'jersey raising' tribute for the teacher inside the school gym.

"We had an assembly already planned but honouring Patrice was a surprise twist. At the start of our assembly, we took ten minutes to recognize his outstanding accomplishment. Each student had their own self-decorated mini Tremblay jersey on a popsicle

stick hidden beside them. When we surprised him and called him up for the ceremony we all 'raised his jersey' and honoured Patrice."

Then, the gym erupted in cheers for Tremblay. "It was great to see those little jerseys waving at me in the gym," said Tremblay. "Awesome to share that moment with everybody!"

GOLDEN EARS PRIMARY STUDENTS PERFORM HOLIDAY CONCERT ELFLANDIA



December 2018 - Santa's elves took centre stage at Golden Ears Elementary this week during a pair of crowd-pleasing performances of the holiday musical Elflandia.

All primary students at the school took part in the production – around 250 children in kindergarten to Grade 3 in total, plus another 60 intermediate students who sang in the choir and helped with the technical side of staging the shows.

Students started rehearsing the musical in October, working with Jenny Hansen for music and Devika Chudy or Whitney Masters for dance.

“It’s part of our fine arts curriculum,” explained Chudy, a teacher-librarian.

“We try to find interesting musicals that have catchy songs that we’ll enjoy singing and dancing to for three months. Elflandia is a perfect fit for our primary students. They make adorable little elves.”

Chudy says participating in the school’s annual Christmas production is a holiday highlight for students.

“The students are always excited to learn what the new musical is for this year. They work very hard most of the first term and are very proud to present to our school and parents. It’s a great opportunity for students to shine in a variety of ways whether it’s acting, singing, dancing or helping behind the scenes with the staging, lighting and sound.”

Students performed Elflandia on Dec. 18 and Dec. 19 and received spirited applause from the large audiences.

“All those months of encouragement and training pay off, and you can see that they know they’ve done a fantastic job. We couldn’t be more proud,” said Chudy.

LEGENDARY FOOTBALL COACH VISITS HARRY HOOGE



Former Notre Dame Jugglers coach Bill Cole demonstrates how to carry the football.

December 2018 - A group of Harry Hooge students recently had the opportunity to learn some football fundamentals from a legendary coach.

Bill Cole, who was part of the well-respected Notre Dame Jugglers' high school football program in Vancouver for nearly 60 years as both a player and coach, visited the school in late November and led a pair of football clinics for groups of Grade 4/5 and Grade 6/7 students.

"The kids had a real blast and learned so much during the clinics," said vice-principal Elena Di Giovanni. "Coach Cole is a legend in BC football. He's

coached players like former BC Lion great Lui Passaglia and so many others. He has such passion for the sport."

After the clinic, Giovanni heard from one excited Grade 7 student who said, "The coach taught us how to make teams that were fair, so we are going to play these teams at lunch now!"

The recently retired coach also taught the students the rules of the game and provided other valuable tips on passing, catching and running plays. Other comments from students included, "He seemed like he literally knows everything there is to know about football" and "You can tell he's

coached kids. He knew how to make it fun, when to give us pointers, and how to talk to us."

Cole's varsity Notre Dame teams won 14 provincial championships and his 1968 team was recently inducted into the BC Football Hall of Fame.

"Although officially retired as of this fall, my Dad can still be found on the football field at almost every Juggler game. Football will always be a part of his life, in some form or another," said Harry Hooge teacher Jessica Algate, who helped arrange the visit to the school.

PMSS STUDENTS DESIGN RIVERDALE-INSPIRED GINGERBREAD CREATION

December 2018 - If you're a fan of the popular teen drama Riverdale, you will instantly recognize Pitt Meadows Secondary's entry for the Hyatt Regency's Gingerbread Lane display and contest.

Students at the school paid homage to the popular locally filmed series by creating Pop's Diner from gingerbread and frosting.

"The series Riverdale is popular with students and filmed locally (Rocco's Diner in Mission and the set of Pop's Diner in Langley). The group felt it was important to represent something that is familiar to their demographic and a locally recognizable landmark," explained teacher-sponsor Jennifer Galvin.

Pop's Diner from the popular TV series Riverdale.

Along with Galvin, the student baking team included Danika Foster, Abby Menge, Olivia Steed, Kyla Malone and Claudia Snider.

The students worked entirely on their own time during FLEX block and after school to design and build the gingerbread entry.

"No one in the group had any experience making a project of this size and there was lots of learning along the way!" said Galvin, who noted that with the exception of the wooden platform on which it sits, everything is edible.

