



SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS

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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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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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MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS TERESA DOWNS

As we reflect on the 2024/25 school year, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the collective efforts of our staff across the Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District. It has been a remarkable year – one marked by the continued commitment of educators, support staff, leaders, and community members who work every day to create safe, inclusive, and caring learning environments for our students.

The stories captured in this year's *District Highlights* magazine are a testament to the rich, meaningful, and rewarding learning experiences being created in our classrooms, schools, and programs. These experiences are not only equipping our students with strong academic foundations but also helping them develop the confidence and skills needed for life beyond graduation. This was especially evident at this year's graduation ceremonies, where we witnessed students cross the stage with extraordinary accomplishments and aspirations for the future, a reflection of the high expectations and support that have guided them throughout their educational journey.

As we celebrate this year's achievements, we are also looking ahead to an exciting opportunity for collective learning. In the 2025/26 school year, our district will embark on a year of exploration and professional growth focused on artificial intelligence (AI). AI is already influencing many aspects of our personal and professional lives, and we recognize the importance of understanding its potential and impact in education. Together, we will be asking questions, sharing ideas, and identifying the safeguards needed to ensure that the integration of AI enhances student learning and supports our educational values.

This journey is not about having all the answers – it's about learning together, embracing innovation, and building a shared understanding that will guide us forward. I invite all members of our community to be part of this exploration as we chart a thoughtful and inclusive path into the future.

Thank you for all that you have done this year. Your dedication and care make a lasting difference in the lives of students and in the strength of our system. I wish you a restful and well-deserved summer break.



Teresa Downs
Superintendent of Schools



LETTER FOR FAMILIES FROM MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE LISA BEARE



Dear Parents, Guardians and Caregivers:

As we approach the end of the school year, I would like to extend my sincerest thanks to you. Thank you for your time, energy, and commitment. Your engagement drives the success of our kids and of our school communities. I hope you take some time with the student in your life to celebrate their hard work, accomplishments, and their opportunities for growth.

As a parent, I know how important it is to ensure that schools are safe and inclusive. I am committed to continuing the work to ensure schools are a place where everyone can show up as their authentic self, and where every student can access what they need to grow and thrive.

Government is working closely with your district to strengthen programs that create safer and more focused learning environments. At the start of this school year, all districts implemented policies to restrict student cell phone use at school. I am hearing directly that this policy is making a difference, and I hope you are seeing that too.

One of the most important programs we have initiated is the Feeding Futures Program. Kids cannot learn on an empty stomach, so we are making sure more students can access food at school, stigma-free. We are working hard to help to relieve some of the inflation burden we are all experiencing.

It has been an honour to meet with people across the province and to see what our extraordinary students have achieved. Hearing about the educational and personal successes never ceases to inspire me in my own learning and work.

So thank you, every parent, guardian and caregiver, for your time, energy and effort. Your dedication and engagement truly makes a world of difference to the school community, and we could not do it without you!

I hope you all have an incredible summer, and I look forward to the years ahead!

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Beare". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Lisa Beare
Minister



**MAPLE RIDGE
PITT MEADOWS**
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM

Homestay Program

*Experience The World,
Host An International Student*



Homestay Program Overview

Maple Ridge - Pitt Meadows School District offers Academic and Cultural Programs to students from around the world. The homestay component of our programs is an excellent opportunity for our students to learn English and experience Canadian culture.

Maple Ridge - Pitt Meadows School District has had an active and successful Homestay Program since 1994.

The Host Families

The main role of the host family is to provide a safe, and comfortable home environment where the student feels encouraged to use their English skills. Host Families are expected to provide a furnished bedroom and meals for the student.

Application Procedure

Please visit our website and apply online.

For more information go to inted.sd42.ca

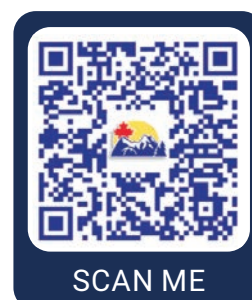
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Summer learning multi-sport camp volunteers Layla Antar and Tianna Bailey hold up a basketball and soccer ball.

SUMMER LEARNING

STUDENT VOLUNTEERS SHOW LEADERSHIP IN SD42 SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAM

Secondary students from Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows were back in the classroom this summer to help younger students learn and play, as part of a new volunteer opportunity.

“It was good, I really enjoyed it,” said Riley Carswell, a Grade 9 student at Maple Ridge Secondary School (MRSS). “I enjoyed making a difference in their lives.”

School District 42 offers elementary and secondary learning options every summer, and this year, high school-aged students were able to volunteer to help out in elementary classes and after-school multi-sport camps.

“Student volunteers got the chance to grow and develop their leadership skills, practice taking initiative, and explore education from a different perspective,” said Hannah Macdonald, SD42 program manager of community connections and healthy living.

“Many of the volunteers who joined us this summer said that their reason for participating had to do with an interest in a future career in education.”

MRSS Grade 9 student Tianna Bailey was one of those volunteers.

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“I really just needed more experience with kids so that if I want to get a job in something like child care or [teaching], then I have more experience with that,” she said.

Bailey volunteered for the after-school multi-sport camps, assisting coaches with setup and cleanup, instruction, and providing alternative activity choices.

“We played soccer, tennis and basketball,” Bailey said. “It was pretty fun.”

Bailey and Carswell also both volunteered for the summer learning program, engaging students in lessons and answering questions.

“Since I’m in French immersion, I helped kids read French books and learn new French words,” Carswell explained. “In the English classrooms that I was in, I was just helping everyone understand what the teacher was saying.”

Having student volunteers like Carswell in the classroom was a treat for everyone, according to French immersion teacher Lisa Gore.

“As a French teacher, it was particularly advantageous when the volunteer spoke French, as it encouraged my young students to speak the language they’re learning,” she said.

At the same time, Gore added, “the student volunteers learned practical skills, empathy, and the importance of community through hands-on experience and interaction with younger students.”

In the end, it was a fulfilling experience for Carswell.

“The best part was helping kids,” he explained. “If a kid was having a rough day, I’d sit with them and we would work together and stuff like that ... By the time I left, their day had been improved tenfold and I think that was the most rewarding thing for me.”

Maya Mendez-Whitehead, a Grade 10 student at Thomas Haney Secondary, had a similar experience volunteering and helping elementary students with classwork like spelling and art.

“I loved just helping them out and being there for them,” she said. “It made me feel good to make sure they had somebody they could ask for help so that they could learn.”

At the same time, it helped Mendez-Whitehead build her resume.

“I’m trying to get a job for next summer,” she said. “[This] will really help on my resume.”

All student volunteers received letters from the school district outlining how they helped the programs, the strengths they showed and the number of volunteer hours they earned.





FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT

NEW PITT MEADOWS SECONDARY COMING



Students will soon have a new school now that funding is approved for Pitt Meadows Secondary.

“Students and families are benefiting from our government’s huge investments in school projects like the one right here in Pitt Meadows,” said Rachna Singh, Minister of Education and Child Care at the time of the announcement. “In the last seven years, we have delivered more classrooms in modern, safer and seismically upgraded schools for communities throughout B.C., and it’s making a real impact in B.C.”

The province’s investment of more than \$143 million is on top of the school district’s contribution of \$142,000 that will create 1,100 student seats. The school will be built to LEED Gold Standards and include energy-saving

measures during construction to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

A neighbourhood learning centre will also be used to provide purpose-built space for Indigenous education, expand the gym, and provide a theatre space and teaching kitchen for community use in Pitt Meadows. The school district is also considering options to create a new child care facility on site to make the location a comprehensive community hub.

“This replacement school is a key component of the government’s broader strategy to ensure all students have access to secure and modern learning environments,” said Lisa Beare, MLA for Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows and

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current Minister of Education and Child Care. “I’m so excited that families and surrounding communities will benefit from the new school for decades to come.”

In seven years, the province has approved \$206.9 million to the Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows School District. This includes \$8.4 million school district contributions. Some of the major capital projects include one site acquisition in East Albion, seismic upgrades at Fairview Elementary and Westview Secondary, and the seismic replacement with expanded capacity at Eric Langton Elementary creating more than 2,130 safe seats and 215 new seats in the Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows School District.

“I would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the Ministry of Education and Child Care for its significant investment in this project,” said Elaine Yamamoto, board chair, Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows School District. “This new, seismically safer facility will also be a great addition to the community with a neighbourhood learning centre, which will provide purpose-built space for Indigenous education, expand the gym, and provide a theatre space and teaching kitchen for community use in Pitt Meadows.”

Since September 2017, the B.C. government has approved \$5.1 billion for new and improved schools, and land purchases for schools in the province. This has resulted in more than 35,000 new student spaces and almost 37,000 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 future schools.



MLA Lisa Beare and SD42 board chairperson Elaine Yamamoto hug after the announcement is made.



Left to right: Pitt Meadows Secondary vice principal Anne Girbav, MLA Lisa Beare, SD42 board chairperson Elaine Yamamoto.



BACK TO SCHOOL

Davie Jones Elementary and Highland Park Elementary kicked off the 2024/25 school year with some fun outdoor signs, while Webster's Corners Elementary put on some glow-in-the-dark activities like bowling and cornhole.



TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION WEEK

MAPLE RIDGE, PITT MEADOWS STUDENTS AND STAFF MARK TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION WEEK



During Truth and Reconciliation Week, students and staff across the Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District spent time learning about the legacy of residential schools and the histories of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples. They learned about the many children who never returned home, the survivors, and all the families impacted by residential schools.

At the elementary level, students took part in drumming circles, visits from Elders, and meaningful art projects. Secondary students learned about the intergenerational impacts of residential schools, came up with art displays to reflect their learning, and participated in school-wide events.

Each class at Eric Langton Elementary chose an act of reconciliation to make a commitment to, and then wrote it down on a piece of paper as part of a year-long project. Once a class follows through on their commitment, they will take a string and weave it on the school's loom to represent acts of reconciliation.

In a school-wide assembly at Glenwood Elementary, Grade 6/7 students made a presentation about the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. They shared examples of what Glenwood Calls to Action could look like, such as personalized land acknowledgements and offering a larger selection of Indigenous foods for lunch.

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Every student at Davie Jones Elementary coloured a piece of paper in the shape of a hand and wrote down what they learned from the stories they heard and read during the week by Indigenous authors. Students wrote down words like “hope,” “kindness,” and “history.” The artwork was then put together to form a bulletin board display with the words, “Every Child Matters,” in the centre.

Fine arts teacher Jon Pretty says it’s meant to be a visual representation of the school community actively working towards truth and reconciliation.

“This is a project where every student can see their own contribution to their school community as a whole and can point to their work amongst their friends and community,” Pretty explained. “This extends beyond the school walls as well, where students will share this mural with family and create conversations around the significance and context of Orange Shirt Day.”

Alouette Elementary held a drumming circle on Orange Shirt Day, with Katzie First Nation Elder Coleen Pierre and Mavis Pierre in attendance. The entire school gathered outside, forming a large circle. Elder Coleen Pierre spoke to the students about the significance of wearing orange, thanked them for taking part, and then read aloud a poem she wrote in honour of residential school survivors. After that, Mavis Pierre, along with some students, performed a traditional song.

Students and staff at Maple Ridge Elementary participated in a friendship circle to listen and learn, and

provide a physical representation of their commitment to reconciliation.

Alexander Robinson Elementary spent all of Orange Shirt Day learning about truth and reconciliation. Students began the day with an assembly, then went from class to class to participate in different stations and activities. They ended the day with another assembly to enjoy some Bannock and discuss what they learned.

At an assembly for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation at Edith McDermott Elementary, students and staff were joined by two Katzie singers who performed a welcome song. They then heard from student presenters about the meaning of truth and reconciliation, and finished off the assembly by listening to *Blackbird* by the Beatles, sung in hənq̓əminəṇ.

Maple Ridge Secondary held an honour circle to bring together the school community for truth and reconciliation. After reading a personal story from Indigenous Education support worker Sherri Thompson (Britton) about the impact of residential schools on her family, all staff and students gathered outside the school. They circled the building and heard from the school’s Circle of Indigenous Youth and Allies about the significance of Orange Shirt Day, honouring the truths of the past, and how to move towards reconciliation.

Every student at Highland Park Elementary painted a rock to represent the children who never made it home

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from residential school. Students brought their rocks to an assembly where they sat in a circle and sang *My Ancestors*, a song gifted to the school by Katzie youth Lilly Teare Cunningham and her sisters. They then collected all the rocks and created a display.

At Pitt Meadows Secondary, students in Ms. Carlos' social justice class created a display of orange handprints across school lockers as part of a campaign to bring awareness to truth and reconciliation and get other students thinking about what it means.

The SD42 Indigenous Education department celebrated its name change with Elder Ed Pierre and Elder Yvonne Pierre on September 23, 2024. Following a suggestion from Indigenous Education support worker Robbi-Lynn Lamour, the department staff wore orange shirts and took a photo to mark the milestone and honour the work that went into the name change.

"In the spirit of truth and reconciliation, the department celebrates the brilliance of the department staff's gifts and talents they bring to schools every day," said Kathleen Anderson, district principal of Indigenous Education.





“I used this drum to represent where I came from and [to] help out other people understand what the ceremony is.”

- Jakob, Grade 7

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION WEEK

ALOUETTE ELEMENTARY STUDENTS SHARE SIGNIFICANCE OF DRUMMING CIRCLE

Students at Alouette Elementary took part in a drumming circle at the end of September for Orange Shirt Day.

Staff and students gathered in a large circle on the school field, joined by Katzie First Nation elder Coleen Pierre and her daughter, Mavis Pierre.

About 10 students stood next to them, holding drums.

"I used this drum to represent where I came from and [to] help out other people understand what the ceremony is," said Grade 7 student Jakob. "And the significance of one drum beat mixed together makes a community."

His drum, Jakob added, is special because it was given to him by his grandfather.

"I didn't really get to spend any time with him," he said. "So as long as I can [drum], then I guess that's all I can really do."

The student drummers were accompanying Mavis Pierre, who sang in her traditional language.

Before the performance, elder Coleen Pierre spoke to the students about the significance of wearing orange and thanked them for taking part.

"What is amazing about the presentations, the talks and events that I'm asked to participate in is it's definitely sincere how the schools address it," Pierre said. "They show compassion. If they see me shed tears, they cry along with me, which means, I interpret it as they're sharing in the sorrow that I carry, that I've heard, that I observed from speaking to those survivors."

Pierre also read aloud a poem honouring residential school survivors that she wrote after hearing from survivors at an event in Mission, B.C.

Grade 7 student Olivia says it's important to listen



and acknowledge the pain residential schools caused.

"It makes me feel sad that people had to actually go through that," she explained. "It's actually something that needs to be taken seriously because it's actually really sad, and I really feel a connection when they speak about our ancestors."

Brooklynn, a Grade 6 student, agreed.

"It's really sad for me because they had to go through all that pain, like we didn't," she said, adding that even though it's sad, she's glad they are acknowledging what happened.

Pierre noted that events like this one highlight the growing awareness of what happened at residential schools.

"It means so much to not only myself as an elder, but being a survivor of a residential school survivor," she said.



Elder Coleen Pierre reads a poem honouring residential school survivors.



TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION WEEK

SD42 SALISH WEAVE COLLECTION DISPLAYED PUBLICLY FOR THE FIRST TIME



Indigenous education support worker Melinda Mouland, Albion Community Centre recreation coordinator Jen Baillie, and ̓əsqənelə Elementary teacher-librarian Janet Smith hold up an art piece from the Salish Weave Collection.

In the spirit of reconciliation, the Salish Weave Collection owned by the Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District Indigenous education department is on public display for the first time.

The exhibit featuring Coast Salish artwork was on display at the Albion Community Centre (ACC) until October 18, 2024, as part of Culture Days, a nationwide celebration of arts and culture.

“This artwork travels around the district and can be signed out for exhibit by schools as requested,” said Janet Smith, teacher-librarian at ̓əsqənelə Elementary, where the collection is housed. “We were so pleased to be

allowed to borrow it from the district.”

Since ACC and ̓əsqənelə Elementary are neighbours, she explained, it made sense to collaborate and encourage learning about culture and acts of reconciliation in this way.

The **Salish Weave Collection** features modern pieces highlighting current styles, techniques and subjects used by local Coast Salish artists. It also showcases themes rooted in culture, including nature, change, connectedness and cycles, that remain important to the artists.

“It means a lot to us to be able to share this exhibit with

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the community and showcase Indigenous art,” said Jen Baillie, recreation coordinator at the ACC.

Baillie noted the exhibit also supports the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s **Call to Action 83**, which speaks to the importance of collaborative projects and works between Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists that contribute to the reconciliation process.

The exhibit opened on September 26, just before the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The response was overwhelmingly positive.

“We’ve heard comments from visitors that they have not seen Coast Salish art before and what a pleasure it is to be able to see it in their neighbourhood,” Baillie said.

čəsqənelə Elementary students joined the public in visiting the collection and learning about the Coast Salish art.

Smith hopes those who visit the exhibit will love the pieces as much as čəsqənelə Elementary students and staff.

“The artists behind each work have gifted us with a window into Coast Salish culture and for those of us who are not members of this Indigenous family, we should stop and take time to learn, appreciate and grow our understanding,” Smith said.





TERRY FOX RUNS

MAPLE RIDGE, PITT MEADOWS SCHOOLS RAISE MORE THAN \$30K FOR CANCER RESEARCH

Students and staff at schools across Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows put on Terry Fox Runs and fundraising campaigns to raise money for cancer research this fall.

At least 18 schools in the district held their runs during the months of September and October, raising more than \$30,400 and surpassing last year's total.

"The Terry Fox Run is an important school event that emphasizes the importance of community and contribution," said Gary Lozinski, principal of Yennadon Elementary.

"It highlights the importance of positivity and the power to impact change in our world. We know there are families in our community that have been impacted by cancer... supporting cancer research is a way to stand alongside them."

Yennadon Elementary raised nearly \$6,400 – the highest amount of the 18 schools. Students ran through the community, with teachers and Grade 7 students serving as spotters along the route that looped back to the school.

"I am incredibly proud to be a part of our Yennadon

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school community,” Lozinski said. “The funds raised by our school’s families, students and staff highlight the impact we can make when we come together.”

Ridge Meadows RCMP also joined in on the fun during the run by bringing along two officers in shark costumes.

