

**January 24, 2012**

## **A BEAUTIFUL MISSION**

On the morning of January 5, Burnaby Mountain students arrived to a school that had been taken over by post-it notes! More than 4,500 of these sticky notes were placed throughout the school with positive messages on them in 8 different languages. Turns out it was a special initiative brought to them by the school's Gay-Straight Alliance Club. The main goal of "Project Beautiful" was to make people feel good. Given the smiles and the conversations in the hallways it appears that it was an overwhelming success.

## **WASTE NOT, WANT NOT**

Burnaby School District is striving to reach the GVRD'S 2015 goal for a 70% reduction of waste, and the food scraps program is the latest initiative in Burnaby School District's waste reduction plan. Launched in Fall 2011, nine schools are reducing their footprint by preventing food scraps like sandwiches, fruit, paper towels and pizza boxes from going into the garbage. Forty-two food scrap containers are collected from these schools each week by the City of Burnaby. The containers are taken to Richmond where the scraps are composted and made into renewable soil.

## **ÉCOLE ALPHA SECONDARY SET TO JAM**

It was music to music teacher Paul Dudley's ears when he learned that École Alpha Secondary won the MusiCounts Roland Jam Pack. Presented by Sirius XM Canada, Alpha's music room will soon be humming with a jam-band collection of instruments worth over \$12,000, including a drum kit, digital piano, synthesizer and amps. The school was chosen as the lucky recipient based on the use of current equipment/inventory and their need to expand a growing interest. Alpha's music program has quadrupled in the past five years, with more than 25% of students participating in Junior, Intermediate, Senior and Jazz Bands, Guitar, Concert Choir and Music Technology/Composition. The Roland Jam Pak means more students can participate in the music program and allows them to fully engage in the composition process.

## **BURROWS ATTENDS ÉCOLE AUBREY ELEMENTARY**

In early December, Jennifer West's grade 3/4 students at École Aubrey Elementary had a chance to get up close and personal with Alex Burrows. Their class produced a video that won the "Bring Burrows to School" contest. After signing some jerseys and "stuffies" he headed to the gym to speak to the entire school about "dreaming big", to answer some well thought out questions and to launch EA Sports NHL 2012 game that features the Vancouver Canucks.

## **COURAGE SKATE**

Blind and visually impaired district students are getting the chance to try ice-skating, thanks to Courage Canada, a national charity that covers the costs of skating sessions. The national charity is covering the cost of ice-skating sessions for 10 students, who started their lessons last week. The program runs once a month for four months and takes place at Burnaby 8 Rinks.

## **LOOK OUT PATRICK CHAN.....HERE COMES NAM**

Burnaby's Nam Nguyen, a grade 8 student at Burnaby Central, is taking the skating world by storm. Since 2007 he has been the youngest to win four national titles in his category. This past weekend, the 13 year old competed for the first time in the men's senior division in the Canadian Figure Skating Championship. He claimed seventh position to Patrick Chan's first place spot! Worth noting is that Patrick Chan was 15 years old when he claimed seventh in his senior debut. Nam is definitely one to watch.....

## **KUNG HEI FAT CHOY**

This year the Chinese New Year's celebration at Forest Grove was a teaching moment. The kindergarten and grade 1 Mandarin Language Arts students taught the English kindergarten and grade 1 students some Chinese songs and dances to perform at the New Year's assembly. From ribbon dancing, umbrella dancing, the traditional lion dance and to a dragon dance, there was plenty to see and do at Forest Grove's celebration on January 23 for Chinese New Year.