

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Reporting to Public Session Tuesday, November 27, 2012

1. Advanced Placement (AP) Program

The Advanced Placement Program (AP) is a program of college-level courses and exams that offer secondary students the opportunity to challenge themselves by learning an advanced curriculum. Students have the potential to earn college or university-level course credits while still enrolled in their secondary schools.

AP courses are offered in all Burnaby secondary schools. In May 2012, 950 Burnaby students completed AP-level courses and wrote 1674 exams. On a five-point scale, with 5 as the highest mark, 86% of Burnaby students' exams resulted in a final mark of 3, 4 or 5. This compares favourably with a Canadian average of 76% and a world-wide average of 57%.

This evening, Director of Instruction Wanda Mitchell will provide an overview of the district's Advanced Placement Program. She will be joined by Burnaby North Secondary Principal, Kevin Brandt. Current AP student, Teri Miller and former AP student, Peter Lai will share their experiences.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.

2. Inspiring Learners Through Literacy

Being a skilled reader is foundational to learning. In the primary years students are learning to read and building and solidifying this important skill. As they progress into intermediate and secondary school, the focus becomes reading to learn.

In order to ensure students are able to read for both learning and pleasure, the district is structuring literacy instruction through a Response to Intervention Model. This model is organized around three tiers and provides structures and strategies to provide a high level of literacy learning for all students, ranging from those who require reading intervention and support, to students who are reading at an advanced level.

Both Reading Recovery and Fast ForWord, two research-based practices for assisting students requiring additional support in reading will be highlighted this evening, as well as other reading initiatives.

This evening, members of the Staff Development Literacy and Learning Technologies Teams, Ben Pare, Angela Meredith and Janet Chow will provide an overview of literacy structures and initiatives in the district. Jessica Chan, primary teacher at Inman Elementary, will present examples of literacy work in her school.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information