“The fact that the sharks and an officer in full gear ran with the students was the talk of the day for students,” said Lozinski. “Students loved the creativity and enthusiasm they brought to the event.”

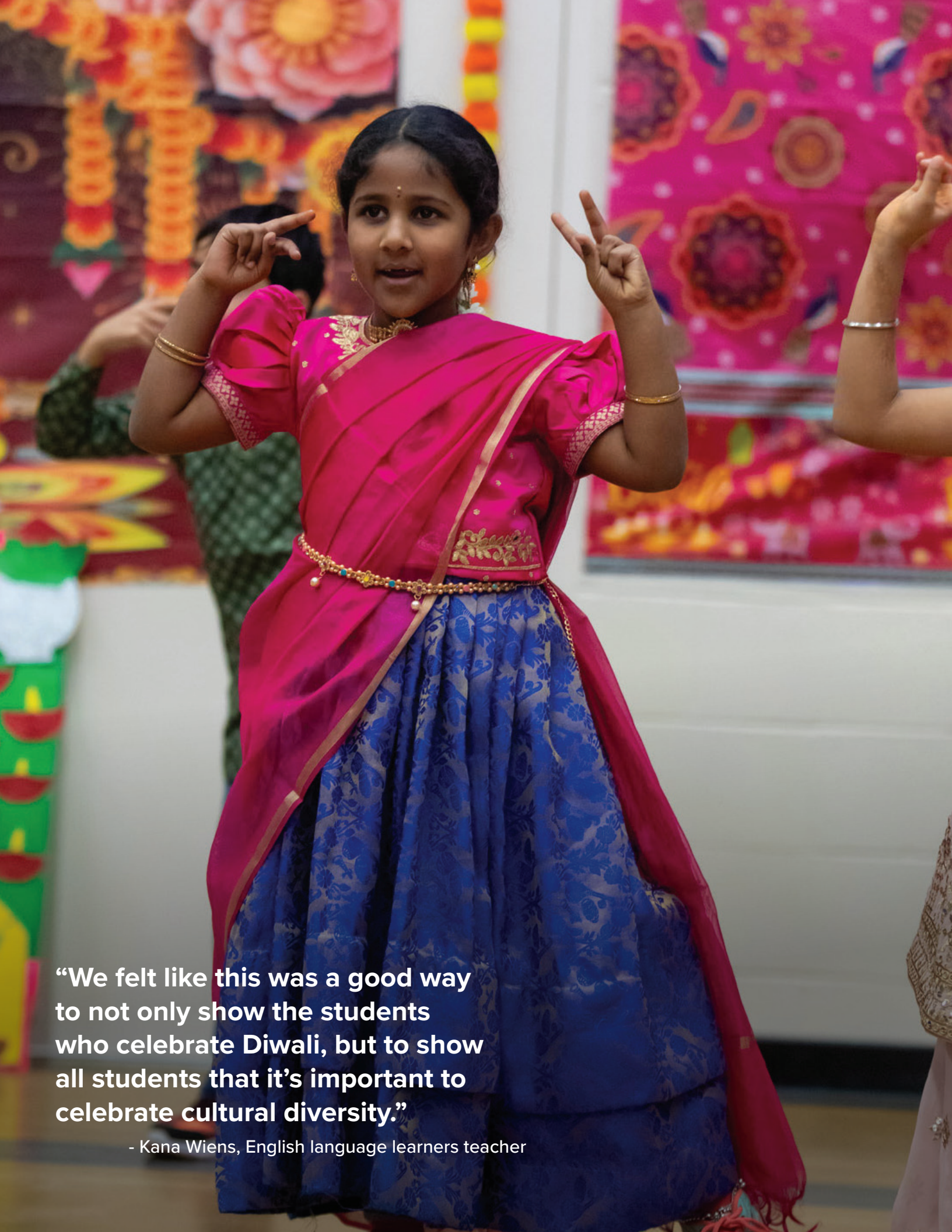
RCMP also joined students at Kanaka Creek Elementary as they ran through Kanaka Regional Park and surrounding neighbourhoods. One Kanaka teacher donated her hair to support cancer patients after reaching her fundraising goal of \$1,200.

čəsqənelə Elementary, in the meantime, held a fundraising campaign that brought in about \$4,700. Students who raised more than \$50 were entered into a random draw to pie a staff member in the face.

Other schools also collected Toonies for Terry, and the fundraising isn’t over yet. Some schools will be holding their runs in April.

“Contributing positively to a cause that is bigger than themselves is an important lesson for our students to experience,” said Lozinski. “Together, we can beat cancer.”





“We felt like this was a good way to not only show the students who celebrate Diwali, but to show all students that it’s important to celebrate cultural diversity.”

- Kana Wiens, English language learners teacher



FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

MAPLE RIDGE STUDENTS CELEBRATE DIWALI THROUGH SONG AND DANCE



Harry Hooqe Elementary students perform at their school-wide Diwali assembly.

Students at Albion Elementary and Harry Hooqe Elementary celebrated Diwali with presentations and performances.

“We wanted our students to have an opportunity to celebrate Diwali and be proud of their culture,” said Kana Wiens, English language learners (ELL) teacher at Albion Elementary.

Wiens and Grade 4/5 teacher Terry Jung organized Albion’s school-wide assembly on Nov. 1, 2024. It took two weeks to put it all together with 11 students participating in grades 3 to 7.



“We felt like this was a good way to not only show the students who celebrate Diwali, but to show all students that it’s important to celebrate cultural diversity,” Wiens explained.

The assembly began with a presentation explaining what Diwali is and how it’s celebrated.

“I did the longest line there was [...] about the first day of Diwali and summing up what Diwali is,” said Grade 5 student Dhyen. “It’s called the festival of lights because we put down divas and [...] it’s like a guiding lamp for

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Bhagwan (God) to come in and stay in our house.”

Grade 4 student Yazhini also spoke at the assembly.

“Diwali represents... light over darkness and good over evil,” she explained. “My favourite part about Diwali is spending time with family and friends.”

After the presentation, Grade 3 student Karan and Grade 5 student Roop played the harmonium and tabla. The assembly wrapped up with two energetic dance performances, showcasing Bollywood and bhangra dance forms.

“They practiced really hard for this assembly [and] I’m so proud of them,” said Wiens. “It’s not easy to stand up in front of the whole school and to dance and to perform.”

Harry Hooge Elementary also held a school-wide assembly to celebrate Diwali. There were two lively dance performances – one by primary students and the other by intermediate students. Students were also able to get their hands adorned with mehndi (henna) after the assembly.





Students in the Interdisciplinary Arts Academy rehearse for their show, Mamma Mia!

ARTS TRAINING ACADEMY

‘A COMMUNITY AND A FAMILY’: SD42 INTERDISCIPLINARY ARTS ACADEMY GOES BEYOND MUSICAL THEATRE

Inside Garibaldi Secondary’s theatre, three students stand at the front of the stage.

The curtains open behind them and the audience is transported to a small Greek island, as the first notes of a musical number ring out.

“We are rehearsing for this year’s show, *Mamma Mia!*” said Sharmila Miller, director of the SD42 Interdisciplinary Arts (IA) Academy. “The production started last February with auditions.”



For three months, students in the IA Academy have been rehearsing nonstop.

“We do musical theatre productions that are full-scale Broadway musicals,” Miller said. “We are a professional training academy; we try to give students as close to a professional

experience as possible so that they are prepared when they go out into the real world.”

The cast and crew learn how to manage their time, work together as a team, and improve their organization

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“This was a place where I met most of my best friends and most of the people who I hope that I can stay in touch with for the rest of my life.”

- Gillian Booth, Grade 12



and communication skills, she explained.

This year's production has about 45 cast and 18 crew that take on choreography, costuming, props, acting, sound, lighting, stage management and marketing.

There are two casts, meaning two students will play the same role on different show days. Grade 12 students Angelika Alincastre and Mackenzie Powell both play the role of Sophie Sheridan, the main character.

"I lean on Mackenzie a lot with helping me memorize my lines and figuring out my blocking and spacing," Alincastre said. "She's got it all."

The pair have been part of the IA Academy since Grade 9, just like Grade 12 crew members Gillian Booth and Mya Patterson.

"First I was in cast and then I made the spectacular decision to switch to crew, which I think better fit me," said Patterson, and that's what she has stuck with since.

Patterson is the sound operator, while Booth takes care of the lighting. Although they both enjoy the work involved, that's not the reason they join the academy every year.

"I kept coming back because it was more like a community and a family," Booth explained. "Especially in high school, I feel like it's hard for a lot of people to sort of find their own family."

"So, this was a place where I met most of my best friends and most of the people who I hope that I can stay in touch with for the rest of my life, especially this one right here," Booth said, taking Patterson's hand.

Other cast and crew members feel the same way, including Alincastre and Powell.

"I've known Angelika for four years now since we joined," explained Powell, "but even people that have



joined just this year, they become like family to you in the span of a month."

Alincastre agreed, adding that theatre is a safe space to be yourself in.

"You just have a family here and it's just another community where it's kind of like a little getaway," she said.

Assistant director and cast member Jaelyn Frend is an IA Academy alumna. She graduated in 2021 but has returned to the academy twice since then to help with assistant directing, choreography, costuming and acting.

"My time in the academy was such an amazing experience because of the bonds and relationships you make with other cast members as well as crew," Frend said. "You've honestly made friends for life."

The academy takes place at Garibaldi Secondary off the regular timetable and outside of school hours. The program is open to all Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District students. A successful audition/interview is required to register.

"If you're a big fan of theatre, I think this is a wonderful place to start," said Patterson.

"Even if you're not," added Booth. "We've had people come in here who are like, 'I don't like musical theatre, I don't like musicals, yada, yada, yada,' and then by the end, they're all singing along to every single song and they keep coming back."

Mamma Mia! ran at the Garibaldi Secondary theatre from November 20 to November 30, 2024, at 7 p.m. Saturday matinee shows took place at 2 p.m.

Learn more about the Interdisciplinary Arts Academy by visiting <https://secondary.sd42.ca/gss/interdisciplinary-arts-academy-ia/>.





“We really enjoyed having the kids help us! More hands make less work, even when the hands are tiny.”

- Malcolm McCulloch, Maple Ridge
urban forestry supervisor

PLANTING DRIVE

ALEXANDER ROBINSON ELEMENTARY STUDENTS TEAM UP WITH CITY TO PLANT TREES



Alexander Robinson Elementary students take a group photo after planting trees with the City of Maple Ridge.

Students at Alexander Robinson Elementary rolled up their sleeves last month to plant nearly a dozen trees next to the school as part of a planting drive with the City of Maple Ridge.

“We really enjoyed having the kids help us! More hands make less work, even when the hands are tiny,” said Malcolm McCulloch, the city’s urban forestry supervisor. “Seeing their smiles and how excited they were to help made our day.”

They planted three catalpas, three oaks, and three pagoda trees along the path in the park, as well as two elm trees next to the playground. Students from all grades participated.

“Tree planting drives teach students about their role in our fight against climate change,” said Ashish Dev, SD42 energy and environmental sustainability manager. “It also reminds students about the impact trees have in our lives on a daily basis.”

Dev had approached the City of Maple Ridge back in June hoping to organize a planting drive in the fall, and it turned out McCulloch was already planning one.

“We had already planned to plant 11 trees at Alexander Robinson Park through a BC Hydro regreening grant and thought it would be a perfect opportunity to include the students,” McCulloch explained.

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The park had been identified as lacking canopy cover, and the goal was to plant more trees to provide shade for the heavily used pathway and playground.

“Engaging students with something hands-on like this creates ownership, and as they age in life, it becomes a positive memory that has a lasting impression,” Dev said.

On Oct. 22, the team got to work. McCulloch and his crew arrived early and began the planting process.

“We were able to dig the holes and place the trees in the ground prior to the kids helping us – the root balls were extremely heavy,” he explained.

The students then helped transfer soil to the trees to complete the planting.

When they were done, Dev handed out sustainability star stickers to thank them for their hard work.

“We hope the children can visit this site as they grow up and have pride when they see the trees mature and know that they made a difference in their community,” McCulloch said.





GIVING THANKS

WHONNOCK ELEMENTARY PUTS ON ANNUAL GRATITUDE FEAST

Whonnock Elementary held their annual Gratitude Feast in November. It's a tradition that gets the entire school community involved.

SD42 students, staff and families help prepare, serve, and share a meal to express their gratitude for each other and the community.

This year, they had vegetable soup, biscuits, bannock, and mini pumpkin pie tarts!





The MRE Songbirds perform “Yohahí:yo (The Good Road)” by Shawnee Kish for the Canadian Music Class Challenge.

MUSIC CLASS CHALLENGE

MAPLE RIDGE ELEMENTARY CHOIR PERFORMS INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE SONG FOR NATIONAL CONTEST

The choir club at Maple Ridge Elementary put on their best performance for a national music contest held by the CBC.

There are more than 70 submissions in their category, but according to the students, their chances of winning are pretty high.

“We’ve definitely got a shot,” said Grade 4 student Addison. “It’s just 50/50. Probably something like that.”

Max, who is in Grade 2, agreed with those odds.

“It’s just some people were coughing a lot and they were going a bit too fast,” he explained, and that brought their odds down to 50/50.



The **contest**, organized by CBC Music in association with Juno Awards charity MusiCounts, challenges music classes and choirs across the country to learn a Canadian song from a **pre-approved list**.

The Maple Ridge Elementary choir chose *Yohahí:yo (The Good Road)* by Shawnee Kish.

“It’s a song in Mohawk, an Indigenous language, and I chose it because that’s one of [the] goals of our school,” said Alliette Mora, the school’s fine arts teacher. “We want to really learn more about Indigenous culture ... and I thought it was a great opportunity.”

The song features lyrics in both English and Mohawk.

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Each line is first sung in English and then repeated in Mohawk, teaching students the language as they sing along.

“It was tough because it’s not a language that you know yet,” explained Grade 4 student Mya.

But with some practice, it became easier to sing in both languages.

“Once you sing it like once or twice, you kind of start to get the hang of it,” said Max.

“It was fun,” added Zoey, who is in Grade 4. “I thought it was different because most people just sing in English but we sang in two different languages.”

When the choir felt confident in their performance, they recorded it and submitted their video for judging.

“They did awesome, they’re so dedicated,” said Mora. “They come every week without a miss and they’re always so happy to just come and sing with their friends.”

Judges evaluated submissions in 11 categories ranging from primary vocal to senior instrumental. The top 10 in each category were announced on Dec. 9, and winners were announced on Dec. 16, 2024. Prizes included gold-record plaques and gift certificates to purchase new musical instruments.





STUDENT LEADERSHIP

THOMAS HANEY SECONDARY PUTS ON LARGEST STUDENT-LED CRAFT FAIR IN PROVINCE



Thousands of people attended the two-day Thomas Haney Happening Arts & Crafts Fair.

The Thomas Haney Secondary student council is being recognized for their hard work and dedication in putting on the largest student-led craft fair in the province.

“It surpassed all expectation of what we thought the event was going to look like,” said Reece Reichelt, coordinator of the event and president of the school’s student council.

More than 9,000 people attended the two-day craft fair that featured 120 vendors and six food trucks.

Premier David Eby wrote a letter to the students congratulating them on their success.

“I would like to acknowledge the Thomas Haney Secondary School Student Council, who are responsible

for putting on this wonderful community event,” Eby wrote in his letter.

“Student-led initiatives provide important opportunities to learn valuable skills and for the students to show their innovation and leadership. The ongoing success of this event is a great demonstration of what a committed group of young individuals can achieve when they work together.”

Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows MLA and Education and Child Care Minister Lisa Beare presented the letter to the students during the fair.

“It means a lot not only to me personally but to us as a team to have our progress and hard work recognized,”

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"I would like to acknowledge the Thomas Haney Secondary School Student Council, who are responsible for putting on this wonderful community event."

- David Eby, Premier



said Reichelt, who is in Grade 12.

There were 78 student volunteers in total that made the event possible on Nov. 23 and 24, 2024. On Friday, volunteers worked together to set up the area, moving around tables, putting up displays, and programming the cash registers.

During the fair on Saturday and Sunday, volunteers were assigned to various roles, including ticket sales and greeting, parking attendants, child care, popcorn sales, raffle ticket sales, event supervision, guest and vendor relations, and technical support. Students also hosted the Culinary Café, featuring an assortment of food and specialty coffee drinks for purchase.

Several Thomas Haney Secondary teachers and staff members were on-site throughout the weekend as sponsors and administrators to provide support where needed.

“Our students were incredible ambassadors for our school and provided exceptional hospitality to vendors and guests all weekend,” said principal Darren Rowell. “They worked as a team with delegated responsibilities and management to ensure all aspects of the event ran smoothly. The level of detail and planning that went into the event was exceptional.”

The Thomas Haney Happening Arts & Crafts Fair has been a staple event in the community since 1993. It was a teacher-led event up until 2017, when it was cancelled and then put on pause during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Reichelt decided to bring it back last year as a student-led event, with guidance and encouragement from staff.

In 2023, the craft fair had about 100 vendors. This year, there were 120 vendors with a waitlist of 97.

The community response, Reichelt noted, has been overwhelmingly positive.

“I got to speak with people who used to come to the craft fair for years before it was discontinued and they were able to come back this year and see the show, see everything we built, everything we worked so hard for, and they truly appreciated it,” he said.

One of the vendors, Tammie Gamble, was so impressed with the students that she wrote an email to the school to express her appreciation.

“As a retired teacher, I was amazed at the keen leadership, ingenuity, and dedication that Reece and his fellow volunteer students exhibited throughout not only this weekend but the past year’s preparation!” she wrote. “This was a massive undertaking, and it went off in a spectacular fashion!”

Gamble says she hopes to be a participant in next year’s craft fair as well.

The students were able to raise approximately \$32,000 that will go back to the Thomas Haney Secondary community in student scholarships/bursaries and equipment to support school improvement.

“The most fulfilling thing for me was to get to see all us students work together cohesively and have fun while doing it,” said Reichelt.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

MAPLE RIDGE SCHOOLS CREATE HOLIDAY BULLETIN BOARDS CELEBRATING DIVERSITY



Westview Secondary and Laity View Elementary are getting into the festive spirit with bulletin board displays celebrating different holidays around the world at this time of the year.

