

BURNABY SCHOOLS 2014/15 GOVERNOR GENERAL'S ACADEMIC MEDAL RECIPIENTS

ALPHA SECONDARY - SALINA KUNG

Salina Kung is a student that is driven to excellence and has a superlative work ethic.

During her time at École Alpha Secondary, Salina showed a passionate commitment to making a difference in the world - from grade 9, when she was awarded Canada's Next Green Journalist award for an article about declining salmon populations to creating Vancouver's Largest Clothing Swap in 2014.

Always passionate about the environment, Salina co-founded the Lower Mainland Youth Sustainability Network and was the President of the Burnaby Youth Sustainability Network where she was a driving force behind the District's organic waste program. In 2015 she was recognized by the City of Burnaby with a Youth Environmental Award for her significant contribution to sustainability.

Only 50 Schulich leader scholarships are awarded annually in Canada, and Salina was on the list for 2015. She also received a major award to SFU where she is currently a student in the Faculty of Science. She plans to continue into medicine.

BURNABY CENTRAL SECONDARY - NIKOLA SURJANOVIC

Nikola Surjanovic exemplifies everything that we strive for in public education, excelling academically, participating in school activities/sports and volunteering in the community.

Academically, Nikola achieved 100% in eight subjects and above 92% in all other subjects. His diverse course load included senior math and science courses, AP Economics, Leadership and Digital Media.

He also contributed his time to the school community as a member of Student Government, President of the Business and Math Clubs and a member of DSAC. School sports included cross country, tennis and volleyball and he was a member of the Burnaby Central String Ensemble. He made his mark as the voice of Burnaby Central, with his humorous daily morning announcements.

What is most striking about Nikola is not his record of accomplishments but his willingness to lend a helping hand both at Burnaby Central and beyond volunteering with Tennis Canada and helping to organize Serbian Days.

Nikola was one of two Burnaby Central recipients of the Gordon Shrum Entrance Scholarship at SFU where he is studying Statistics and Math.

BURNABY MOUNTAIN SECONDARY - BRYAN HONG

Bryan Hong excelled at Burnaby Mountain with a high academic average and extensive school involvement.

In grades 11-12 he took 21 courses. In his top 13 courses he achieved an average of 99%. He was an AP Scholar with Distinction, a District Math All-Star award recipient, a two-time Mountain Math student of the year recipient, and a member of both the Math and Physics Clubs. He also spent some time encouraging other students, tutoring in a wide range of subject areas and supporting students whose first language was not English through his involvement with the ELL Tutoring Club.

An active member of the school community, Bryan played Senior Boys Basketball and received the teams' "Heart of a Lion" award which recognizes leadership, dedication and commitment. He coached the Juvenile Girls Basketball team and was the assistant coach of the Senior Girls Basketball team when they made it to the Provincial Championships. He was also on the track & field team and was Captain and MVP of the Ultimate Frisbee team. Beyond high school, Bryan volunteered at Stoney Creek Community School and for Burnaby Minor Baseball and the BC Liberals.

Bryan was accepted to seven universities with Major Scholarships. He is at UCLA majoring in Civil Engineering and plans to pursue a Master's Degree in Structure Engineering. He is excited to contribute his knowledge of infrastructure to the greater community and ready to make an impact in the world.

BURNABY NORTH SECONDARY – SCOTT XIAO

Scott Xiao is a well-rounded individual with a long list of accomplishments.

Academically he was a National AP Scholar and took 13 AP courses. He also participated in many National competitions and Olympiads. In 2014, he won the Canadian Chemistry Contest and went on to represent Canada at the International Chemistry Olympiad in Vietnam where his team claimed a bronze medal. In the University of Toronto's 2014 National Biology Competition, Scott placed fifth. In the 2013 Waterloo Cayley Mathematics Contest, Burnaby North's team claimed top spot.

Working as a volunteer with the MODAL Research Group at SFU, Scott intertwined two of his passions, music and academics. His research project studied the correlation between learning music and excelling academically. This correlation is clearly evident in a CBC feature of Scott's creation of a Mendelssohn video where he simultaneously plays the violin, piano and cello! Always generous and altruistic, he and his sister Grace* cofounded a volunteer organization called WE YOUTH HELP that brings young musicians together to perform for seniors at care facilities.

He's also been a ski instructor, lifeguard and is a two-time BC water polo champion.

Scott is attending Harvard University focusing on Science and was recently elected to serve on Harvard's Student Government Undergraduate Council.

