

November 27, 2017

RECOGNIZING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

- **Dante Wong**, a 2017 graduate of Alpha Secondary won first prize in an A&E *Lives That Make a Difference* national essay contest. His topic was Justice Minister Jody Wilson-Raybould and the impact she has made on indigenous issues and significant matters facing the justice system. He received \$2,000, and his teacher received \$1,000 for educational resources.
- **Brennan Strandberg-Salmon** (Moscrop) and **Griffin Anderson** (Burnaby Mountain) were two of five recipients of a Dr. M. Wosk Environmental Leadership Award from the Pacific Parklands Foundation. It was presented at a Metro Vancouver Regional Parks celebration at SFU.
- **Vikesh Sharma**, a 2017 graduate of Burnaby South received an award for a short story entitled, *A Journey of Life Times*, written for his Punjabi Language class. He was one of eight BC student winners. It was presented at the Dhahan Gala held at UBC to recognize Punjabi Literature Week in BC. Vadhaiyaan!
- **Miranda Andersen**, a 2017 Burnaby Mountain graduate, and \$80,000 Shuluch Leader Scholarship winner, was recently featured in MacLean's Magazine - giving sage advice on applying for scholarships

KEEPING TRADITIONS ALIVE

- Second Street Community School opened doors to the community for their 19th celebration of Guru Nanak's birthday. And once again, the community prepared delicious food for students, staff and neighbours who were encouraged to arrive hungry! Thank you to all who stepped up to keep this legacy alive.
- The PAC of Confederation Park Elementary recently held its 10th art show and auction event. The evening included the sale of student art, silent auction items, food, refreshments and live entertainment. More than \$11,000 was raised to support programs to enhance the arts learning experience at the school.
- Moscrop Secondary hosted their 5th annual Career Fair earlier this month. It featured 50 community volunteers who shared information with students about their professions. An engaging event for volunteers, students and staff alike, it supports the new curriculum's Career Education initiative. **- more-**

NEW CURRICULUM IN ACTION

Brentwood Park Elementary recently hosted a RePurpose Challenge where students were inspired to re-purpose recycled materials like cardboard, plastic containers, and string. The project illustrates the redesigned BC curriculum in action and how it relates to the Applied Design and Technologies curriculum. The activity encouraged collaboration, creativity and imagination, and resulted in the most amazing projects designed and built by students of Brentwood Park Elementary.

ABORIGINAL EDUCATION THROUGH FILM AND WORDS

Teacher-librarian **Lisa Strong** invited Haida short film director and Burnaby resident, **Christopher Auchter**, to Burnaby Central, after reading about him in the Burnaby Now. His animated short film *The Mountain of SGaana*, debuted to great acclaim during the VIFF. He shared the making of the film and the film itself with students and staff from twelve classes at Burnaby Central.

A week later, the school launched Wildcat Reads 2018. It was kicked off with a drumming circle and welcome dance arranged by **Corrina Chase** and student drummers. It was a great connection to one of this year's Wildcat Reads books, entitled "*He Who Dreams*" by **Melanie Florence**.

SOGI EDUCATION IN BURNABY SCHOOLS

The District recently hosted its first SOGI information night at Cariboo Hill Secondary. It provided an opportunity for parents to learn more about SOGI education in Burnaby Schools. It was well attended and the SOGI Education leads are preparing for upcoming sessions. A few days later, the District hosted the BC GSA Youth Summit at Moscrop Secondary, attended by more than 260 youth plus 80 staff members.

The Burnaby Board of Education was asked to participate in a SOGI panel discussion, as part of the BCSTA conference. Vice-Chair Baljinder Narang represented the Board.

The District continues to lead the way with its SOGI initiatives that support safe, inclusive, welcoming communities of learning.