

December 12, 2016

MONTECITO MARSVILLE LANDING

Grade 6/7 Montecito students in Ms Lloyd and Ms Ward's classrooms have been learning about colonizing Mars as part of an integrated unit using the redesigned curriculum. Put into working groups that represented different countries, they each developed a life support system for the new settlement of "Marsville," including, oxygen, water, food and energy. They "landed on Mars" November 30 and proudly shared their learning with earthling tourists - aka the school community, family, friends and special guests.

A CONFEDERATION PARK ENCORE

Confederation Park Elementary recently hosted its annual Art Show and Auction last week. An adult social event and fundraiser put on by the PAC, it features student art work while celebrating the school's "Learning through the Arts" focus. Another celebration moment was when the school choir performed at the Westin Bayshore Annual Christmas Luncheon. Students were ever so proud when their head teacher, Bonnie Ishii, was presented with an award for 20 years of bringing student choirs to this event.

A FLOCK OF 1000 CRANES

Residents of Burnaby Youth Custody Services with help from students of the Fraser Park Secondary program completed a one thousand cranes project though the guidance of Chaplain Sam. The cranes project originated in 1955, when Sadaka Sasaki, a young girl who had survived the Hiroshima bomb, became ill with leukemia. Her hope was to fold 1000 cranes before she died - and her classmates helped her complete it.

For this crane project youth were asked to write down their hopes, wishes or dreams on the origami paper before it was folded so their display of cranes is an expression of their collective hopes and dreams. This collective includes wishes of family reunification, becoming drug free, a hope for better world - all a reminder that inside of each young person there is a brighter future that yearns to be fulfilled. The display can be viewed in the lobby of the District Office.

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A WINNING TEAM

Teachers in Burnaby School District's LINC program have won another award. This time it's first place in the cross-Canada-CCLB "Language is the Key" contest in the category teacher/administrator. Additionally, Natasha Gudumac, a student at level 7 in the LINC program came in second place in the Learners category. CCLB highlighted the entries at the TESL conference held recently in Toronto.

STUTTERING SUPERHERO

South Slope/BC School for the Deaf students were delighted to welcome their very own resident author, Secretary, Kim Block to a recent school assembly. Her self-published children's book "Adventures of a Stuttering Superhero" features "Melissa, a brave stuttering superhero" who encounters a student who keeps interrupting her and finishing her sentences. As she read her book, with her "superhero cape" on, BCSD head teacher, Jennifer Zuvic signed the story. While the story itself is about fostering understanding and acceptance, the book's illustrations include many examples of diversity of abilities, nationality and cultural practices. Kim, who stutters herself, dedicated the book to a South Slope student. It's her way of supporting an inclusive, welcoming community.

MAKING SPIRITS BRIGHT

Many student groups and schools have been showing that the gift of giving is the best gift of all. Besides an array of Holiday musical and theatrical performances, they have been putting together holiday hampers, collecting for the food bank, hosting toy drives or filling trees with new socks.

One such giving gesture is Lakeview's 11th annual Jingle Bell walk. Students, staff, and family members worked together and collected 56 boxes of food, 23 bags of clothing and 44 boxes of toys. Donations will be shared between the Vancouver Food Bank and BASES Thrift Store, a thrift store that supports our schools through its proceeds.

And many schools have been at the receiving end of the giving. The Burnaby Firefighters and Retired Firefighters have visited almost a dozen district schools to put on their annual pancake breakfast. And this week, many PAC's are also hosting pancake breakfasts too. Thanks to all who organized for their gift of time.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM CAREER EDUCATION AND APPLIED DESIGN SKILLS AND TECHNOLOGY

The team working behind the scenes with Career Education and Applied Design Skills and Technology has had a busy few months - and it will continue well into the New Year, kicking off with a Career Education Info Session on January 24.

Some of the highlights of the past few months include:

- a sold out workshop on parents as career coaches - and another scheduled in March.
- grade 8 girls from Moscrop Secondary headed to Electronic Arts to learn coding from EA senior designers - and schools District-wide engaged in Hour of Code activities the week of December 5
- 500 elementary and secondary students tried out hands-on skills at the Work BC Find Your Fit tour. Hosted by Byrne Creek Community School, It featured the in-demand careers of the future.
- Ignite, an Innovation BC event held at Science World featured multiple District programs. Burnaby South students Merina Leong and Kallen Tu demonstrated an app they developed, while Burnaby South Broadcast students live-streamed their presentation. Food for the event was created and served by the Professional Cook, Youth Train in Trades Program.
- At the November 25 Pro-D day, 12 more teachers were trained on the VEX IQ Robotics platform and grade 4-7 teachers explored connecting science and math competencies with ADST.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL, AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT!