

**November 25, 2014**

## **FILLING LIVES WITH MUSIC**

This year's recipient of the BC Music Educators Associations' Professional Elementary Music Educator award is Suncrest Elementary music teacher Pam Hetrick. Pam has spent more than 25 years dedicated to the art of teaching music, mostly in District schools. During this time she has had a profound impact on both students and music colleagues alike. This deserving award was presented at the BCMEA AGM, the end of October.

## **ONE OF THE BRIGHTEST STUDENTS IN THE WORLD**

Grade 8 Burnaby Mountain student, Carolyn Chen, is one of the brightest middle school students in the world. She was recently honoured in Baltimore by the John Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth (CTY) for her exceptional grade level performance on college entrance tests. Of the 16,459 grade 7 & 8 participants, only 960 US and international students scored high enough to be invited to the ceremony. Her designation qualifies her for CTY's residential summer programs, online classes, and family programs. Notable CTY alumni include Facebook Founder, Mark Zuckerberg, cofounder of Google, Sergey Brin, and musician Lady Gaga.

[www.cty.jhu.edu/talent](http://www.cty.jhu.edu/talent)

## **A HOMETOWN HOCKEY WEEKEND FACE-OFF**

Burnaby boasts a half dozen plus NHL stars, which is perhaps why the city was selected to be part of the Rogers Hometown Hockey Tour. The free weekend hockey festival took place the weekend of November 8 & 9<sup>th</sup>, but the official face off happened at Lochdale Community School on November 7. Special guests who dropped by to help drop the puck included Mayor Corrigan, MLA Kathy Corrigan, Board chair Baljinder Narang, Superintendent Kevin Kaardal, with trustee Larry Hayes officiating as emcee. NHLer Cliff Ronning and his son were on hand, joining parents, students and community members. After the pomp and circumstance, excited Lochdale students enjoyed hockey activities that were organized by Burnaby North leadership students. A great time was had by all!

## **CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD'S IN OUR MIDST**

The 2014 National Chemistry Olympiad Finals were held at Ryerson University this summer. Two of the four students selected to represent Canada nationally at the 46<sup>th</sup> International Chemistry Olympiad in Hanoi, Vietnam came from Burnaby Schools. The students were Todd Huang, a 2014 Burnaby Mountain graduate who will be attending Caltech next fall, and Scott Xiao, a grade 12 student at Burnaby North. The other two team members attend a Toronto private school.

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## **ABOVE AND BEYOND**

This year 17 people stood out amongst 350 nominees for the Fraser Health's "Above and Beyond" award. Being recognized for the work she does providing care, services and supports to BC School for the Deaf students was Occupational Therapist, Darlene Alldred. Ten years ago her primary role was to assist students who had fine motor skill difficulties in signing. Over the years the school is seeing children with more complex health issues and so Darlene has adapted her role to the ever-changing needs of her students. Working tirelessly to ensure that no student's care needs are overlooked, Burnaby Schools is grateful to have her on the team. Congratulations Darlene!

## **BURNABY SCHOOLS READ!**

Many of Burnaby's secondary school libraries have recently launched their popular "School Reads" programs. This pilot program began 9 years ago at Burnaby North as a way to promote literacy and challenge the entire school community to read as many of the titles on a list of nominated books as possible. Once read they share their thoughts in book club discussions before voting for the title every student should read before leaving the school. The program has been a huge success in promoting a culture of reading. In fact, today, all Burnaby secondary schools now run their own version of "Vikings Read" and the program has been replicated in schools around the province. Get Reading!

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU**

Guru Nanak, born in 1469, was the founder of Sikhism and the first of the Sikh Gurus. His birth is celebrated world-wide on Kartik Purnamashi, the full-moon day which falls on different dates each year in the month of Katak. For 5 years, the Sikh community at Second Street Community School has come together to prepare a vegetarian Indian feast for students, staff and community in his honour. The celebration has expanded over the years and now students from Cariboo Hill Secondary, many of them former Second Street students, coming to join their families in hosting this event. It is a tradition that highlights the spirit of the school community and beyond and the school appreciated the trustees and district staff who were able to join the celebration.

## **ETC.**

There has been an explosion of good news items come in since the last Board meeting on October 28. Items not mentioned in detail include Halloween Fireworks at Second Street and Gilmore Community School, Culturefest at Burnaby Mountain, a family of schools gathering at Cariboo, the Voices 41 Concert, VSO Maestro Bramwell Tovey's visit to Burnaby North and the Moscrop girls volleyball team – the Panthers – placing second in the Lower Mainland playoffs. There are just so many reasons to be proud of Burnaby's public schools.....thanks to everyone for contributing and sharing.