

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Reporting to Public Session Tuesday, September 22, 2015

1. Stride Avenue Aboriginal Drum Group (Coast Salish Welcome Song)

The Stride Avenue Drum Group is comprised of both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students in Kindergarten through grade five and are a reflection of the spirit of Stride Avenue Community School. The entire process from securing elk hide and maple wood, making the drums, learning the history and respecting protocols was embraced by all and involved Stride's Aboriginal community as well as non-Aboriginal parents. The music teacher Judith Lee, the Vancouver Friendship Centre, the Spirit of the Children Society and Mary Hotomanie, Aboriginal Education Resource Teacher, were instrumental in the success of this project.

This evening Mary Hotomanie, District Aboriginal Resource Teacher, will provide an overview of this project and introduce the students from Stride Avenue Community School. The Stride Avenue Drum Group will perform Chief Dan George's Coast Salish Anthem.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.

2. Orange Shirt Day

Orange Shirt Day is an annual event held on September 30 to honour the survivors of Indian residential schools. The event emerged from a residential school commemoration event in Williams Lake, BC in 2013. It grew out of Phyllis Jack Webstad's story of her first day at the St. Josephs Mission Residential School when she proudly wore a bright orange shirt bought by her grandmother. It reflected the excitement she felt. The staff took her orange shirt and other clothing and the colour orange reminded her that there was no one at the school who cared about her feelings of worthlessness. September was selected in remembrance of the time of year when First Nations children were gathered up and taken to these schools. Orange Shirt Day is meant to set the stage for learning and practicing anti-bullying and anti-racism in schools. It is an opportunity for schools and communities to come together in a spirit of truth and reconciliation and hope for the lives of children to really matter.

There are events and activities to honour Orange Shirt Day planned for groups of students at Burnaby Central, Burnaby North, Burnaby South, Moscrop, Cariboo Hill and at Clinton Elementary.

This evening, Clinton Elementary teacher, Aman Rai and students will share their thoughts about Orange Shirt Day.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.

3. Aboriginal Worldviews and Perspectives Report

On February 11, 2015, the Burnaby School District hosted a Regional Session on the topic of Aboriginal Perspectives and Worldview in the Classroom. Burnaby was one of five communities to host such a session, with a focus on bringing our urban community's voice to the conversation regarding the increasing prevalence of Aboriginal perspectives within the new British Columbia curriculum. The session brought together District staff, parents, students, Elders and other community members to share their perspectives with Ministry and District staff. The information gathered at the session was collated by the Ministry of Education, along with the information from the other Regional Sessions held in the Province. The information collected was formulated into a resource for classroom educators entitled *Aboriginal Worldviews and Perspectives in the Classroom: Moving Forward* which was released at the start of the 2015-2016 school year.

This evening, Brandon Curr, District Vice-Principal Instructional Services, will provide a brief overview of the regional session held in Burnaby on February 11, 2015, as well as share some findings from the final report of the five regional sessions that were held throughout British Columbia last year.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.