Indigenous Education support worker Jessica Green and helping teacher Jessica Bedard put together a bulletin board at Westview Secondary with some students. In the middle of the board are the words, “hílákʷ kəlísməs,” which means “Merry Christmas” in hənqəmínəm.

The display features winter scenery, with snow-covered hills, trees, and silhouettes of animals. Each animal is labelled with its hənqəmínəm name:

- Bear: speʔəθ
- Wolf: stqayeʔ
- Deer: sməyəθ
- Eagle: yaxʷəleʔ
- Raccoon: məlləs
- Beaver: sqəlélw

Meanwhile, students in Victoria Csillag’s Grade 1/2 class at Laity View Elementary have spent the last seven weeks learning about different fall and winter celebrations around the world. Each week, they focused on a different celebration and made a related craft or art project to add to their bulletin board.

“They are so proud of their learning and multicultural display,” said Csillag.

Students learned about Diwali, Ramadan, Hanukkah, St. Lucia’s Day, Kwanzaa, Las Posadas, and Christmas.





The Hammond holiday train was rolled around the school delivering candy canes to classrooms.



COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS

HAMMOND HOLIDAY TRAIN SPREADS CHEER

Introducing the Hammond holiday train!

According to principal Adam Stanley, this “1/5 scale festive train” was rolled around Hammond Elementary to deliver candy canes to classrooms, much to the delight of students.

Built from repurposed signs, a retired guinea pig hutch, and black paper from the copy room, this contraption required a driver who would be able to handle its asymmetry, rear steering and limited visibility from a single small rhombus window.

Kudos to vice principal Hannah Baerg, who took on that challenge and made sure those candy canes were delivered.





COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS

‘TIS THE SEASON OF GIVING AT MAPLE RIDGE, PITT MEADOWS SCHOOLS

Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows students got into the spirit of giving this holiday season by collecting toys and money for donation, writing cards to raise spirits, and knitting warm toques for those in need.

Eleven schools across the district participated in Coins for Kids, including Albion Elementary, Alexander Robinson Elementary, Davie Jones Elementary, Golden Ears Elementary, Hammond Elementary, Laity View Elementary, Pitt Meadows Elementary, Whonnock Elementary, Yennadon Elementary, Samuel Robertson Technical, and Thomas Haney Secondary.

The fundraiser was run by leadership students at each school and together, they raised \$6,222 for the Christmas Hamper Society.

Leadership students at Yennadon Elementary, with support from teacher-librarian Candace White, put on a photo fundraiser for the BC SPCA with a jolly old twist.

Decked out in Santa suits, the Grade 7 group posed for photos with other students for \$1 each. “It was the best moment of my elementary school career,” said Alexa, one of the student Santas. “I’ve been waiting to do this for eight years!”

Student Ayla also donned the classic red suit and fluffy white beard, and while it may not have been the highlight of her time in school, it was still a lot of fun.

“It was awesome! I felt the Santa energy,” Ayla said.

For Grade 7 student Olivia, however, there was one downside.

“I had so much fun but the wig was itchy,” she explained.

But the students persevered and they were able to raise \$388 to donate to the BC SPCA.



“It’s important we give to the SPCA because animals deserve to have a warm, safe place to be and someone to take care of them,” said leadership student Lily.

The Yennadon student leadership team also collected food donations for the Friends in Need Food Bank and raised more than \$1,900 for the Coins for Kids campaign that supports the Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows Christmas Hamper Society.

The Whonnock leadership club held a lemonade sale to raise money for Coins for Kids, while the school’s parent advisory council (PAC) and child and youth care worker raised more than \$400 through a giving tree fundraiser to support families in need.

Meanwhile, Davie Jones Elementary put on their annual school-wide fundraiser called the “Five Days of Holiday Giving.”

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"It was the best moment of my elementary school career. I've been waiting to do this for eight years!"

- Alexa, Grade 7 Santa



On the first day of holiday giving, the school collected new or gently used gloves, toques and scarves for the Food for the Soul Project Society. For days two and three, students and staff brought in non-perishable food for the Friends in Need Food Bank. The fourth day was all about donating new toys, and day five saw collection of new or gently used socks.

Kanaka Creek Elementary held its annual candy drive at the beginning of the month, where staff, students, and the school community donate their leftover Halloween candy to make the holidays a little sweeter for seniors and those in need.

Through the month of November, they collect donations while students in various classes decorate small paper bags with holiday drawings and messages.

Then, during the last week of classes, teachers Debby and Paul Moran transform their classrooms into a scene that resembles Santa's workshop, as students get to work stuffing the Christmas bags full of candy, ready for delivery.



This year, they put together 795 bags of candy to deliver to eight senior care homes, the Friends in Need Food Bank, and a local alcohol and drug treatment facility.

Students at Yennadon Elementary made holiday cards for seniors in the community. They sent 200 cards to a seniors community centre, 75 cards to Greystone Manor, and more than 100 cards to Maple Ridge Seniors Village.

Grade 6/7 teacher Megan Kossaber-Graham organized the school-wide project and says making the cards helps build a sense of community and connection.

"Students gain a sense of pride that they are doing something kind for someone else and helping to spread holiday joy," she said, adding that the process of making cards in class also leads to some "powerful conversations about giving back and the meaning of the holidays."



Kirsten Bailey's grade 6/7 class at Laity View Elementary also made gifts by hand this holiday season. For nearly a decade, Bailey's classes have been loom knitting toques that they donate to people in need on the Downtown Eastside.

"This project blends curriculum from Socials and ADST (Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies) with social emotional learning and opportunities to help others, not just themselves," Bailey explained.

This year, the students knit 122 toques over a two-week period, smashing the previous record of 88. Several students even knit multiple hats a day, with the top knitter making 42 in total.

"The students were very motivated and each year the hats get better and better," Bailey said. "We are so thankful to all the parents and school community who donated yarn to keep us knitting."

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Meanwhile, Laity View leadership students put on a toy mountain drive. They collected new, unwrapped toys to support families in need through the Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows Christmas Hamper Society.

“Together, we hope to make this holiday season unforgettable for each and every child,” said Grade 6/7 leadership teacher Noelle Perrett.

Garibaldi Secondary students raised \$1,729 for the Christmas Hamper Society and collected 738 non-perishable food items for the Friends in Need Food Bank. The school also raised \$121 in their Winter-Friendship Candy Grams campaign that will be donated to Alisa’s Wish Child & Youth Advocacy Centre.

Finally, the school district’s Continuing Education department received a \$3,000 donation from the Maple Ridge Lions Club that will be used for Christmas hampers for families in need.



A young woman with blonde hair in a ponytail, wearing a dark blue flight suit and clear safety goggles, is seated in the cockpit of an aircraft. She is reaching up with her right hand to adjust a control panel on the ceiling. The cockpit is filled with various instruments, gauges, and control panels. The background shows the aircraft's interior and the view out of the windshield.

**“If you apply yourself and if
you work for it, you can see the
results.”**

- Alexis Hodacsek, Grade 12



TRADES AND APPRENTICESHIPS

SD42 STUDENTS SOAR TO NEW HEIGHTS IN AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE ENGINEER TRADES TRAINING PROGRAM



Alexis Hodacsek, Grade 12 student at Pitt Meadows Secondary, works on an aircraft in the BCIT hangar.

Secondary students in Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows have one more skilled trades training option to get their careers off the ground: aircraft maintenance engineering.

The school district is offering the new dual credit trades program in partnership with the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT). Dual credit programs allow high school students to take post-secondary courses and earn Grade 12 elective credits towards graduation at the same time.



“It’s a really great opportunity to explore if you have a passion for this sort of thing,” said Alexis Hodacsek, a Grade 12 student from Pitt Meadows Secondary. “You can really get a feel on what your future is going to look like and where you want to go.”

Hodacsek is the first SD42 student to secure a spot in the new dual credit program.

“Being an aircraft maintenance engineer, we are able to completely strip down an aircraft and rebuild it back up,”

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explained Hodacsek. “And we mainly do structural work. It’s basically like bringing your car into an auto body shop, but it’s an aircraft instead.”

The dual credit program covers the first year of the two-year **aircraft maintenance engineer category ‘M’ (AME-M) diploma program** at BCIT.

“It’s a certification that’s recognized around the world for anybody who wishes to work on small aircraft – as small as bush planes – all the way up to large jets, commercial airlines, and helicopters,” said Brad Dinger, trades and apprenticeships coordinator with SD42.

Students spend about half the day learning theory and half the day doing practical training in the shops and hangar at BCIT’s aerospace technology campus near the Vancouver International Airport.

Upon completion of the diploma program, students earn a credit of 18 months towards the 48 months of experience required by Transport Canada to obtain the AME-M license. The remaining 30 months they complete through apprenticeships.

“Right now, there is a lot of demand for graduates to become apprentices,” said BCIT aircraft maintenance instructor Abbas Mojarab.

There are a lot of employers and opportunities out there, he noted, including Cascade Aerospace, Helijet, Million Air, Sunwing, Air Canada, WestJet, and Air Canada.

“They all need aircraft engineers,” Mojarab said.

Dinger says he’s excited to offer this program for students in the Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District.

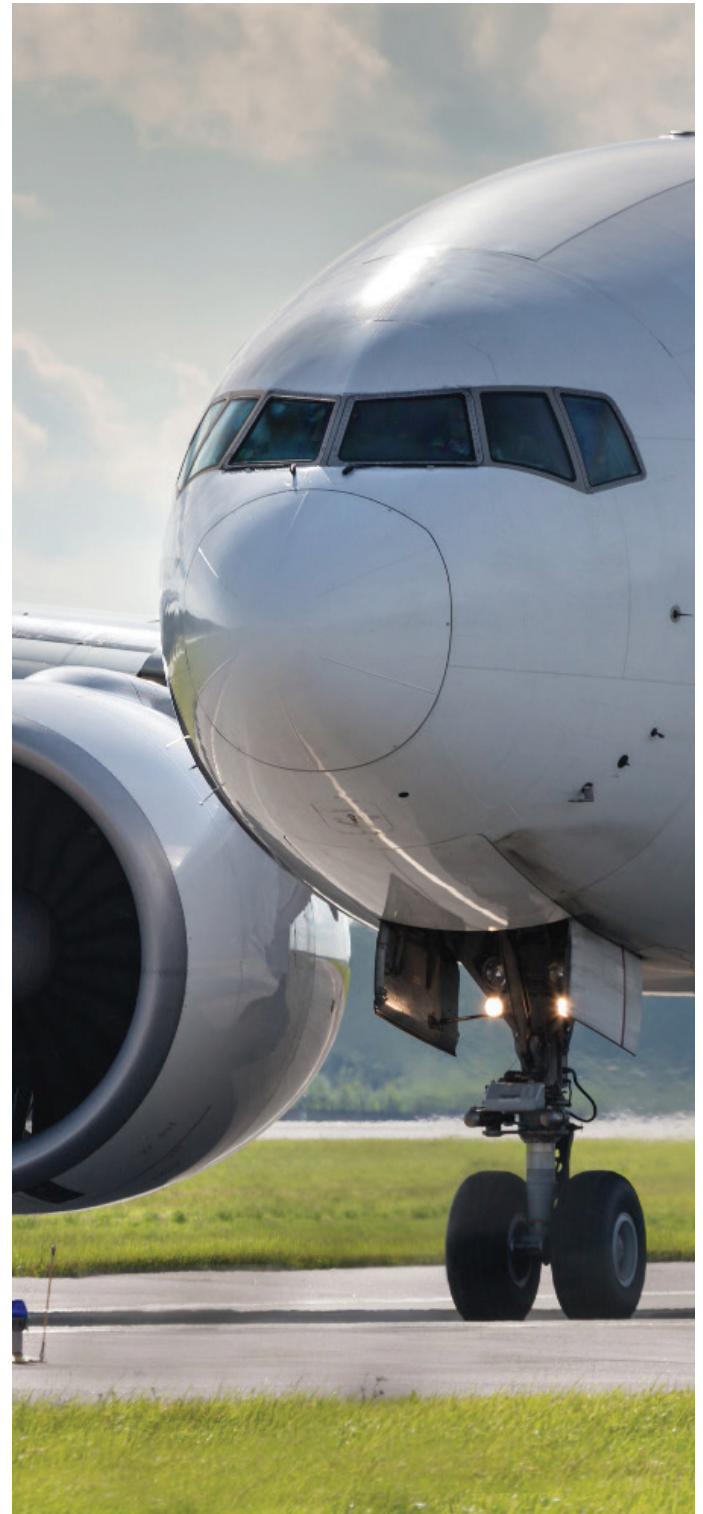
“As a school district, we endeavour to offer as many opportunities as we can for students,” he said. “This is just another opportunity that we want to provide so students can pursue something they’re passionate about in their Grade 12 year to start them off in a career that will lead them to a satisfying and rewarding lifelong learning opportunity.”

It’s an opportunity that Hodacsek says has kick-started her career.

“Working hands-on in this hangar, [...] the shops, and just being on the campus alone, it really feels like if you want to do something – if you have a dream or a passion about anything – if you apply yourself and if you work

for it, you can see the results,” she said. “It’s almost like, I don’t want to say dreams coming true, but your goals coming true.”

Learn more about the aircraft maintenance engineer dual credit program and other SD42 apprenticeship training programs on the Trades and Partnerships Programs Website: <https://apprenticeship.sd42.ca/>.

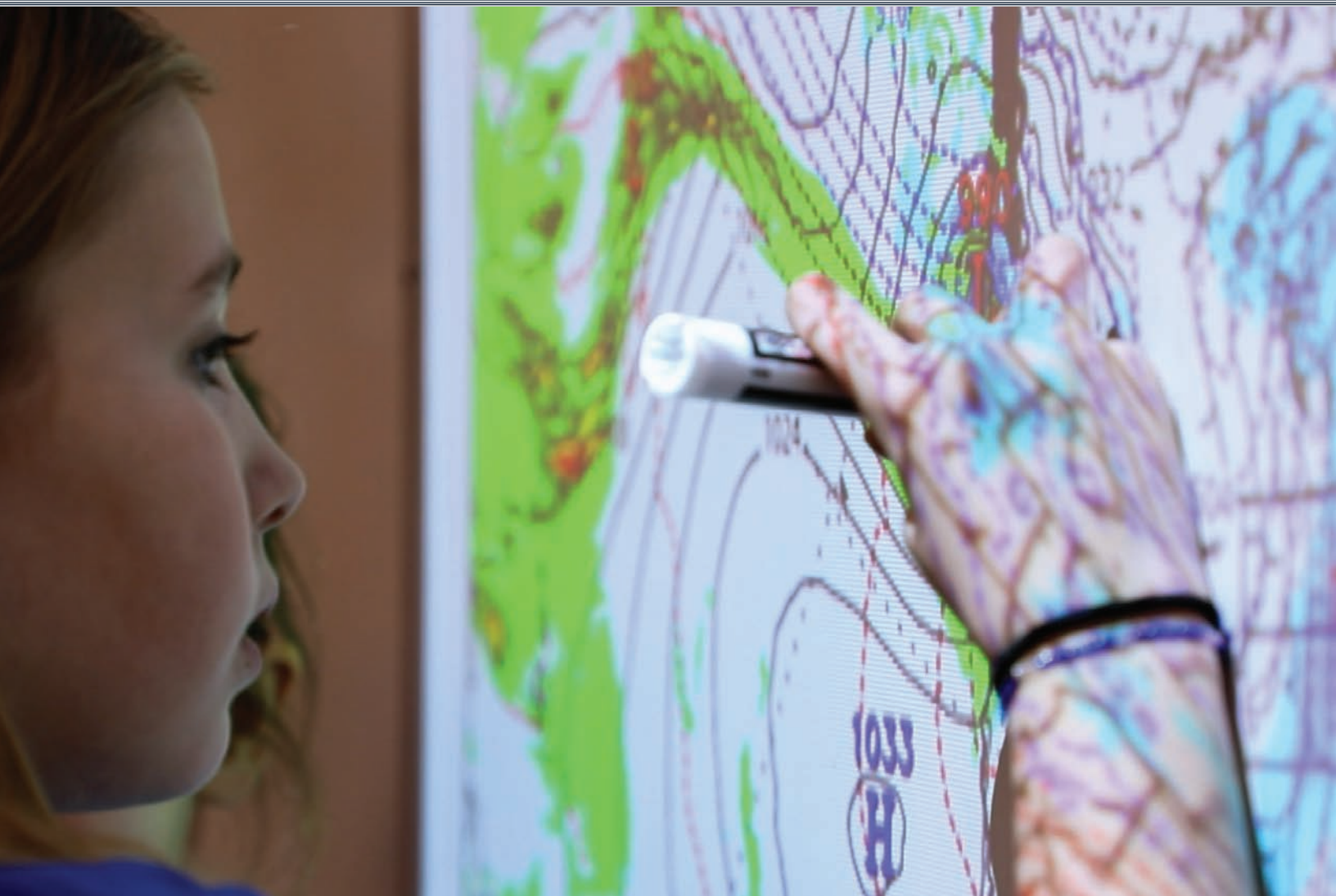




TRADES AND APPRENTICESHIPS HUNDREDS ATTEND SD42 TRADES SHOWCASE

More than 800 people attended the annual Trades Showcase at Thomas Haney Secondary on January 23, 2025. Families heard from industry experts, tried interactive hands-on simulators, and took part in breakout sessions.





Alexander Robinson Elementary student Mayla, who is in Grade 4, writes on a projection of a weather model.

FORECASTING FUN

STUDENTS AT ALEXANDER ROBINSON ELEMENTARY GET ‘CIRRUS’ ABOUT THE WEATHER

Alexander Robinson Elementary students are forecasting a blizzard of fun in the weather club.

“It’s like, you’re looking at weather, you’re learning about it,” said Grade 4 student Willow, who is a member of the club.

Every Monday and Friday morning, students in the weather club deliver the forecast to the whole school over the announcements.

“We did it today, this morning,” said Grade 4 student Mayla.



“We do it all the time,” added Willow.

Sharing the forecast on the school announcements is one of their favourite things about being in the club.

“You talk into a phone,” Mayla explained.

“At first, it feels, like, really scary,” said Willow. “But once you warm up, it’s kind of better. You’re kind of not scared anymore because you’ve already done it.”

The weather club is made up of about 10 students that

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meet every Friday at lunch time. Grade 4/5 teacher John Schwarz started the club seven years ago.

