

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Reporting to Public Session Tuesday, November 10, 2009

1. Primary Challenge Program – Pilot Update

The district's Primary Challenge Program began September 2009 for selected students in kindergarten through grade 3. Students from across the district attend weekly sessions at Parkcrest Elementary. The program is intended to supplement existing classroom and school supports and programs, and assists in fostering the potential of gifted learners by supporting their cognitive, social and emotional development.

This evening, Director of Instruction, Dave Eberwein and Advanced Learning Helping Teacher, Ellen Leroux will provide an update of the program and highlights of the sessions to date. As well, students will share their experiences of participating in the district's Primary Challenge Program.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.

2. Recognizing Teacher Excellence

"A good teacher inspires a thirst for learning that lasts a lifetime", stated Prime Minister Stephen Harper earlier this month, when 84 Prime Minister's Awards were bestowed to educators across Canada. Among the recipients was Burnaby Mountain math teacher, Richard Ryant, who was awarded a Certificate of Achievement. Teachers were nominated by parents and fellow educators as leaders who have been innovative in helping students excel. Richard graduated from Burnaby Central's vocational program in 1983. Fourteen years later he returned to the district to begin a career as a teacher.

This evening, Richard will describe his journey from student at Burnaby Central Secondary to teacher of distinction today in our district.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.

3. "Alpha Experience" – An Update

In February 2009, members of the "Alpha Experience" team shared with the Board their story and efforts to strengthen community connections. Their work included community gatherings, student and parent information sessions and school visits. Students, parents and staff continued conversations and planning to gather support for community participation and partnership with the school.

This evening, Alpha Secondary School Principal, Ron Hall, will share highlights of the work to date and ongoing plans for improving the Alpha experience.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.