

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Reporting to Public Session Monday, March 27, 2017

1. The Power of Sport

Cariboo Hill Secondary Senior Girls' Basketball team travelled to Cuba last fall and had the opportunity to train and be coached by the Cuban National Coaching program. The trip provided a wonderful experience for the team to develop in their area of sport as well as providing an enlightening and enriching cultural experience.

Cariboo team members were buddied with a Cuban athlete of a similar age and trained with them for the week. Both of teams worked through language barriers while sharing a common understanding in the language of basketball.

Burnaby students developed strong and deep friendships with these hard working national athletes. While off the court, the team enjoyed touring Old Havana, Revolution Square, historic sites and the warm weather. They also hosted the Cuban team enjoying meals together and dance lessons.

As a result of extensive fund-raising for the trip, the Cariboo team was able to put together donation bags for each athlete and coach as well as make a sizeable donation to a local Havana inner city community centre. Going above and beyond what was expected, the girls' team also donated much of their own wardrobe and shoes, making for light bags on the return trip home!

Cariboo Senior Girls' Basketball team represented the school, district and Canada with the highest level of international diplomacy.

Tonight, Andy Chin, Principal, Ecole Cariboo will introduce Wendy Palmer, Senior Girls' Basketball Coach and several members of the team who will share their experience of the trip to Cuba.

Recommendation: THAT the Board of Education receive this information.

2. Global Citizens

Seven Students at Burnaby North Secondary School travelled to Ecuador during Spring Break where they explored the United Nations Educational Science and Cultural Organization World Cultural Heritage site. Heritage sites are selected on the basis of having cultural, historical, scientific and some other form of significance and are protected by international treaties.

Students traversed the Amazon Basin by boat along the Napo River arriving at the Minga Lodge. At the lodge the students received a community orientation and began their service

project, learning about the five pillars in the Free the Children Organization's WE Villages Project; Education, Health, Clean Water/Sanitation, Livelihood, and Agriculture/Food Security.

Additional activities included visiting a cacao farm, trying out traditional weaponry, and participating in a hike through the jungle.

This evening, Diane Carr, Vice-Principal at Burnaby North Secondary School will introduce Sabrina Versteeg, Science Teacher, who will provide an overview of the trip and introduce students who took part in this experience.

Recommendation: THAT the Board of Education receive this information.