

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Reporting to Public Session on Tuesday, May 28, 2024

1. Unified Basketball: Building Community Through Team

Students at Burnaby Mountain Secondary were part of a new basketball team this year that's the first of its kind in the Burnaby School District. Called Unified Basketball, the team is made up of students with disabilities and diverse abilities, along with neurotypical youth and athletes.

Unified Sports is a model in the Special Olympics that promotes social inclusion and integrates individuals with and without intellectual disabilities on teams – all with the aim of providing sport training and competition to promote social engagement and development.

In the adaptive program at Burnaby Mountain, youth who are part of the Senior Boys and Girls basketball teams, as well as Leadership students work with students from the Access program and those with physical disabilities forging mutually rewarding relationships. Support is provided by coaches and Education Assistants. The practices were run with a universal design to create learning opportunities in sport for students with complex needs and build community within the school. The team did its first inter-squad game this month and is working toward expanding competition next year.

This evening, Dave Rawnsley, Principal, Burnaby Mountain Secondary School, will introduce Jarett Richardson, Athletic Director, and students; Kennedy Mercer, Emily Tong, Maiya Lam, Daniella Muschamp, Mikaela Alluvea, Loe Amin, Kathy Huang, Ethan Blake, Maxwell Hoskin, and Olan Smith, who are connected to the program and will share information about the team, and its powerful impact within the school.

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education receive this information.

2. The Impact of Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada

With the increase of newcomers to Canada, the need for the District's Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada or LINC program continues to grow. Last year, LINC saw a 50% increase in English evening courses offered to meet demand. The impact of the program has been so great on some, that they've found ways to stay connected and pay it forward.

This evening, we're pulling the lens back to look at the long-term impact of the program. Cesare Martino, District Principal, will introduce coordinators for the program; Rachel Spence, Rachel Stenberg and Joy Martino, as well as LINC alumni; Alicia Bao, Eunice Kim and Asia Adhari, who will share what LINC has meant within their lives.

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education receive this information.