

April 10, 2017

Communities are known by the schools they keep. For it truly does take a community – a village – looking out for the best interests of our children – to prepare them for the challenges of a changing tomorrow.

Included in our village, we are immensely grateful for the generosity of organizations like the Burnaby Firefighters Charitable Society. Burnaby's firefighters aren't just the first responders to a 911 call. And this weekend I was proud to be a part of a larger community who came together to celebrate this organization at their 25th Firefighters ball.

Burnaby's first responders recognize the District's most immediate needs. And they arrive on the scene, sometimes in their firetrucks, to support our children and our schools. From support for a nutritional snack program that now extends to 30 district schools to support for the dry grad program at each of our high schools, Burnaby firefighters extend their far-reaching support above and beyond the call of duty.

This year they are launching a new initiative designed to build leadership capacity of youth. The Marilyn Codrye Bursary will recognize grade 7 students who have been outstanding role models and planted seeds to inspire younger peers to "be the change they want to see in the world." This program of four \$500 bursaries for each of four students will be offered at Windsor Elementary and Edmonds, Stride Avenue and Gilmore Community Schools - and it will continue to inspire youth in these schools for the next 25 years.

Additionally, the Society is also offering a 10 year commitment of \$5,000 annually towards the Michal J Fox Scholarship. It directly supports students pursuing interests in the Visual or Performing Arts – maybe even launch them to stardom.

In closing, on behalf of the Board, I'd like to offer my sincere appreciation to the Burnaby Firefighters Charitable Society for the difference and impact that they make in the lives of our students, our schools, our District and our community.

Thank you for being there for them – and for all of us – and thank you for your interest in public education in Burnaby.

Baljinder Narang, Vice-Chair
Burnaby Board of Education