

INSIDE BURNABY SCHOOLS



May 28, 2019

SHOWCASING ARTISTIC TALENTS: ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY

Dozens gathered at the Burnaby Art Gallery for the grand opening of “**Arts Alive and Transitions.**” The student art exhibitions are on display there until June 9. This year, the annual “Arts Alive” display features student work from Kindergarten to Grade 7. Their creations explore the relationship between math and art – showcasing an example of how curriculum can intersect. “Transitions” features the works of Grade 11 and 12 students who are part of the gallery’s Artist Apprenticeship Program. A nearly 40 year partnership with the Burnaby Art Gallery (BAG) has helped elevate creative opportunities for our students.

An annual event since 1980, the **Burnaby Festival of Dance** was created to provide a non-competitive forum for students from K-12 to perform for peers, parents and friends. The festival has grown to showcase approximately 45 dance performances over 3 nights at Burnaby Mountain Secondary – with about 1000 students dancing each year.

STUDENTS SEIZE OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPLORE CAREERS

It was a packed house as students, families, teachers, staff, and trustees gathered to celebrate the **2019 Words Writing Project: Brave New Words**. Unique to Burnaby Schools, more than 100 pieces of student poetry and prose are selected and printed in a professional anthology annually; it’s both a celebration of writing and a chance for students to explore becoming a published author. Each year, student artists submit their work for the opportunity to have it featured on the cover.

The Burnaby Fire Department put on its third annual **Youth Academy**. Students apply for the chance to be involved in this amazing career exploration opportunity, which was featured on the cover of the Burnaby Now. Ten boys and four girls learned fire-fighting and life-saving skills – including working with ladders, fire hydrants, hoses, and the Jaws of Life.

Students had a similar career exploration opportunity at the **RCMP Youth Academy**. Fifty students spent 10 days working as a team and gaining exposure to a variety of different aspects of policing, including training to expose the physical and mental demands of the job.

The month of May also saw a variety of outreach activities with employers in the community, including the **Burnaby Business Showcase** with the Board of Trade, and a **Summer Job Fair** with employers – which was held at Byrne Creek Community School. It introduced sixty Grade 11 and 12 students from throughout the district – including alternate education programs – to ten employers. They’re offering paid summer employment in everything from the auto and airline industries to landscape, horticulture, and the metal trades.

TRES BIEN: FRENCH IMMERSION STUDENTS EXCEL AT COMPETITIONS

Students earned top awards at the 36th annual French public speaking competition, **Concours d'art oratoire**. 10,000 students competed in the provincial competition, with 209 moving to the Finals – 12 of those were from Burnaby Schools. At the finals, students from Alpha, Moscrop and Byrne Creek earned first place medals, with a student from École Armstrong placing second. Meanwhile at the **Poetry in Voice** competition, a student at Alpha placed third in the Bilingual Stream portion, with first and second taken by students from Quebec.

STUDENTS EARN PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS AND MEDALS

Burnaby South students went to the Regional **World Scholar's Cup** – an international team academic program. The Grade 11 students came home with a fist full of medals: thirteen in total, including top individual “scholar,” first place for “team writing,” and eighth place, overall, in the tournament. Because of how they placed in Regionals, students have been invited to attend one of the upcoming Global Rounds of the World Scholar's Cup in either Beijing, The Hague, Sydney, or Manila.

Burnaby Mountain's Senior Band won gold at the **KPU International Music Festival**. More than 100 bands from as far away as Calgary, Washington State and Vancouver Island competed for the honours. Mountain's band is predominantly made up of Grade 11 and 12 students, with some advanced players from Grades 9 and 10.

A number of Burnaby Schools secondary students were recognized by the Mayor with a **Youth Citizenship Award** for making an important contribution to their community. The presentation was made at City Hall during BC Youth Week, with the Superintendent and Trustees in attendance.

Students at Burnaby South's Cisco Networking Academy were among the top 10 teams in Canada – and the only team from BC – at the **Cyber Titan Nationals**. They earned their spot at the nationals after competing last fall against 5000 teams from North America and beyond at the Cyber Patriot competition, sponsored by the US Airforce. After finishing in the top five percent, their place was secured for the all-Canadian finals in Ottawa. At the Nationals, they also received the Best Defenders Award. The Grade 11 and 12 students were then congratulated by representatives from the military, federal government, police, and companies such as IBM – who encouraged them to keep in touch and apply for cybersecurity jobs when they graduate from post-secondary.

A Grade 3 student at Lochdale is believed to be the youngest person ever to receive a **Vital Link Award**. Presented by BC Ambulance, the award honours the skillful actions of bystanders at a cardiac arrest emergency. Nathan Ruge received the award this month, along with his father Justin for their actions in October of 2017. The father and son were playing ball in the school field when Nathan's Dad was approached by a man who was concerned his friend was in medical distress. Justin went to help the man while then six-year-old Nathan went to wait for paramedics. Justin performed C-P-R. Every minute counts in a cardiac arrest, so it was critical that Nathan was waiting to quickly guide first responders to the correct location in the field. Because of their combined efforts, the man in distress went from unresponsive to breathing.