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“The World has changed ... the way we educate our children should too. B.C. has a strong education system, but there is no denying that our world is changing rapidly. New jobs are constantly being created, and technology is changing the way we communicate and connect with each other. We need to modernize the way students are educated so they are prepared for the world, not only as it is now, but will be in the future.” B.C. Ministry of Education Website

We’ve all seen it coming and now the Ministry of Education is more than ever focusing on learning empowered by technology. It is one of the main components of the new education plan that will help emphasize a more individualized learning model in all schools throughout the Province. A new concept? Not quite.

While perusing through my Volume 44, Number 8 of “The BC Teacher” magazine for May-June 1965, educators were being prepared for what was to come. “The sophisticated computers of 1965 are enough to boggle the mind of the uninitiated, yet we are only in the second phase of the age of cybernetics. In two or three generations, computers will be thousands of times more efficient and will be more commonly used. Every executive will have a computer of his own or will have access to one ... Depending on the decisions which are made in the near future, human society may cease to exist or, if he makes the right decisions, man will enter an age of plenty. Hunger, poverty and physical want of any kind may be eliminated for all time.” The BC Teacher – Vol. 44, No. 8, May-June 1965

As individuals involved in the development of our education system ... the pressure is certainly on to get it right!

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Less than two weeks from now, before our next public Board meeting, Chinese New Year will be celebrated on January 23. According to the Chinese Zodiac, the Year of 2012 is the “Year of the Dragon”, which begins on January 23, 2012 and ends on February 9. The Dragon is the fifth sign of the Chinese Zodiac and is a creature of myth and legend. In ancient China, the celestial Dragon represents an emperor and power ... today it is the ultimate symbol signifying success and happiness. May the celestial Dragon bring great good luck to everyone ... Gong Hey Fat Choy!

Larry Hayes
Board Chair / Trustee
Burnaby Board of Education SD41