“I’ve always been passionate about the weather ever since I was about the age of the students I’m teaching right now,” Schwarz said. “I could talk to 10 different people throughout any given day and always be happy to talk them about the weather.”

The goal of the club is to learn about the weather in greater detail, Schwarz explained, but also have fun doing it.

Students learn about the different types of clouds outside, how to read weather models to predict trends, and put on schoolwide competitions where classes make educated guesses on how much snow or rain the area is going to get.

“We go to [...] radar sites from Environment Canada and from the University of Washington in Seattle and we look at storms,” Schwarz said. “We also have a weather station located at the top of our roof and students get real-time information about what is happening at our school.”

Students say they enjoy tracking storms and reading the radar site maps because it helps them predict when there might be snow.

“My favourite part is we get to know when there’s going to be snow and when there [are] going to be hurricanes,” said Grade 4 student Caylen.

Stella, who is also in Grade 4, agreed.

“I like to know when it’s going to snow and when it’s going to be sunny and then I can prepare for the days,” she explained.

The weather club goes beyond just delivering the forecast to the school, Schwarz added.

“I always like to relate the weather club to things that are happening in our world,” he said, whether that’s learning about significant weather events like a hurricane or why we haven’t had a cold winter.

“It’s also important that we go outside and we scan the skies,” Schwarz said.

Students look at the clouds and identify their classification and characteristics, such as cirrus clouds that are white, wispy and feather-like.

“We also look at wind direction so we can see where the clouds are coming from and going to,” Schwarz said. “And we also have many weather instruments that will tell us about the pressure readings.”

At the end of the year, Schwarz hopes students take away one key lesson.

“Weather, although it’s fascinating to watch, it’s very complicated,” he explained. The weather forecast is “very reliable” in the first two days, but “not very reliable” beyond five days.





Davie Jones Elementary staff and students formed a heart shape on the field for Pink Shirt Day.



KINDNESS MONTH

‘YOU’RE NOT ALONE’: GLENWOOD ELEMENTARY STUDENT MAKES KINDNESS CARDS FOR THE SALVATION ARMY



Grade 7 student LJ holds up some of the kindness cards he created for the Salvation Army.

“If you are having a bad day, look at this and remember you’re not alone.”

Grade 7 student LJ wrote that message inside one of the kindness cards he created for Salvation Army Ridge Meadows Ministries.

“Smile,” reads another, with a colourful illustration on the front. A vibrant painted wooden heart is tied to the top of the card with some twine.

The cards are part of a project LJ took on for the month of February, which is often referred to as kindness



month in the lead up to Pink Shirt Day on Feb. 26.

“I decided to do it because my mom works for Salvation Army and the amazing work she does made me want to do this to help her out at work,” LJ explained. “She thinks it’s a good project.”

With the help of educational assistants and Glenwood Elementary support teacher Andrea Jeang, LJ was able to create dozens of cards with uplifting messages for the

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Salvation Army over a two-week period.

“As February is kindness month, I thought it would be meaningful for LJ to be able to do a kindness project,” Jeang explained. “He has always enjoyed helping out in the school community, including working with younger students and doing jobs around the school.”

Last year, she added, he even made a speech on helping those experiencing homelessness.

“LJ has shared with me that he wants to do similar work to his mom when he gets older,” Jeang said.

When Jeang pitched the idea of the cards to LJ, he was interested right away. He went home that night and asked his mom how many clients she worked with. When she said 35, he set out with the goal of creating a card for each of them.

LJ said he hopes the cards make his mom’s clients “happy” and that “it brightens up their day.”

“We have people doing everything they can to help out the community,” he said. “We should do our little bit too.”





YEAR OF THE SNAKE

ALBION ELEMENTARY STUDENTS CELEBRATE LUNAR NEW YEAR WITH LION DANCE

Students line the hallways at Albion Elementary as bright red and yellow lion heads bob up and down to the beats of a drum.

The lions are making their way around the school, dancing and collecting red envelopes hanging from the doorways of each classroom to celebrate the Lunar New Year.

“Our lions danced through the hallways and ate the red envelopes, which symbolizes bringing good luck and prosperity into the new year,” explained English



Language Learners teacher Kana Wiens. “All the bright colours and noise are meant to chase away evil spirits.”

Each lion was made up of two students – one inside the lion head and the other forming the body and tail.

Grade 7 student Kirsten was controlling one of the lion heads.

“It was pretty interesting because I’ve never celebrated with a lion dance before,” she said. “Also, it was funny

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Each lion was made up of two students – one inside the lion head and the other forming the body and tail.



because I [could] put my hand out of the mouth and ... grab the red envelope.”

The lions were followed by two students on a drum and a parade of kindergarten and Grade 1 students wearing paper crowns and holding up paper lanterns.

“I think the Lunar New Year – me being in the parade – was actually pretty cool, actually,” said Grade 4 student Naomi. “Really cool.”

Wiens organized the parade with Grade 4/5 teacher Terry Jung, who brought in the lion heads, decorations and the drum. He also taught the students how to do the lion dance.

“Our students were really happy and excited to see their culture being represented at the school,” said Wiens. “Our goal was to show that Lunar New Year is not only celebrated by Chinese communities, but also by South Korean, Vietnamese, and many other communities around the world.”

2025 is the Year of the Snake, the sixth animal in the 12-year cycle of the Chinese zodiac.

“The Year of the Snake means wisdom and transformation,” Naomi said.

In Vietnamese, she added, the Lunar New Year is called Tết.

“We go over to other families in our complex to visit them and to give them red envelopes,” she explained,

“and they give us red envelopes filled with money and it’s pretty wholesome.”

In Korea, they use white packets instead of red envelopes, Kirsten said.

“My favourite part of celebrating the new year is getting white packets because I usually can’t get any money when I want to, so that one is my chance to get money,” she said.

Grade 5 student Kim says his family celebrates the Lunar New Year by cleaning their home, having a big feast, and wishing his relatives in China a Happy Lunar New Year.

“We celebrate Lunar New Year because we want to have good luck and we don’t want any bad luck in our house,” he said.





ci:tmæx^w Environmental Community students learn how to play para ice hockey from Team BC.

ADAPTIVE ICE SPORT

CI:TMÆX^w ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY STUDENTS GET A LESSON IN PARA ICE HOCKEY

One of the best parts of playing para ice hockey, according to students from the ci:tmæx^w Environmental Community, is you don't have to wear skates.

"I liked that I didn't have to wear skates," said Grade 6 student Oliver. "It was fun."

Thirty-five students in grades 5 to 7 had the opportunity to try the adaptive ice sport in February, with some coaching from Team BC players.

Para ice hockey, also known as sledge hockey, has the same rules as stand-up ice hockey. Rather than wear skates, players sit on sleds with skates underneath and use two sticks to pass, shoot, and move around.

"It was so amazing having the students [...] out to try para hockey," said Team BC player and Thomas Haney Secondary alumna Madison McKenzie. "Seeing their eagerness and enthusiasm to learn more about the sport

reminded me of why I fell in love with para hockey."

For many students, she noted, it was their first time in a sled or learning what para hockey is.

"We were all so excited to see their progress throughout the session and their ability to adapt and pick up the sport," McKenzie said. "They showed determination and resilience, resembling true para hockey players."

The session was facilitated by **SportAbility BC**, a non-profit association that promotes participation in sports for people with physical disabilities.

While the lesson was a lot of fun for students, it wasn't without its challenges.

"It was harder than I thought it was going to be," said Grade 7 student Evan. "It was easier than hockey because

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you didn't have to skate, but it was difficult to use two sticks."

ci:tmæx^w Environmental Community principal Nicole McKenzie says staff and students have been discussing accessibility in class and this field trip was an opportunity to show them firsthand what it looks like in practice.

"We talked about how they all came to the session at the same place," McKenzie explained. "No one knew how to play so they were all learning together. No one was better than the other. We also talked about perseverance and trying something new and challenging."

"It was an opportunity for our students to learn something new, persevere together and to understand accessibility while meeting players that are able to play the sport they love."





Whonnock Elementary students walk to Whonnock Lake for the Coldest Night of the Year fundraiser.

WALK FOR CHARITY

MAPLE RIDGE STUDENTS WALK FOR COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR FUNDRAISER

Two Maple Ridge schools joined thousands of Canadians across the country in the Coldest Night of the Year walk to raise money for local organizations that support those in need.

Students at Whonnock Elementary walked from the school to Whonnock Lake, while ci:tməxw Environmental Community students walked through the Malcolm Knapp Research Forest.

“It’s important for students to positively connect with their community,” said Erin Kieneker, the teacher who led the annual fundraiser at Whonnock Elementary. “This fundraiser helps them recognize that not all

families come from the same circumstances, and that all children deserve to be warm, well fed, and supported.”

The **Coldest Night of the Year** is held in February each year and participants walk 2 or 5 kilometres to raise money for local charities and show their support. The idea behind the fundraiser is that by walking in the cold, participants feel a hint of what those experiencing homelessness go through during winter.

Whonnock Elementary raised \$732 for Mission Youth House, a non-profit organization that provides meals, showers, laundry, counselling, and other support services

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to youth experiencing homelessness or those at risk.

Kieneker's and Grace Hubert's Grade 1/2 classes also collected blankets, snacks, soap and hygiene products to create care packages for Mission Youth House.

Meanwhile, ci:tməx^w Environmental Community students raised \$380 for the Maple Ridge Street Outreach Society, a non-profit organization that provides education to its members and the public, advocates for policy change, and provides support and networking opportunities for people who use substances and those who are unhoused. The school also raised \$175 for Food for the Soul Project Society, a non-profit organization that provides counselling, substance use treatment and food programs.

Before their walk through the Malcolm Knapp Research Forest, ci:tməx^w Environmental Community students heard from one of the Maple Ridge Street Outreach Society members. They then gathered for a drum circle before walking through the forest as a school, with parents and siblings alongside students.





‘A STORY ABOUT GENERATIONS’

COAST SALISH HOUSE POST UNVEILED AT čəsqənelə ELEMENTARY

A 16-foot Coast Salish house post now stands at the entrance of čəsqənelə Elementary, welcoming students, staff and visitors into the school with a message of connectedness.

The carving on the 600-year-old cedar house post depicts a golden eagle clasp ing a hatching egg.

Kwantlen First Nation artist and carver Brandon Gabriel hopes when people see the pole, they see the story it tells.

“[It’s] a story about generations and it’s a story about family and community,” Gabriel explained.



Gabriel and his carving team from Octopus Spirit Enterprises – Elder Lekeyten and Luther Aday, also of the Kwantlen First Nation – worked for two years to bring the story to life.

In the summer of 2022, the principal at the time invited Gabriel to the school to discuss the possibility of a public art installation.

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"I wanted to create an art piece that was a unifier, something that the school community could all be proud of."

- Brandon Gabriel,
Kwantlen First Nation artist



“We discussed a mural, we discussed 3D sculptures, we discussed collages,” he said. “And we decided that the most fitting tribute to the school and the most respectful and historically accurate with respect to Indigenous culture would have been a Coast Salish welcome pole.”

Prior to colonization, these welcome poles were the first thing to greet visitors at longhouses, Gabriel explained.

“And these carved welcome figures were [intended] to show the power and authority, the heraldry and the strength of the community [...] you visited,” he said.

While the landscape is no longer dotted with longhouses, Gabriel noted, it’s important to recognize this history and uphold it.

“So, I think it’s fitting that it’d be placed at the entrance of this school,” he said.

Gabriel and his team got to work. They found an old growth red cedar that had been naturally felled by lightning in Port McNeill on northern Vancouver Island.

After harvesting the log, they began the design

consultation process, which included members of the Katzie First Nation, Kwantlen First Nation, members of other Stó:lō communities, and SD42 staff and students.

“I wanted to create an art piece that was a unifier, something that the school community could all be proud of,” he explained. “Something that could easily be told and retold no matter what age you were, no matter what your connection to the school is.”

After one year of consultation, they settled on a design. The Hən̓q̓əmi̓nəm name of the school, čəsq̓ənelə, translates to “where the golden eagle gathers.”

“It’s a direct reference to the very land that we’re standing on,” Gabriel said.

This land used to be one of North America’s primary breeding and migratory grounds for thousands of eagles each winter, sustained by the large salmon population in the Fraser River, he explained.

“This place is special,” Gabriel said. “To this day, this land still provides enough abundance of resources for people to call this place home. So, I wanted to create an artwork that is a direct correlation and a direct reference to those phenomena.”

Gabriel and his team carved on site at the school and students were able to watch them work and ask questions.

After one year of consultation and eight months of carving, the pole was finished.

The house post was unveiled in a ceremony at čəsq̓ənelə Elementary on March 12, 2025.





Glenwood Elementary students sell decorated picture frames at the entrepreneurship fair.

YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

GLENWOOD ELEMENTARY STUDENTS SELL HANDMADE PRODUCTS AT ENTREPRENEURSHIP FAIR

Business is booming at Glenwood Elementary, where students are turning big ideas into amazing products at their first entrepreneurship fair.

More than 150 students from grades 4 to 7 took part in the fair, selling handmade products like slime, fidget toys, stickers, lip gloss, soap, magnets, artwork and clay figurines.

Some of the most unique products were horseshoe hooks, crocheted cat hats and 3D printed items.

“The fair was a huge success,” said Kim Larson, a grade

4/5 teacher. “Many students felt very successful with what they created and how it went with the customers!”

Larson, along with Glenwood teachers Alexandra Barnes and Marguerite Ferguson, put together the academic work for students and oversaw the planning and organization of the fair.

“We wanted to provide an opportunity for students to learn how to operate a small business and to learn how to manage money,” explained Larson. “We wanted students to develop financial literacy, work on skills related to

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group work, go through the design process and use their creativity for a unique product to meet the needs of their potential customers.”

The young entrepreneurs learned about what goes into producing, selling and marketing a product.

Grade 6 student Leighton sold macrame keychains at the fair.

“We had to design it, draw some ideas and pick the best one,” she explained. “We had to do a budget and fill out a financial page with our earnings.”

Leighton says she learned a lot from participating in the fair, including how much items cost and how to budget.

“Also, how to price the item, as some more expensive items didn’t sell until the parents and families came to the fair. That slime is really popular with other kids,” she added.





Harry Hooke Elementary students Aarohi, Samreet, Mehkirat and Armaan.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

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

Students from three Maple Ridge elementary schools are explaining what Vaisakhi is and how it's celebrated in a new educational video.

Albion Elementary, Fairview Elementary and Harry Hooke Elementary students in grades 3 to 6 participated, with guidance from English Language Learners (ELL) teachers Harjit Chauhan, Sukhdeep Birdi and Kawaldeep Ghuman. ELL teachers Kana Wiens and Susan Eskandari also helped some students practice their parts.



"We wanted to make a video about Vaisakhi to share our students' experiences and educate our school communities about this important festival in the South Asian community," explained Chauhan, ELL teacher at Fairview Elementary.

Vaisakhi (or Baisakhi) is a spring festival that celebrates the beginning of the harvest season and the founding of the Khalsa in 1699. It is

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celebrated by Sikhs around the world and in Punjab, India, where many people rely on farming for their livelihood.

“Our South Asian students, parents and extended family members have come from or have lived in this area and continue to farm in Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows,” said Kawaldeep Ghuman, ELL teacher at Harry Hooze Elementary. “It’s important to acknowledge Vaisakhi because it is meaningful to our students, their families and us.”

When you acknowledge and showcase different cultures and traditions, you are fostering a sense of inclusion and belonging, she added.

In the video, students break down the meaning of Vaisakhi, the different ways it’s celebrated, and the importance of the harvest. They describe visiting a gurdwara, the Vaisakhi parade (nagar kirtan) and the selfless service (seva) that takes place during the celebration. The students also explain the different traditions they take part in and their significance.

“Students were excited to participate and share their knowledge and experiences about Vaisakhi in the video,” said Sukhdeep Birdi, ELL teacher at Albion Elementary. “They were excited to dress up in traditional clothing such as their Punjabi suits and kurta pajamas.”

When students were rehearsing their lines for the

video, Chauhan added, they were looking forward to the upcoming celebrations.

“We could hear the excitement in our students’ voices when they described their Vaisakhi plans such as getting together with family and meeting with their cousins at the parade,” she said.

These discussions were wonderful to take part in, Ghuman added.

“It was interesting to learn how students celebrate Vaisakhi in their own special ways and it was wonderful to make our own personal connections too,” she explained.

Vaisakhi is all about spending time with loved ones, dressing up, enjoying traditional food, and spirituality, said Birdi, noting it is much like other spring celebrations in that sense.

In past years, the group of ELL teachers have produced other educational videos with their students highlighting different holidays and traditions, including **Ramadan**, **Diwali**, and **Nowruz**.

“We hope that our Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows school communities gain a better understanding of Vaisakhi and continue to learn about the different festivals that represent our students,” said Chahaun.

This year, Vaisakhi fell on April 14, 2025.



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INSPIRING CHANGE

HIGHLAND PARK ELEMENTARY STUDENTS REDUCE FOOD WASTE BY NEARLY 9 POUNDS FOR EARTH DAY



Yin Tsia's Grade 3/4 class at Highland Park Elementary.

A Grade 3/4 class at Highland Park Elementary put on a school-wide challenge to reduce food waste and inspire change.

"We noticed that a lot of perfectly good food is ending up in the bin and my students felt inspired to take action," said teacher Yin Tsia. "We wanted to cut down on the amount of food being thrown into the green compost bins."

The class came up with a fun incentive to get the whole school on board: if they could significantly cut down food waste, a few students would get to dump buckets of water over the heads of the principal and vice principal.

In the week ahead of Earth Day, the students got to work. They shared facts and tips on how to reduce food waste on the morning announcements and created posters to put up around the school.

The students monitored the green bins during lunch and weighed the food waste collected.

"The event was a huge success," Tsia said. "Everyone

had a great time, and it was amazing to see the students so involved."

By the end of the week, the school had reduced its food waste by 8.5 pounds – and the principal and vice principal kept their promises.

"Of course, the highlight for most students was seeing their principal and vice principal get soaked – definitely a moment they won't forget," Tsia said.

The school also celebrated their success with a dance party, rock art, face painting, and recycled art projects.

