

June 23, 2015

GAUSS MATHEMATICS CONTEST

Approximately 1,000 Burnaby Schools students in grade 7 (or lower) participated in the National Gauss Mathematics Contest. Administered by the University of Waterloo, this is an extremely challenging contest and to answer 20 or more out of the 25 questions is a tremendous achievement. Our students performed remarkably well, with eight students obtaining a perfect score and 15 students either skipping just one question or getting one incorrect.

Additionally, a contest that is unique to Burnaby Schools is the Abel Math Contest, which prepares students for the Gauss. Approximately 700 of our students in grade 5 (or lower) participated – and once again, to answer 20 of the 25 questions correctly is outstanding. Four students received perfect scores, three students got just one incorrect and nine students had just two incorrect answers. Congratulations to all participants. Keep on Mathing!

BIOLOGY SUPERSTARS

Results from the University of Toronto's National Biology Competition are in and based on team scores, two Burnaby Schools placed amongst the top 50 schools in Canada. They include Ecole Alpha and Burnaby Central. Additionally, one of the students on Burnaby Central's team, Rex Lin, placed in the top 1%, earning him a National Biology Scholar with Distinction title. Burnaby Mountain grade 10 student Suyeon Kim was in the top 5% and obtained National Biology Scholar status.

CANADA DAY POSTER CHALLENGE

Each year, Canada's youth answer the question "What Makes You Proud to be Canadian?" by submitting drawings, photos or pieces of creative writing. Burnaby North has been the school of many winners and finalists – including this year's poster finalist Ruth Weng.

In describing her poster she says,

"Canada is the best place on all of the Earth. It is a place where people are kind and freedom reigns..... I am proud to be a Canadian and to stand for cultural diversity and democracy, and for peace and love."

NATIONAL WINNER AT SKILLS CANADA

Burnaby South student Jason Sherle reached the podium and garnered a bronze medal at the 21st annual Skills Canada nationals in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan last month. A student in the District's Ace-it Auto Collision Repair & Finishing program, he had qualified for nationals by winning the gold at the provincial competition. He has also been awarded Vancouver Community College's faculty award for being the top student in the program. VCC partners with the District to offer this ACE-IT program.

ENVIRONMENT FIRST ON HER AGENDA

Congratulations to Burnaby Youth Sustainability Network's president Salina Kung, on her Environmental Award from the City of Burnaby! Salina, a grade 12 student at Alpha Secondary, gave a very gracious speech thanking her parents, the students she's been inspired by over the years, the Burnaby Board of Education & its staff, the City of Burnaby and her fellow students in the BYSN. Representing the School District were Trustees Pandher, Chen, Chia, Narang and Wong, and Director of Instruction Ron Hall. Well done, Salina, and good luck at SFU this fall!

NORTH STUDENT EXCELS AT NATIONAL FRENCH PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

Burnaby North's Sophia Luo represented both Burnaby and BC proudly at this year's National French public speaking competition on May 30 in Ottawa. Competing in the grade 11/12 Core French category, her speech entitled "Pourquoi apprendre une autre langue?" captured the judges' attention and garnered her the top award. This year marked the 32nd anniversary of the Canadian Parents for French BC & Yukon sponsored Concours d'art oratoire, and the 13th anniversary of the national competition. Congratulations Sophia!

PROVINCIAL TRACK MEET 2015

Two Burnaby Schools students came home with medals at the BC Provincial Track Meet held earlier this month. They include:

- Diego Medrano of Burnaby South who captured a bronze medal in the junior boys 100m hurdles in a time of 15.51 seconds and
- Amanda Scott of Cariboo Hill who won bronze in the grade 8 girls 800m in a time of 2.24.44

And those grade 8's, who didn't medal, but did exceptionally well and are definitely "ones to watch" in the coming years include:

- Andreas Kobryn of Byrne Creek who placed fifth in the shot put
- Jasmine Lyck of Burnaby South who came seventh in the girls' 100m and
- Stephanie Zaborniak of Burnaby Central who placed 10th in the 3,000m