

February 28, 2012

Bracelets for a Cause

The girls in Mr. Martin's Grade 7 class at Aubrey Elementary were so inspired by Me to We Day that they developed an action plan to raise funds to build a school for girls in Kenya. Since October they have been making friendship bracelets to sell on Valentine's Day. They set a goal to raise \$100. When the counting was done they were surprised to find that they sold 72 bracelets and raised \$500....and took orders for 75 additional bracelets.

Cameron Elementary Creates Hallmark Moments

What started last year as an act of kindness has blossomed into a Valentine's Day tradition. Ms. Minniss's kindergarten class at Cameron Elementary has adopted seniors at the Burquitlam Lions Care Centre. For Valentine's Day, the children created and sent personalized Valentine's cards to their "buddies" at the care centre. In return, their "buddies" sent them thank you photos! The seniors look forward to receiving their cards and the students feel good about making others happy.

Afterschool Rec n' Read at Lochdale Community School

Student teacher, Adema Romano, is doing more than teach at Lochdale Community School. She recently applied for the Emily Longworth Memorial Award that recognizes teacher candidates who want to implement extra-curricular activities that promote multi-cultural understanding, healthy lifestyle, environmental awareness, and inspire students to achieve their full potential. Her application has been rewarded with \$1,676 that has been allocated for the school's afterschool Rec n' Read program. It will partner secondary students with elementary students that are struggling with reading to make it a social and enjoyable experience for all.

No Debate With This Team from Mountain

Burnaby Mountain Secondary grade 10 students Grace Jin and Jamal Dumas, competed at Queen's High School Debate Tournament held at Queens University in February. Competing primarily against independent schools across Canada, the Burnaby duo became the top junior team in Canada. Their performance earned them a spot to represent the country at the International Competition for Young Debaters. It will be held on May 5 at Oxford University in England. This is the first time a Burnaby team has qualified for an international debating tournament. Thanks to volunteer coach and former Mountain grad and debating champ, Frankie Cena, for his support.

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Teaching for the Teachers

On February 24, 1,300 educational staff came together at Byrne Creek Secondary and Stride Avenue Community School for a day of professional development. The day opened with a dance performance by Burnaby Mountain's Dance Company on the theme of assessment that was directed by Deanna Worobets. Following the dance, keynote Damian Cooper engaged the audience with his "Talk about Assessment: Eight Big Ideas to Improve Learning for all Students." Throughout the day there was a high level of professional interaction as staff attended over 60 different workshop offerings. The district is proud of the active group of educators who work together to organize the annual District Professional Day.

District Sports Highlights

Students in Burnaby schools excel in sports. Here are a few of the latest highlights:

- Burnaby South Secondary won both the Juvenile and Junior Boys' Vancouver & District basketball championships
- Melvin Arciaga of Burnaby South Secondary won the Wrestling Provincial Championships for his weight class. South's Adib Jaber received a bronze medal.
- Grade 7 student Joel Tai from Inman Elementary won a bronze medal for Karate middle weight class at the Winter Games held in Vernon this past weekend.

"Think Pink" and "Be Kind" on February 29 and Beyond

The message that bullying will not be accepted in Burnaby's schools is contagious. The following initiatives are just a few great examples of what is going on in our schools to promote a message of caring and acceptance:

- February was kindness month at Seaforth Elementary complete with pink tie-dyed shirts, a chain of kindness and random acts of kindness.
- Students at Forest Grove Elementary are hanging anti-bullying messages on cut out t-shirts and hanging them "out to dry" on clotheslines in the hallways.
- Morley elementary "Me To We" leadership students are organizing a Pink Day assembly and activities.
- Nelson Elementary leadership students sold "stop bullying" bracelets and will do an anti-bullying presentation at an assembly.
- Burnaby Central's Peacemakers group is teaming up with other school groups to provide information on bullying and bullying prevention in the student commons area.
- The District is hosting an information session for Burnaby parents "Keeping Kids Safe" on Feb 29 at Burnaby Central.