

November 8, 2011

Burnaby School District Holocaust Symposium

Approximately 500 Burnaby secondary students will attend the third annual Burnaby School District Holocaust Symposium on November 15th at the Michael J. Fox Theatre. Students will hear from Alex Buckman, a child survivor from Belgium who survived the Holocaust in hiding. Mr Buckman is pictured here on the screen recuperating after liberation in the summer of 1945. In addition, Dr. Jay Eidelman from UBC will speak on "Understanding the Holocaust". The symposium is presented by the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre which strives to eradicate racism and social injustice by promoting human rights and genocide awareness through education and remembrance of the Holocaust.

Burnaby Central Students Sing with Chor Leoni

Five Burnaby Central students will perform with Chor Leoni Men's Choir in the Remembrance Day concert, Reflect. The concert explores the longings and passions of soldiers as expressed through their letters to loved ones at home, and in the process reveals our shared humanity. This is a significant accomplishment and honour for the students, Nick Burns, Cole Grabinsky, Zainen Suzuki, Aksel Taylor and Roger Tsui and their choir teacher, Carrie Taylor.

Green Thumb Theatre Mentors Burnaby Drama Students

The Alpha Secondary drama department is one of four Metro Vancouver schools chosen for Green Thumb's "The Edge Project." Each school, with the guidance and direction of Vancouver's Green Thumb Theatre staff, creates 15 to 20 minutes of original youth-written and performed material. Students from all the participating schools rehearse together at the CBC studios to combine their material into a full-length play. Not only do our students have the opportunity to work collaboratively with others while being mentored by professionals, they will also have their work produced. The show runs December 15th to 17th at the Roundhouse Community Centre Theatre.

Aubrey Tops Donations in Halloween for Hungry Campaign

Madame Lavorata and her Grade 6/7 class at Ecole Aubrey collected 51 boxes of approximately 2000 food items weighing 587 kilograms, or 1295 pounds, during the month of October. The Greater Vancouver Food Bank will distribute the food throughout the Lower Mainland. Ms Shelly Nizarm, manager of the food drives for the Vancouver Food Bank, visited Aubrey to thank and acknowledge Ms Lavorata's class for collecting more food than any other school in Metro Vancouver during the Halloween for Hungry campaign.

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Stoney Creek Pumpkin Partners

When, through a series of unfortunate events, a donation of Halloween carving pumpkins to Stoney Creek did not materialize, parent volunteers were sent home and students were disappointed. Employees from GardenWorks who were working with classes planting pansies in pumpkins, heard of the mishap and within days, the garden centre had donated 180 pumpkins. In another twist, timely delivery was an issue until three generous GardenWorks employees volunteered to load two trucks and deliver the pumpkins to the school themselves.

Retired Associate Superintendent Honoured

At its October 26 membership luncheon, the Rotary Club of Burnaby Metrotown honoured recently retired Associate Superintendent, Elliott Grieve, as a Paul Harris Fellow. Recipients of this award exemplify the ideals of Rotary including "service above self" and utilizing one's profession and talents to better the world. In addition to presenting Elliott with a pin and a certificate, the Rotary Club of Burnaby Metrotown donated \$1000 to the Rotary Foundation in Elliott's name.

Principals Sport Movember Moustaches

Movember moustaches are sprouting throughout the Burnaby School District. Elementary school administrators, Claudio Bortolussi (Chaffey-Burke), Richard Per (Lochdale), Brian Shuster (Cascade Heights), Sean Gaster (Lyndhurst), Blake Briscoe and David Starr (Edmonds), are among many district staff who are joining men throughout Canada and around the world to raise vital funds and awareness for men's health, specifically prostate cancer.