

## In This Issue

- Presidents Message
- DPAC 2008/2009 Executive
- DPAC Honored
- Parent Education
- Emergency Preparation Planning & Development Presentation
- Action Plan for Learning
- Family Resource Centre – Summer Camps
- Special Olympics BC Active Start & FUNdamentals Programs
- Teddy Bear Picnic

**DPAC43 is on  
Facebook!**

**Check us out  
&  
join the DPAC43  
group**

## President's Message

My apologies for this long message, but as my term as DPAC President is ending, I have quite a few things I'd like to say.

In 2007 - 2008, we tackled some really significant issues and challenges, including:

- the "merger" of PACs resulting from the closure of five schools last June;
- the selection of a new Superintendent of School District 43, a process in which all District partners played a key role;
- extensive surveys of SD 43 parents on a range of issues, including Bullying and Traffic Safety;
- support for traffic safety improvements around schools in all three cities served by SD 43;
- revamping our program that trains parents as advocates for students;
- instituting a new parent education program addressing the emerging challenges of parenting the "Internet" generation, and a program to make parents more familiar with the internet technologies our kids are all-too-familiar with;
- getting two important resolutions passed at BCCPAC's AGM
- improving our relationships with teachers, administrators, and other District staff.

We also set out to improve communications with PACs and parents, and this newsletter is one of the ways we're doing that.

And one of my personal goals was to increase the number of volunteers at the District level. And at last night's AGM, we elected the largest executive team in recent history, filling every position except two! Getting volunteers is a challenge for every organization, and this solid executive will help us make even greater strides next year. I want to thank incoming President Heidi Gable and her new executive for stepping forward to serve SD 43 parents for the coming year (two years for the position of President). I'll still be on the executive as Past President, and I am excited about working with this enthusiastic group.

When I was first asked to sit on the DPAC executive, I said yes without reservation, because I'm pretty passionate about kids and their education. However, because of circumstances, I assumed the role of Acting President at a time when my job as Coquitlam City Councillor created conflicts and time constraints. So I want to thank this year's executive for taking on some extra duties with skill and dedication. But one of those who served far beyond the call was past president Claude Hrycaiko, who tackled everything from organizing agendas, scheduling events, and keeping things on track. Thank you, Claude, for everything.

Thank you to everyone who attends the monthly DPAC General Meetings.

We encourage all School District 43 PAC's to send a representative to each (or as many as you can) general meeting to ensure communication and important information is shared.

No more frustration trying to find the District Policies & District Administrative Procedures on the District website.

The links have been posted on our website - they can be found by clicking on "Links" (found on the left side of our website pages), and then under the link for "School District 43" you will find the links for the Policies or Procedures –

just click on the one you need

As well, Claude's predecessor, Linda Reimer, who was always available to provide history, background, and advice. Much appreciated, Linda. But most of all, thank you to some 30,000 parents in our school district who are passionate about their children and our schools. Countless studies have shown that students succeed better in school when parents are more involved. Students in SD43 have every reason to thank you all.

**Richard Stewart**  
DPAC President

---

## Introducing the 2008 - 2009 DPAC Executive

President	Heidi Gable
Vice President	Darren Rosenthal
Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	Jason Turner
Health & Safety Coordinator	Deanne Harris
Parent Education Coordinator	Kristina Harvey
Newsletter Editor	Tracy Crawford
East Zone Rep	Dina Rodriguez
North Zone Rep	Vacant
South Zone Rep	Ross McKenzie
West Zone Rep	Kim Nelson
Member @ Large	Nathan Falkenholt
Member @ Large	Marie McCabe
Past President	Richard Stewart
Administrative Assistant	Sandy Maloney

**We look forward to a fantastic 2008/2009 year. We have 2 DPAC Executive positions available, if you are interested in either the Secretary or the North Zone Rep. position, please contact Sandy at 604-939-3690 or email [dpac43@telus.net](mailto:dpac43@telus.net).**

---

## DPAC Honored

April 27th - May 3rd was the celebration of National Volunteer Week.

DPAC was extremely honored to have received a Certificate of Appreciation in acknowledgement of our community spirit and volunteerism.

DPAC would like to express our sincerest gratitude to all School District 43 schools, PAC's, parents, teachers, principals and administrators for your continued support and dedication in making our schools better for our children.

**DPAC: Parents Helping Parents Helping Students**

---

## BCCPAC

BCCPAC's purposes are to advance the public school education and well-being of children in the province of BC & to carry on activities to promote and enhance meaningful parent participation in an advisory role at the

DPAC's mission is to facilitate, support and advocate for the effective involvement of parents as partners working towards excellence in education

## DPAC:

Parents Helping  
Parents Helping  
Students

Education is a shared commitment between home and school, with parents and the home environment playing a crucial role in a child's learning. When both parents/guardians assume the responsibility to actively support a child's learning, the child benefits.

school, school district and provincial levels.

