

February 27, 2017

LEARNING AT LOCHDALE

Lochdale Community School has enjoyed some unique learning projects this month. Students in grades 2 through 4 enjoyed several workshops put on by students from Alpha's Sustainability team. They learned how to reuse newsprint and made paper bags out of them. Then the entire school participated in a MAGNIFICANT BOX ACTIVITY led by Teacher-Librarian Kristie York. It encouraged plenty of "thinking outside the box" brainstorming and teamwork. Classroom themed projects included a modern day garage, an amusement park and a city. The 4 week project finished with a parent "show and share."

YOGA AT THE PARK

In early February, Parkcrest hosted Michelle the yoga teacher. The school offered community yoga sessions in the morning, student classes during the day and a teacher training practice during lunch. Feedback has been tremendous with parents sharing that they are implementing many of the mindfulness techniques at home. The UBC Social Emotional Learning Lab took an interest in the program too. Then, last week, the school transferred their mindfulness techniques learned on the mat to the tennis courts. What a match!

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY IN OUR SCHOOLS

- Edmonds Community School hosted an after school event to celebrate Black History Month. It was organized by an Edmonds parent who collaborated with MOSAIC and the Newcomers Centre to bring the community together. Guests enjoyed stories, music and dance. A great time was had by all.
- Also for Black History Month, the District's Global Learning Program set up a unique webcast in Byrne Creek's Centre for Dialogue. It featured Chris Lubbe, who was Nelson Mandela's former bodyguard and is a UNICEF Children's Champion. More than 300 students enjoyed the presentation.
- On January 26, Literacy Day, South Slope/BCSD invited some special guests in to read to the primary classes. They included American Sign language storyteller Sergei Shalaev. Students were deeply engaged in the books their guest readers chose – and hope for a return visit soon!

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IN THE PINK

Burnaby Schools celebrated inclusion and diversity in our schools on Wednesday, February 22 – Pink Shirt Day. Some highlights as follows:

- Students from Burnaby Central's TRUST Club, invited Burnaby RCMP members to the school to play some floor hockey with students and staff. They were great sports, all decked out in pink shirts, and afterwards had lunch with the students and shared with each other the work they do supporting a caring, empathetic and bullying-free community.
- Leadership students from Windsor Elementary and Maywood Community School started a kindness movement at Metropolis using \$10 gift cards to randomly help strangers. Later in the day, students from both schools joined them in the grand court for an impromptu dance - a visual reminder of the importance of standing up together to make a difference for others.
- Kindness and generosity was the theme of the month at Marlborough Elementary. With hatching salmon eggs providing inspiration, their hallways were flooded with paper fish featuring positive words and a powerful reminder that "we swim together."
- And grade 6 & 7 students from Douglas Road attended a press conference at Shadbolt with Premier Clark and athletes from a wide range of sports, to promote positive sporting environments. They enjoyed the inspiring speeches of the athletes, getting autographs, receiving a proclamation from Premier Clark for their school – and they even posed a few questions about the budget!

ON THE RADIO – EN FRANCAIS

Ecole Alpha's Grade 11 French Immersion students in Mme. Godin's classroom were invited by CBC's Radio Canada to participate in a national youth forum. It was a unique opportunity for students to express their experiences, views and ideas, on topics including health and education and to meet the French Canadian community. The show, called Les Éclaireurs, with radio host Sophie-Andrée Blondin, aired on February 20.

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MOSCROP MATHLETES AT IT AGAIN

Five Moscrop students were invited to the Canadian Open Mathematics Challenge held at UBC. Grade 12 students, Eric Wen and Jimmy Qi each received a \$10,000 scholarship, while Edward Jiang and Change Fang Zhou each received a \$1,000 scholarship. Moscrop was ranked 3rd in BC.

In the Regional Math Challengers Competition, both grade 8 and 9 teams from Moscrop Secondary came in 2nd. With 50 to 60 students in each division, the 10 top students in each division were chosen to compete in a one on one face off round. It included three grade 8 Moscrop students and four grade 9 students. Special recognition goes out to grade 9 student Angel Liu. Last year, she was amongst the top 20 students in her division, and this year she jumped to the top five.

SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS...

- Moscrop's Gymnastics Team finished 4th in the Provincial Championships in Prince George
- Burnaby South's Rebels Varsity basketball teams brought home 5 BNW District Championships - and their Senior team was just one game short of qualifying for the 4A provincials.
- And this past weekend, Byrne Creek's Triple A boys basketball team defeated a powerhouse Steveston-London team 101-92 to claim the Lower Mainland banner and secure a spot in the Provincials. Congrats to the team and to their coaches...onwards Bulldogs!