

Sept 22, 2009

Peace In A Bag

Before heading off for summer vacation, students, staff and parents from Gilmore Community School were busy painting messages of peace onto 600 canvas bags. The painted bags were then filled with bookmarks, gel pens and stickers and sent, courtesy of Fed-Ex, to children at the Mehan Orphanage in Kabul, Afghanistan. The school also wired \$1,000 which was raised by students throughout the year. The project was part of the resident artists-in-schools program that included City of Burnaby Community Arts programmer Valerie Methot, and artists Anna Talbot and Sheila Cano.

Best in the World

Burnaby North grade 10 student Chris Chiavatti and teammates from Manitoba and Nova Scotia garnered first place for their geography knowledge at the National Geographic World Championship held in Mexico City this summer. The team finished with a 12 point lead ahead of the US team. There were a total of 14 international teams competing.

Summer Sports Highlights

- Burnaby Mountain grade 11 student Shanice Ketting-Olivier participates in the SFU/Burnaby School District Softball Academy. She was one of four BC athletes chosen for Canada's National U16 Softball team that competed in Prague, Czech Republic this summer.
- Victoria Barusic, a grade 10 student at Byrne Creek represented Canada at the 20th Pan-American karate championships held this summer in El Salvador. She also received the Female Junior Athlete of the Year award.
- Brendan Yao grade 12 student at Burnaby Mountain placed second in the 17 and under boys division at the youth beach volleyball provincial championship. Jordan Or from Moscrop placed third.

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“Follow That Fire” To District Libraries

Former Burnaby resident Edna Penn has donated 20 copies of the hardcover book “Follow that Fire - A History of the Burnaby Fire Department” for district schools. The book includes information on a fire that consumed the former Alpha Junior High School in July 1964. Edna’s son, former district student and retired Burnaby firefighter Douglas Penn is the author.

Benchmark Set for AP Program At Byrne Creek

Last year was the first year that Byrne Creek Secondary has offered AP Programs – and their results are impressive. Judy Fujiki’s class of 17 AP Chinese Language students all received 100% on their end of year exam. The results for other AP offerings were equally impressive, especially for a beginning program.

Collective Voices CAN Change The World

The Youth Action Committee at Cariboo Hill has been working hard the past five years to make a difference in the world. Led by teachers Holly Keon and Sandra Da Silva, projects have included raising funds for cancer research and projects in Africa; volunteering at soup kitchens and the Burnaby Christmas Bureau; building homes for Habitat for Humanity; and promoting awareness of issues such as aids, child labour, and human trafficking.

While their purpose has never been recognition, their work has not gone unnoticed. This year Cariboo Hills Youth Action Committee was chosen as the recipient of the 2009 United Nations AC John Gibbard Award. At the award presentation in late October, the students will be making a presentation on some of the many projects they have been working on to change the world.

Keeping Active is The Key

Burnaby is one of 6 communities in Canada participating in a physical activity research project. As part of the project, Burnaby Parks & Recreation and Burnaby School District are partnering to offer every grade 5 district student a pass for free access to community pools, rinks, driving ranges, and drop in gym programs. The research conducted by Queens University will determine changes in physical activity between October 2009 and August 2010. Ten of Burnaby’s elementary schools will be surveyed.