

October 25, 2011

## **A busy day of professional development for Burnaby Teachers**

On Friday October 21, Burnaby teachers in specialty curriculum areas hosted several professional development conferences.

- **BC Association of Math Teachers (BCAMT) Provincial Conference**

A team of five Burnaby teachers working with their colleagues from across BC hosted the annual BCAMT provincial specialist association conference. More than 600 teachers participated in 62 professional development sessions at Cariboo Hill Secondary School. More than 80 Burnaby teachers presented at the conference.

- **British Columbia Teacher Librarians Association Conference: Reaching Out**

A dedicated group of Burnaby teacher-librarians planned a conference that explored and showcased the direction of teacher-librarianship in the face of new technologies and opportunities. The conference focused on learning technologies, literacy and inquiry.

- **Artful Thinking: Exploring the Expressive Languages of Children**

Approximately 200 pre-K to grade seven teachers attended this conference at Brantford Elementary.

- **Stepping Stones for Success: Hope for Vulnerable Youth**

This conference attracted 420 Burnaby staff, educators from other districts, and community partners who work with vulnerable children and youth. The keynote speaker, Dr. John Medina, author of *Brain Rules*, also spoke at a free parent education evening on October 20 at the Michael J Fox Theatre.

## **District Student Advisory Committee (DSAC) Retreat**

Forty-seven students, representing the eight secondary schools, participated in the District Student Advisory Committee Retreat in Brackendale on October 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. The working sessions included workshops on public education in BC; Aboriginal traditions and culture in Canada; making meetings productive and meaningful; and increasing student engagement in schools. DSAC also elected their executive for the year.

## **Cameron Elementary Hosts Multicultural Dinner**

Cameron Elementary celebrated its rich diversity with an annual Multicultural Dinner on October 21, hosted by the PAC. Two grade 7 students kicked off the celebration singing "Wavin' Flag" to nearly 250 attendees, including teachers, students and their families. Each family brought ethnic food to share at the buffet dinner and students dressed in traditional costume. The gym walls were decorated with artful hand-shaped cut-outs that depicted each student's nationality or ethnic heritage.

### **Variety Club Donates Special Bike for Rosser Elementary Student**

Colton Lacerte, a grade four student with Down Syndrome at Rosser Elementary, recently received a special bike that will support his physical development thanks to a donation from the Variety Club. Ljiljana Jaksic, a physiotherapist with Fraser Health, along with former Rosser principal, Dave MacLean, applied to the Variety Club on the Colton's behalf last fall. The three-wheeler provides the support and security Colton needs to safely cycle indoors and out and to build his strength, coordination and confidence while having fun.

### **KRIB Turns 15**

Stride Avenue Community School congratulates The Kids Recreating in Burnaby (KRIB) Youth Centre as it celebrates 15 years of providing support for at-risk youth. Located off the Stride Elementary parking lot, KRIB is a year-round recreation facility funded by Burnaby Parks and Recreation. Approximately 30 students participate in the afterschool pre-teen times with up to 40 youth active in the evenings. The Stride staff members are proud of their relationship with KRIB and are grateful for the safe, fun alternatives it provides to community youth.

### **Edmonds Students Win John Gibbard Award**

For the third consecutive year, students from the Burnaby School District have been awarded the John Gibbard Award. Students on the Edmonds Leadership Team, with the support of teacher Karolyn Washtock, were recognized in a ceremony on October 23. The award is presented annually in memory of John Gibbard, a supporter of the League of Nations. It recognizes dedication and commitment to work for humanity and a better world.

Although many of these students have little themselves, they love to give back. Last year the Edmonds students raised funds to build a school in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and have exchanged letters with the African students. Over the past two years they have raised about \$1200 and have created necessity Christmas gift bags for Burnaby's Progressive Housing Society. The focus of the student leadership team is to promote fair treatment for everyone; to raise awareness of issues that face us in Canada and around the world; and most importantly, to empower the students to make a difference and be our future leaders.