### New for 2008

#### Speaking Up! A parent guide to advocating for students in public schools

Newly updated and expanded! This 44-page guide, developed by the BCCPAC Advocacy Project, helps parents navigate the public school system and solve problems their children are having in BC public schools. It explains how the school system works, outlines parents' and students' rights and responsibilities, provides strategies for advocating for children and supporting student self-advocacy. This booklet is available on the BCCPAC website for downloading.

We encourage parents to visit the BCCPAC website to learn more.  
[www.bccpac.bc.ca](http://www.bccpac.bc.ca)

---

## Parent Education

Workshops and speakers for the 2008/2009 school year is under development and will be shared in the fall. Please continue to submit your ideas and recommendations for parent education workshops as your input provides us invaluable information as to what you would consider valuable and useful.

---

## Emergency Preparation Planning & Development Presentation

Presented by Wendy Bennett & Mike McGlenen, Vice Principal for Banting

A committee was formed in 2006 to take a look at long term planning and development of emergency situations and procedures for schools.

This committee has played an active role in the development of an Emergency Procedure Handbook (Flip Chart) (one in *each* classroom of *each* school in our district) and the development of the Comprehensive Emergency Response Resource Package (one per school). If an emergency situation occurs teachers and administrators have the equipment, resources, information packages (detailing what to do for each emergency situation) and tools required to manage the situation and place the students, staff, parents (who are in the school at the time) and themselves into a safe position.

For many of us emergencies can be very stressful and difficult to deal with therefore this committee has developed a very detailed job responsibility package which outlines (in point by point format) what each teacher/administrators must do in various emergency situations. Each school has designated a "job" responsibility to each teacher, support staff and administrator. The teacher/administer therefore grabs their package and uses it as a guide during the emergency.

All Principals and Vice-Principals have been through intensive training on all

---

## Contact Us:

School District #43 DPAC  
1100B Winslow Avenue  
Coquitlam, B.C.  
V3J 2G3

Ph: 604-939-3690  
Fax: 604-939-3695  
Email: [dpac43@telus.net](mailto:dpac43@telus.net)

Web: [www.dpac43.org](http://www.dpac43.org)

Advocacy Info Line:  
1-888-351-9834

or  
visit the BCCPAC–  
Advocacy web page at:

[www.bccpac.bc.ca/advocacy](http://www.bccpac.bc.ca/advocacy)

packages and have met with their staff to dedicate “job” to each staff member of their school.

May 7<sup>th</sup> elementary and middle schools executed an Emergency Release test which included an earthquake drill and student release procedures.

During an emergency many things can happen. Drills are necessary to ensure we are all prepared in an emergency and can adapt to the various situations that are encountered.

If you would like more information on these packages and how your school is preparing themselves for emergencies please contact your school principal.

---

## Family Resource Centre

**SUMMER ADVENTURE CAMPS** - For Children 6-11 - 2 camps to choose from. These camps offer a fun, relaxed atmosphere. Games, outdoor activities, drama and arts and crafts are the focus of the program. Children have opportunity to try new things and make new friends. For a cost of \$5.21 per hour, your children can have a fun filled 8 or 5 day camp.

Program 1 - Wednesday July 2 to Friday July 11th -- 9:00-3:00 pm (8 days)

Cost            \$260.00 (includes supply fee) Members  
                     \$310.00 Non members

Program 2 - Monday August 25 to August 29th - 9:00-3:00 (5 days)

Cost            \$170.00 (includes supply fee) Members  
                     \$210.00 Non Members

For more information please call 604-464-1187 or email [ldafn@telus.net](mailto:ldafn@telus.net)  
Visit online at [www.ldafn.ca](http://www.ldafn.ca)

---

## Special Olympics BC Active Start & FUNdamentals Programs

Special Olympics BC is excited to announce the creation of two *new* program initiatives, Active Start and FUNdamentals, which promote the development of basic motor and sport skills for young children with intellectual disabilities in a fun and positive environments.

Active Start is for the 2 - 6 year olds while FUNdamentals is for the 7 - 10 year old age group.

Currently the Active Start program is running in Coquitlam at Pinetree Community Centre, Saturday Afternoons from 1:00 - 2:00 pm

If you would like more information on either of these two programs please contact Shawn Fevens at 604-737-3055 or email [sfevens@specialolympics.bc.ca](mailto:sfevens@specialolympics.bc.ca)

---

## 2007 Teddy Bear Picnic

The 19th Annual Teddy Bear Picnic will take place on Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup> at Coquitlam Town Centre from 11:00am till 4:30pm. The Grande Parade will precede the opening of the Teddy Bear Picnic starting at 10:00am.

Children, and adults, can enjoy many exciting and fun filled activities such as – cookie decorating, teddy bear playground, miniature physical training course, gymnastics and tumbling, kid's zone, bicycle safety course, fire safety house and face painting.

The Teddy Bear Picnic has always provided a day of great family fun, entertainment and adventure. Admission is \$3, children under 3 FREE.

The DPAC newsletter is distributed via email and is available on our website at [www.dpac43.org](http://www.dpac43.org)

*Thank you all for your support.  
See you next year!*

---

---