"The fondant siding is made from

scratch and the windows and paints are all edible. Even the hidden support structure is made of gingerbread."

Galvin said the students spent over 80 hours working on the project.

"They are very proud of their accomplishment," she said.

More than 30 gingerbread creations designed by secondary schools, professionals and amateur culinary artists were displayed at the Hyatt Regency (655 Burrard Street, Vancouver) until December 28.

Gingerbread Lane raises funds for Make-A-Wish BC & Yukon.



GSS GRAD HITS A HIGH NOTE AT BERKLEE COLLEGE OF MUSIC

December 2018 - Garibaldi Secondary grad Timothy Ro is now studying at Berklee College, the prestigious music school in Boston that's produced a star-studded list of alumni who've combined to win hundreds of Grammy, Oscar, Emmy and Tony awards.

"I am thankful every day for being able to be here and play music with such talented musicians from all over the world," said Ro. "In my second month here, I already feel a tremendous improvement in my musicianship simply being around people better than me, but more importantly, being around people who love music just as much as me."

The list of notable Berklee alumni that Ro admires includes: Quincy Jones, Diana Krall, John Mayer, Esperanza Spalding and Alan Silvestri – to name just a few.

Ro took English and music International Baccalaureate (IB) certificate courses at GSS because he wanted to set himself apart from other applicants when it came to choosing where he wanted to study music. He also wanted to broaden his knowledge so that he would be better prepared for post-secondary studies.

IB courses offer students a rigorous academic curriculum that helps prepare them to make a smooth transition to post-secondary education. Garibaldi is one of just 16 International Baccalaureate World Schools in British Columbia.

"IB students excel in post-secondary, specifically university, as they have acquired in-depth knowledge and developed understanding across a broad range of disciplines, and they apply critical and creative thinking skills to approach problem solving and making decisions. The IB experience is truly a positive stepping stone to post-secondary success," said



Timothy Ro is a graduate of the IB program at Garibaldi.

Garibaldi Principal Ian Liversidge. Grade 11 and Grade 12 students interested in the IB program at Garibaldi have two options: taking one or more individual courses as certificate courses, or taking all courses in IB for grades 11 and 12 and earning an IB Diploma.

Both certificate courses and the full diploma give students the opportunity to receive advanced first-year credit at most universities in Canada and internationally for all Higher Level (HL) courses. Garibaldi also offers an IB Middle Years (MYP) designed for students in grades 8 - 10.

"IB not only taught me time management, problem-solving, and communication skills but I was also able to transfer credits from IB and opt-out of many first-year courses," Ro said. "This saved me a lot of time and I was able to take certain courses that are not usually available to freshman students."

Ro wouldn't hesitate to recommend IB to young students because he says it helps them to stand out

from other university applicants by demonstrating their commitment to academic achievement.

"In addition, IB credits will save students a lot of time and give more freedom in terms of courses that they will be able to take. IB will also teach you important values and strong work ethics that will help you for the rest of your life," he said.

Since arriving at Berklee, Ro has been most impressed by the dedication his fellow musicians have for their craft.

"I've met some of the best musicians in the world here yet they are constantly re-inventing themselves and working just as hard as anyone else. However, these are some of the most humble people I've ever met and they deeply inspire me to constantly try my best and strive for greatness."

Ro says his goal is to become a songwriter and a music producer, working with artists that he admires. "I hope to inspire people with my music in the same way that my favourite artists inspired me."



IB MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAMME

#YOURPATHSD42

Designed for students in Grades 8-10, MYP is part of the International Baccalaureate educational continuum which includes both the IB Diploma Programme (DP) and the IB Career-Related Programme (CP), both currently offered at Garibaldi Secondary – one of only 16 IB-designated schools in the province.

So what makes MYP unique? The program encourages young learners to think globally and act locally, while becoming critical and reflective thinkers.

“IB Middle Years is an inquiry-based, hands-on learning experience that provides students with authentic learning tasks and places the development of their skills, abilities and knowledge at the centre of the learning experience,” said Tom Levesque, vice principal at Garibaldi.

Levesque noted that MYP aligns well with the new BC curriculum’s emphasis on student inquiry, big ideas, competencies and global awareness – all of which are at core of MYP learning.

MYP consists of eight core subject groups: language acquisition, language and literature, individuals and societies, sciences, mathematics, arts, physical and health education, and design.

