

April 24, 2012

FIVE DAYS FOR FREEDOM AT TAYLOR PARK

Taylor Park Elementary set aside a week for a "Five Days for Freedom" campaign to raise awareness of injustices that take away children's rights. The school looked at global issues such as poverty, exploitation, disease, and thirst and did a "walk for health" in solidarity for those who have to walk for days to access clean water. To raise money for a village in a developing county, the students held a cake walk, movie and pizza night, and sold tickets to become "principal for a day." A Freedom Fest assembly on Friday included a guest speaker from the organization that inspired the campaign, *Free the Children*. And as a bonus, 10 minutes of additional recess time was granted, courtesy of the "principal for a day" winners.

BURNABY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WINS VIEWERS' CHOICE AWARD

A three minute documentary about how important the school garden is to the students of Forest Grove Elementary has received the BC Green Games Viewers' Choice Award. The documentary featured students discussing their involvement in seed classes, their primary art mural, and the after-school garden club. It was produced by a grade 5/6 class led by their teacher Ms. Parent and mentored by Ms. McMahon of the Garden Committee. The class won a field trip to Science World to celebrate their success.

THEY DID IT GREEN FOR THE PLANET

On Friday, April 20th, 160 students, including 70 elementary students, participated in the third Annual "Do It Green" for youth by youth event to raise awareness for environmental sustainability. Organized by students of the Burnaby Youth Sustainability Network, it provides a chance for district students to come together and share what they are doing at their schools to "go green." The day included a variety of workshops, an electric car display, an eco friendly décor display and a growing garden in the gym! Additionally, the district's Facilities Management Team provided displays of leading edge sustainability initiatives in energy conservation and waste reduction being used throughout the district.

RESIDENT MUSICIAN OPENS LITTLE EARS TO GHANAIAAN MUSIC

For the past two months Suncrest students have been exposed to the music and culture of Ghana by having a musician resident, Kofi Gbolonyo in their midst. A UBC professor of ethnomusicology, Gbolonyo taught Suncrest students complex rhythms, instrumental patterns, and the dances and games of Ghana. The program was the vision of music teacher Ms. Hetrick, and was generously funded by Westminster Savings and the school PAC. On Wednesday, April 18 the school hosted a Ghanaian music showcase and on the weekend the "Suncrest Vufoha Ensemble" performed at the National Orff Conference.

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DISTRICT RECOGNIZED AT NATIONAL ORFF CONFERENCE OF MUSIC EDUCATORS

Every decade BC plays hosts to the National Orff Conference for music educators that was held this year April 20-22. Working behind the scenes, district music educators Bonnie Ishii and Ari Conn have spent the past three years planning this event. For the opening ceremony performance, music teachers from Lochdale and Kitchener worked with two out-of-district teachers to create a 30 minute student performance. The following day, the "Suncrest Vufoha Ensemble" made up of grade 5-7 students who had worked with a resident musician from Ghana, performed a 30 minute dance and instrumental piece. The district was publicly acknowledged for their role in the planning and staging of this conference.

STUDENT FILM FESTIVAL RAISES FUNDS FOR PADS

A dozen student films based on the theme "*Burnaby: Who We Are*" were recently showcased at the Michael J Fox Theatre. The film festival was hosted by the district's Student Advisory Committee to raise funds for the Pacific Assistance Dogs Society. The evening also featured performances by students in the district's Visual & Performing Arts programs. Burnaby Central garnered "the Oscar" for best picture for their film, *Burnaby Central LipDub 2012*. But the big winner of the night was PADS, as more than \$1,400 was raised for the cause.

BURNABY STUDENTS SHINE AT BC SKILLS CANADA COMPETITION

Jaret Collette has won a gold medal at the BC Skills Canada competition for Automotive Body Repair. He will be going on to represent BC at the National Skills Canada Event in Edmonton in May. Jaret has also been offered an apprenticeship with Craftsman Collision. Another district ACE-IT student, Silva Retana, received a bronze medal for Culinary Arts. Last year she finished ACE-IT's Hospitality Management Program and is presently working for the Shangri-La Hotel, a five star hotel in downtown Vancouver.

WILDCAT WRESTLERS WIN BIG AT JUVENILE NATIONALS

Three Burnaby Central wrestlers were big winners at the Canadian national juvenile wrestling championships. Brothers Parmvir and Amar Dhesi, and Saheel Khan all won a pair of national titles fighting for Khalsa club, including their respective freestyle and Greco-Roman weight classes at the nationals in NB. Parm and Amar both won a third national title. It was the second such title for Khan.