

**March 27, 2012**

### **Snap! Crackle! Pop!**

Twelfth Avenue Elementary is pleased to have a new healthy breakfast program to start the day. The school received a grant from "Breakfast for Learning," the leading national non-profit organization solely dedicated to child nutrition programs in Canada. They also received support from the Burnaby Children's Fund. The program is operated by staff and parent volunteers from 8:15 to 9 am and feeds up to 40 students each day.

### **A Gleeeful Group Designed For All**

Almost 40 students from grades 1-7 showed up when a new elementary glee club was formed at South Slope and the BCSD – and they aren't just learning music. The instructor, Daniella Revitt, is a parent at the school, and is committed to including deaf and hard of hearing students. The group sings and dances to contemporary music using many ASL signs.

### **Students Teach "It's Possible"**

On March 15, the Grade 7 Public Speaking Challenge was held at Byrne Creek's Centre for Dialogue. While all speeches on the theme "It's Possible" were impressive, the "Carter Cup" was awarded to Ariel Pan (Chaffey Burke), with Gresa Ibra (Taylor Park) in second place and Christina Manning (University Highlands) claiming third. Congratulations to these students and the other five finalists, Maria Napolitano (Aubrey), Joshua Yang (Montecito), Lana Hui (Inman), Kajal Bhardwaj (Stride Avenue), and Imogen O'Neal (Forest Grove). The Grade 7 Public Speaking Challenge is unique to the District and has been an annual event since 1983.

### **Primary Days of Music**

The week before Spring break, almost 2,000 grade 2 and 3 students participated in the District's *Primary Days of Music*. A long standing tradition that is unique to Burnaby, this event brings about 4 or 5 elementary schools together at one host school. For an entire morning the gymnasium is filled with the sound of music as primary choirs experience the joy of singing together and performing some carefully rehearsed pieces for one another.

### **Great Debates Start at Alpha**

Alpha's first Debating Team is taking the debating world by storm. Team members include grade 8 & 9 students Hamish Clinton, Kiersten Hagen, Tomas Lang and Drew Powell. They won awards at the York House Debate Tournament in January, and placed at the Regional held at Burnaby Mountain in February. At the Provincial Tournament, Hamish placed 2nd in the public speaking portion of the debate tournament. He will be representing Alpha at the Canadian Junior National Speech Tournament in Calgary next month.

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### **Burnaby's Human Calculators**

Math Challengers is an enrichment, coaching and competition program that promotes mathematics achievement among students in Grades 8 & 9. This year Moscrop Secondary performed exceptionally well in the Provincials claiming first place for their grade 9 team with student Kathy Fan securing 2<sup>nd</sup> place overall. They also claimed second place for their grade 8 team with student Ivon Liu coming 3<sup>rd</sup> overall. Burnaby South Secondary came fourth in both team categories and grade 9 student Michael Zhang placed fourth as well.

### **One of Burnaby's "Ones to Watch"**

Cariboo Hill Secondary alumnus Jennifer Wong is this year's recipient of the Quest award. It is presented by the Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation and Capital Health to the student researcher who demonstrates the greatest promise and potential for excellence in health research. Currently working on research to identify the stresses faced by caregivers in long-term care facilities in Nova Scotia, Jennifer's master's degree is in industrial/organizational psychology. She has just been accepted to continue her studies in the PhD program at Saint Mary's University.

### **International Award Goes to Byrne Creek**

ASCD, the international education leadership association, has awarded Byrne Creek Secondary the 2012 Vision in Action: ASCD Whole Child Award. The award is given annually to a school that has moved beyond the narrow focus of academic achievement and engages the whole child. This creates learners who are knowledgeable, emotionally and physically healthy, and ready for the world beyond formal schooling. Principal David Rawnsley accepted the award at ASCD's Annual Conference & Exhibit Show in Philadelphia on March 25. Byrne Creek is the first Canadian school to receive this prestigious award.