In each year of MYP, students are encouraged to undertake cross-curricular projects that make connections between their different subjects, and in Grade 10 they

tackle a project that has personal significance to them and present it to the class.

“The MYP provides students with opportunities to follow their passion and curiosity as well as make community connections as they develop their self-directed personal project which serves as a capstone or portfolio of their learning in Grades 8-10,” said Darren Rowell, a former Garibaldi principal.

Rowell noted that while the IB Diploma and Career-Related programs are optional at Garibaldi, all Grades 8-10 students at the school will be enrolled in MYP, starting with the Grade 8 class in 2017.

“The MYP framework and common language for planning and assessment creates a culture of learning within the school for both students and teachers,” he said.

The addition of the MYP provides an uninterrupted learning pathway for students who are interested in continuing on with the Diploma or Career-Related programs in Grade 11.

“We’re very excited to be expanding IB at Garibaldi by offering the Middle Years for our students,” added Levesque.

SD42 STUDENT DONATES BEADWORK ART PIECE TO LOCAL BIRD SANCTUARY



November 2018 - Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District elementary student Aiden Mahmoudi recently donated a piece of beadwork art to trustee Dr. Dave Rempel’s bird sanctuary.

Last year Mahmoudi participated in a five-week district challenge program entitled “Diversity & Inclusion” taught by teachers Kristi Lauridsen and Jeff Pinck, and Lisa Shepherd, a district parent who is a Metis artist.

During the program, Shepherd taught Metis beadwork and each student created an art piece.

“While we worked on our beading, we talked about the meaning of diversity and inclusion and why and how we celebrate our individual uniqueness and differences and also the way we can come together as a community,” said Lauridsen.

Shepherd taught the class the concept of “one wrong bead” in Metis beading, meaning that artists usually deliberately place one bead out of pattern to signify that no one is perfect and that imperfection can actually be beautiful.

The students decided to gift their art

pieces to community spaces where they could be seen and appreciated by others. Recipients included the Maple Ridge Library, the Pitt Meadows Library, the SD42 District Education Office, Thomas Haney Secondary, and a community member who was moving to another province.



Mahmoudi decided that he wanted to gift his artwork to a local bird sanctuary.

“[Former district deputy superintendent] Laurie Meston mentioned Dave Rempel's bird sanctuary, and he and I organized the visit. We invited members of last year's group as well as members of a new challenge group for this year called Living on the Land,” said Lauridsen.

In September, the group of students got a tour of Rempel's expansive bird sanctuary and then sat down for a presentation ceremony.

“It was wonderful to share this experience with many of the students' parents there to participate in their children's learning, so that it was a true community endeavour. Mr. Rempel also emphasized how important he thinks it is to engage in learning outdoors, and it was clear to see the students appreciated this opportunity,” said Lauridsen.



Dr. Dave Rempel takes students on a tour of his expansive bird sanctuary.

SD42 RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE IN BUDGET PRESENTATION



Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District No. 42 received a Meritorious Budget Award (MBA) for the 2018-19 budget year.

The Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO) presents MBA awards annually to promote and recognize best budget presentation practices in school districts.

School District No. 42 is the first school district in British Columbia to earn this award.

To be eligible for the award, participants submit their applications and budget documents to a panel of school financial professionals who review the materials for compliance with the MBA Criteria Checklist and other requirements and provide expert feedback that districts can use to improve their budget documents.

Districts that successfully demonstrate they have met the necessary program requirements may earn the MBA.

ASBO represents approximately 30,000 school business professionals worldwide.

Pictured at left: Flavia Coughlan, secretary treasurer.

GARIBALDI SECONDARY PRESENTS MAMMA MIA!



November 2019 - On November 4, teacher-director Cynthia Lacroix was up past midnight working on the Garibaldi Interdisciplinary Arts Academy's upcoming musical production of *Mamma Mia!*

"I got home just before 11 and I hadn't even touched *Chiquitita*. I wasn't going to be able to get to sleep until I got that song done," she explained.

With less than a month until opening night, there was still lots of work to be done. The first dress rehearsal was the following week. Lacroix understood exactly what it takes to stage a full-length musical theatre production.

In her 32-year career with the Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District she's produced 70-plus shows. She's quick to point out that staging that many productions would not be possible without the major contributions of music director Jodi Dahle, choreographer Jaqlyn Remple, long-time seamstress Kelly Gould, and many others.

"I would never do it without my amazing team," said Lacroix.

Many of Lacroix's former students

also return to help with school productions.

