

May 12, 2015

FINANCIAL LITERACY FOR STUDENTS

While teachers spent some time learning at the April 27 professional development day on April 27, so did more than 150 district students! Global Learning hosted a Student Financial Literacy Forum at Byrne Creek Community Schools' Centre for Dialogue. The day included a cohort of speakers and presenters from the Financial Literacy Counsel, a non-profit organization dedicated to the financial education of Canadians. It also included a video-conference with special guest, **Patrick Foran**, host of *CTV Consumer Alert*. He left the audience wiser with regards to their future finances. Trustee Narang and Chen were on hand to enjoy this very successful day of learning.

ARTS ALIVE IN BURNABY SCHOOLS

- On April 27, the District Youth Choir and the District Children's choir performed at the Michael J Fox Theatre. Their night of inspiration was entitled "Enter With Singing" and the audience certainly left singing their praises. Special thanks to their musical directors **Angela Adam** and **Ryan Phelps**.
- From May 4-6, Burnaby Mountain Secondary hosted the 35th annual Burnaby Schools' Festival of Dance. It showcased the artistic talents of more than 1,000 kindergarten to grade 12 students from 20 participating schools. There were a total of 33 performances over the three nights, with filled to capacity audiences who were most appreciative of such a grandiose dance celebration.
- 88 students from Burnaby Mountain's music program recently performed at the Whistler Music Festival with impressive results. The Intermediate and Senior Concert Bands each garnered gold, as did the Concert Choir. Congratulations to each of the students for this stellar achievement and to their music directors, **Paul Dudley** and **Deanna Gestrin**.
- Alpha student **Alex Carrasco** was chosen from acting students across the Lower Mainland to appear in The Edge Project series from Green Thumb Theatre. Alex has been a constant VPA student since grade 8, taking Drama, Dance and Theatre each year. The performance is entitled *The Coat Room*, and it debuts at the Round House Theatre this week.

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ODYSSEY OF THE MIND CONTINUED

Further to the Good News of April 28, there were actually three Burnaby teams who won gold at the Odyssey of the Mind Provincial championships. Buckingham Division 1 came out tops in the "Runaway Train Project." For the "Lose Your Marbles Project," gold awards were claimed by Glenwood Division 1 and Montecito Division 2.

The Montecito team also won the Ranatra Fusca award for outstanding creativity. They are presently coming up with a bold new plan for the World Finals in East Lansing Michigan later this month.

EN FRANCAIS S'IL VOUS PLAIT

In addition to the cultural and language benefits, *Concours d'art oratoire* helps students develop their creative and public speaking abilities, as well as self-confidence. The provincial finals was held May 2 at SFU Surrey. There were 240 students competing, including 19 from Burnaby schools. Speaking on a wide range of topics – from the secrets of water parks to women's rights, seven District students took home top awards. We extend congratulations to the following students:

- First place winners, **Averi Duerichen** (Aubrey) and **Sophia Luo** (Burnaby North),
- Second place winners, **Joanne Kim** (Moscrop) and **Shivam Bhayana** (Cariboo Hill)
- Third place winners **Nikita May** (Cariboo Hill), **Wassim Khelifi** (Moscrop) and **Hamish Clinton** (Alpha)

Special thanks to French Liaison and Ecole Brantford Elementary head teacher Anne Marie Bilton for her coordination efforts and to Canadian Parents in French for their sponsorship of this event.

TOP CHEFS

Burnaby School District's ACE-IT Program Chef **Stephen Wade**, was the guest speaker at the BC Chefs' Association Scholarship Awards Brunch on May 3. How fitting that three of his ACE-IT Professional Cook Training students received Chefs' Society Scholarships. Congratulations to **Kenneth Amaro**, **Jessica Mah** and **Joyce Lok Yun Pang**. Best of luck with your future culinary training and careers.