"Our main goal was to raise awareness and inspire others to see how small actions can make a big impact," Tsia noted. "My hope is that the students walked away realizing that taking care of the Earth doesn't have to be complicated or boring – it can actually be fun and meaningful. Judging by their excitement and the way they jumped into every activity, I'd say the message really stuck with them."



By the end of the week, the school had reduced its food waste by 8.5 pounds – and the principal and vice principal kept their promises.



Thomas Haney Secondary students moderate an all-candidates debate ahead of the 2025 federal election.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

MAPLE RIDGE AND PITT MEADOWS STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT CANADA'S DEMOCRATIC PROCESS

Students across the Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District learned about government, the electoral process, and what it means firsthand to cast a vote in the lead-up to the 2025 federal election.

“I believe that student involvement in politics and candidate debates at school is more than just important – it’s essential,” said Parker McCambley, Grade 12 student and vice president of Thomas Haney Secondary’s student council. “These opportunities help students develop their voices, understand the power of democracy, and become active, informed citizens both inside and outside of school.”

Seven schools participated in **Student Vote**, an educational program and mock election coordinated by

national charity CIVIX and Elections Canada to enhance civic education and engagement for school-aged youth.

After learning about the different parties and platforms, students at Davie Jones Elementary, Harry Hooqe Elementary,  asqanel  Elementary, Pitt Meadows Secondary, Westview Secondary, Garibaldi Secondary, and Thomas Haney Secondary cast their ballots in a mock vote that mirrors the real election in the riding.

Meanwhile, Muriel Warne’s Grade 1/2/3 class at Hammond Elementary created a portrait timeline of the country’s prime ministers from Sir John A. Macdonald to Justin Trudeau.

Students at Thomas Haney Secondary organized and

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held an all-candidates debate on April 23 to encourage civic engagement.

"It was spectacular! We had over 150 students in attendance – a packed room!" said Grade 12 student Reece Reichelt, president of the Thomas Haney student council. "Tons of students went away having learned more about our political climate as well as the various parties and their stance on issues that are important to students and young voters.

"The candidates even mentioned we had one of the best organized debates which, as co-organizer, was amazing to hear! Events like these are truly a stepping stone for getting students involved in the world around them."

The questions Reichelt and co-organizer Parker McCambley asked the candidates during the panel were based on input from the students at Thomas Haney. McCambley says they came up with the questions by having students fill out a Google form.

"We then took the questions and sorted them by category," she said. "These are the issues that students and young voters care about most."

Candidates were asked to speak about their policies on economy, international relations, health care, equality, immigration, and crime.



Timeline of



Prime Ministers



Fairview teachers sing a rhyming song with families at the literacy event.



LOVE OF LITERACY

FAIRVIEW ELEMENTARY PUTS SPOTLIGHT ON LITERACY AT AFTER-SCHOOL FAMILY EVENT

Families gathered around a glowing faux campfire in a classroom at Fairview Elementary, as music filled the air.

“We were like, singing rhyming songs with Dr. Saul,” said Grade 3 student Addison. “We had to do rhyming about animals, like a bear combing his hair.”

The campfire was just one of the stations at Fairview’s family literacy event on May 29.

“The point is [...] to promote literacy but also to show parents and kids how it can be fun,” said Sheralyn Rowledge-Toscani, a Grade 2/3 teacher who helped organize the event. “And learning happens more often if you’re having fun while you’re doing it.”

The after-school event began with a welcome in the gymnasium before families divided into primary and intermediate groups for author read-alouds. Participants then rotated through stations including a campfire sing-along, poetry café, literacy games, quiet reading corner

and story workshop. At the end, the group came back together in the gym for family trivia.

“Books can take you on such adventures,” Rowledge-Toscani said. “Hopefully we have students that will be authors, they will be readers for their whole [lives].”

It’s important for people to read, said Sabrina Moes, who attended the event with her daughter Abigail, a Grade 2 student.

“Kids just need to be excited about books,” she said. “We’re actually trying to write a book and this, I figured, would just get her more excited and to read.”

The book they’re writing, Abigail added, is “about a unicorn, a dragon, and a fox.”

Reading is also useful, according to Addison.

“It just really helps me with spelling,” she explained.



Thomas Haney Secondary culinary arts instructors Brian Smith and Karen Carruthers.

THUNDER KITCHEN

THOMAS HANEY CHEFS SERVE UP NEW COOKBOOK TO SHOWCASE CULINARY ARTS PROGRAM

Bring home the flavours of Thomas Haney Secondary's Thunder Kitchen with a new cookbook by culinary arts instructors Brian Smith and Karen Carruthers.

"Our students are the heart of this cookbook," said chef Carruthers. "It's inspired by their work, their creativity, and the energy they bring to the Thunder Kitchen every day."

The Thunder Kitchen Cookbook is a collection of recipes from the teaching kitchen, along with a breakdown of the program's four key kitchen stations: hot side, cold side, bakery and sanitation. It offers readers a behind-the-scenes look at the culinary structure that supports

students from grades 9 to 12 develop real-world kitchen skills.

"We hope this offers a glimpse into the incredible work our culinary students do every day, and how our shared teaching philosophy extends far beyond simply preparing and serving great food," said chef Smith.

The two culinary instructors have worked collaboratively in the teaching kitchen for eight years.

"We had both dreamed of creating a cookbook for a long time," Smith said.

With some help from the school's photography teacher,

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Randy Dickin, they were able to make that dream come true.

“More than anything, we want to inspire others to cook wholesome food with joy, to approach each day with a positive attitude, and to see cooking as a meaningful life skill,” Carruthers said.

The cookbook features recipes that are simple, nutritious, and easy to replicate at home, she added.

“We selected our most popular and well-loved dishes and recipes that are frequently requested in the cafeteria and those that hold special, joyful memories for our students and staff,” Carruthers said. “Every recipe tells a story of connection, learning, and shared experience.”

Students played an important role in creating the cookbook, Smith added, from formatting the recipes and participating in the editing process, to writing some of the blurbs, and sharing their perspectives on a typical day in the teaching kitchen.

“The cookbook is a way to honour the artful dishes they’ve created over the past decade and to encourage more students to explore the culinary program,” Carruthers said.

The Thunder Kitchen Cookbook is available for purchase for \$30 through the Thomas Haney teaching kitchen, with all proceeds going back into the culinary arts program to help cover the costs of maintaining a fully functioning, professional-grade kitchen.





Grade 6/7 students at Yennadon Elementary use iPads in class.

APPLE DISTINGUISHED SCHOOL

TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION POWER LEARNING AT YENNADON ELEMENTARY

At Yennadon Elementary, being an Apple Distinguished School is more than a title.

It's about creating an accessible, inclusive learning environment where students and staff use technology to collaborate, think creatively, and engage in meaningful ways.

"Technology can be seen as being more of a consumption tool to access information," said Gary Lozinski, principal of the school. "Yet, I think that what we try to emphasize is it being a productivity tool, something that will actually facilitate learning and also [the] curiosity that comes in that process."



Students in Grade 6/7 classes at Yennadon Elementary each receive their own iPad to use in class and while working on assignments at home for the duration of the school year.

This one-to-one program helps meet students where they are, according to Grade 6/7 teacher Megan Kossaber-Graham.

"We use the iPad for every single subject," she explained. "We have different ways that we use it within projects or to link to the curriculum, and then students have the choice and a lot of flexibility and creativity where they can pick how they would like to present the

See next page



information to us through different apps.”

Grade 7 student Madden says he has used Pages, Keynote and iMovie to show his learning.

“We did a novel study wrap up where we could do our own thing,” he explained. “I made a movie trailer for it to wrap up the entire book.”

It’s also great for brainstorming ideas, he added.

Yennadon Elementary is one of only three schools in British Columbia and 18 across the country to be recognized as an **Apple Distinguished School**.

To qualify for the three-year designation, a school must have an established one-to-one program that uses the Apple platform in an innovative way to create new opportunities for learning.

“It really does make learning accessible for all,” Kossaber-Graham said. Students are able to “show their understanding at their [ability] and their grade level and where they are, which is a great thing for accessibility for kids.”

For Grade 7 student Colton, using the iPad to learn has been a game changer.

“My ADHD has made things a lot harder to learn, definitely,” Colton said. “And then in Grade 6, when I first got to use the iPads, it helped me so much, like, it was amazing. It makes it a lot easier to type.”

Zoey, who is also in Grade 7, says the iPad is useful in every subject, including English, French and math.

“It helped me learn how to write papers better and learn how to use Word, which is really helpful for high school since that’s basically what we’re going to use,” she explained. “It helps with math a lot, doing equations that I can’t do inside my head. And with French, WordReference is really helpful.”

Her classmate, Alexa, agreed, adding the iPad has “drastically” improved her French, essay writing and typing skills.

“If I want to find a synonym for a word to spice up my essays, it’ll help me find that so I don’t have to sit there thinking for hours,” she said.

Yennadon Elementary is reapplying for the program in June to renew its designation.





#FRIDAYREADS ROUNDUP

Throughout the school year, teacher-librarians and educators 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 2024/25 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



Your Name is a Song by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow

English language learners helping teacher Leah Kitamura

I recommend *Your Name is a Song* for the beginning of the school year because it teaches us the importance of learning how to say each other's names respectfully. Our names are meaningful because they connect us to our identities, families and cultures.

The main character, Kora-Jalimuso, comes home from her first day of school very upset that her teacher could not pronounce her name. Her mother encourages her to sing her name and to teach everyone that names are songs. When she returns to school the next day, Kora-Jalimuso gathers her courage and sings her teacher's name in front of the class in her lovely tone and voice, encouraging everyone to hear their names as songs, including her own.

All the names in the book are written out phonetically on the pages to help readers pronounce them. The author, Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow, has also uploaded a video pronouncing the different names in the book.

I'm Finding My Talk by Rebecca Thomas

Indigenous Education teacher-librarian Michelle Chabot

The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30 recognizes the tragic legacy of residential schools and honours the children who never returned home, the survivors, and all the families impacted. It coincides with Orange Shirt Day, which was started by the non-profit Orange Shirt Society to raise awareness of the individual, family, and community intergenerational impacts of residential schools.

I have chosen *I'm Finding My Talk* by Rebecca Thomas because it inspires brilliance in Indigenous students for several reasons, particularly through its themes of cultural reclamation, identity, and resilience.

It represents positivity in the light of truth and reconciliation by offering a hopeful, empowering message of reclaiming Indigenous identity and culture. It teaches Indigenous youth that despite historical challenges, they can find strength in their heritage, contribute to healing, and move forward with pride and confidence.

The author, Rebecca Thomas, is an award-winning spoken-word artist and Mi'kmaw activist. She is a second-generation residential school survivor. The vibrant illustrations in the book are by Mi'kmaw artist Pauline Young.



My Papi Has a Motorcycle by Isabel Quintero

čəsqənelə Elementary teacher-librarian Janet Smith

I chose *My Papi Has a Motorcycle* by Isabel Quintero because of the fun and adventurous relationship depicted between a father and daughter. It reminds me of the many things I did with my own dad that sometimes worried my mom!

My Papi Has a Motorcycle provided me with a window into an area of the Americas that wasn't part of my own experience. For Daisy Ramona, everything she sees on her ride through her neighbourhood with her papi is familiar and confirms what she knows about her life. For me, her experiences were all new, in a language that was unfamiliar to me, and made me wish for shaved ice instead of my regular chocolate dipped cone.

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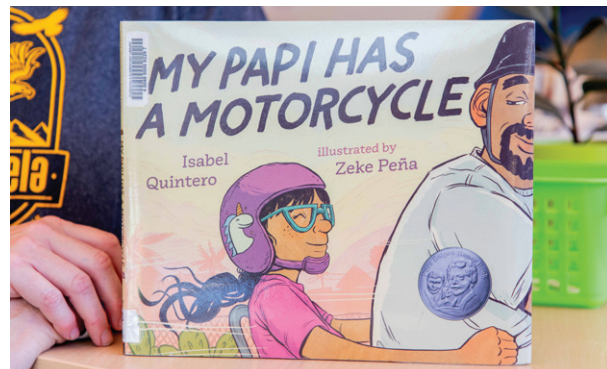


#FRIDAYREADS ROUNDUP

Continued from previous page

This book celebrates a 1970s neighbourhood made rich with Mexican immigrant families, culture and story.

The author, Isabel Quintero, wanted to preserve the stories and memories of the neighbourhood as it began shifting and changing. Through her writing, Quintero aims to share a story that highlights and pays homage to her family's Latino heritage.



Turkey Trouble by Wendi Silvano

Yennadon Elementary teacher-librarian Candace White

All turkeys know they need to be very careful around Thanksgiving.

This clever turkey hilariously tries to disguise himself as a pig, a sheep, a cow and a horse. Unfortunately for Turkey, he doesn't blend in as well as he wishes, and he is found out. He is desperate and is running out of time, but he comes up with his best plan yet!

I love this book because it is a funny look at Thanksgiving from the turkey's point of view with a very creative ending!

Dear Librarian by Lydia M. Sigwarth

Alexander Robinson Elementary teacher-librarian

Anita Neufeld

Dear Librarian is an inspiring, autobiographical book that's perfect for reading aloud during DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) and School Library Day.

In this heartfelt story, the author writes a letter to a librarian who took her under her wing during a time when her idea of "home" was shifting and uncertain.

Students love that the book includes pictures of the author and the actual librarian who inspired the story. As a former library kid myself, I find that I get a bit emotional reading this book aloud!

This story reinforces the transformative power of books and highlights the powerful role of libraries as safe, equitable places that can both heal and protect.

As the story reads, "Those days, the Library was like a home. My own special home. (Even though it wasn't a house.)"





Little Ghost Makes a Friend by Maggie Edkins Willis

Blue Mountain Elementary teacher-librarian Amanda Terris

Little Ghost Makes a Friend by Maggie Edkins Willis is a Halloween story everyone can enjoy. I could really relate to the excitement and fun of Halloween, especially since I love dressing up and celebrating with friends. But this book also shows how hard it can be to make friends and how meeting new people can sometimes feel a bit scary.

This charming story follows Little Ghost's quest to make a friend after years of living alone with his mom. It's about breaking out of your shell (or sheet) and taking a chance, especially when a new girl moves in next door. Little Ghost decides to throw a Halloween party and invite his new neighbour, hoping to make a friend. What will Little Ghost choose as his costume? Will the new girl accept his party invitation?

Little Ghost Makes a Friend shows readers the importance of taking risks when reaching out to make new friends and demonstrates that being your own spooky, sparkly self shows the world who you are and what makes you special. Hopefully, this book inspires you to always be yourself.

Happy Diwali! by Sanyukta Mathur

Equity and racial inclusivity helping teacher Sharmila Miller

I chose *Happy Diwali!* by Sanyukta Mathur because not only do you get to join a family preparing for their Diwali celebrations, but you also get to share in their recipes!

Diwali, also commonly referred to as the festival of lights, celebrates the victory of light over darkness and good over evil.

This story does a wonderful job of providing information about Diwali in an easily accessible manner that will spawn conversations, interest... and an appetite for delicious food.

Fun fact: Nepal, the country I am from, celebrates Tihar, a five-day celebration that honours Yama, the God of Death, and worships Laxmi, the Goddess of Wealth, on the same days as Diwali.



The War That Saved My Life by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

Maple Ridge Elementary teacher-librarian Ken Bisset

I recommend *The War That Saved My Life* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley this Remembrance Day. This Newbery Honor book is one of my favourites in our library because it highlights how children were affected by the Second World War. It has positive role models and characters who work to overcome adversity and fear.

The story follows Ada, a ten-year-old girl born with clubfoot, who is treated harshly by her mother because of it. Confined to her apartment and never allowed to go outside, Ada jumps at the chance to escape with her younger brother, Jamie, when children are evacuated from London during wartime. They are taken in by Susan Smith and the three of them begin to trust each other as Ada learns new skills and keeps watch for German spies. Will they survive the challenges of wartime together, or will Ada's cruel mother intervene?

If you enjoy this book, be sure to check out the sequel, *The War I Finally Won*, where Ada and Jamie's story continues.



#FRIDAYREADS ROUNDUP

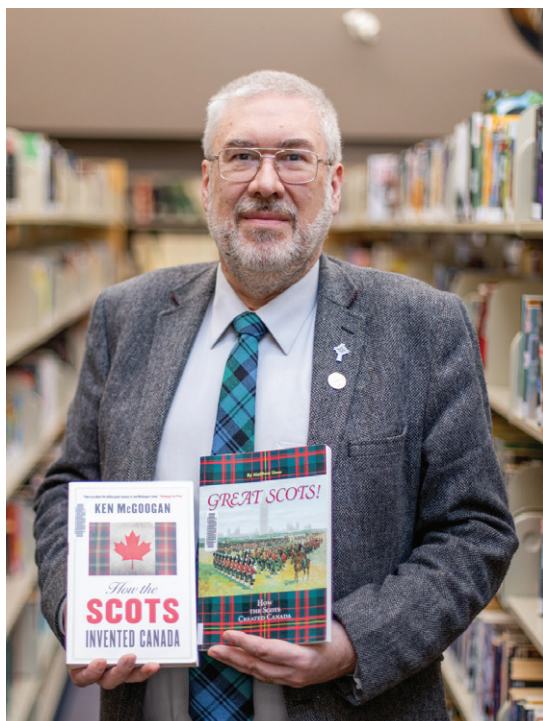
The Magical Yet by Angela DiTerlizzi

Assistant Superintendent David Vandergugten

I recommend *The Magical Yet*, a New York Times bestselling children's book illustrated by Lorena Alvarez Gómez.

This delightful rhyming story is about a young girl who becomes frustrated when learning to ride her bike seems too hard. She nearly gives up – until the Magical Yet appears and encourages her to keep trying!

The Magical Yet teaches us about resiliency and how you might not be good at something right away, but with practice, you can succeed. Resiliency and persistence are qualities that we want to see in all our students and are key to a student's success in adulthood.



Great Scots!: How the Scots Created Canada by Matthew Shaw and How the Scots Invented Canada by Ken McGoogan *Garibaldi Secondary teacher-librarian Keith Thomson*

As we honour the many cultures represented in our schools and our country, it is essential to acknowledge that Canada's story began long before its colonization. This land has always been home to Indigenous Peoples, whose rich histories, cultures, and contributions are the foundation of this nation.

