

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Reporting to Public Session Tuesday, September 10, 2013

1. Engaging New Language Learning

Kindergarten marks the official start of formal schooling for many children. The first day and week of school are long anticipated by all students, but especially by kindergarten children and their parents. Parents and children come to school with hopes, dreams and goals.

The full day kindergarten program provides a rich and exciting learning opportunity where students are engaged in inquiry and play-based learning. This approach to learning helps to nurture the young student's sense of curiosity and understanding of the environment around them.

This evening, Wanda Mitchell, Director of Instruction, will introduce parent, Caroline Chady and Mandarin kindergarten student, Dominic from Forest Grove Elementary along with Sperling Elementary parent, Nilima Tupper and French Immersion kindergarten student Mira. They will share their thoughts and first impressions of their first week at school.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.

2. The Learning Never Stops

Summer Learning Opportunities are an important component of the District's commitment to providing students with a wide variety of program options to meet their interests and individual learning needs.

This summer the district hosted 8,200 students who participated in a variety of courses planned and organized by the school district. Classes were held in 22 Burnaby School locations enrolling 3,659 students in secondary programs and 4,500 in elementary programs. The students participated in courses or programs that advanced their program of studies, goals, developed skills for lifelong learning or provided extra support for students facing some learning challenges.

Secondary Advanced Credit courses were once again the most popular with approximately 2,700 students enrolled in Grade 10 – 12 subjects. These courses provided students with the opportunity to acquire credit for courses not yet taken or to upgrade a mark. Courses with the highest enrolment were: Social Studies 11, Foundations and Pre-Calculus Math 10, 11 and 12, Science 10 and English 12. English as a Second Language courses enrolled 125 secondary students. Grade 7/8 Transitions programs, which provide an introduction to secondary school, had 405 students participating this year.

Moscrop was the largest secondary site with 1,200 students attending classes followed by Burnaby North and Byrne Creek, each with over 1,000 students. Burnaby Mountain with morning classes only, enrolled approximately 500 students and Burnaby South Adult Centre attracted 324 learners.

At the elementary level, 4,500 students enjoyed a wide variety of learning opportunities at 19 different locations ranging from skill and language development, transition programs for students going into grades 1, 4 and 8 and enrichment courses that focused on reading, writing, study skills, essay and report writing, mathematics and problem solving, science, learning with laughter and leadership development. Marlborough and Aubrey were the largest sites enrolling 587 and 408 students respectively. Over 380 elementary students took English as a Second Language classes.

In addition to the Summer Session academic programs, a number of summer programs for children and youth were offered at each of the district's 7 community schools along with childcare and preschool programs at 13 elementary sites.

Tonight, District Principal Donna Scott and Principal Ernie Kashima will present the benefits of participating in just some of the summer learning opportunities in Burnaby.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.

3. School Opening Report

The 2013/2014 school year is off to a smooth start. The first week of school consisted of many focused activities including building school community and promoting positive school climate. Students, parents and staff also participated in a variety of school orientation activities and school communities are proud to welcome new and returning families to Burnaby.

The district overall school-age student enrolment projections for the 2013/2014 school year is 23,228 full-time equivalent students. This does not include adult learners or international students and is 346 fewer FTE students than the district enrolled in the 2012/2013 school year. Included in the projections are 1,678 new Kindergarten students and 2,270 FTE grade 12 students entering their final year of secondary school.

Given the many changes that occur during the first few weeks of a new school year, it is difficult to determine if the district projections have been met until the final September 30 Ministry of Education enrolment reporting date. However, the district has experienced a stable enrolment pattern over the last few years and it is anticipated that this year's enrolment will be close to projections. A detailed enrolment report will be provided to the Board at a future meeting.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.