

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Reporting to Public Session Monday, April 11, 2016

1. Burnaby Mountain Participates in New York City Theatre Appreciation Tour

Connecting and applying student learning to real-life situations is an important component of education in Burnaby. There are various field experience opportunities for students to apply their learning outside of the classroom, as well as observe examples of where their learning can take them in the future. Traveling outside of Burnaby to connect these dots is an enriching aspect of the learning journey.

Performing Arts students spend a great deal of time on stage and performing for others, but don't always get an opportunity to be part of the audience. This past Spring Break, 13 Burnaby Mountain drama students participated in a weeklong theatre appreciation tour of New York City. They were fortunate to attend four shows, toured seven theatres, and participated in a workshop put on by 'Broadway Classroom'. Students also visited Lincoln Center, Radio City Music Hall and some students even performed on the famous Apollo Theatre stage in Harlem.

This evening, Effie Aadland, Vice-Principal of Burnaby Mountain Secondary School, will introduce Burnaby Mountain drama teacher, Felicity Rudolf, who will provide a snapshot of this amazing learning opportunity. Grade 9 – 12 students, Abby Barclay, Skylar Ferguson, Andy Nie, Ethan Radano, Peter Zhang, Joseph Tooley, Anny Shubenoti, and Bart Milard will share how this experience has impacted their lives.

Recommendation: THAT the Board of Education receive this information.

2. Concours d'art oratoire 2016

Concours d'art oratoire is a regional, Provincial and National contest that is sponsored and run through the Canadian Parents for French organization. Our Burnaby competition was organized and run by Head Teacher and French Liaison Anne-Marie Bilton from Seaforth Elementary. Over 100 students participated from across the district and they represented students from grades 6 through 12 in all French programs; Early French Immersion, Late French Immersion, Core French and Francophone.

The competition spanned three days and was presided over by six judges with representation from retired teachers, Simon Fraser University (SFU) and University of British Columbia Faculty, teachers and administrators. Students presented their speeches and medals were awarded for gold, silver and bronze performances.

All first place winners have been invited to attend the provincial competition which will be held on the SFU Surrey Campus on May 7th. The competition was exceptionally strong this year and the judges were impressed with the level of French and appreciated the opportunity to hear about the issues that students held dear to their hearts.

This evening, Ron Hall, Director of Instruction and Anne-Marie Bilton, French Liaison, will introduce the four gold medal winners from the competition who will share their speeches.

Recommendation: THAT the Board of Education receive this information.