

# Good News

February 24, 2015

## HAPPY LUNAR NEW YEAR

The year of the sheep was heralded in with great fanfare by the Mandarin Language Arts students and all other classrooms at Forest Grove Elementary. Parents, trustees and senior management enjoyed performances from each grade that included the fan dance, drummers, and a flock of kindergarten-sized sheep.

At Taylor Park Elementary, a group of Taiwanese dancers from the Jhuo Lan Dragon Dance Team, performed at their Celebration of Learning Assembly. The mayor, city councilors and school trustees were there to ring in the New Year with them.

## A DAY OF SHARING

Gay-Straight Alliance members from four Burnaby secondary schools attended a Networking Event on February 20 at Burnaby North. The students shared what they are doing at their respective schools and then enjoyed a presentation by illustrious guest speaker Dia Divina. They also had lots of fun with a rainbow backdrop photo booth – and left the event with goodie bags. The students are looking forward to their next big event, the International Day Against Homophobia which will be held on May 15th at Burnaby Central.

## ALL ABOUT IMPROV

Students from Burnaby Mountain strutted their stuff this month at the Canadian Improv Games showdown. Both of Mountain's teams - their Junior and Senior – made it to the Lower Mainland finals which is a feat in itself, having defeated schools from the Lower Mainland and the Fraser Valley to make it into the top six. In the finals, the Junior Team finished third overall and the Senior team placed fourth. Bravo for an "act" well done!

## SCHOU THEN AND NOW

Since 1913 a lot of learning has taken place at Schou. It was a public elementary school from 1913 to 1979. Until 2014, it was a learning centre for District staff. On February 18, the community came together to celebrate the grand reopening of Schou as a District Continuing Education Centre. Joining trustees and senior staff in the celebration were up to 100 former elementary school students who appreciated a reunion that was arranged for them and Continuing Education students and staff. A great time was had by all!

-more-

# Good News

## BACK TO THE FUTURE

This past weekend, forty teams from BC were at École Alpha Secondary to participate in the VEX Robotics Championship. The Teams were tasked with designing and building a robot, competing against other teams in a game-based engineering challenge. It was a fantastic event that had everyone engaged and focused all day long – including five school trustees. Congrats to both teams from Alpha who made it into the semi-finals and their teacher Russell Evanisky.

## MATH IS THEIR GAME

Earlier this month a team of grade 8 students from Moscrop Secondary won first place at the Math Challengers Regional Competition. Additionally six students were amongst the top 10 in their division of 60 students. They included Sophia Zhao, Jerry Zheng, Michael He, Josh Zhang, Brendan Wu and Vlad Liksutin.

## BULLYING AWARENESS DAY

Many Burnaby Schools students will be dressed in pink tomorrow, to raise awareness about bullying and bullying prevention. This year students at Burnaby Mountain, Seaforth and Parkcrest enjoyed a presentation by Travis Price, one of the cofounders of Pink Shirt Day. He shared with the students the origin of the day, how a new student at his school had worn a pink shirt and been teased for it. In solidarity he then rallied the students at his school to wear pink shirts. His message to students is that its up to each of us to be the change we want to see in the world, and that one small act can make a difference in someone's life.

## SECONDARY SCHOOL BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

- Congratulations to the senior girls team from Burnaby Mountain who for the first time in the school's history have advanced to the BC High School AAA provincial championships. The Mountain Lions secured their berth to the championships by winning the consolation final in the Lower Mainland Final with a thrilling 92-85 OT victory over the Argyle Pipers.
- Cariboo Hill and Alpha Secondary Schools' Jr. Girls Basketball teams (Grade 9/10) were in the Vancouver and District Finals. On the final day of playoffs they played each other. Cariboo defeated Alpha to place third and Alpha finished in fourth place. Both teams were winners in displays of good sportsmanship!