

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**  
**Reporting to Public Session on Tuesday, February 23, 2021**

**1. Pink Shirt Day**

February 24, 2021, is Pink Shirt Day in B.C. The aim of Pink Shirt Day is to raise awareness of bullying in schools, workplaces and communities, both in-person and online. Also known as Anti-Bullying Day, Pink Shirt Day is a day when everyone is encouraged to practice kindness, and students and staff wear a pink shirt to symbolize a stand against bullying.

Many schools across the district are finding creative ways to celebrate unique differences and spread kindness throughout the community.

Students and staff at Alpha Secondary School are no exception. Alpha's *Theatre Production* class set out to create Public Service Announcements – something a little bit different from the typical ones that might be seen, and more reflective of their personal experiences with bullying. Students believe that bullying has changed over the years and want to showcase the subtle and quiet “face” of bullying so that it is recognizable.

This evening, Tim Wozney, Principal at Alpha Secondary School, is joined by Cristina McAllister, Visual and Performing Arts Department Head and Drama Teacher, and students Sage Fleming (grade 11), Emma Torrao (grade 11), and Danika Jones (grade 12). Together they will share the important work happening at Alpha Secondary and their collective efforts to spread awareness of bullying, and the importance of embracing kindness and compassion.

**Recommendation:**

THAT the Board of Education receive this information.

**2. Youth Conference – Raising Black Voices**

On February 17, students across the metro Vancouver area were invited to attend a youth conference, honouring Black History Month. In celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> year of Black History Month in Canada, students from participating school districts were invited to a virtual event, with an official address by the Honourable Jean Augustine, the first Black woman to be elected to Canada's House of Commons as a Member of Parliament.

Hosted by the Burnaby School District, neighbouring Coquitlam, Maple Ridge, Vancouver and Surrey school districts joined this virtual event. With a keynote speaker, spoken word artists, and a student panel with representation from across districts, the event was a poignant, inspiring and hopeful one.

This evening, Beth Applewhite, District Vice-Principal – Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, will provide an overview of this successful event and share a video of student panelists who so courageously shared their lived experiences.

**Recommendation:**

THAT the Board of Education receive this information.