

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Reporting to Public Session on Tuesday, January 28, 2025

1. Student Philanthropist is Making a Difference

Keanna Lai is a grade 7 student at Armstrong Elementary School who has been focusing her efforts on helping people living in the Vancouver Downtown Eastside (DTES) community. Since the age of 7, Keanna has been fundraising and volunteering with a charity called *Plenty of Plates*. *Plenty of Plates* helps support food security by preparing, cooking, and serving members of the DTES home-cooked, nutritious, and delicious meals.

In January of last year, Keanna initiated “The Promise Project” at Armstrong Elementary with the intention of submitting the project to *Push for Change*, an organization that awards \$5000 donations to selected youth projects. The “Promise Project” encouraged students at Armstrong Elementary to “promise” to fundraise whatever amount they could, in whatever way they could commit to, in support of residents of the DTES.

Push for Change selected Armstrong’s Promise Project as one of ten projects that would receive the \$5000 grant. As a result, Keanna was able to donate this amount, as well as an additional \$4000 – the combined fundraising from Armstrong’s students - to *Plenty of Plates*, to allow them to continue their work in supporting community members in the DTES.

Tonight, we welcome Jennifer Griffin, Principal, Armstrong Elementary to introduce the project and grade 7 student philanthropist Keanna Lai, who joins us along with her family, to share her initiatives and experiences.

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education receive this information.