

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**  
**Reporting to Public Session on Monday, October 23, 2017**

**1. Connecting Children to Community**

For the past two years, Aubrey Elementary School has invited community members into the school to talk about their jobs and passions. This year, they decided to try something new and moved the Community Day concept outside, in order to have students begin exploring the community around their school.

On Friday, October 6 students from Kindergarten to grade seven participated in a school wide exploration of their neighbourhood and Burnaby Lake. Students spent half a day with their buddies at Burnaby Lake in outdoor learning experiences that revolved around indigenous plant and animal life, photography using nature-based subjects and local First Nations Peoples.

Research supports the benefits to students physically, emotionally, socially and cognitively when they are engaged in outdoor learning experiences. During the remainder of the day, classes explored their local environment. The planned activities and environment throughout the day helped students to foster a greater understanding of the immediate community and natural environment.

This evening, Jolene Carlsen, Kindergarten/Grade One teacher at Aubrey Elementary will speak about the impact of learning in the outdoor environment and will introduce students Ashley and Billy Gray, Sienna Robinson, and Kate, Jackson and Benjamin Adam who will share their impressions of the day.

Recommendation: THAT the Board of Education receive this information.

**2. Global to Local: Bringing the World to Our Students**

Initiatives that celebrate and dig deep into global issues to extend the learning and broaden the experience of Burnaby students are fortunately the norm in the Burnaby School District. Model United Nations training and conferences, professional development, a variety of clubs, expert speaker series, connection to innovative organizations and the commitment of educators and partners are all key to a well-rounded global experience.

Global Learning Program offers opportunities for students and staff to grapple with key issues both locally and globally and to connect with like-minded peers across school boundaries. Current and ongoing issues are targeted, allowing holistic and in-depth consideration of, and active participation in, the most important changes of our world. The new curriculum has initiated a transformation of the program, aligning it with the new core and curricular competencies just as it inspires regeneration and collaboration within subject areas. Social Studies departments are working together to share new techniques and

upcoming opportunities in order to build the global layer into the analytical and inquiry approach to content.

Tonight, Garth Errico, Director of Instruction will provide a brief overview of the Global Learning Program and introduce staff at Byrne Creek who support this program. Byrne Creek staff are accompanied by students from the United Nations Connections Club.

Recommendation: THAT the Board of Education receive this information.