

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Reporting to Public Session Tuesday, February 11, 2014

1. United Nations Connections Club (UNCC)

The United Nations Connections Club is an assembly of secondary school students from various Burnaby Schools. The club is focused on building awareness of important global issues which will become a foundation for youth action locally and globally. Members participate in Model United Nations debate practice and weekend Model UN conferences, host speakers from local organizations and fundraise for special causes.

Each year, the group selects two students to attend the Annual Student Conference on Human Rights in New York City at the United Nations. Several other Burnaby students also connect to the proceedings with the help of the district's video conferencing capability. Prior to, and during the conference, the students developed concrete, actionable plans on how their voices can be used to champion human rights; plans that were heard and critiqued by a panel of experts. Throughout the conference extremely knowledgeable and inspiring speakers set the stage about the UN's record on human rights.

This evening, teacher Deidre Moore, UNCC sponsor, and Albert Lee UNCC technical support, Global Learning Programs will introduce the team of students which include Frank Cheng, Director of Communications, District UNCC, Burnaby North Secondary grade 11; Hyun Soo Kanyamuna, Chair, District UNCC, Moscrop Secondary grade 12; Natasha Vljajnic, UNCC member, Moscrop Secondary grade 11 and Amanda Lee, UNCC member technical support, Moscrop Secondary grade 8.

The students will report on their recent experiences at the United Nations Student Conference on Human Rights, held December 2013 in New York City. Natasha Vljajnic and Amanda Lee participated in the same conference via videoconference and will convey their perspectives as well.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.

2. Burnaby Mountain Improvisational Team

Burnaby Mountain's Junior Improv team started their journey together in grade 8. At that time they didn't even know what Improv was! Now in grade 10, best friends Emilia Michalowska, Aeden Taylor and Noa Kozulin have developed confidence and creativity, going on to win the Lower Mainland Canadian Improv Games competition.

Supported by their teacher and coach, these students practiced for 8 hours a week in the weeks leading up to the competition. The students want to continue with Improv through to grade 12 and have future aspirations to become Improv coaches themselves.

This evening, Burnaby Mountain drama teacher, Felicity Rudolph and Improv coach Daniel Gorodetsky will introduce the team who will provide an Improv demonstration and share their experiences.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.