Scottish Canadians, like many other groups, have also played an important role in shaping Canada's modern identity, adding to the vibrant mosaic of communities that together define who we are.

In the 2021 census, about 4.4 million Canadians identified themselves as being of Scottish origin, making them the fourth largest ethnic group in the country. To put that into perspective, the population of Scotland is about 5.5 million. Indeed, there are almost as many Canadians of Scottish origin as there are Scots in Scotland.

Scottish Canadians have left a mark on Canada in areas such as politics, education, business, exploration, and culture. Half of Canada's prime ministers have been of Scottish descent, and Scots were instrumental in founding renowned universities like McGill, Dalhousie, and Queen's.

The Scottish influence and cultural traditions are found in many places across the country. In 2012, for example, Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson removed bagpipes from the anti-noise busking bylaws. All Canadian provinces and territories have their own tartan, and Nova Scotia is Latin for "New Scotland." The original colonial name for British Columbia was "New Caledonia," which also means "New Scotland." Simon Fraser University has an award-winning pipe band that has won several world championships, while the Vancouver Police Pipe Band is the world's oldest, continuous serving police pipe band. You can also still attend Highland Games in many communities across Canada.

St. Andrew's Day is on November 30 each year and pays tribute to Scotland's patron saint and Scottish heritage.

I recommend the following two books to learn more about the Scottish contribution to Canadian society and history:

Great Scots!: How the Scots Created Canada by Matthew Shaw tells the story of the Scottish contribution to Canada from their roles in exploration and politics to their influence across various aspects of Canadian society.

How the Scots Invented Canada by Ken McGoogan looks at the Scottish Canadian story in even more detail. He includes figures such as Nellie McClung, Tommy Douglas, Alice Munro, Farley Mowat and others.



Something, Someday by Amanda Gorman

Superintendent of Schools Teresa Downs

Amanda Gorman's *Something, Someday*, brought to life through Christian Robinson's beautiful illustrations, is a stunning reminder of the power of hope, action, and community. This book speaks to readers of all ages, offering a universal message about acknowledging what isn't right in our world and taking meaningful steps – big or small – toward positive change.

What makes this book so impactful is its focus on the ripple effects of kindness, advocacy, and collaboration. With each read, it manages to catch my breath, inspiring reflection and hope. *Something, Someday* is deeply moving and encourages us to embrace the belief that even small acts of effort can lead to extraordinary results.

It's easy to feel overwhelmed by the weight of the world's challenges – whether in our personal lives, communities, or on a global scale. Gorman's words, paired with Robinson's vivid and heartfelt illustrations, remind us that while we can't do everything, we can do something. Together, those "somethings" add up to create profound change.

This book became an instant favourite for me the moment I read it. Its timeless message makes it a treasure not only for children but for readers at every stage of life. It's a poignant, empowering, and unforgettable read that leaves a lasting impact.



Share Some Kindness, Bring Some Light by Apryl Stott

Laity View Elementary teacher-librarian Natalie Clark

Apryl Stott's *Share Some Kindness, Bring Some Light* is a heartfelt story that radiates warmth and positivity on even the darkest of winter nights. Stott invites readers to embrace the transformative power of kindness by sharing a message of compassion and connection.

The story follows Coco, a little girl, and her friend Bear, who is sad because the other animals think he's mean. Coco comes up with a plan to change their minds – all they have to do is show the other animals how kind Bear is by giving them gifts! As they carry out their plan, Coco and Bear learn that true kindness goes beyond giving gifts.

During a busy season of giving, this story serves as a gentle reminder that small acts of kindness can be the most meaningful gift we can share.

Piranhas Don't Eat Bananas by Aaron Blabey

Harry Hooge Elementary teacher-librarian Fiona Bisset

At the beginning of each year, we talk a lot about New Year's resolutions and goal setting. Your resolutions may involve trying or doing something new. *Piranhas Don't Eat Bananas* is a fun story that's all about just that.

Brian the Piranha wants to try new foods but his friends think he's silly. The other piranhas can't understand why Brian would want to eat a banana – or any vegetables – when there are more delicious foods to eat. Will Brian convince his friends to try just a nibble of something new?



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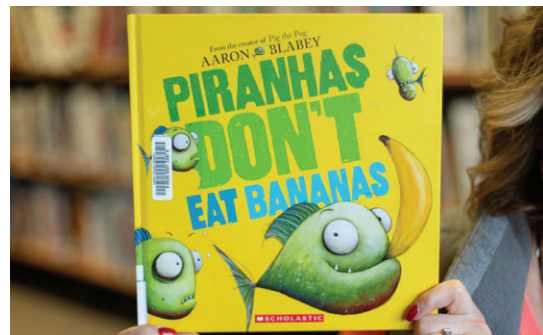


#FRIDAYREADS ROUNDUP

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I love this book because its rhyming narrative is engaging and perfect for beginning readers. It's a funny and "cheeky" take on the importance of taking a chance and trying something new.

Aaron Blabey is also the author of the very popular and well-loved *Pig the Pug* and *The Bad Guys* series.



Rosie Revere, Engineer by Andrea Beaty

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

Rosie Revere, Engineer by Andrea Beaty is a fantastic book that shows us the power of perseverance and creativity. Just like Rosie, we sometimes find things don't quite go our way when we're inventing, doing math, reading, or anything else. It's important to keep trying and to remember that mistakes are part of learning!

I love this book because Rosie serves as a great introduction to STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) concepts, and gets readers excited to use their imagination and be creative without worrying about the outcome. Learning – and inventing – is a process that can take time. While it can sometimes be frustrating, it's always worth it in the end!

The World Needs More Purple Schools by Kristen Bell and Benjamin Hart

Assistant Superintendent Jovo Bikic

This book initially grabbed my attention with its title as I love the colour purple. I assumed it would primarily focus on the importance of celebrating and embracing diversity – and while it does, it also goes beyond that.

The World Needs More Purple Schools explains what a purple school is, and how you can make your school purple. It highlights the importance of curiosity and asking questions, as well as the value of working together to try new things while caring for our community.

The book also champions play and creativity as effective ways to learn and important skills to nurture. By embracing imagination — both in children and adults — we can create learning environments that benefit everyone.

The World Needs More Purple Schools teaches us that every voice matters. This means not only using our voices to share our thoughts and ideas but also taking the time to truly listen to one another.

We all have something to learn and contribute, and that's exactly what happens in a purple school!





Amy Wu and the Patchwork Dragon by Kat Zhang

Eric Langton Elementary teacher-librarian Debbie Vermette

Author Kat Zhang and illustrator Charlene Chua have created a wonderful series of picture books starring Amy Wu. *Amy Wu and the Patchwork Dragon* is a great read to celebrate Lunar New Year! I love that it serves as an excellent springboard for discussing the differences and similarities among various cultures.

Amy's class has been talking about dragons – the fire-breathing, treasure-hoarding kind. Amy tries to create her own dragon, but it doesn't feel quite right. Then Grandma tells her a story about the kind of dragon who flies but doesn't have wings – the kind of dragon that is a symbol of good luck and strength. Amy uses ideas from both kinds of dragons to make one that is uniquely special to her!

Learn about the differences between Eastern and Western dragons as you read this beautifully illustrated picture book about family, culture, special holidays and inspiration.

The Relatives Came by Cynthia Rylant

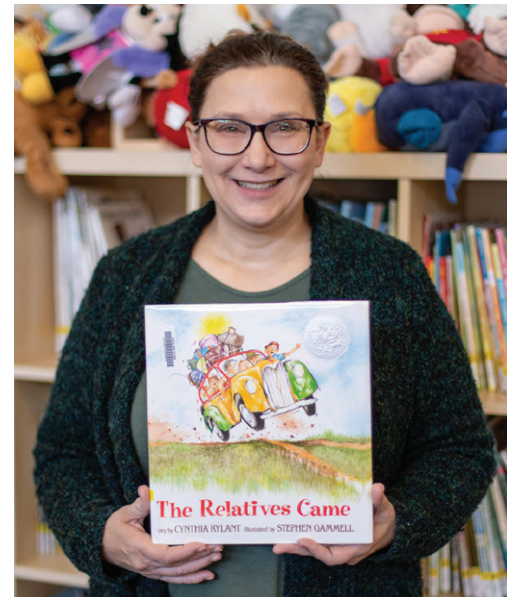
District teacher-librarian Leanne Dunbar

This book is a warm hug and tugs at our hearts as it offers a peek into an extended family visit. I look forward to reading it every year because so many children make connections to the characters in the story.

In *The Relatives Came*, a group of relatives travel quite a way to see their family. Cynthia Rylant expertly describes what it feels like to have family visiting for an extended time, the sudden emptiness when they go, and the anticipation of the next visit.

This is my favourite book by Cynthia Rylant because it reminds me of what fun I had growing up in a big family. My family lives far away like the young girl in the story. I can easily relate to Cynthia Rylant's descriptions of the long drives, many hugs, helping hands, busy meals, long conversations and crowded sleepovers that are often a part of family visits. I hope you enjoy it as much as I do.

Families come in all shapes and sizes and this book recommendation is just one example of the many great stories that celebrate their diversity.



I Walk with Vanessa by Kerascoët

Alouette Elementary teacher-librarian Briana Magnuson

I love this book because it shows how a simple act of kindness can make a big difference. *I Walk with Vanessa* is a wordless picture book that tells a powerful story about empathy, inclusion, and standing up for others.

When young Vanessa is treated unkindly, another student notices and decides to take action. Her small choice to be an ally sparks a snowball effect – one by one, more and more students join in, showing that kindness is contagious. Without words, the illustrations in the story allow students to interpret the emotions and actions in their own way, making it a great tool to foster discussion and self-reflection. It beautifully illustrates how one person's choice to stand up for someone can create a lasting impact.

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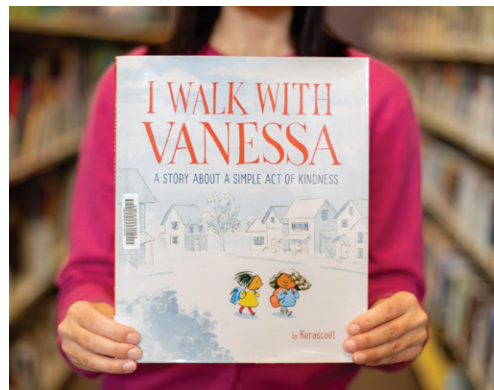
#FRIDAYREADS ROUNDUP

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One of my favourite things about this book are the final pages, which are separate from the story itself. The very last page provides a set of lessons for children on how they can help someone who is being bullied, making it a great discussion starter in elementary classrooms.

It also includes helpful words for adults to use when guiding these conversations, such as “ally,” “brave,” “bystander,” and “bullying.” These explanations are a great way to introduce key ideas about kindness and standing up for others.

Perfect for Pink Shirt Day or any time of year, this story is a beautiful reminder that kindness spreads.



Moon's Ramadan by Natasha Khan Kazi

Hammond Elementary teacher-librarian Kristen Power

I recommend *Moon's Ramadan* by Natasha Khan Kazi for a meaningful exploration of Ramadan and its traditions as students around our district begin observing the holy month.

Moon's Ramadan is beautifully illustrated and written in a way that showcases and celebrates Ramadan, while exploring how important the holiday is to many countries around the world.

The book follows the moon as she goes through her eight phases while observing how different countries celebrate Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar. Through its vibrant artwork and storytelling, *Moon's Ramadan* showcases the traditions of fasting, praying, sharing meals, and giving. The story concludes with the celebration of Eid al-Fitr, which marks the end of Ramadan.

Ramadan begins and ends with a sighting of the crescent moon.

Drum Dream Girl: How One Girl's Courage Changed Music by Margarita Engle

Deputy Superintendent Cheryl Schwarz

Drum Dream Girl by Margarita Engle is a beautiful book that celebrates themes of gender equality, perseverance, and breaking barriers. Inspired by the true story of Millo Castro Zaldarriaga, a Chinese-African-Cuban girl who defied societal norms to become a drummer in Cuba, the book highlights the importance of challenging gender stereotypes and pursuing one's dreams.

The lyrical, poetic text and stunning illustrations emphasize empowerment, diversity, and the right of all people, regardless of gender, to pursue their passions. This book can spark conversations about women's achievements and the importance of inclusivity. Encouraging students to break down barriers – whether societal, cultural, or personal – teaches them to embrace challenges, learn from failure, and develop a growth mindset. *Drum Dream Girl* reminds us that by pushing past limitations, we foster a more inclusive and equitable society.

On International Women's Day and beyond, it's important to promote gender equality by recognizing the achievements of women and inspiring students to



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challenge biases and stereotypes. Highlighting the accomplishments of women in leadership, the arts, politics, science, and sports provides role models for students to follow their passions. It is important to understand the historical and current struggles and progress of women's rights.

By speaking up, you amplify the voices of those who may not have the platform or opportunity to be heard. Advocacy challenges societal norms, policies, and biases that continue to create barriers for women and marginalized groups. It also inspires others to take action, creating a ripple effect that strengthens communities – just like Millo, whose story inspired the book *Dream Drum Girl*.



Ce que lisent les animaux avant de dormir by Noé Carlain and Nicolas Duffaut

French helping teacher Sandra Turbide

I absolutely love this book! It's a humorous parody filled with clever wordplay. The illustrations are incredibly creative and immediately capture your attention. What's great is that you don't need to understand every pun to enjoy it. The story revolves around what different animals read before bed. Each page features just one sentence, following a consistent structure – an important aspect of learning a new language. This repetition creates a mental pathway, helping you internalize the pattern without even realizing it. In neurolinguistics, this is referred to as implicit grammar.

Humour is woven throughout the book, making it even easier to retain new words and structures. One of my favourite examples is the wolf, who only reads cookbooks – one picture shows the wolf stirring a marmite (cooking pot) with little pigs inside. Another amusing moment is when the kangaroo only reads “pocketbooks,” with a picture of the kangaroo holding a book in his (literal) pocket. These clever puns not only bring the story to life but also make learning fun!

Learning French can be challenging, but it should also be enjoyable. When the process is fun, it becomes easier to stay motivated and engaged, allowing you to absorb the language more naturally. By incorporating humour, creativity, and interactive experiences, language learning can feel like an adventure rather than a task. Joyeuse Semaine de la Francophonie!

Semaine de la Francophonie is an annual week-long celebration of the French language and culture around the world that took place between March 15 to March 23, 2025.

My Name Is Saajin Singh by Kuljinder Kaur Brar

Golden Ears Elementary teacher-librarian Devika Chudy

My Name Is Saajin Singh is a wonderful picture book that highlights the importance of names and celebrates how they connect to our cultural identity.

The story follows a young Sikh boy named Saajin (pronounced Sah-jin), who learns just how much his name is a part of who he is. Saajin is excited to meet his new classmates on his first day of school, but things go sideways when the teacher mispronounces his name.

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#FRIDAYREADS ROUNDUP



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Unsure of how to correct her, Saajin stays quiet, and soon everyone at school starts saying his name the wrong way. After a heartfelt conversation with his parents about what his name really means, Saajin realizes how important it is to take back his name so he can fully be himself.

This feel-good story will hit home for anyone who has ever had their name mispronounced or felt like they had to change to fit in.

Wild Symphony by Dan Brown

Literacy helping teacher Cynthia Penner

Filled with adventure, music, and important life lessons, *Wild Symphony* by Dan Brown is a must-read during National Poetry Month! Best known for his thrilling novels, including *The Da Vinci Code*, Dan Brown brings us something completely different with this beautifully illustrated children's book.

The story follows Maestro Mouse as he takes readers on a journey through nature, introducing a cast of musical animal friends – each with their own unique wisdom to share. The book combines poetry, storytelling, an interactive musical experience, and hidden messages for readers to uncover.

What makes *Wild Symphony* even more special is that it comes with a free app that plays orchestral music composed by Dan Brown himself! By holding a phone over the illustrations, readers can listen to each animal's theme while enjoying the story, creating a magical blend of reading and music. The symphony has been performed by orchestras all over the world, including by the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra (VSO) on April 6, 2025.



The Good Egg by Jory John

Webster's Corners Elementary teacher-librarian Lindsay Lane

In honour of Easter eggs everywhere, I recommend *The Good Egg* by Jory John, the author of the popular book *The Bad Seed*. This delightful story follows a good egg surrounded by others who behave badly. The good egg feels so much pressure to be perfect that he starts cracking under the strain. Through his journey, he learns the importance of balance and self-acceptance, realizing that it's okay to be imperfect.

The Good Egg is an excellent choice for anyone seeking a meaningful and engaging book to share with children. The illustrations by Pete Oswald are cute, vibrant, and engaging, adding an extra layer of appeal to the story. The story encourages discussions about perfectionism, self-acceptance, and the importance of balance in life. It's a delightful read that will resonate with people of all ages.

Whether you're looking for a bedtime story or a book to spark meaningful conversations, *The Good Egg* is a fantastic choice. Its positive messages and engaging visuals make it a must-read for the season!



Are You Scared, Darth Vader? by Adam Rex

Highland Park Elementary teacher-librarian Joel Olson

As an elementary school librarian and a big *Star Wars* fan myself, I love sharing *Are You Scared, Darth Vader?* by Adam Rex. It's funny, playful, and packed with clever *Star Wars* references that both kids and adults will appreciate.

In the story, Vader hilariously denies being afraid of spooky creatures like ghosts and witches – leading to a big reveal at the end – making it perfect for an engaging, interactive storytime.

The vibrant illustrations and witty dialogue hook students right away, encouraging even hesitant readers to join the fun. I highly recommend the book for grades K-3!

My Day with Gong Gong by Sennah Yee

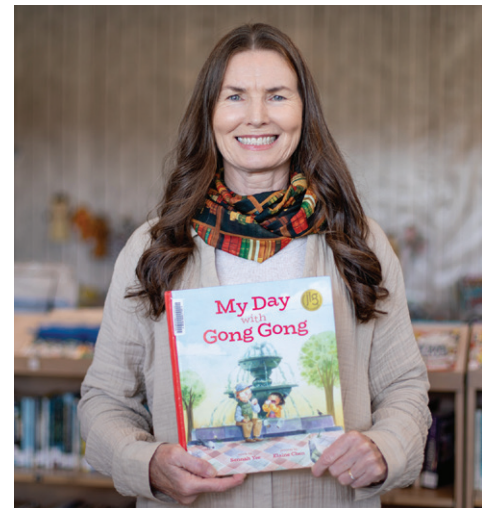
Edith McDermott Elementary teacher-librarian Krista Kong

My Day with Gong Gong is a great children's story because it beautifully captures the bond between generations while exploring themes of patience, understanding, and cultural connection.

