

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**  
**Reporting to Public Session Monday, February 22, 2016**

**1. Lunar New Year**

The Mandarin Language Arts Program at Forest Grove is into its 6<sup>th</sup> year with students enrolled in Kindergarten through Grade 5. The core curriculum is taught in English, with Mandarin Language learning threaded through song, stories and play. Students are acquiring skills in Mandarin oral communication and basic reading and writing in Simplified Chinese. Students in the program have the opportunity to celebrate and appreciate an additional language and the cultural benefits.

On February 10<sup>th</sup>, Forest Grove Elementary hosted an assembly to celebrate Lunar New Year. Guests, parents and students were invited to see students in the Mandarin program share a traditional performance.

This evening, Al Post, Principal, Forest Grove Elementary, will provide a summary of tonight's performance. Deborah Tang, Jaimie Li, Jin Sheng and Jane Ma, teachers from the Mandarin program, along with a group of their students, will perform in celebration of Lunar New Year, the Year of the Monkey.

Recommendation: THAT the Board of Education receive this information.

**2. Acceptance Day**

On Wednesday, February 17, seventy busloads of elementary students from throughout BC arrived at the Pacific Coliseum. They included students from four Burnaby schools, including the entire Kitchener school community, who would participate in the fourth annual "Vancouver Giant's Acceptance Game." Filling the entire lower bowl and wearing identical pink shirts, 6,000 elementary students shared a message of respect for themselves and others in an "Acceptance" flash mob dance to "You're a Superstar" by Love Inc. Organizers of the project hope to turn this amazing partnership of schools into a legacy project where schools work together to deliver a positive social message to the community regarding acceptance. Burnaby students, staff and the community are proud of their schools' participation in this event and the strong commitment to create safe, caring and respectful learning environments.

Tonight, Kitchener students in grades 4-7 will perform the routine from the 2016 Acceptance Flash Mob. Joining the students here tonight is Principal Anthony Yam, head teacher Kim Clark, and music teacher Tisia Minichiello.

Recommendation: THAT the Board of Education receive this information.