

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Reporting to Public Session on Monday, January 22, 2018

1. Real Life Applied Design, Skills and Technologies (ADST) Challenge

The inclusion of ADST in the K-7 curriculum has provided Burnaby students with many fresh, innovative opportunities to become empowered and engaged in their learning. Throughout the district, the vibrant diversity of our teachers has created opportunities ranging from spinning yarn to mini Maker Faires to robotics.

Bryan Tesan, grade 6/7 teacher at Kitchener Elementary School presented his class with a challenge that involved working on design structures that would make their school a more inclusive place. The challenge included looking at the school and considering structures that might allow an exceptional kindergarten child to experience all parts of the gym, playground and upstairs in the main building.

What began as a one hour challenge turned into a week-long project. In groups, the class designed numerous structures out of balsa wood and explored how these structures might make the school a more inclusive and welcoming place for all students.

This evening, Deb Taylor, Principal Kitchener Elementary School will introduce Bryan Tesan and his students Faith Sorka, Puneet Dhinsa, Lauren Schmidt, Betty Topic, Brooklyn Cheong-McDonald and Sophia Ramos who will speak about how they met this challenge.

Recommendation: THAT the Board of Education receive this information.

2. ADST as the Multidisciplinary Connector

Aja Geddes, Multi-Age Cluster Classroom (MACC) 4/5 teacher at Capitol Hill Elementary School, in conjunction with Alex McKillop, District Advisor Applied Design, Skills and Technologies (ADST), engaged students in a project combining Math, Science and ADST.

Over two days, the students worked in groups designing and building Rube Goldberg machines that could be linked together to create a class chain reaction. The class then designed experiments to test out their materials, recorded and discussed their results and charted their work. They made predictions about how objects behaved while in motion, and applied their findings to their designs. Students were also asked to reflect on their experiences both working collaboratively as a group, and on applying the Math and Science used in the process.

This evening Wally Kanno, Principal Capitol Hill Elementary School will introduce Aja Geddes MACC 4/5 teacher and she will introduce students Peter Dong, Enoch Liang, Eugene Liang, Mabell Mathews and Jocelyn Zhang who will share the thinking and processes they used in designing and building Rube Goldberg Machines.

Recommendation: THAT the Board of Education receive this information