

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**  
**Reporting to Public Session Tuesday, October 25, 2011**

**1. Youth Ambassadors**

On September 17, the Board was presented with correspondence from David Jacobson, United States Ambassador to Canada, advising of the North American Youth Leadership Program and students from Burnaby being chosen to participate.

For the past 40 years, the USA State Department has sponsored the Youth Leadership Program that works through the vehicle of a Tri-Lateral Exchange. This year the Program hosted three Canadian cities, three American cities, and three Mexican cities. Burnaby was fortunate to be one of the sister cities in 2011 along with Calgary and Kingston.

In order to participate in the program, students must apply and be selected through their community's school system. Three students from Burnaby North Secondary were selected to participate as Youth Ambassadors. As preparation for the Exchange, the students visited the American Consulate and Mayor Corrigan at Burnaby City Hall. While on exchange in Phoenix, Mesa, Tempe and Washington, DC, they attended many workshop sessions focussing on poverty and the environment. The students are now responsible for developing an action project in their home community during the school year.

This evening, teacher chaperone, Dayna Webb, will introduce Emma Fingler, Jason Nib, and Chris Chiavatti who are Burnaby's Youth Ambassadors. The students will provide an overview of their Tri-Lateral Youth Ambassador experience this summer.

Recommendation:    THAT the Board receive this information.

**2. 2010 - 2011 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 125 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 2010 - 2011 school year are: Kevin Hua from Alpha, Belle Shih from Burnaby Central, Aaron Prosch from Burnaby Mountain, Paula Hsien from Burnaby North, Amy Wu from Burnaby South, Lily Tan from Byrne Creek, Matthew Teoh from Cariboo Hill and Christina Guan from Moscrop.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.

### ***3. From Bombs to Books***

In the book, *From Bombs to Books*, author David Starr, Principal, Edmonds Community School, shares the deeply moving and inspiring stories of students, parents and staff at Edmonds. He describes the upheavals faced by many of these families and how they managed to flee some of the most dangerous lands and people on earth. He paints portraits of students who are often troubled by what they have experienced, but just as often they are surprisingly happy children who have put their families' grief and trauma behind them. Mr. Starr also describes teachers and support workers who have embraced these families and dedicated themselves to making a difference in their lives.

Tonight, David Starr is here to share some of the touching accounts from his book.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.