The book follows a young girl spending the day with her grandfather in Chinatown, highlighting the initial language and emotional barriers that gradually give way to warmth and shared experiences.

The story is relatable for children who may struggle to connect with family members due to language barriers or cultural differences, making it a touching and meaningful read. The illustrations by Elaine Chen bring the emotions to life, and the simple yet heartfelt storytelling makes it accessible for young readers.

Ultimately, *My Day with Gong Gong* encourages empathy and appreciation for family.



The Invisible String by Patrice Karst

Glenwood Elementary teacher-librarian Michiyo Watanabe

The Invisible String by Patrice Karst shares the powerful message that love connects us all – families, friends, and even those we've lost – through an invisible string that stretches across any distance, no matter how far.

It's a heartwarming story of a mother explaining to her young twins that even when they are apart, they are still connected by this invisible bond made of love.

At times, we may fear being separated from those we love due to distance, challenging circumstances, or even loss. But this book reminds us that we are never truly alone. The mother says, "Even though you can't see it with your eyes, you can feel it with your heart and know that you are always connected to everyone you love." The unbreakable string between loved ones provides a lasting sense of comfort and connection.

The author also emphasizes the power of love and how it's stronger than anger. As long as there is love in your heart, the string will always be there.

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#FRIDAYREADS ROUNDUP

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As we celebrate the International Day of Families, may this invisible string of love not only strengthen our individual families, but also help unite us as one global family.

Remember: more love means more strings, and more strings make our bond even stronger.



The Very Impatient Caterpillar by Ross Burach

Whonnock Elementary teacher-librarian Megan Emond

This hilarious book about metamorphosis will keep children entertained while they learn how a caterpillar transforms into a butterfly.

The curious caterpillar learns from his friends what he needs to do to become a butterfly. He has to “meta-WHAT-now?” Once he forms his chrysalis, he must be patient and let nature do its work over the course of two weeks. But being patient is harder than it seems for this eager caterpillar.

He asks if he can play a game, order pizza or read a comic book to pass the time. His other caterpillar friends encourage him to be patient. Finally, after two weeks, he is astounded to see that he has turned into a beautiful butterfly – only to find out that he has to migrate now!

This entertaining picture book will have children laughing while they learn about metamorphosis and the importance of patience.

Indig-Enough by Nikki Soliman

Indigenous education helping teacher Jessica Bedard

I chose *Indig-Enough* by Nikki Soliman for National Indigenous History Month (June) because it explores themes of identity and belonging, making it a meaningful and accessible way for students to reflect on what it means to be Indigenous.

The story encourages important conversations about self-acceptance, cultural connection, and the diversity of Indigenous experiences. It's a powerful book that fosters understanding and pride in Indigenous identity.





Red: A Crayon's Story by Michael Hall

Literacy helping teacher Andrea MacInnes

I recommend *Red: A Crayon's Story* by Michael Hall because it explores the idea of being true to oneself.

The story follows Red, a crayon wrapped in a red label who faces a persistent problem – everything he colours comes out blue. Despite advice and encouragement from his mother, grandparents, all the other colours and art supplies, nothing seems to help. It's only through the help of a friend who truly sees him that Red comes to an important realization: he isn't actually a red crayon at all. He's blue.

This playful story can be read at all grade levels and be used to explore each student's special skills, strengths and uniqueness. During Pride Month, it can be used to discuss the topics of inclusion, identity and expression.

Rainbows After Rain by Melanie Scarcella

Director of instruction for learning services, Michael Scarcella

Rainbows After Rain by Melanie Scarcella is more than a book – it's a songbook that radiates positivity and joy. I feel lucky to have witnessed Melanie's creative journey as she brought this beautiful story and its characters to life. Her vivid imagination and deep connection with young people shine through every page.

The story's repeated theme of searching for rainbows captures the essence of connection, resilience, and joy. As the characters move from looking outward to discovering the rainbow within themselves, readers are gently reminded of the beauty in dreams, friendship, and self-discovery.

The heartfelt closing lines about feeling love in everyone offer a powerful message of unity and compassion. And best of all – at the back of the book, there's a QR code that links to a performance of the song, allowing readers to sing along and truly feel the magic.

The author, Melanie Scarcella, is the district's early learning/literacy helping teacher.



 **CLASS OF**
2025



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 2025,

Congratulations on achieving this remarkable milestone in your educational journey.

You are graduating at a pivotal moment where artificial intelligence and emerging technologies are reshaping our world. The adaptability and critical thinking you have developed have prepared you uniquely for this future. You possess something no algorithm can replicate: human creativity, empathy, and the ability to ask meaningful questions that drive progress.

As you step forward into this dynamic landscape, carry with you the curiosity that has brought you this far, the confidence to embrace new challenges, and the wisdom to use technology as a tool for positive change. The world needs graduates who can not only adapt to innovation but who can guide it thoughtfully and ethically.

Thank you for allowing us to be a part of your journey. As you begin this new chapter, remember that while the tools of tomorrow may be different, your capacity to learn, grow, and make a meaningful difference remains your greatest asset.

Teresa Downs,
Superintendent of Schools

Congratulations to the class of 2025!

As you reach the end of your high school journey, we celebrate your achievements and the determination you have demonstrated. This moment represents years of growth, learning, and the development of character that will serve you throughout your life.

The relationships you have built and the challenges you have overcome have prepared you to contribute meaningfully to our rapidly changing world. Your unique perspectives, diverse experiences, and personal growth position you to tackle tomorrow's opportunities with confidence.

We believe in your ability to lead with integrity and to create positive change in whatever path you choose. Continue to embrace learning, stay curious, and remember that your potential to make a difference is limitless.

Congratulations, Class of 2025. On behalf of the Board of Education, we are proud of your accomplishments and excited to witness the remarkable contributions you will make to our world.

Elaine Yamamoto,
Board Chairperson



We would like to congratulate all of our 2025 graduates!



Bianca Aere Lima
Jackson Alexander
Riley Alexander
Angelika Alincastre
Noah Allen
Kia Allock
Chloe Arkwright
Farid Arora
Ethan Atkinson
Mannat Bains
Meghan Baker
Anthony Balaj-Coroia
Lexy Bassetto
Molly Benedictson
Arianna Benetton
Ruby-Jane Bezan
Angelina Bird
Gillian Booth
Kody Bradford
Tristan Bradford
Carter Bradley
Kalan Bryan
Olivia Bryski
Iyzik Cabrera
Braiden Callaghan
Isabela Canto Machado
Ayden Cardy
Ryland Carlson-
Thauvette
Shyanne Carr
Marisa Carter
Tyler Cavan
Alessandro Cester
Tisha Chand
Nina Cheng

Jayden Cheung
Braiden Coldwell
Coltin Coughlin
Jayden Crompton
Georgia Dalrymple
Phoebe Dang
Taegan de Groot
Gray DeCorby
Sara Di Sabatino
Garbati
Mateo Dickinson
Bradie Diotte
Joshua Dodd
Kayla Dorey
Norm Dow
Domenic Elkerton
Christian Escobar
Zamora
Garrett Evans
Leonor Farinha
Rockford Flintermann
Kira Fontaine
Shryna Ganguly
Eva Geddes
Alexander Gibson
Nevaeh Gordon
Charlotte Granholm
Jakob Grummisch
Daniel Hadfield
Aaron Haggerty
Lincoln Hall
Ray Hanczik
Shadrak Henry
Blake Hodson
Ibrahim Huber
Gabe Hugo

Ben Hunter
Jana Hussein
Ella Illerbrun
Jack Janzen
Kevin Jeon
Noah Jones
Lee Jordan
Shaayan Kaushal
Geon Kim
Danil Krytskiy
Emileigh Kunnas
Adrian Lara
Camiah Lee
Max LeGreeley
Jeriel Lim
Rocco Lineker
Duncan Lockhart
Finley Ludeman
Marcus Ludgate
David Lukac
Kaden MacDonald
Keira MacDonald
Nicholas MacEwen
Mackenzie Makinen
Ella Rose McClenaghan
Caleb McCreedy
Jacqueline Mcdowell
Brayden Migue
Arianna Moini
Domenic Morra
Connor Mosher
Troy Muise
Tyler Murdoch
Rohidullah Najm
Daniel Naske

Olivia Neal
Hennessy Negrin
Lanah Nguyen
Brandon Nichols
Aiden Nicholson
Nadegda Alexandrovna
Nivinskaia
Owen Nutland
William Oliver
Virginia Pagliaro
Sharon Pathipati
Reid Paton
Mya Patterson
Brynn Penner
Austin Perrin
Nicholas Perrin
Andrew Pineiro
Tessa Piotrowski
Mackenzie Powell
Tristen Pozsonyi
Naphat Puridol
Ethan Raymond
Andreia Regalado
Daniel Reinhold
Tyson Ritchie
Brooke Rutledge
Cynthia Sabu
Isabella Saunders
Maggie Saunders
Misha Scharfe
Giacomo Scuderi
Luana Sfat
Shahrazad Shirani
Shelly Shmidov
Autumn Smith

Jarid Soura
Daniel St. Marie
Henri Suzano De
Aleida
Akiko Suzuki
Troy Teolis
Elliott Ternowski
Austin Timmins
Ariane Timms
Isobel Timms
Ava Urbina-Beggs
Emily van de Kerkhof
Klaus Van De Kerkhof
Noemi van de Polder
Sebastian Van Dyck
Arian Velasco
Ailah Virs
Brooke Wade
Calib Wadge
Owen Walton-Blake
Daniel Wamboldt
Colby Waters
Tiana Watson
Cameron Webb
Brandon Webster
Harley Weidenfeld
Sam Whitton
Calum Wiltshire
Angelina Xynis
Anatolli Yakobchuk
Aidyn Young
Nelly Yuan
Ahmer Zubair
Arianna Zuzolo

Garibaldi Secondary School

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

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The staff of Maple Ridge Secondary and Outreach Alternate Secondary Schools are proud to recognize our graduating class of 2025! 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!



Raisa Abe
Moruf Adeogun
Nathan Adomi
Zahara Adomi
Daniel Ahokas
Ruya Su Akin
Kameran Ameen
Adibullah Aminullah
Setara Amiri
Nayaphat Amrarong
Kyle Andersen
Ella Anderson
Ruth Emelyne Anghel
Aiden-Xavier Antica
Izzah Ashfaq
Orchid Bach
Lily Ballantyne
Samantha Banick
Kash Barclay
Chloe Bateman
William Belsey
Molly Bergen
Leium Bergmuller
Nicole Berry
Feroz Bhandher-Noori
Austin Biason
Ty Bikic
Kaleb Biln
Connor Blackstone
Samantha Blancarte
Cadence Bouthot
Henry Bradshaw
Brahm Brar
Kiran Brar
Sadie Brar
Surkhab Brar
Kiera Breuls
Kacey-Anne Burgi
Brooklyn Butler
Xandric Cadacio
Kisei Cafuta
Anthony Calleja
Czarina Camcam
Erin Campbell
Julian Campbell
Claire Catherwood
Clayton Catherwood
Matthew Chahar Lang
Callahan Cherlenko
Eugene Chhetri
Justin Choi
Rowan Clark
Kenyon Clay
Siobhan Cocking
Justice Comeau
Aldo Concha Marin
Caitlyn Cook
Colin Cooper
Joseph Coquia
Alberto Crews

Khren Cruz
Princess Cruz
Makenna Davies
Althea De Leon
Anthony De Sousa
Liam DeFreitas
Jaymes Denton
Olivia Dewhurst
Mansukh Dhillon
Olivia Di Girolamo
Carson Dick
Zirui Dou
Renee Celine Doughty
Luke Draf
Jean Eskut
Natalie Farquhar
Ivie Felgner
Isaac Ferguson
Sage Ferreira
Daisy Findlay Lamont
Treyten Finnigan
Kailyn Firth
Aiden Fello
Angel Fonseca
Caellum Ford
Bianka Forgac
Peyton Foster
Dylan Frakes
Aveya Frank
Katharina Fredrich
Reo Furuta
James Gaita
Mikayla Gibson
Katelyn Gisborne
Madison Goddard
Tanisha Godley
Emily Gray
Kiera Grueger
Gerald Grychowski
Matthew Guardario
Ambrose Haintz
Dominik Hall
Alexa Hanning
Brock Hanson
Linden Happell
Madeline Hastie
Ayla Havard
Nathan Haynes
Jada Hestermann
Josiah Hestermann
Chad Higgins
Bella Holland
Nye Holmes
Pimchanok Homjit
Nicholas Hong
Ali Sahid Hosman Cruz
Taylor Hubbert
Madelyn Hudson-Gibbs
Zac Hurcomb
Skye Jacques

Asal Jangi
Keesha Jevadi
Alexandra Johnston
Alyx Johnston
Danica Johnston
Kate Jordison
Kayden Kabrud
Miles Kammerle
Sirikarn Kanjanathawonkul
Hunter Katrynuk
Sadie Kelly
Kalea Kelso
Sam Kenney
Dianna Kim
Patrick Knox
Michael Konowalchuk
Ainsley Krajsek
Agnia Krakovska
Morgan Kuelz
Sienna Kuznak
Lily Labelle-Langager
Giancarlo Lalande
Jiyu Lee
Seongwon Lee
Ryane Lefebvre
Jaden Llerena
Shelby Lohnes
Vincent Longmuir
Jorgie Lopez Pepper
Nutchia Loyrithiwutikrai
Sydney Lyons
Francesca Ma
Landon Maas
Alexander Macatiggay
Isabel Macintyre
Ruby MacMullen
Max Mader
Ella Magri
Keenan Malkoske
Ahbi Mangat
Quinn Manweiler
Brendan Marcher
Kayleigh Mark
Naveah Martin
Brandon Martinez
Cayden Masse
Joshua Matthews
Logan Maxwell
Bryce McCann
Roman McConkey
Harley McCormick
Dawson McKee
Rhyann McKenna
Emilio Menjivar
Alyssa Michel
Deshaun Mickey
Madison Milne
Destiny Mintus
Kisara Miyatake
Karam Morale

Moe Mouawia
Foenix Mullen
Aldric Munoz Lepe
Benjamin Murley
Kaho Nagao
Dominik Nagy
Ishaan Nair
Annabel Nalwadda
Dylan Naresh
Lineda Nathan
Aidan Navjee
Danielle Neggers
Kennedy Newcombe
Viet Dung Nguyen
Konstandina Nikolopoulos
Nannam Noo On
James O'Brien
Adrian O'Brien Jennerette
Hiroki Okamoto
Dominique Osi-Short
Brooklyn Osterholm
Eden Owens
Nickolas Palmeter
Ella Parker
Mason Parkhill
Aaliyah Parsons
Dustin Paul
Matias Pelegrin-Hicks
Brody Perkin
Mary Pham
Vu Quoc Khanh Pham
Ryan Piercey
Carter Plumb
Hristos Pnevmatikos
Kayla Podulsky
Landon Prest
Beatrice Previdi
Dennis Qin
Isabella Quintero Guiral
Ysabelle Ragadio
Elisa Ramos
Pavel Rasool
Gavin Raymond
Lachlan Reiffer
Ana Beatriz Ribeiro
Naomi Roberts
Emma-Jean Robertson
Zachary Rowe-Santema
Saffron Rumble-Siddique
Ramneet Saini
Karen Sanchez Zapata
Sunny Sandhu
Majeron Santos
Gabriel Saunders
Brooke Savenkoff
Sarah Schill
Travis Schultz
Abby Scott
Carissa Scott
Hudson Sereda

Eve Shargool
Emma Sharples
Yeonwoo Shin
Morgan Silcox
Emiliano Simo-Reyna
Asher Smith
Riley Smith
Keira Speth
Sophia Stark
Gaby Steen
Rinto Sugiyama
Skyler Swain
Mark Szucs
Dwayne Scott Tabang
Taryck Tahid
Sophia Tait
Travis Taylor
Jack Teller
Eva Thomas
Sadie Thomson
Grace Tifenbach
Adam Timms
Zoe Jeanne Monique Torchon
Evangeline Tober
Markus Torres
Luke Toupin
Anthony Trafford
Liam Trathen
Ryan Trinh
Darius Uong
Zach Uppal
Cloe Urbaniak
Ava Uvacik
Kiara Vadivelu
Jiannah Veloso
Lycia Vernon
Thero Victor
Acejan Duncan Vidallo
Pierre Wadee
Sebastian Waldron
Fraser Walters
Eric Wardroper
Sadie Webster
Mattias Weissenborn
Maryn Wensley
Maya Wojcik
Clinton Wong
Luke Wood
Jennifer Xie
Jincheng Yang
Shawn Yang
Joanna Zovan Yasseiny
Jisu Yoon
Maddy Young



We would like to congratulate all of our 2025 graduates!



