

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Reporting to Public Session on Monday, February 26, 2018

1. The Power of the Pink Shirt

Pink Shirt Day, also known as Anti-Bullying Day, is a day when students and staff wear a pink shirt to symbolize a stand against bullying, an idea that originated in Canada. February 28, 2018 is Pink Shirt Day in BC. The aim of Pink Shirt Day is to raise awareness of the issue of bullying in workplaces, schools and online.

In preparation for Pink Shirt Day, Shahzyah Juma, Community School Coordinator at Lochdale and Windsor Elementary schools presented leadership students in the two schools with the opportunity to participate in a flashmob. What began as a project between two schools has grown to include many more Burnaby schools. Students from Lochdale, Windsor, Marlborough, Maywood, Brantford, Stoney Creek, Douglas Road, Montecito, Edmonds and Stride Avenue have joined forces with Metrotown and are charged with completing an act of kindness. Following this, unsuspecting shoppers will be surprised by the flashmob performance at 11:00am.

In schools, preventing bullying behaviour involves the whole school and focuses not only on reducing incidents of bullying, but also on promoting a positive school climate. Research shows a correlation between a positive school climate and low levels of bullying and aggression. Research also shows that sustained, school-wide social emotional learning (SEL) programs are effective in building students' social competence. Both these prongs, positive school climate and teaching SEL skills, are necessary to prevent bullying behaviours.

This evening, Suzanne Vardy, District Coordinator - Student Safety and Child Abuse Prevention will provide some examples of how students are engaged in activities that promote positive school climate and SEL skills. Shahzyah Juma will speak about how she brought these students and schools together for a united purpose.

Recommendation: THAT the Board of Education receive this information.