

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Reporting to Public Session on Tuesday, May 28, 2019

1. Grade 7 Bands Participate in Canada's National Music Festival

Grade 7 bands from Westridge Elementary and Stride Avenue Community School combine to participate in Canada's National Music Festival.

Connecting and applying student learning to real-life situations is an important component of education in Burnaby. There are various field experience opportunities for students to apply their learning outside of the classroom, as well as observe examples of where their learning can take them in the future. Participating in such opportunities allows students to connect these dots and is an enriching aspect of the learning journey.

Burnaby's grade 7 beginning band program has over 1200 students participating in each elementary school. Throughout the year the bands have opportunities to perform in their school and in the community culminating, with the Festival of Beginning Bands that occurred this month. Also this May, 33 students in the grade 7 beginning band program at both Westridge Elementary and Stride Avenue Community School, under the direction of Peter Wenzek, combined to enter the Vancouver Kiwanis Band Festival. Adjudicators were so impressed that they awarded the band one of ten invitations to attend MusicFest, Canada's national music festival.

This evening, Peter Dubinsky, Director of Instruction, will introduce Burnaby District Itinerant band teacher Peter Wenzek, who will provide a snapshot of this amazing learning opportunity. The band will be playing two selections this evening for your listening enjoyment.

Recommendation: THAT the Board of Education receive this information.

2. Burnaby Schools Excel at Science Fairs

Science Fairs have always been a highlight at many Burnaby secondary schools. The format varies from school to school, but recent changes in the revised curriculum encourage students to use inquiry and critical thinking in their senior science courses to develop into science fair projects.

Each year, high schools send up to 8 teams to the Greater Vancouver Regional Science Fair. This year Burnaby was very well represented in the Divisional awards and eight of the seventeen students proceeding to the Canada-Wide Science Fair were Burnaby public school students from Burnaby North, Alpha, Moscrop and Burnaby South. The Canada-Wide Science Fair, which was held in Fredericton, New Brunswick from May 15-17 was a great experience and resulted in a number of awards to our Burnaby students.

This evening, Donna Morgan, Science and Mathematics Program Consultant will provide information around the Science Fairs and provide some examples of the various projects and competitions that Burnaby students were involved in. Claire Scrimini, co-winner of the Excellence Award - Intermediate Gold Medal; Challenge Award is here this evening to share her experiences at the Divisional and Canada-Wide Science Fairs.

Recommendation: THAT the Board of Education receive this information.