

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Reporting to Public Session, Tuesday, June 12, 2012

1. District K - 12 Words Project

The District's Words Project is a prose and poetry creative writing competition open to all K - 12 students. It began twenty-six years ago in an effort to celebrate and encourage student writing. Over these twenty-six years, thousands of students have been recognized for their writing talent through the annual publication of the Words anthology and the annual Words Ceremony. The Words Project is a testament to the District's strong commitment to fostering the literacy skills that our students need to be successful in the twenty-first century.

This evening, Literacy Consultant, Ben Paré, will provide an overview of the 2012 Words Project. As well, students, Claire Roe, and Eleanor Hoskins will read their poems, and Bushra Gabreldar will read an excerpt from his prose piece.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.

2. Friends of Simon

Simon Fraser University is home to the award-winning initiative, *Friends of Simon*. The university brings together inquiry, instructional knowledge and Burnaby students to provide literacy tutoring for school-aged children and youth. Two of Burnaby's schools, Byrne Creek Secondary and Edmonds Community School, are benefiting greatly from the service provided by the local university.

The *Friends of Simon* initiative recruits, prepares and assigns university students as literacy tutors throughout the lower mainland, specifically targeting school-aged students new to the country. Partnering with schools, *Friends of Simon* works to increase students' success in school through after-school, weekend and summer programs. Students work in small group and individualized settings. Instruction is based on current trends in pedagogy and tutors receive their training and supervision from members of the Faculty of Education at Simon Fraser University.

This evening, Angela Flumerfelt, Project Coordinator for *Friends of Simon*, David Starr, Principal, Edmonds Community School and David Rawnsley, Principal, Byrne Creek Secondary, will be joined by Byrne Creek students, Mohamad Adnan and Jeanne Mubalana to share their experiences with the program and the impact that it is having on student learning in schools.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.