

September 26, 2016

A WELCOME FIT FOR OUR PARALYMPIANS

This year, Cameron Elementary kicked off the school year with an Olympic theme complete with torch lighting, and presentations by the BC Sports Hall of Fame and two Gold Medal wheelchair Paralympians, Richard Peter and Marni Abbott-Peter.

But the theme continued for Ms. Veno's grade 4/5 class when they received a "golden" invitation from the Canadian Paralympic Committee and CIBC to attend a "homecoming" for local Paralympians returning from Rio – the only BC class invited to attend! On September 23, they headed downtown for an inspiring "meet and greet" with 17 of BC's finest. They asked great questions, received autographs, and had lots of fun despite the damp weather. A memorable day indeed!

ALL HANDS ON DECK

Marlborough Elementary participated in a unique back to school activity – that had all hands on deck – quite literally. Their inspiration was the book Beautiful Hands by Bret Baumgarten that is framed around the question "What can your beautiful hands do today?" The entire school community recreated pictures from the book using their handprints on eight art boards. The pictures collectively reflect the vitality and commitment to the outdoors that is evident at Marlborough and the completed art project will be mounted on the walls surrounding the community garden.

HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

Inman Elementary School music teacher Janet Nordstrand is this year's recipient of the BC Music Educators Association award for outstanding professional education in elementary music. An elementary school music teacher for 24 years, Janet's enthusiasm is contagious as she sets about to create for each child a lifelong passion for music. Besides teaching at Inman, she conducts the District Sound Wave Handbell Choir, presents workshops on music education, and coordinates an annual weekend of student workshops through the BC Guild of English Handbell Ringers. This summer, she conducted a choir of 650 participants of the International Handbell Symposium. Congratulations Janet!

PADDLE ON THE LAKE

Last year, Gilpin Elementary students had the opportunity to learn alongside local First Nations artist, Aaron Nelson-Moody (Splash) as he carved a “skumay” canoe out of a 1,600 year old cedar log. The “skumay” is what indigenous women once used to gather food. In the New Year, the responsibility for the canoe was handed over by Aaron to the school community. Then last Friday, the school community gathered at Deer Lake to see how “lake worthy” their canoe and Principal Briscoe would be! After the “tippy canoe” event, students participated in activities planned by staff and the District Aboriginal Education team. Special thanks to the PAC for supporting this worthwhile project that continues to inspire us all.

BURNABY NORTH BOLSTERS SPIRITS OF ‘COPS FOR CANCER’ TEAM

The Cops for Cancer fall event sees law enforcement personnel cycle 900 km on the Sea to Sky, Sunshine Coast, and Metro Vancouver to raise funds for life saving research and support programs. Along the way, their campaign and spirits are bolstered by visits to organizations and schools pledging their support. The team came through Burnaby today and stopped by Burnaby North and Alpha Secondary where a large contingent of students and staff were on hand to greet them. Alpha presented the team with a cheque for \$1122. North used their visit to kick off a week of scheduled fundraising activities.