

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Reporting to Public Session Tuesday, February 25, 2014

1. Supporting Safe and Caring Schools – Burnaby's Kindness Campaign

The Burnaby School district is committed to ensuring school communities are safe and *Awareness Day* in BC, provides the opportunity to showcase Burnaby's proactive approach to keeping its communities safe.

The district's ongoing participation in the Ministry of Education's ERASE Bullying Strategy supports staff training in threat and risk assessment as well as student participation in the upcoming provincial forum on February 28.

Board of Education Chair and Superintendent of Schools sent an open letter to families outlining the district's commitment to keeping schools safe along with proactive strategies to promote pro-social behaviours. *Parent's Guide to Conduct* and *Open Letter*.

District staff has provided schools with resources that can be used to promote *Bullying Awareness Day* and the *Kindness Campaign* in schools. Website links to learn more about bullying, *Anti-Bullying Resources* and *Empathy* were also included.

In addition, the district is pleased to welcome Travis Price, co-founder of Pink Shirt Day to Burnaby. He will address parents on Monday, February 24 and students at Burnaby Central and Byrne Creek Secondary schools on Thursday, February 27. Travis Price has become well-known for his story about how the Pink Shirt movement began – when he and another student were teased in class after wearing pink shirts to school. Travis Price was bullied at their Nova Scotia high school.

On this evening, Sue Dorey, Manager Youth Services will provide all perspectives of the district of initiatives, program opportunities and events to promote *Bullying Awareness Day* and support safe and caring schools in Burnaby and introduce two examples presented here this evening.

a) Kindness at the Heart

"Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all." This quote by learning, empathy, gratitude and kindness. An "I leader" from 19 leadership students from Maywood Community School chose to "pay it forward" at Metropolis, Metrotown. Teaching facts about kindness and approach towards acts of kindness resulted to the surprise and delight of shoppers in the busy, local mall.

This morning, Community School Coordinator, Carol Bevil and teacher, Pat Bathurst, along with members of Maywood's student leadership team, will share their experience and a few of life's lessons they learned along the way.

b) 2014 Pink Project

On Monday, February 10, over 3400 pink-shirted students from across the lower mainland performed at the Vancouver Giants' Family Day game at the Pacific Coliseum.

Maywood students were part of the 2014 Pink Project, a community-wide initiative to promote respect for themselves and others in a flash-mob dance to "Shooting Star" by Owl City.

Organizers of the project hope to turn this amazing partnership of schools into a legacy project which stands as a testament to a positive social message to the community regarding acceptance.

Parents, students, staff and community are proud of their school's participation in this project.

Members of Alpha dance team will perform the routine from the 2014 Pink Project.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.