

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**  
**Reporting to Public Session on Monday, April 10, 2017**

**1. The Spoken Word**

For many years, the district has provided opportunities for students to share their talents and inspire audiences through various public speaking competitions. This year was no exception, with students participating in the district's Public Speaking Challenge, Concours d'Art Oratoire and Optimist Speech Competitions, in English, French and American Sign Language.

The District's Public Speaking Challenge, open to all Grade 7 students in the district, began in 1983 when then Burnaby Principal, Dave Carter, thought of creating a district-wide public speaking challenge for elementary students. Every year since then, hundreds of students have participated in the competition designed to develop confidence and pursue excellence in public speaking skills. Students compete at the school level after which they are selected to move forward to the zone level and then advance to the district finals. This year the district finals were held on Wednesday, March 8 at Byrne Creek Secondary School with the theme of "This Makes Me Proud".

Concours d'art oratoire is a regional, provincial and national contest that is sponsored and run through the Canadian Parents for French organization. Our Burnaby competition was organized and run by Head Teacher and French Liaison Anne-Marie Bilton from Seaforth Elementary. Students participated from across the district and they represented students from grades 6 through 12 in all French programs; Early French Immersion, Late French Immersion, Core French and Francophone.

Recently the Provincial Outreach Program: Deaf & Hard of Hearing (POPDHH) hosted the Optimist Speech Competition where up to 30 students, youth through grade 12, compete each year. This was the 23<sup>rd</sup> year of the collaboration between Optimist International and POPDHH to host this event, and this year's topic was *What the World Gains from Optimism*. This competition offers hearing impaired youth the opportunity to participate using speech or American Sign Language (ASL).

This evening, Deborah Simak, Director of Instruction, will provide an overview of the Public Speaking Challenges. Marisa Stark, grade 7 student from Lochdale Elementary, will share her first place speech from the District Public Speaking Challenge, Troy Cheah, grade 7 student from Ecole Seaforth Elementary will share his winning speech from the Concours competition and Jimmy Yang, grade 9 student from BC School for the Deaf who claimed the top prize in the Optimist Speech Competition will present his speech.

Recommendation: THAT the Board of Education receive this information.