

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**  
**Reporting to Public Session Tuesday, April 14, 2015**

**1. Byrne Creek Vaisakhi Dancers**

Vaisakhi is a festival celebrated by Sikhs, Hindus and Buddhists – both a religious holiday and cultural celebration. In addition to serving as a major harvest festival in the Punjab region of India, the Sikh calendar considers Vaisakhi to be New Year's Day.

This evening, Trustees will enjoy a celebratory dance. Byrne Creek Vice-Principal, Anita Sortome, will introduce the Byrne Creek dance company students who will perform Bhangra, a folk dance originating in the Punjab region.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.

**2. 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 4<sup>th</sup> at Byrne Creek Secondary with the theme of "*Think Differently*".

This evening, Assistant Superintendent, Wanda Mitchell, will provide an overview of the Public Speaking Challenge. The 2015 Challenge champions were Zuzanna Liniewski (Brentwood Park), Tasfiyah Kabir (Chaffey Burke) and Liam Taylor (Stoney Creek) who placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively. The students will share their winning speeches.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.

**3. Me to We Voluntour - Kenya**

Burnaby North Secondary School took the field experience of a lifetime when they were part of the *Me to We Voluntour* trip to the Masai Mara region of Kenya, Africa. The trip took place from March 11 - 21 and students had an opportunity to volunteer with local community members and became immersed in the sights and sounds of local culture. They built their leadership skills by participating in meaningful and interactive workshops and also spent time helping to build a vocational training centre for women. Students visited local elementary and high schools, went on a safari and received Masai warrior training.

This evening, Burnaby North teacher, Sabrina Versteeg will provide an overview of the field trip and introduce students who went on the trip: Nancy Yang, Amaara Dhanji, Lily Xiong, Nasseem Vazinkhoo and Megan Chan who will share their experiences.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.