

September 12, 2016

BURNABY SCHOOLS – A BUSY SUMMER

While more than 7,500 students were hard at work in our schools taking a wide range of educational programs this summer, others took their school related activities outside.

- In July, student volunteers joined school trustees at a booth at the Edmonds Community Fair, to share information and answer questions on Burnaby Schools programs and services.
- In August, students, teachers, staff and school trustees braved the heat to walk with pride in the Vancouver Pride Parade. The District's float this year featured sporting activities, complete with participants wearing coloured pinnies to represent the theme, Together, we win!
- In August the Burnaby Youth Sustainability Network hosted their fourth Vancouver Summer Swap at the Pacific Coliseum in an effort to divert unwanted goods from the landfill. More than 300 participants donated articles of clothing, accessories, shoes, books, etc and then had the opportunity to buy "new" stuff for \$8. All remaining items were donated to Big Brothers.

SOUND WAVE, A "RESOUNDING" SUCCESS AT INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

This summer, 12 District students who play in the Handbell Ensemble, Sound Wave, were at the International Handbell Symposium in Vancouver. Under the direction of Janet Nordstrand, they performed to perfection to the attuned ears of more than 650 delegates. At the end of the week, it was their teacher's turn to perform – conducting a mass choir of all delegates at the symposium's final concert.

READY FOR ANOTHER INSPIRING YEAR?

- Stoney Creek Community School spent their first week back to school with First Nations guest artist, Shyama-Priya learning the different styles of Pow Wow dancing. At the end of the week they hosted a fabulous Welcome Back Assembly complete with a Pow Wow Dance Performance.
- Capitol Hill Elementary School's Parent Advisory Council proudly hosted a Grand Opening Ceremony of their new school playground. It was installed by the District's Facilities team this summer. After a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, they hosted a Party in the Park to welcome families and staff back – and of course - as per what they learned in kindergarten, took turns playing on the wonderful new playground!

WILL A FUTURE TEAM CANADA SOCCER CAPTAIN HAIL FROM BURNABY?

The Whitecaps FC and BC Soccer are expanding the Girls Elite BC REX program into a full-time school based program and will be recruiting top talent from across Western Canada. Players will attend Burnaby Central Secondary and have a custom daily training schedule, akin to the Boys Residency Program. Perhaps a predecessor to Burnaby South graduate and Team Canada Captain, Christine Sinclair will be in our midst? Here's hoping! **-more-**

BURNABY SOUTH TEACHER ENSURES HISTORY NEVER FORGOTTEN

Burnaby South teacher Sabha Ghani, is a history teacher, and a history advocate. Years ago she applied to the federal government for the Komagata Maru incident to be commemorated as a National Historical Event of Significance. This summer, that's just what happened. Ms. Ghani was invited to give the historical address at two recognition events. The first took place on July 23rd, the 102nd anniversary of the departure of the Komagata Maru. The second event in August was the plaque unveiling ceremony. It took place at the site of the Komagata Maru Memorial in Coal Harbour and was attended by Minister of Defence, Harjit Sajjan.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM AN INTERNATIONAL WINNER

Study Travel magazine is a leading voice in the international education sector. They work with a variety of organizations and institutions, including language schools, high schools, colleges and universities. Annually, education consultants are asked to vote for their preferred program in a wide range of categories. Last year the School District's International Program was one of five high school programs worldwide shortlisted. And this year they won their prestigious STAR High School Award!! Congrats to the International Team for their effort in creating smooth transitions for international students who come to Burnaby Schools.

DISTRICT LITERACY PROGRAM FOR NEWCOMERS WINS PREMIER'S AWARD

On International Literacy Day, September 8, the District learned that the National Council of the Federation had awarded our LINC Program (Learning Instruction for Newcomers to Canada) a BC Literacy Award. It recognizes the talents of its dedicated teachers whose successful teaching style is resonating with their adult students who are recent immigrants and refugees. Students improve their English language literacy through community involvement and making connections to Canadian culture. Past assignments have included participation in the Terry Fox Run, BC Shakeout, and writing prose for the District's WORDS Writing Project. Free childcare is offered through a partnership with Burnaby Family Life. Congrats to the entire LINC team for supporting English language learning while building community connections.