

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Reporting to Public Session on Monday, June 12, 2017

1. AP Capstone Trip to Japan

Over the past 3 years, the Burnaby School District has offered AP Capstone, an innovative diploma option for Grade 11 & 12 students. Developed in response to feedback from post-secondary institutions, AP Capstone allows students to engage in the development of inquiry, research, collaboration and writing skills. Their final Capstone project is a 5000 word paper on a research topic of their choice and a twenty minute oral presentation including an oral defense.

Earlier this spring, AP Capstone students from Burnaby South Secondary travelled to Japan to present their research to students at Tokyo Gakugei University International Secondary school. Students and staff from Tokyo Gakuegi visit Burnaby South annually to participate in a language and cultural exchange with Burnaby South students. These students have a similar program where their students write a large scientific research. This was an opportunity to have Burnaby South AP Capstone students present their research to an international audience and to continue to build the relationship between the two schools. This trip provided students an opportunity to explore new ideas, perspectives and approaches in academic relationships and collaboration. The experience builds on the exciting learning opportunities of the AP Capstone program at Burnaby South and in the Burnaby district.

This evening, Carol Zhang and Kiran Brar, two AP Capstone students from Burnaby South, are accompanied by Burnaby South's AP Research teacher, Andrea Burbidge, who will speak about their AP Capstone experience in Japan.

Recommendation: THAT the Board of Education receive this information.

2. Odyssey of the Mind

Odyssey of the Mind is an International creative problem-solving program for students Kindergarten through University. The program began in 1978, and the Burnaby School District has been participating since 1983. This year Buckingham, Montecito and Parkcrest Elementary Schools had a total of twelve teams participating, and approximately 84 students. Each of our participating schools had one team win the opportunity to attend the World Finals, held this year at the Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan.

Connecting and applying student learning to real-life situations is an important component of education in Burnaby. There are various field experience opportunities for students to apply their learning outside the classroom, as well as observe examples of where their learning can take them in the future. Traveling outside of Burnaby to make these connections is an enriching aspect of the learning journey.

This evening, Holly Lloyd, Head Teacher of Montecito Elementary School and District sponsor for Odyssey of the Mind, will provide a snapshot of this amazing program and learning opportunity. She will introduce students, Hana Reichel, grade 7 from Montecito Elementary and Kaleena Yen, grade 4 from Parkcrest Elementary who will share how this field experience has impacted them.

Recommendation: THAT the Board of Education receive this information.