

February 10, 2015

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS EXPLORE UNIQUE WAYS OF LEARNING

Westridge Elementary recently held their most attended assembly of the year, a **Hip Hop Celebration**. It was held on a Friday, at the end of a fun-filled week of dance instruction by One Vibe. Each class learned a hip hop routine and then they performed for each other. A fantastically hoppy time was had by all.

Stoney Creek Community School recently held a **Literacy Day**. Celebrity guest readers included Trustee Larry Hayes, SFU hockey players, and Global News team reporters Chris Gailus, Anne Drewa, and Yvonne Schalle.

Douglas Road Elementary is following research that indicates that play enhances children's independence, and that this paves the way for learning (Hewes, 2006). They have begun a **Purposeful Play** school-wide initiative that takes place every Monday from 9–9:30 am.

TRANSPORTATION THEN, AND NOW

Grade 6/7 students at Chaffey-Burke Elementary spent four weeks in January learning about the history of transportation and sustainability. Then, working with local Burnaby artist Tod Polich, they incorporated what they learned into a mural project. The mural was installed and unveiled at Metrotown Station on February 3. This colourful piece of public art is brightening people's days while providing a visual snapshot of the history of transportation in our community.

YOUTH INNOVATION AT WORK

On February 6, eight district youth started a unique 4 month learning program in downtown Vancouver. The **Youth Innovation Lab** is a one-year pilot project designed to introduce at-risk youth to computer programming skills in the development of games, mobile apps and web design. They will work with industry leaders and take part in job shadow days, studio tours, team building events and leadership opportunities. Funded by the Vancouver Foundation, District partners include Launch Academy, Rethink Communications, Animation studios, McCreary Research Society and individual donors. This pilot project hopes to expand to a social enterprise.

WHAT'S THE CODE?

Eleven district secondary students attended the **HTML500 event** on January 24th – a one-day 'learn how to code' event put on by 50 of Canada's top-tech companies. Students heard from industry leaders, then spent time with volunteer developers learning how to design a web page using HTML and CSS. The event ended with a career fair.

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BCSD GRIZZLES HIT THE ROAD

The BC School for The Deaf BCSD Grizzlies basketball team recently headed to Montreal, Quebec where they participated in an invitational tournament with other provincial teams. The team and coaches Aitken and Birley say that they were deeply inspired by the experience. One of their players, Ben Idemudia has since been invited to play for the Canadian Deaf National Basketball team. He'll be travelling to California in April for his first tournament. Good luck Ben – and Team Canada!

READY FOR A PROVINCIAL DEBATE

The Lower Mainland Central Regional Debate Tournament was recently hosted by Burnaby Mountain Secondary, but it was the team from Alpha Secondary that really shone.

- In the Senior category, Hamish Clinton placed 1st as individual speaker and Drew Powell placed 5th. Drew and Hamish then went on to win 1st place as a team, and are heading to the Provincials.
- In the Novice category (6 teams of Gr. 6 - 8 debaters), Lucas Fleming won 1st place as individual speaker and Cole Diepold came second. They then went on to win 1st place as a team, and will head to the Provincials. The Provincials will be held at St. Georges at the end of February. We wish them all the best!