

June 26, 2012

DISTRICT DEBATERS 5TH IN THE WORLD

Two Burnaby Mountain Secondary students returned home recently from the UK with more feathers in their caps. Jamal Dumas and Grace Jin finished fifth out of 64 teams at the International Competition for Young Debaters held at Oxford University. Dumas was also ranked fifth out of 127 participating speakers. Coincidentally, his first place win at the Law Week speech contest in April helped pay for his Oxford trip.

A HAWK HAS LANDED

On June 20, students and staff of University Highlands - and Board Chair Larry Hayes - had the opportunity to take part in the "planting" of their very own "hawk" eco-sculpture. The hawk will be watching over University Highlands until September - then will fly away until next year. The "hawk" is one of the newest additions to the City of Burnaby's famed eco-sculptures.

CITIZEN OF THE WORLD

Students at Cascade Heights participated in Canadian Hunger Fund's "Show What You Know" media arts contest this spring. They learned that not every child has access to education, shelter and clean water and they set about raising awareness to this plight through various forms of media. One project stood out amongst submissions from across Canada, a global citizenship poster "en francais" by Emilia Dawson. It reads, "Who is a citizen of the world? Someone who isn't afraid to make a difference." Selected as the winner of the age 10-14 category, she was awarded an ipod for her efforts. Her poster will be used in educational presentations in Ottawa, Calgary, Toronto, Vancouver and Edmonton.

Check out Emilia's winning entry at: <http://chfpartners.ca>

VIKING MARCHING BAND LEADERS IN MUSIC.... AND FASHION

The helmets stayed on at the Height's annual "Hats Off" parade, when Burnaby North's Viking Marching Band hit the paved runway wearing their spiffy new uniforms. For three years the students of BC's only secondary Marching Band class (taught by Peter Wenzek), have been fundraising for new uniforms. Despite their efforts they were still years away from their goal until a \$15,000 grant from the Ministry of Community, Sport and Culture helped make their dream come true. Designed by grade 11 student Shona Zhang, the uniforms were locally made and are water repellent too! Check out their "same great sound" but new look on Canada Day in downtown Vancouver.

ABORIGINAL VOICES: CREATING OUR FUTURE

On the evening of June 19 more than 80 elders, parents, students and Aboriginal team members attended a Community Forum on Aboriginal Education at Alpha Secondary. Since 2008, the Aboriginal Education Team has worked at achieving the goals set out in the Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement, *Aboriginal Voices: Creating Our Future*. The forum offered an opportunity to consult with the community on future directions in Aboriginal Education programs and services, including the Aboriginal Achievement Ceremony and Eagle Feather Incentive Program, the Aboriginal Circle Program, student support and the Aboriginal Youth Leadership Team.

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DISTRICT ALUMNUS OFF TO THE OLYMPICS

When Christine Sinclair graduated from Burnaby South in 2001, the blurb under her yearbook photo exclaimed "Mel, I'll see you in the Olympics." This summer she's off to the Olympics for the second time, reclaiming her title as captain of Canada's national women's soccer team. Ranked seventh in the world, Christine tops Canadian soccer records with 133 career goals. Their road to the podium starts on July 25 against World Cup winner Japan. Aside from meeting the Queen, Sinclair's goal for the Olympics, is to bring home a medal. Whether she brings home a medal or not, we're proud of this Burnaby School District "One to Watch." Go Christine Go!