

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Reporting to Public Session on Monday, May 28, 2018

1. ArtStart Refugee Project: Art Connection

Visual art provides a powerful medium for connecting experiences between self and others, while bringing people, families and communities together. The partnership between the Burnaby School District and ArtStarts has afforded students the opportunity to work with artists within the walls of our schools.

The most recent collaboration with ArtStarts offers students and their families an opportunity to create art in the community. The new, free family Art Connection program offers workshops to newly arrived immigrant families from Syria and Iraq. Five Burnaby families participated in the program that took place over six Saturdays and ended with a pop-up exhibition.

This evening, Bryn Williams, Program Consultant, Visual and Performing Arts will introduce Krista Cameron from ArtStarts, Rita Koujian, Burnaby Settlement Worker, and Mr. Alissa and his family; Abed, grade 2, Israa, grade 5 and Alaa grade 7 from Edmonds Community School who will share their thoughts about this experience.

Recommendation: THAT the Board of Education receive this information.

2. Byrne Creek Community School Dance Ensemble

The dance program at Byrne Creek supports a community of learners brought together by their passion and dedication for dance. There is a large banner in the studio that reads, "Believe in Yourself". It was donated by dance graduates who believed these words best exemplified what they had learned during their years in the Byrne Creek studio. It is the motto on which the program is shaped.

The dance program is primarily modern and contemporary-based with jazz and ballet and a strong focus on student choreography and is under the direction of teachers Allison Murphy and Madeline DeShield.

Classes offered at Byrne include Dance Foundations, Performance, Choreography, Dance Leadership, Dance Conditioning and Dance Company. Each class works collaboratively throughout the semester to create a dance piece that is performed at one of the end of semester dance shows. These shows include pieces by the Dance Company as well as student-created works.

Byrne Creek students Avneet Grewal, grade 11 and Eric Ong, grade 12 created a piece entitled, "Time". The theme of the piece is the impact that time makes on our daily lives. They are excited to share their dance this evening.

Recommendation: THAT the Board of Education receive this information.