

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Reporting to Public Session Tuesday, February 25, 2014

1. Supporting Safe and Caring Schools – Burnaby's Kindness Campaign

The Burnaby School district is committed to ensuring school communities are safe and caring learning environments. The recent proclamation of February 26, 2014 as *Bullying Awareness Day* in BC, provides the opportunity to showcase Burnaby's proactive approach to keeping its communities safe.

The district's ongoing participation in the Ministry of Education's ERASE Bullying Strategy supports staff training in threat and risk assessment as well as student participation in the upcoming provincial forum on February 28.

Board of Education Chair and Superintendent of Schools sent an open letter to families outlining the district's commitment to keeping schools safe along with proactive strategies to promote pro-social behaviours. Burnaby's Code of Conduct accompanied the letter.

District staff has provided schools with resources that can be used to promote *Bullying Awareness Day* and the *Kindness Campaign* in schools. Website links to learn more about bullying prevention and intervention and the promotion of compassion and empathy were also included.

In addition, the district is pleased to welcome Travis Price, co-founder of Pink Shirt Day to Burnaby. He will address parents on Monday, February 24 and students at Burnaby Central and Byrne Creek Secondary schools on Thursday, February 27. Travis Price has become well-known for his story about how the Pink Shirt movement began – when he and another grade 12 student organized a protest to wear pink in support of a fellow student bullied at their Nova Scotia high school.

This evening, Sue Dorey, Manger Youth Services will provide an overview of the myriad of initiatives, program opportunities and events to promote *Bullying Awareness Day* and support safe and caring schools in Burnaby and introduce two examples presented here this evening.

a) Kindness at the Heart

“Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.” This quote by Aristotle is one that is practised every day in Burnaby schools, creating cultures of learning, empathy, gratitude and kindness. On Tuesday, February 18, leadership students from Maywood Community School chose to “pay it forward” at Metropolis, Metrotown. Together, forty-two students performed more than one hundred random acts of kindness to the surprise and delight of shoppers in the busy, local mall.

This evening, Community School Coordinator, Gayle Beavil and teacher, Pat Bathurst, along with members of Maywood's student leadership team, will share their experience and a few of life's lessons they learned along the way.

b) 2014 Pink Project

On Monday, February 10, over 3400 pink-shirted students from across the lower mainland performed at the Vancouver Giants' Family Day game at the Pacific Coliseum in Vancouver. Taking part in the *2014 Pink Project* were students from 7 Burnaby schools, including students from Alpha Secondary School. Students shared a message of respect for themselves and others in a flash mob dance to "*Shooting Star*" by Owl City. Organizers of the project hope to turn this amazing partnership of schools into a legacy project where schools, together, deliver a positive social message to the community regarding acceptance.

Burnaby students, staff and community are proud of their school's participation in this event and the strong commitment to helping erase bullying in BC schools. Tonight, members of Alpha's dance team will perform the routine from the *2014 Pink Project*.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.