

November 10, 2009

Burnaby's Local Hero's Make a Difference in Our District

On November 2, the City of Burnaby bestowed local hero awards to 13 of its citizens. Among them were 5 individuals who play a significant role within our district community. They include:

- **Merrilyn Cook** is head teacher of Maples Secondary Program. She has been involved with the Burnaby Association for Community Inclusion as a community advocate, educator, board member and leader for the past 30 years.
- Sixteen-year-old Moscrop Secondary student, **Keanna Driedger** volunteers with the South Burnaby Neighbourhood House, in a number of their programs, and is a co-leader of her school's student union. She has also helped to raise money for the Free the Children Society.
- **Sharon Freeman** is a district teacher librarian who is considered a "tireless" advocate for literacy. Freeman has served on the Burnaby Public Library board from 2001 through 2006, and again in 2009.
- Parent volunteer and community member **Tammy Ozero** has helped run and organize many school fundraisers and community events at Second Street community school including the fruits & vegetable snack program, book swap, bike fair and the schools Roots of Empathy program.
- Parent volunteer **Wanley Poh** has helped raise funds for needed playground equipment at Taylor Park elementary, been elected chair of the school's parent advisory committee, and has organized "countless" events and activities at the school.

Canada Summer Games Champions

Two Burnaby Central Students raised the wrestling bar at the Canada Summer Games held in Prince Edward Island. They both competed in the grade 12 and under category so most competitors were senior to them. Grade 12 student Bal Sahota brought home an individual gold medal (76 kg category) and a Team silver. Grade 10 student Parm Dhesi brought home an individual silver medal (100 kg category) and a Team silver. Both aspire to compete in the 2016 Olympics.

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Second Street Community “Powers the Games”

BC Hydro’s “Power The Games Tour” has been bringing the spirit of the games and a conservation challenge to residents throughout BC. On November 4 the tour made a stop at Second Street Community School. Students toured a 29 foot conservation lab and enjoyed an interactive audio-visual presentation that took them through the past, present and future of the Olympics and energy conservation in BC. Following the show, they participated in a Power Smart game to test their knowledge of power smart behaviour. Outside the lab, the students met BC Hydro’s Community Outreach team and enjoyed fun interactive Olympic themed activities and answered questions about power smart programs.

A Picture Says a Thousand Words

The Canadian Association of Communicators in Education has awarded Burnaby School District an Award of Distinction for the 2008/09 feature photo coverage provided by Burnaby NewsLeader photographer Mario Bartel. As one judge noted “The pictures tell the story – the text just fills in the gaps.” The Board would like to recognize Mario Bartel for his contribution in bringing the districts good news to life through his front page images and for sharing these images with the Burnaby community.

Celebrating Burnaby’s Employees

On the evening of November 2 the Board of Education honoured 19 employees who have committed 25 years of service to our school district and have touched many student lives along the way. It is a significant milestone and it is a great pleasure to share the names of these individuals with you. They include:

- Teachers Lori Barer, Tina Crescenzo, Brenda Hain, Nimira Jiwa, Ronald Klassen, Christopher Maki, Shirley March, Donald McNamee, and Yvonne Roberge
- Speech language Therapist Deborah Maloney
- Principals Ron Hall and Ernie Kashima
- Secretaries Chris Charles and Brenda Walters
- Custodial Sub-Foremans Paul Chateauneuf and George Lam.
- Trades Foreman Ian Wallis
- Capital Projects Manager Russ Sales and
- District Principal Monty Bell

Let Us Not Forget

Remembrance Day services provide us with an opportunity to pay our respects to those who gave their lives in the service of Canada. Choir and band performances and student poetry and prose were shared today in Remembrance Day school assemblies throughout the district. Trustees will be participating in three Burnaby services on November 11. A Remembrance Day display in the lower mall at Brentwood Mall features posters created by Alpha art students.