Abramson, Keagen	De Villa, Juliana	Jaschke, Sebastian	Mugridge, Ashtyn	Saraon, Kamaldeep
Adams, Jae-Lynn	Devine, Tyler	Jawad, Diana	Murales-Monchez, Victoria	Scott, Carissa
Alabhat, Amina	Dhesi, Jasmine	Job, Declan	Narwal, Suhani	Seers, Kaleb
Alain, Sam	Dogo, Leonarda	Johal, Gurshawn	Nesbitt, Emiree	Shan, Salman
Amendt, Noah	Evans, Chris	Johal, Rohan	Ocampo, Elijah	Shen, Andrea
Anam-anam, Paul	Evenson, Stella	Jones, Luke	O'Donovan, Liam	Simpson, Grace
Armstrong, Andrew	Faria, Anthony	Juatco III, Nicholas	Ordas, Niccolo	Singh, Seneca
Armstrong, Reid	Florence, Dylan	Karimkhani, Joan	Orpiano, Nicole	Sisson-Gordon, Xavier
Arnett, Matthew	Gehring, Maraya	Karlstadt, Jakob	Osadczuk, Morgan	Sloan, Ethan
Baily, Jayden	Genereux, Anna	Klair, Mannat	Oun, Karsen	Strange, Westyn
Balanguie, Mark	Glowa, Victoria	Knowles, Treyson	Padda, Davneet	Succurro, Matteo
Ball, Harvey	Gratereaux Ramirez, Marlon	Kristjanson, Emily	Pahl, Graesha	Suciu, Matthew
Bandringa, Sayda	Hadfield, Neve	Kuehne, Sophia	Palmeter, JD	Suzuki, Hana
Belen, Kai	Haffenden-Braithwaite, Jackson	Lagrange, Gracie	Parker, James	Sweet, Emily
Best, Justin	Halliday, Sarah	Lazar, Seth	Paterson, Ryan	Tampus, Tayshaun
Biln, Bishan	Haskell, Kayla	Lefebvre, Alyvia	Paul-Balogun, Emmanuella	Taylor, Talia
Bilodeau, Sabastien	He, Peter	Leipert, Lyndon	Peter, Raymond	Teng, Kegan
Birth, Kadence	Heath, Kairo	Lindenbach, Kevin	Phaneuf, Ben	Thomson, Maddie
Bloxham, Sophia	Henderson, Owen	List, Aidan	Picard, Caitlin	Vairo, Joshua
Brown, Kaylen	Hernandez, Malena	Liu, Henry	Pigott, Ellen	Varga, Tristan
Cabigon, Shennerey	Hodacsek, Alexis	Liva, Kalen	Poliquin, Luca	Verzosa, Raisa
Campbell, Olivia	Hong, Julia	Loyer, Evan	Pomfrey, Carsyn	Vrijmoet, Gemma
Carriss, Owen	Hough, Graeden	MacDonald, Keaton	Potter, Kaitlynn	Wall, Jared
Cela, Massimo	Hunter, Braydon	Machan, Ruth	Price, Elissa	Webber, Nova
Chahal, Sahib	Hutchinson, Tory	MacLean, Carlie	Purewal, Jayden	Wesson, Piper
Chanlalit, Achita	Ismirnioglou, Jenny	Mahomet, Kevin	Reale, Giulia	White, Callum
Cho, Yaena	Jack, Ben	Maloney, Kevin	Roberts-Ruttan, Emma	White, Logan
Christensen, Luke	James, Ciarah	Managh, Jay	Robson, Benjamin	Winters, Logan
Chuakay, Lorenzo	Jamshidi Naghani, Farzad	Mazurek, Cristiano	Romey, Ethan	Wong Lundy, Annabella
Cikor, Brooklyn	Jamshidi Naghani, Farzin	McKinnon, Colton	Rosell, Jericho	Worley, Jacqueline
Colburn, Juno	Jansen, Keira	McMahon, Emilie	Rosner, Sophia	Woycheshen, Sophia
Cossalter, Isabella		Miftode, Paul	Ross, Shaelyn	Youssef, Philip
Cruz, Gabrielle		Misceo, Gabriella	Sagi, Raghav	Zhu, Boyu
Cutler, Colby		Mitchelson, Owen		
Dar, Jayden				

Pitt Meadows Secondary School

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

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Congratulations Connex and Reconnex graduates on your accomplishments! GRADUATION 2025



Connex Graduates

Payton Anderson
Reed Bell
Amelie Bournival
Maxwell Bruce
Jamey Curley
Tyler Darby
Red D'Auteuil
Ashton Devereaux
Heidi Dodich
Mairyn Eldridge
Olivia Fiscu

Jeremiah Holmes
KAAN Hood
Savannah Jacobson
Nick Kelner-Florence
Janaya Leon
Darren Louie
Lexie Lutke
Chase Manuel
Grace McKay
Jacob Oughton
Kristen Paradis
Valentine Peltz

Phelan Redman
Briana Roeder
Olivia Sawkins
Charlie Shay-Wagner
Josh Sheffer
Kota Simpkin
Mika Takasaki
Calisa Tassone
Liney Vergara
Reconnex Graduates
Keithan Block
Stephanie Clenahan

Mason Danchuk
Aidan Dawson
Joshua Kozma-Vestal
Tyler Loop
Alexander Lowther
Jayden Mathiesen
Tyler McCutcheon
Abigail Nasr
Jacob Norton
Luca Poliquin
Tyson Ritchie

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

CONTINUINGed MAPLE RIDGE & PITT MEADOWS

**We are very proud of our 2024 - 2025 graduates and
these 9 have agreed to be publicly acknowledged.**

Congratulations to all!

Renee Buac	Samira Halimi	Rovin Panchoo
Mahit Enan	Cody Hall	Randy Parrish
Chantelle Fuhr	Hailey Hall	Ian Vodnak

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



We would like to congratulate all of our 2025 graduates!



Esteban Amaya	Lino Etrata	Rylee Kelly	Samantha Moore	Janna Steiner
Tonya Attarian	Elina Felgner	Kian Khakbaznejad	Sophie Moubert	Tirzah Taylor
Avery Badke	Mitaya Ferguson	Carys Kitsch	Kate Neiva	Kyle Thompson
Laina Baptiste	Aidan Fonnyadt	Connor Klos	Robin Nelson	Harold Tillado
Daniella Barichello	Braeden Fotheringhame	Kristy Kubek	Ryan Northway	Owen Toothill
Paniz Behbuee Dolatsaraee	Isabelle Fox	Leia Lammi	Radomyr Ozernyi	Alexandra Torres
William Bellerose	Lynden Fox	Abby Legg	Mason Parkhill	Denys Tymchuk
Alyssa Bendickson	Kelly Frizzell	Ryan Leslie	Alyvia Pavitt	Ririko Uehara
Isabelle Bendickson	Dwayne Adrian Gabriel	Cayden Libby	Jake Poblete	Aira Umali
Tanner Bickerton	Abbi Gade	Sienna Lindsay	Luciano Postlethwaite	Jack Upson
Tyler Billing	Noe Gama Tadeo	Jodie Loo	Arshida Ramezan	Sean van Rijswijk
Cole Blakeway	Peyton Gamache	Mason Loptson	Gavin Raymond	Chloe Van Huizen
Alexis Braun	Joel Garcia	Sara McConville	Mya Reed	Nicolaas Van Vloten
Blake Breen-McCausland	Jaxon Godin	Owen McGillvray	Hudson Reeves	Carrie Viskovic
Tamera Bresser	Deon Gonzales	Sarah MacDonald	Carolina Rivero	Caden Vo
Joshua Brooker	Ethan Gosling	Taylor Mackie	Gavin Robbie	Lilian Vuong
Samuel Carnduff	Liam Graham	Shanelle Mareya	Samantha Roberts	Sean Wang
Meadow Carvalho	Jayden Greening	Atticus Marshall	Blake Rossiter	Jordyn Webb
Kailer Chand	Jacob Gummer	Piper Martens	Kiyan Saed	Peter Wells
Hailey Charles	Rhyah Halbgewachs	Sarah Massey	Nolan Santos	Brayden Welsh
Cole Churko	Levi Hansen	Piper Martens	Katelynn Schmidt	Sadie Welsh
Dylan Clarke	Thomas Hill	Parker Meadus	Elisabeth Schmitz	Callum Whiteway
Colton Collard	Nikolas Hohorelos	Preston Meadus	Jakob Schneider	Michael Wiseman
Audrey Cristobal	Kamryn Howlett	Olivia Meek	Daniel Schroers	Owen Wylie
Jacob Dagg	Hadisa Hussaini	Vivaan Menon	Brayden Schulte	Christopher Yakiwchuk
Adam De Grandis	Aiden Hyde	Oliver Mephram	Adam Sehboub	Nathan Yerex
Nickolas De Sousa	Kaitlyn Izan	Darius Mercado	Christina Semple	Arsham Yousefi
Brooklyn Delaney	Taylor Izan	Xavier Mercado	Jacob Shand	Karolis Zegunis
William Diamond	Josh Janiola	Wyatt Meyers	Jacob Siemens	Mai Ziyada
Sierra Dionne	Christina Jones	Max Min	Jamie Simpson	
Sienna Eales	Devon Kamstra	Tiago Miranda	Jot Singh	
Dawson Epp-Zhen	Aedan Katinic	Karinah Montalban	Wyatt Smith	

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



We would like to congratulate all of our 2025 graduates!



Aggarwal, Janat
Ahmedjonov, Rustam
Ahn, Taeho
Akhgar, Saman
Al Ani, Karam
Alexander, Emma
Alizadeh, Mahob-Ali
Allan, Logan
Amador Zarza, Cristina
Amery, Juliette
Andersen, Schuyler
Andrews, Juli
Angelini, Joseph
Aniefor, Lisa
Archibald, Kristen
Arnold, Brooklyn
Auer, Kaelyn
Baart, Cadence
Baek, Sugar
Balalio, Jayden
Balosescu, Victoria
Banning, Rebecca
Barber, Leif
Beech, Finnley
Beeley, Grace
Beggs, Tanner
Bekili, Furaha
Bessette, Miller
Birnie, Brooke
Blair, Cole
Blatt, Clara
Boroomandnia, Armita
Bouthot, Cadence
Bowman, Laura
Brackenbury, Sophie
Brubacher, Nicholas
Burke, Alexis
Burns, Jett
Butula, Jeremy
Cabeza, Brianna
Calabrese, Tiana
Callander, Quinn
Carlisle, Jordan
Chen, Ainsley
Clamonte, Andrea
Clarke, Jake
Connaughton, Dylana
Connolly, Laura
Constable, Sydney
Couture, Samuel
Cox, Ava
Crowe, Ryan

Crowhurst, Kieran
Cruz, Khen
Dait, Vince
Dapkus, Naglis
D'auiteuil, Red
Davis, Denelson
De Wilde, Cayden
Desjardins, Liam
Devonport, Eloise
Dezura, Wally
Di Santo, Kaylee
Dias, Elias
Dickson, Lucas
Ding, Sophia
Dmytrenko, Misha
Dybwad, Lauren
Dzhyha, Merik
Escalera Espinosa, Cristian
Exley, Kamryn
Ferguson, Faythe
Fiehn, Rachael
Forrest, Cole
Franco, Emma
Frandsen, Justin
Franklyn, Ava
Frobisher, Olivia
Fukuzawa, Nanako
Furusawa, Anne
Fysh, Jacob
Gautam, Ramita
Ghulam Mohammad, Sadia
Gigliotti, Quinn
Gonzales, Alexandra
Goudreau, Katelyn
Grant, Piper
Graveline, Iverson
Green, Riley
Greenwood, Kaiden
Greenwood-Rose, Storm
Grunewald, Felicia
Guan, Dorothy
Guitard, Sydney
Habrovcova, Karolina
Haikonen, Taiya
Han, Jamie
Hanada, Leon
Hand, Tatain
Hankins, Emerson
Hariharaputhiran, Hem
Harnett, Tegan
Harris, Sawyer
Hasumi, Kosuke

Herr, Pepper
Hill, Jevanni
Hogg, Jordyn
Holtved, Ethan
Ibrahimkhil, Samir
Iwamoto, Yuko
Jawanda, Urveen
Jefferson, Henry
Jensen, Kate
Jevadi, Koosha
Jimenez Martin, Gonzalo
Kahlert, Aurora
Karsten, Denver
Kaur, Japji
Kennedy, Fiona
Kennedy, Katie
Kern, Briahna
Kirby, Morgan
Klokeid, Mason
Krishnamurti, Eva
Kular, Abhayjeet
Landles, Griffin
Legrow, Mackenzie
Levchenko, Uliana
Lindsay, Keira
Linton, Jaime
Lochhead, Max
Lombardi, Vincenzo
Lorinczy, Robert
Loucks, Eric
Luminarias, Arianne
Lunsted, Kostyn
Machado, Sebastian
MacMullen, Ruby
Madryga, Michaela
Magri, Ella
Maitre, Melanie
Mangandiv Divas, Leslie
Martin, Lukas
Martin, Savannah
Martin-Nilson, William
Masse, Cayden
McCambley, Parker
McCambley, Taylor
McEachern, Eva
McIntosh, Jacqueline
McKenzie, Callum
McLure, Brayden
McNulty, Elijah
Messer, Jenna
Michal, Caine
Mills, Josh

Mills, Maya
Mirzaee, Arezo
Mohr, Sophia
Monkman, Keldon
Mooney, Reiss
Moore, Avery
Moore, Chloe
Moore, Lexi
Mott, Audrey
Mutiu, Miruna
Nagy, Logan
Nasr, Abby
Nguyen, Rooney
Nicolai, Ash
Niebla, Diego
Nouri, Alia
Novosselsky, Max
O'Brien, Ryker
Ogawa, Mihaya
O'Hanley, Tyler
Oladokun, Titoluwa
Oldewening, Mason
O'Shea, Illiana
Otsuki, Haru
Palacios Pike, Benett
Palahicky, Andrew
Pareja, Aidan
Pasha, Meghan
Pashley, Brody
Pavitt, Lyvi
Pearse, Eli
Poncilius, Hannah
Powell, Declan
Powell, Rowan
Prasad, Rhianna
Pukanich, Jamie
Qureshi, Farnosh
Rajabi, Ismail
Reichelt, Reece
Reid, Ethan
Reilly, Liam
Richard, Jacqlene
Ro, Jaeyoun
Robinson, Charly
Ruggieri, Alyssa
Samuels, Addie
Sargent, Cole
Sawyer, Rayah
Schmidt, Mattias
Sciankow, Alissa
Sehrawat, Arihant
Serour, Chantal

Sharma, Retish
Shellborn, Julia
Shimazaki, Mao
Simpson, Paige
Singh, Aarzoi
Sintsov, Peter
Smith, Joshua
Smith, Seaera
Stapler, Mattie
Steinhauser, Vanessa
Subba, Merina
Suen, Kay
Suen, Kody
Sullivan, Zoe
Suzuki, Kanako
Tak, Sahra Kumsal
Tale, Zez
Tanishima, Takuma
Tanko, Nora
Teasdale, Brea
Tepper, Lennon
Thompson, Koltson
Tober, Evangeline
Todd, Delilah
Tran, Michael
Trieu Alexander, Kameron
Tumaneng, Luis
Turin, Abbie
Ulrich, Tian
Urquhart, Kaden
Van Der Mey, Mya
Van Dijk, Savannah
Van Nes, Maya
Varney, Ava
Velasco, Arian
Vickers, Alyssa
Villeneuve, Nolan
Villeneuve, Taylor
Weeks, Alexander
Wells, Jacob
Whitson, Kristen
Widdowson, Nico
Wiens, Ryan
Williams, Aria
Wocknitz, Emma
Woods-Muir, Daniel
Xie, Victor
Yap, Amber
Yemelianenko, Mary
Zamboni, Viola
Zhereb, Sasha

Thomas Haney Secondary School

23000 116 Ave, Maple Ridge, BC V2X 0T8 | (604) 463-2001

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We would like to congratulate all of our 2025 graduates!



Abo Altahin Zain	Edwards Jordan	Katuric Scarlett	Noelte Quinten	Sikora Haley
Abram Madeline	Elliott Cameron	Kendall Katelyn	Nordsiek Lorenzo	Smith-Eseh Theola
Ackermann Steve	Engel-Cote Toni (Bean)	Kim Hayun (Jenny)	Gallo Juan	Tamizi Helia
Agrawal Krish	Fletcher Tristan	Kim Suhyeon (Sophia)	Orsborn Maximus	Telep Zoey
Alaghehband Iman	Foley Novah	Knorr Dylan	Osawa Shunta	Teslaru Maxim
Alzaied Aryam	Fong Evan	Kongpanvijit Pichaya	Ostapovich Loewen	Thiara Harjap
Arias Dominic	Fowler Valentino Jr.	Laforteza Jerwin	Othman Parsa	Thiessen Sydney
Bacic Hannah	Froese Stevie	Lenahan Oliver	Pallanan Marian Sophia (Pia)	Thompson London
Bartok Ryuu	Furukawa Takuto	Longoz Joseph	Panag Jaskirat	Toledo Kendra
Beard Anastasia	Juan Ocampo Gallo	Longridge Spencer	Pattagarn Pearanut	Toma Alexander (Ryan)
Belciug Ruben	Gaston Trace	Lorenz Hannah	Pearson Aiden	Torng Ayzia
Berry Grace	Gill Lucas	Luniw Mackenzie	Pee Camille	Truong Brianna
Biason Austin	Griffiths Bertelsen Ryon	Mahdavi Ardakani Ali	Penner Jenna	Uchida Wataru
Botran Jeppesen Samuel	Grozdanich Brayden	Mand Manraj	Peterson Anika	Vahabiantehrani Rayan
Brown Jaidyn	Hansra Ajaypal	Masih Darren	Portice Aidan	Vallieres Carmelle
Butler-Hartley Brooklyn	Hansra Vijaypal	McBride Isabella	Potts Hannah	Van Lissum Noelle
Cameron Landon	Kaitana (Eli)	McClelland Cora	Quilapio Anne	Virk Jasprit
Camunita Antonio	Hardman Padvaiskas	McCutcheon Graham	Radloff Logan	Volpe Elliot
Xinyuan (Cindy) Cao	Harker Joshua	Mcdougall Lindsay	Ramey Eli	Waguri Taisuke
Caponero Ryder	Harmon Thomas	McIntyre Jakob	Ranathunga Devnitha	Watko Nathan
Cappelletti Aurora	Herrera Peirano Katalina	McLellan Emily	Reid Shianne	Whalen Marc
Carruthers Sarah	Hetherington Noah	Melnikova Sofya	Reiffer Lachlan	Wiebe Brendan
Challenger Danica	Ho Shen Liang (Emmanuel)	Miki Ryohei	Rennie Aisha	Williams Jacob
Clare Emerson	Holmes Forrest	Miller Ethan	Rostami Kiana	Winchester Tommy
Clayton Lucas	Horobec Kinsley	Molander Peyton	Ryu Siwon	Wright Olivia
Connolly Owen	Hubbert Taylor	Moncey Tessa	Saksawatdikul Tathata	Zielke Zander
Cooley Duncan	Jeong Yuri	Mongkoljutha Thanakorn	Salconi Noah	Zuccaro Marco
Coulter Malcolm	Juneja Priya	Morita Haruki (Harry)	Shaver Abigail	
Dyk Baillie		Morwood Kobe		

Westview Secondary School

20905 Wicklund Ave, Maple Ridge, BC V2X 8E8 | (604) 467-3481

sd42.ca/secondary-school/westview-secondary/

