

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Reporting to Public Session on Tuesday, September 25, 2018

1. 2017-2018 Governor General's Academic Medal Recipients

Lord Dufferin, Canada's third Governor General after Confederation, created the Academic Medals in 1873 to encourage academic excellence across the nation. Over the years they have become the most prestigious award that students in Canadian Schools can receive.

For more than 126 years, the Governor General's Academic Medals have been awarded to students graduating with the highest average from a high school, as well as from approved colleges or university programs. Pierre Trudeau, Tommy Douglas, Kim Campbell, Robert Bourassa, Robert Stanfield and Gabrielle Roy are just some of the more than 50,000 people who have received the Governor General's Academic Medal. The medals are presented on behalf of the Governor General by each of our secondary school Principals.

The Governor General's Academic Medal recipients for the 2017-2018 school year are: Paniz Najjarrezaparast from Alpha Secondary, Andy Hwang from Burnaby Central Secondary, Jessica Zhan from Burnaby Mountain Secondary, William Shen from Burnaby North Secondary, Carol Zhang from Burnaby South Secondary, Amarpreet Powar from Byrne Creek Community Secondary, Rickesh Mysuria from Cariboo Hill Secondary and Alice Wang from Moscrop Secondary School.

We are delighted to have Principals and Vice-Principals from each of our 8 secondary schools here with us tonight. They will speak about the tremendous achievements of their Governor General Academic Medal recipients.

Recommendation: THAT the Board of Education receive this information.

2. Recognition

Premier's Awards for Excellence in Education

The Premier's Awards for Excellence in Education were created to recognize individuals who make outstanding contributions to their school communities and the lives of their students. This year marks the inaugural recognition, with the district's Nancy Sinclair, grade 3/4 teacher at Lakeview Elementary School, as a finalist for the award. She is one of three finalists nominated for the Extracurricular Leadership Award to be announced on October 5th in Victoria.

Nancy was nominated for this award by her school's Parent Advisory Council with support from the Principal. She is being recognized for her tireless efforts in coaching, running clubs, overnight camping trips and recycling efforts which are used to raise funds for school field trips. Called "a pillar of Lakeview School", Nancy helps students to build resiliency and teaches students the importance of being socially responsible.

We are pleased that Nancy Sinclair is able to join us this evening to be recognized for this prestigious nomination.

Literacy for Life Innovation Award

Louise Thorburn, Manager, Burnaby Community and Continuing Education leads the Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC) adult learning program for the district. Last year over 700 clients were enrolled in this program which is funded by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada.

This fall, the program is receiving an Honourable Mention Award and \$5000 to continue to enhance the LINC program. This award honours innovation in the creation and delivery of adult literacy and adult-integrated literacy programs delivered by a community organization in Canada.

During the 2017-18 school year teachers in the LINC program applied for additional funding to try something new, a teaching model that included classroom instruction with an online complement. The benefits of this blended approach were appreciated by parents juggling work place and childcare schedules, as well as school commitments. The other plus from this model was the increased space provided for parents to access child minding while attending LINC classes.

Louise Thorburn is here this evening, on behalf of the teachers in the program, as we acknowledge this amazing accomplishment.

Recommendation: THAT the Board of Education receive this information.