*Burnaby North's 2013 GG Academic Medal Recipient and Harvard student

BURNABY SOUTH SECONDARY – SOPHIE WHITICAR

Sophie Whiticar is a well-rounded young woman who competed her last two years at Burnaby South with a 98% average.

She first joined We Council in grade 8 and took over the reins as co-chair in grade 12. She was a member of the Business Club and took part in Junior Achievement and BCIT's Case competition. She also excelled athletically as a participant of the ski and snowboard club and is a talented dragon boater.

Her AP English teacher, Mr. Vanjoff describes her best:

Sophie was always engaged in class, always careful to model that class content and progress was important to her. She was intellectually curious, and helpful without being arrogant or condescending. Every assignment received her best effort, and she was a model of the attitudes and qualities that AP looks for in the students it accepts. Sophie always made me feel that my class was her most important one, though I suspect her other teachers would say the same. I can see why she has been chosen to receive this award: she exudes the qualities we hope to engender in students concerned with letting their education better them as people and as citizens.

Sophie received the University of Calgary Seymour Schulich Academic Excellence Entrance Scholarship where she is currently studying Engineering.

BYRNE CREEK COMMUNITY SCHOOL - ANDREW (JEEYOUN) JEONG

Who is Andrew Jeong?

Andrew is an honour roll student, hard-working, dedicated, and successful. He's straight-A's in a world that recognizes and codifies academic achievement, but this award and his grades are just small facets of who he is.

Andrew is a Bull Dog, a lifetime member of the Byrne Creek family. He is a musician, a scholar, an organizer. He's the founder of the schools debate club, and was skilled in asking for monetary support to ensure it thrived!

Andrew is a Leo, who has spent countless hours making his school and his community a better place. He's a leader and a role model of the very best kind, leading, showing by example, and by personal commitment. He's the founder of a music therapy program, which provides disabled and disadvantaged youth opportunity and hope.

Andrew is presently a student in the Faculty of Science at UBC, studying biochemistry, and he aspires to be a hematologist.

Andrew is so much more than the sum of these individual parts. He is not somebody who will make a difference someday - he is someone who has made a difference already.

Who is Andrew Jeong? He is all of this and more. And he is just getting started.....

CARIBOO HILL SECONDARY – SIMRAN SAWRARA

Simran Sawara was an exemplary student and committed leader of the Cariboo Hill School Community.

A rigorous course of study and outstanding grade point average demonstrated a commitment to challenge herself to excel as a learner. But it was her compassionate vision, to create an inclusive school community where diverse perspectives are nurtured, that set her apart. It led her to develop a new school club, "Free2B," which highlights complex social justice issues within and beyond the school community. Her work was contagious, inspiring others to work alongside her to make a difference. Cariboo Hill teachers were equally moved, and set-up a new Free2B scholarship.

Her leadership extended far beyond the school. She was a youth leader volunteer with Burnaby Neighbourhood House and George Derby Centre. And through her work with Immigrant Services Society and KinBrace she became a passionate advocate for cross-cultural understanding.

Simran was recognized with many awards including the Jane Shin MLA Community Leadership Award, the Rotary Club of Burnaby Bursary and a Capilano University Excellence Scholarship. While laudable in themselves, it is the person behind the awards that is so inspiring – Canada's next exemplary humanitarian.

Her commitment to advocacy continues in the Global Stewardship program at Capilano University. She has already initiated projects that highlight social justice issues, motivating her new learning community into action.

MOSCROP SECONDARY - KATHY (ZI YING) FAN

Kathy Fan's leadership skills, academic prowess and positive outlook are well beyond her years.

Kathy's academic achievement throughout her time at Moscrop was "beyond exceptional" and her teachers concur that she is their top student to date. She completed a wide range of grade 11/12 courses, 21 in total, including seven AP courses and graduated with 136 credits (56 more than required). She was on the Principal's List each year, achieved gold cord standing, 100% on her grade 12 English Provincial exam, and completed grades 12 & 12B of the Royal Conservatory Music.

Kathy is one of Canada's top mathematicians. In the Euclid Math Contest she scored in the top 1% in BC and top 3% in Canada. In the Canadian Open Math Challenge, she placed in the top 1%. In the Canadian Senior Mathematics Contest Kathy placed 2nd overall. She also selflessly gave back to the Moscrop school community by prepping Junior Math students for contests or tutoring students struggling in math.

Kathy received various Scholarship offers which included the University of Waterloo and McGill. She is currently studying engineering at Princeton.