

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Reporting to Public Session Monday, September 25, 2017

1. 2016-2017 Governor General's Academic Medal Recipients

Lord Dufferin, Canada's third Governor General after Confederation, created the Academic Medals in 1873 to encourage academic excellence across the nation. Over the years they have become the most prestigious award that students in Canadian Schools can receive.

For more than 126 years, the Governor General's Academic Medals have been awarded to students graduating with the highest average from a high school, as well as from approved colleges or university programs. Pierre Trudeau, Tommy Douglas, Kim Campbell, Robert Bourassa, Robert Stanfield and Gabrielle Roy are just some of the more than 50,000 people who have received the Governor General's Academic Medal. The medals are presented on behalf of the Governor General by each of our secondary school Principals.

The Governor General's Academic Medal recipients for the 2016-2017 school year are: Jade Yeung from Alpha Secondary, A J Ligocki from Burnaby Central Secondary, Cissy Yan from Burnaby Mountain Secondary, Daniel Lu from Burnaby North Secondary, Paul Lin from Burnaby South Secondary, Gurwinder Sidhu from Byrne Creek Secondary, Ashley (Gurkirat Kaur) Chana from Cariboo Hill Secondary and Samuel Huang from Moscrop Secondary School.

We are pleased to have Principals and Vice-Principals from each of our 8 secondary schools here with us tonight. They will speak about the tremendous achievements of their Governor General Academic Medal recipients.

Recommendation: THAT the Board of Education receive this information.

2. Orange Shirt Day

Orange Shirt Day is an annual event held on September 30 to honour the survivors of Indian residential schools. The event emerged from a residential school commemoration event in Williams Lake, BC in 2013. It grew out of Phyllis Jack Webstad's story of her first day at the St. Joseph's Mission Residential School when she proudly wore a bright orange shirt bought by her grandmother which was taken away and replaced by staff with a uniform. September was selected in remembrance of the time of year when First Nations children were gathered up and taken to these schools. Orange Shirt Day is meant to set the stage for learning and practicing anti-bullying and anti-racism in schools. It is an opportunity for schools and communities to come together in a spirit of truth and reconciliation and hope for the lives of children to really matter.

There are events and activities to honour Orange Shirt Day planned for groups of students in a number of schools including BCSD Elementary, Cameron, Forest Grove, Maywood,

Stoney Creek, Alpha, Burnaby Central, Cariboo Hill, Moscrop, Burnaby North and Burnaby South.

This evening District Principal of Aboriginal Education, Brandon Curr, will share his thoughts on the day, along with students Riley Simmons from Moscrop, as well as Annika Thiverge and Rachel Groening from Burnaby Central.

Recommendation: THAT the Board of Education receive this information.