

February 26, 2013

DOG DAY AFTERNOON

RCMP Constable Scott MacLeod and his partner, police dog Brando recently visited Gilpin Elementary so that students could become more familiar with police dogs and how they are used to protect the public. They learned about the vigorous training and tests the dogs go through before they are deemed suitable for police work, and then were amazed at how quickly Brando sniffed out his target in the training demonstration. Constable MacLeod and Brando are part of the Lower Mainland's District Integrated Police Dog Service which covers the 13 RCMP detachments in the Lower Mainland and Abbotsford.

RECOGNIZING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

February is Black History month. As a means to create youth connections, Byrne Creek recently hosted a video-conference with Ghana, Africa. Students from Byrne Creek's Africa Club performed a drumming routine for students from the Oiaia International School. They in turn shared an informative report that portrays Ghana as a modern African nation that shares the same fast food as North America, has better modern technology and is the second largest cocoa exporter in the world. And as Ghanaian students speak English at school, the conference wrapped up with a question and answer session so that students could learn what a typical day of school in each country might look like.

WHERE TEACHERS LEARN

Almost 1,200 District educators were the students on February 22 at a Pro-D day presented by the Burnaby Teachers' Association, the Burnaby Principals' and Vice-Principals' Association, and the Burnaby School District. Workshops were held at Byrne Creek Secondary and Taylor Park Elementary but many speakers were accessible to both venues due to videoconferencing technology. Keynote speaker Dr. Schonert-Reichl spoke about the impact that caring and compassion makes on student lives. Other workshops included social-emotional learning, making change for LGBTQ youth, English language learning, and strategies for teaching science. The day also included exceptional student performances, including an anti-bullying flash mob.

KINDNESS ROCKS BURNABY SOUTH

On February 20, *Kindness Rocks*, a high energy, inspirational and educational show about kindness to self, others and our planet, held three performances at the Michael J Fox Theatre. The goal was to inspire youth to take positive action to stop worldwide violence and bullying and to remind them how important their words, actions & individual contributions are to the world. It was a great kick off to a week of kindness activities planned for Burnaby South students who attended the two morning performances. The afternoon performance was reserved for intermediate students from Burnaby South's family of elementary schools. Burnaby South's Choir and Leadership students also participated in the shows that were generously sponsored by Coast Capitol Savings.