

February 14, 2012

Young at Heart

The Grade 3 students in Division 8 at Ecole Inman visit seniors at Willingdon Care Centre every month. During each visit, the seniors listen to students read a variety of books, play card games, and draw and colour together. Both the students and the seniors enjoy their visits and look forward to the next one.

Focus on Literacy

There were plenty of events taking place throughout the district during literacy week. Kitchener Elementary kicked things off with an assembly and had every student participate in a reading strategy with peace as the theme. In the giant book swap each child got to choose 3 new books. A number of buddy reading activities took place throughout the week. Special guest readers including Burnaby RCMP members, City Councillor Calendino, Burnaby Now reporter, Jennifer Moreau, and some Canucks Alumni wrapped up a successful week of literacy, all organized by parents and staff.

Burnaby Youth Hub Becomes Celebration Hub

On February 8, the Burnaby Youth Hub held a first year open house anniversary celebration that included a number of special dignitaries. The Hub provides free educational, therapeutic and social support services for Burnaby's vulnerable youth. Its success is due to the collaborative effort of 13 agencies and 36 staff who provide 18 services for about 245 youth per week. Included in these statistics is a district educational program that supports 30 students, with 50 students on the wait list.

The Power of the Pen

Grade 11 student Chloe Hoy is a reporter for Moscrop Secondary's school newspaper, "*The Prowler*." Her most recent mission was to get a phone interview with teenage heartthrob Chris Zylka, star of the TV series "*The Secret Circle*." Her letter requesting a phone interview impressed his agent so much that they decided to arrange a surprise in-person interview. The surprise went off without a hitch on February 9 in the school library. In true reporter style, Chloe didn't miss a beat and sat Chris right down to answer her prepared questions. He then stayed after school to meet and sign autographs with other Moscrop student fans.

Adopt a School Campaign

Three district elementary schools will be recipients of funding from the Vancouver Sun's Adopt-a-School Campaign. Edmonds Community School will receive funding for its breakfast program. Stride Community School will receive funding for its healthy snack program, and Morley Elementary will receive funding for clothing and emergency food coupons.

Burnaby Students Rule CBC's News Day 2012

Thirty student reporters will be telling their stories their way as part of CBC's "News Day" student reporter initiative. The best news is that 9 of the 30 students chosen as finalists are district secondary students who were selected after pitching their unique and newsworthy story ideas that matter to them. On Thursday March 29 they'll be hitting the streets armed with the latest multimedia technologies and lending their voices to CBC TV and radio broadcasts and webcasts. As finalists, they have each earned a \$1,000 Sylvain Learning Centre scholarship for post-secondary studies.

Creating Voices for the Children

On February 10, secondary students from five Burnaby schools and a Coquitlam school attended a *Children Rights and Poverty Forum* held at Byrne Creek's Centre for Dialogue. Focusing on the state of children in BC and internationally, there were presentations by John Greschner, Deputy Representative for Youth & Children, Jagrup Brar, MLA for Surrey-Fleetwood and a video-conference with Stephanie Power from UNICEF, Canada. It also included a flash mob performance by Byrne Creek's Secondary Dance Troupe and a presentation by the Byrne Creek Leo Club on how they helped reduce child poverty. The forum provided an opportunity for students to discuss problems and solutions and to determine their role in getting their voices heard and making overall change in a civil society. The agenda was organized by teachers Deirdre Moore and Albert Lee who are part of the district's Global Learning program.

A Tree of Hearts Blooms

Ecole Marlborough got to the heart of it all with their tree of kindness that is growing in their front entrance. All students and staff received a heart and the name of someone to write something nice about. The tree branches quickly filled with blooms of warm and fuzzy "I like you because....." messages. The tree is bilingual – with messages written in both French and English.

Happy Valentine's Day!