"In fact, I probably wouldn't have done *Mamma Mia!* if it wasn't for the alumni coming back to work on the show," she said, noting that the talented sound and lighting designers for the show are both GSS grads.

"So, we are just a little place in the middle of nowhere but we get these incredible people to come and help kids have amazing experiences," she said.

Lacroix was especially excited about staging *Mamma Mia!*, a show that she's wanted to do for a long time.

Securing the rights to the musical happened somewhat unexpectedly.

Lacroix had been denied the rights twice before but feeling that the curtain on her own musical theatre career may not be that far away, she made one more call to New York about the show.

Again, she asked, "When can I do it?" The reply: How about November 2019?"

She was thrilled. Two days after she applied another representative

from the production rights office surprisingly sent her the rights for this November (2018) – a year earlier than first discussed.

"I don't know how this happened! All I know is when principal Darren Rowell arrived at school the next morning I was standing at his door," she said with a smile.

Lacroix knows well the rigours of putting on a production of this scale. She also knows the rewards.

"It's a pretty amazing experience for the kids. There's nothing like it," she said.

The Interdisciplinary Arts Academy at Garibaldi allows students to pursue an education in theatre and explore career opportunities in theatre, dance, voice, film and television. Graduates of the Garibaldi program have gone on to pursue careers in theatre, dance, voice, film, television and music.

Lacroix said *Mamma Mia!*, with all its music, dance and cheekiness, makes for a great night of musical theatre that is affordable and fun. "This is a show that is meant to be shared," she said.



Teacher-director Cynthia Lacroix.

YOUNG WOMEN IN TRADES DAY INSPIRES STUDENTS



Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District students learn about careers in the trades.

October 2018 - Goretta Guilbault bulldozed her way into the trades over a decade ago, and now she's helping pave the way for other young tradeswomen.

On October 9, Guilbault shared her inspiring career journey with a group of 29 students from the Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District.

The inaugural Young Women in Trades Day event took place at the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) Local 115 training centre in Maple Ridge.

Guilbault explained that her career trajectory changed one day while she was driving down the road and saw a bulldozer at work on a construction site.

"I looked up and didn't know what it was or what it did, but said 'I'm going to run that' and I just chased my dream," she said.

After landing a job at a construction site she started calling her boss daily to ask if she could operate the bulldozer. Each time, the answer was no. She kept calling.

"I made repetitive daily calls until my boss gave in and let me run the bulldozer," she said.

Guilbault hasn't looked back. She's now a 10-year member of IUOE Local 115 and journeyman heavy equipment operator.

She is also a member of Build Together BC, a campaign of BC Building Trades that promotes, supports and mentors women in the skilled construction trades and she serves on the governance committee of the BC Centre for Women in the Trades.

"It's about connecting female high school students with tradeswomen

for a day of mentorship and career exploration. I think there are more initiatives in place and more young women entering the trades because of the opportunities they now have. There wasn't anything twelve years ago [when she started]. It was a challenge but completely worth it," she said.

Chelsea French, also a member of IUOE Local 115, told the group of students about her job as an apprentice commercial transportation mechanic.

"I work on really big trucks – all those trucks you see on the highway and construction sites. I work on dump trucks, logging trucks, cement mixers, highway tractor-trailers and numerous other types of trucks such as snowplows," she said.

"Here I am with the career of my dreams. It's the best feeling when I

look at my tired, dirty hands at the end of the shift and think about what I've accomplished that day. I wish when I was in high school I had this opportunity to learn about careers in the trades. I would have started this journey right out of high school."

Melanie Mark, minister for advanced education and skills training, told the students that thousands of jobs will be available to them in the trades because workers are aging and retiring. She noted that women make up only five per cent of the construction trades workforce and she hopes to see that percentage increase.

"I think you made the first step by exploring what your options are," she said.

After discussing careers in the trades, students had the opportunity to tour the training facility and check out some of the heavy equipment and cranes.

Steve Wiebe, principal of District Alternate, Youth Train In Trades Programs and Work Experience, said the event was a revelation for many students.

"They had no idea that this training facility was right here in Maple Ridge or that after 12 weeks of training they have the opportunity to pursue a well-paying career as a heavy equipment operator."

Reaunna Barnett, one of the attending students, felt inspired by the event. "I chose to come here today because I've always been fascinated by the trades. Since I was 12, it's been my dream job. Anything and everything [the speakers said was] an inspiration."





School District 42
Maple Ridge & Pitt Meadows

Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow