

June 10, 2014

MUSIC TO OUR EARS

Burnaby Schools Music programs continued their tradition of excellence this school year with fine performances at festivals provincially, nationally, and internationally. The following is just a sampling of the accomplishments of Burnaby Schools bands and choirs:

- Under the direction of teacher **Aaron Hardie**, Burnaby South Secondary School's Senior Band received silver at the *Whistler Cantando Festival*.
- At the *Nelson Cantando Festival*, the Burnaby Mountain Secondary Senior Jazz Band and Tour Band received gold, while their Junior Jazz Band received silver. At the *Vancouver Kiwanis Music Festival* the Junior & Intermediate Bands received silver while the Senior Band claimed gold. And at the *MusicFest Canada Nationals* the Senior Band garnered silver. The bands are all under the direction of teachers **Kevin White and Deanna Gestrin**.
- At the *Kiwanis Fraser Valley Music Festival*, Alpha Secondary was awarded gold for their Senior Band, and silver for both their Concert and Chamber Choirs. And at the *MusicFest Canada Nationals*, both the Concert and Chamber Choirs once again received silver. The bands and choir are under the direction of **Paul Dudley**.
- At Burnaby Central Secondary, whatever music teacher **Carrie Taylor** touched this year was golden! At the *Kiwanis Fraser Valley Music Festival*, the Men's Choir and the Chamber A Choir received gold, while the latter was also recognized as the "most promising Senior Secondary School Choir." And at the *Seattle Heritage Music Festival* the Concert Choir was awarded gold.
- At Moscrop Secondary, teachers **Juliet Rundell and Alley Park** are celebrating stellar placements at the *Seattle Heritage Music Festival*. The Intermediate Concert Band, Junior Jazz Band and the Orchestra all received gold while the Choir was awarded silver.

Additionally, many school choirs and bands participated in non-competitive outreach festivals and tours. They went to multiple corners of the world, including Kamloops, Nelson, Whistler, Hawaii, Cuba, and Scotland.

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GILPIN TAKES PART IN MIRACLE WEEKEND

A group of students from Gilpin Elementary were invited to appear on Global TV to present a cheque during the BC Children's Hospital Miracle Weekend. It's a cause that is close to the hearts of the school community for two of the hospital ambassadors are Gilpin students who received cutting edge treatment as infants and still receive care. Students, teachers and parents rallied together to support **Justin** (K) and **Nehal** (gr.2) in their efforts to give back to the hospital that has given them so much. The school raised over \$1,000 through "Jeans Day" and a bottle collection fundraiser. In total, more than \$18 million dollars was raised during the Miracle Weekend in support of the urgent needs of BC Children's Hospital.

HATS OFF DAY

The sun was shining for this year's annual Heights Hats Off Day Celebration on June 7, and Burnaby Schools were there to shine too. It kicked off with the 2n Annual Family Fun Dash in support of the Firefighters Fund. The annual parade followed, featuring a crowd favourite, Burnaby North's Viking Marching Band and a contingency of parents and tots from the Gilmore Community School preschool. In the afternoon, the Alpha Secondary Jazz Band and a band from Burnaby Mountain provided entertainment. There were also many high school students volunteering in various capacities. Proudly taking in the festivities were Burnaby Board of Education School Trustees Chia, Hayes, Narang and Wang.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING THIS SUMMER?

Burnaby Central Grade 12 student **Pasindu Muthukuda** earned one of the highest national scores on the Canadian Association of Physicists exam in April. As one of the top five high school physics students in the country and the only Western Canadian student to qualify, he is headed to Kazakhstan next month for the 45th International Physics Olympiad. In the meantime, as most students wrap up their studies, he's practising problems designed to shed light on the very nature of the universe – space, time, matter, motion, energy and force. Congratulations Pasindu – the Burnaby Schools community will be cheering you on!

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CITY OF BURNABY ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS

The City of Burnaby recently recognized five Burnaby Schools groups and individuals for their significant contributions to the sustainability of Burnaby's Environment. They received their awards at a reception held on June 8 at the Burnaby Lake Pavilion.

Receiving Environment Awards were:

Forest Grove Elementary School in the category of *Green Choices* for the creation of a school garden and related programs that educate the students and the nearby community about environmental sustainability and food security.

Byrne Creek Secondary School Fine Arts Department in the category of *Youth* for incorporating Byrne Creek ravine ecology into the curriculum for over three hundred art students in the 2012/2013 school year and guiding the students to produce art inspired by their experiences.

Receiving Environmental Stars were:

Carissa Konesky, a student at Burnaby North Secondary, in the category of *Youth* for her leadership and involvement in many environmental sustainability initiatives at her school and in the community.

Burnaby South Secondary School Green Team in the category of *Youth* for demonstrating leadership on environmental issues and creating an outdoor garden at their school.
Burnaby School District in the category of *Business Stewardship* for implementing sustainability, energy efficiency and conservation measures as part of the operation of their facilities.

Pablo Vimos in the category of *Community Stewardship* for his ongoing work with the Stoney Creek Environment Committee and other community organizations at UniverCity and University Highlands Elementary School.