

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Reporting to Public Session Tuesday, September 8, 2015

1. The Learning Never Stops

Summer Learning Opportunities are an important component of the District's commitment to providing students with a wide variety of program options to meet their interests and individual learning needs.

This summer the district hosted 7,900 students who participated in a variety of courses planned and organized by the school district. Classes were held in 22 Burnaby School locations enrolling 3,330 students in secondary programs and 4,577 in elementary programs. The students participated in courses or programs that advanced their program of studies, goals, developed skills for lifelong learning or provided extra support for students facing some learning challenges.

Secondary Advanced Credit courses were once again the most popular with approximately 2,453 students enrolled in Grade 10 – 12 subjects. These courses provided students with the opportunity to acquire credit for courses not yet taken or to upgrade a mark. Courses with the highest enrolment were: Social Studies 11, Foundations and Pre-Calculus Math 10, Pre-Calculus 11 and 12 and Science 10. Grade 7/8 Transitions programs, which provide an introduction to secondary school, had 402 students participating this year.

Moscrop was the largest secondary site with 1,130 students attending classes followed by Byrne Creek and Burnaby North, each with approximately 900 students. Burnaby Mountain with morning classes only, enrolled approximately 400 students.

At the elementary level, 4,577 students enjoyed a wide variety of learning opportunities at 19 different locations ranging from skill and language development, transition programs for students going into grades 1, 4 and 8 and enrichment courses that focused on reading, writing, study skills, essay and report writing, mathematics and problem solving, science, learning with laughter and leadership development. Marlborough and Aubrey were the largest sites enrolling 629 and 531 students respectively. Over 330 elementary students took English as a Second Language classes.

In addition to the Summer Session academic programs, a number of summer programs for children and youth were offered at each of the district's 7 community schools along with childcare and preschool programs at many elementary sites.

Tonight, Principal Ernie Kashima will present the benefits of participating in just some of the summer learning opportunities in Burnaby.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.

2. Sustainability Toolbox

This summer the Burnaby School District embarked upon a partnership with the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) to offer a pre-existing Board Authorized (BA), 4 credit course organized around sustainability. Twenty-four students from around the lower mainland worked with Burnaby teacher Wendi Palmer and GVRD staff to explore the relationships between nature, culture, society, and the economy. Students had the opportunity to explore the philosophical concepts and connections associated with these relationships.

What was truly exceptional about this educational experience was that it took place during one week in August at the Camp Alexandra site in Surrey and in a number of campsites on the Fraser River. Students began their journey during that week and will complete their studies on 5 Saturdays in September and October through Burnaby On-line. We are excited about both the innovative nature of this course and the developing educational relationship with the GVRD.

This evening Ron Hall, Director of Instruction, will introduce Wendi Palmer, teacher at Cariboo Hill Secondary School, who will give an overview of the program and share student experiences.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.