

Good News

March 24, 2015

ABORIGINAL AWARENESS WEEK

From March 2 to 6, Burnaby Central Secondary students and staff had the opportunity to immerse themselves in Aboriginal culture. It was all part of Aboriginal Awareness Week. Complete with an official opening and closing ceremony, the week's events included, a residential school speaker, storyteller workshops, Metis jigging, an Indigenous Governance Workshop, Musqueam Language presentation, and a theatrical performance by Heartland actor Nathaniel Arcand.

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY AT BYRNE CREEK

On March 4, there was a fanfare celebration for Byrne Creek Secondary as the school officially became the District's **first secondary** community school. Board Chair Ron Burton and City of Burnaby Acting Mayor, Dan Johnston, presented a commemorative certificate to Principal Starr and Community Council and Student Council Presidents. Performances included Byrne Creek's African Drummers, Dance Company and Jazz Ensemble with school tours provided by the school's leadership students. Guests enjoyed cake and left their mark signing a banner that asked the question, "What does Byrne Creek Community School mean to you?"

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

February was Black History month. Byrne Creek's African Dream Club paid tribute to the occasion by hosting a film about Harry Jerome's inspiring life. Jerome, a Canadian track and field runner in the 1960's, set a total of seven world records during his career, and in 1970, he was made an officer of the Order of Canada. The premise of the film was about remembering that our challenges make us stronger. The film was presented by Reel Canada, and attended by the movie's director Charles Officer.

COURAGE TO CONNECT

On February 26th more than 250 secondary students and parents attended a motivational presentation at Burnaby Central called, "The Courage to Connect." The event included a live band, entertaining video spots, and youth speakers who shared their stories about working on international development projects. It challenged students to overcome their insecurity and personal fears by using the power of connecting with others to achieve their goals. It was hosted by the United Nations Connections Club.

DOING IT GREEN

The Burnaby Youth Sustainability Network kicked off its 5th **Do it Green Conference** today at Burnaby South. In attendance were 300 students from secondary schools throughout the District who are leaders in sustainability. After a greeting from the Board delivered by vice-chair Harman Pandher they heard from keynote speaker SFU Professor Quarmby. All in all, it was a great day of sharing and inspiration, with many seeds planted that will be nurtured going forward to keep our planet green.

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FOR THE MUSICALLY INCLINED

- The week before Spring Break, elementary students enjoyed Primary Days of Music.
- Band students from Armstrong Elementary earned free tickets to the Giants game providing entertainment in the foyer before the game.
- More than 300 students from 6 secondary schools enjoyed an informal evening of sharing at the District Jazz Band concert on February 25 at the Michael J Fox Theatre.
- Burnaby North's senior jazz band received a gold rating at the Kiwanis Jazz Festival held at Capilano University.
- Burnaby North students Spencer Drody and Howard Chi have been awarded scholarships to attend the Berklee College of Music's 5-week summer program.
- Directed by Courtney Couch, Burnaby North presented the musical The Wiz at the end of February, complete with a live orchestra accompaniment, directed by Peter Wenzek.

SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

- Burnaby South's AAAA (quad A) Senior Rebels placed fifth at the BC High School Boys Basketball Championships for a second straight year.
- Burnaby South's Juvenile Boys Basketball Team went undefeated for a second season to win its second provincial high school basketball banner.
- The Moscrop Boys Gymnastics Team won the BC Gymnastics Team Event, led by Level 1 champion Liam Hart. Burnaby Mountain grade 12 student Michelle Sargent won a silver medal at this event.