

January 22, 2018

GO JAYS GO!

Where do blue jays fly for the winter? To Gilmore Community School of course! It was an exciting start to the New Year when Toronto Blue Jays all-star first baseman Justin Smoak, pitchers Aaron Sanchez and Marco Estrada, and native Canadian and outfield prospect Dalton Pompey visited Gilmore the first week after winter break. The school assembly was emceed by Sportsnet's Jamie Campbell, and the players enjoyed responding to the thoughtfully prepared student questions. Students and staff each received a Blue Jays baseball cap - and Principal Taylor was presented with a jersey and baseball equipment for the school. There just may be a former Gilmore student in the team's future roster. Thank you Blue Jays for a memorable day.

NEW YORK TIMES DEBUT FOR BURNABY NORTH STUDENT

The New York Times Student Review Contest challenges teenagers to experience any genre of creative work, write about their reactions and opinions and submit them to the *New York Times*. This year's contest received 1,494 submissions from around the world. Amongst them was one of 10 finalists, Burnaby North student Vicky Lee, whose review *Oh So Kurious*, was inspired by Canada's own Cirque du Soleil's *Kurious* performance. Congratulations Vicky for putting Burnaby Schools on the radar in the "Big Apple!"

WHAT WILL YOU READ ON FAMILY LITERACY DAY?

January 27 is Canada's Family Literacy Day. If you don't yet have a book lined up to read, consider a recommendation from one of our District Secondary Schools. Their "School Reads" programs are school-wide initiatives designed to inspire students and staff to read and talk about great books. The books are chosen by secondary school teacher-librarians and their school communities. There is a wide range of topics and genres to interest all readers - including a district-wide choice common to all secondary schools entitled *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas. Enjoy a great read this weekend!!

THE GIFT OF READING

It appears that the students at Stride Avenue Community School have been extra good this year, according to Santa's helpers - the staff at Chapters- Indigo, Metrotown. They selected this school as the recipient of some new books for their school library. The exciting announcement was made by Manager Sandra Griffin at a school assembly in December - a magical Christmas gift indeed!! Thank you Chapters - Indigo staff, for choosing Stride Avenue Community School - and for inspiring our students to read - and succeed!