

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Reporting to Public Session Tuesday, May 12, 2015

1. Building Bridges Project

The *Building Bridges Project* began last year as a way to build connections and deepen the professional relationship between Strong Start facilitators and Kindergarten teachers. The goal was to promote reflection on how to create places and experiences where children, families and educators explore, question and learn together.

In the second year of the project, each school team was invited to inquire into an area of particular interest to their work and to make learning visible for families, children and each other. This work was done collaboratively through discussion and sharing of documentation. Three of the teams chose to focus on ways to welcome and build relationships with families before entering school.

This inquiry into the transition process for our Kindergarten families developed into a pilot project, *Parents as Literacy Supporters (PALS)*. The goal of PALS is for families to learn alongside their children and connect with each other and the school community.

This evening, Doreen George, Coordinator Community Services will introduce the team from Cascades Heights who will share highlights of their work with families and stories of joyful learning together.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information

2. Burnaby's Graduation Transitions Program

Grade 12 students across the Burnaby School District work through an individual transition plan to help to prepare them for life after high school. There are four components: a Healthy Living Plan and Daily Physical Activity Requirement, the Work Experience component, Career Preparation Program, Transition Plan and a Financial Plan.

The Healthy Living Plan requires students to evaluate what they will need to do in the future to remain healthy and active throughout their lives, the Work Experience component ensures that students leave high school with the knowledge of how to find opportunities to volunteer in the community or experience a job that informs career choices. Most students select the Career Preparation component which gives them 90 hours of volunteer career choices. The final step, the Transition Plan, requires students to research education, life and career options. Through this process, students are taught the importance of thoughtful consideration when evaluating future options, setting flexible goals, budgeting through their Financial Plan and resume development. The Student Led Interview is the culminating process in this program.

The Student Led Interview provides students with the opportunity to participate in a professional interview process with a member of the community. Most importantly, the interview allows students to celebrate their successes, personal achievements, struggles and skill development and articulate how these experiences have helped to shape their plans for the future.

This evening, Victoria Lee, Principal Ecole Moscrop Secondary School, will provide an overview of the Graduation Transitions Program and introduce Moscrop students Wendy Guo and Lindsay Cameron who will share components of their transition interviews.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.