

January, 2009

Volume 8, Issue 5

Notable & Upcoming

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Family Literacy Week

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deadline

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Province Makes Funding for Student Literacy a Priority

The Province is providing \$5 million for the fifth consecutive year to support school districts in improving their students' literacy skills. This brings the five-year total to \$25 million, Education Minister Shirley Bond announced on January 14, 2009.

"We continue to be committed to student literacy and building on the significant progress districts have made over the past four years," said Bond. "Even with the changing economic circumstances, we are working to make B.C. the best educated, most literate jurisdiction on the continent."

The Literacy Innovation Grants support innovative literacy initiatives and practices in kindergarten to Grade 12. To streamline the Ministry's reporting requirement a separate application is no longer required to receive this funding. School districts will receive the same funding levels as last year and will continue to have the flexibility to support innovative literacy practices in the K-12 system, or to support District Literacy Plan development.

The availability of these grants means districts can expand literacy initiatives. Last year, some districts developed summer reading and family literacy programs, while others focused their efforts on

assessment and intervention projects for younger learners.

Peace River North school district discovered a dramatic improvement in the reading skills of a group of primary students whose teachers took part in a peer coaching program. This approach has helped raise the percentage of students meeting or exceeding reading expectations in five of the seven participating grades.

For more information please visit Ministry of Education News at www.news.gov.bc.ca/?organisation_obj_id=0b00921e8000057e

Sustainable Schools Forum

To help education leaders make school districts more environmentally sustainable, the Ministry of Education will be holding a Sustainable Schools Forum on February 9, 2009. The Forum will address environmental issues from both operational and educational perspectives to create a culture of sustainability in all levels of the K-12 education system.

The goal is to encourage staff and students to take action on greenhouse gas reduction, energy and waste reduction as well as local environmental initiatives.

In the spirit of low carbon sustainability, the Forum will be webcasted from Byrne Creek Secondary school in Burnaby with nine more regional sites around the province.

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The BC Education Leadership Council has set up a registration process so that all districts can send a team to one of the 10 sites.

Topics to be discussed at the Forum include the government's climate action agenda, carbon-neutral boards and the "whole school" approach to a more environmentally-friendly school system. Presenters will also discuss how to integrate environmental education in all classrooms, as well as share energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reduction initiatives by districts.

For more information about the Sustainable Schools Forum please visit www.bced.gov.bc.ca/greenschools/sustschoolforum.htm.

Take It Global with Sharing the Dream Webcast #2

The BC Ministry of Education's exciting [Sharing the Dream webcast series](#) uses real-time technology to connect students from around the world in a discussion on global citizenship and Olympic and Paralympic values.

Join us on Friday, February 20, 2009, for the second of six webcasts, when Michael Furdyk, co-founder of the youth social action website [TakingItGlobal](#), speaks about global citizenship and the important role youth can play in making their communities better places for all.

On November 12, 2008, a virtual, global audience of students and teachers joined Port Moody's Heritage Woods Secondary School students and teachers for the first *Sharing the Dream* interactive [webcast](#), featuring 2008 Olympic gold medalist Carol Huynh. Carol spoke about the importance of perseverance and being the best you can be in whatever field you choose.

Visit the Sharing the Dream website at www.sharingthedream.gov.bc.ca/welcome.php to join in the discussion. To learn more about [TakingItGlobal](#) please go to www.tigweb.org/. For additional information, visit the Vancouver 2010 Education Program website, /EDU, at www.vancouver2010.com/en/culture-and-education/education/-/33970/1qaq2ey/index.html.



The website features educational resources related to sport, culture, sustainability, and Olympism & Paralympism, with the overarching theme of global citizenship.

WorkSafeBC Student Video Contest- Keep Safety in Your Frame

Student Video Safety Contest 2009

KEEP SAFETY IN YOUR FRAME



- Create a 60-second film about safety in construction
- Win great cash prizes
- Have your work featured online and in public

Two categories:
Grades 8-10 and Grades 11-12

www2.worksafebc.com/Topics/YoungWorker/Home.asp
or call 604-270-3174

Remember to stay safe – on and off camera



Submit a safety video to WorkSafeBC's "Keep Safety in Your Frame" contest for a chance to win some cash prizes for you and your school! WorkSafeBC is inviting all Grade 8-12 students in B.C. to take part in its 4th Annual Student Video Contest.

Participants should submit a 60-second training video or awareness commercial focusing on preventing construction injuries. Winners and prizes will be awarded in two categories, one for submissions from Grade 8-10 students and one for submissions from Grade 11-12 students. In addition to cash prizes the winning submissions will be posted on the WorkSafeBC and YouTube websites in May 2009. The deadline for submissions is April 19, 2009.

To learn more about the dangers faced by construction workers visit www2.worksafebc.com/Portals/Construction/Home.asp. Contest details including Contest Rules and Entry Form are available on the WorkSafeBC website at www2.worksafebc.com/Topics/YoungWorker/Resources-Educators.asp.

Healthy Living at School Success Stories Contest

Is your secondary school finding exciting ways to promote healthier food choices? Maybe you have started a lunchtime walking club or partnered with a community recreation service provider to broaden your physical activity options?

Tell 2010 Legacies Now about the people and programs inspiring your staff and students to lead healthier, more active lifestyles. Ten submissions will be randomly drawn each month, and each school will receive 60 pedometers!

At Thomas Haney Secondary in Maple Ridge, students and staff keep active by participating in alternatives outside the classroom, such as ski and snowboard clubs and a new walking club which has proven fun and social as well as healthy. Students are also using technology to add activity to their day, swinging video game racquets and playing virtual tennis on their breaks.

“All over B.C., we’re hearing success stories about secondary schools large and small, who are finding creative ways to inspire their staff and students to move more, encourage better eating habits and generally adopt healthier lifestyles,” said Hon. Shirley Bond, Minister of Education.

“We want to recognize these leaders and share ideas which may inspire healthy programming for other secondary schools— because every move is a good move,” said Hon. Mary Polak, Minister of Healthy Living and Sport.

The pedometer incentive is a 2010 Legacies Now initiative supported by ActNow BC through the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport.

To learn more about this pedometer incentive, the successes of secondary schools around B.C. and ideas and resources for healthy living in your school, please visit www.healthyeatingatschool.ca and click on the “Success Stories” tab.

Dogwood Elementary School Gets Active with Daily Physical Activity Program

At the Dogwood Elementary School in Surrey, B.C. students get their Daily Physical Activity (DPA) in a variety of fun ways thanks to the school’s Healthy Living plan. From scheduled gym time to a weekly school run or walk, everyone is taking part in the school’s exercise program.

A key component of the school’s exercise program is an “action room” with six different activity stations. The activity stations incorporate various exercises aimed to build coordination, muscular strength, endurance and more. Two to three times a week, classes rotate through the stations to use equipment such as mini-hurdles, rubber tubes and balance boards. To keep things interesting, activities are changed routinely with instructions on safe equipment usage. “Cool” background music for different age groups also keeps participants energized.

The activities have been such a great hit that some teachers and parents are also taking part in them as well. One of the keys to the program’s success is the commitment of the teacher who is assigned to the task of facility management. Support from parents also plays an important role, from participation in the school program to volunteering to help the youngest students with their exercises.

Since the start of the program, several children have found that regular use of the activity room has increased their ability to participate in sports outside of school:

“It’s easier to pay attention to our school work after we are in there,” said one student.

This shared activity time also gives teachers an opportunity to connect with their pupils on non-academic issues like social responsibility.

As shown by Dogwood Elementary School, students, teachers and parents all play a key part in the activity program. You might see everyone out for a run the next time you pass by the school!