

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Reporting to Public Session Tuesday, April 8, 2014

1. District Grade 7 Public Speaking Challenge

The District's Public Speaking Challenge, open to all Grade 7 students in the district, began in 1983 when then Burnaby principal, Dave Carter, thought of creating a district wide public speaking challenge for elementary students. Every year since then, hundreds of students have participated in the competition designed to develop confidence and pursue excellence in public speaking skills. Students compete at the school level after which they are selected to move forward to the zone level. A final two from each of the four zones then advances to the district finals. This year the district finals were held on Wednesday, March 12th at Byrne Creek Secondary with the theme of "We Matter".

This evening, Literacy Consultant, Ben Pare, will provide an overview of the Public Speaking Challenge. The 2014 challenge champions were Juliana Valerio (Brentwood Park), Sidharth Suja Sudhir (Cameron) and Mariantonella Picon (Cameron) placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively. The students will share their winning speeches.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.

2. Punjabi Program at Burnaby South

In the elementary 9 or 11 program, students learn the Gurmukhi script, which is the Punjabi alphabet and by the end of the first year will be able to read simple Punjabi texts. As well, students will be able to communicate with others, in both written and spoken forms at a basic level. The students learn about Punjab, its culture and its history. They study Punjabi customs, celebrations and festivals.