

May 2009

Volume 8, Issue 8

Upcoming Events

June 5, 2009

Our Hidden Heroes
Writing Contest
submission deadline

June 23, 2009

International Olympic
Day

June 26, 2009

Last day of school

Ministry Framework and Anaphylactic Students

In 2007, the Ministry of Education developed the [BC Anaphylactic and Child Safety Framework](#) to guide school districts in the development of school-based policies for managing anaphylaxis. Supported by a host of [ministry resources](#), school districts across the province have been working closely with health authorities to implement the guideline requirements in the Framework.

In School District No. 38 (Richmond), public health nurses from Vancouver Coastal Health Authority work very closely with the district Occupational Health & Safety Officer on school anaphylaxis issues. Together, they created a handbook for all of the district's schools based on the BC Anaphylactic and Child Safety Framework. According to Chris Salgado, Program Leader for Child and Youth Health with the Richmond Health Department, "this partnership is important so we can share our knowledge and provide a team approach to anaphylaxis with our principals, teacher and parents."

The Richmond Health Department collaborated with the schools to hold a focus group with parents of children with anaphylaxis, to share knowledge and listen to parents' concerns about the safety of their children.

In addition, the department maintains an email distribution list of these parents to provide them with ongoing updates.

"I do believe that keeping an open communication process helps us move forward and iron out any kinks in our processes" adds Salgado.

Public health nurses are available to support schools in meeting the guidelines outlined in the BC Anaphylactic and Child Safety Framework, including the delivery of annual staff training and implementing awareness and avoidance procedures. To contact your regional health authority office, visit www.health.gov.bc.ca/socsec/contacts.html.

Summer Reading for Kids and Teens

Kids Summer Reading Club

The end of the school year is just a few weeks away and as schools prepare for a summer break, the public libraries are gearing up for the Summer Reading Club. The long days of summer allow more time for reading, so why not keep up with your reading skills through lots of good books and fun activities?

The Kids Summer Reading Club (KidsSRC) is held annually in public libraries all over B.C. More than 85,000 children take part each year-become part of the club too!

Education Trivia



Did you
know?

There are 1,634 public
351 independent, and
114 band schools in
B.C.

Approximately 33,865
teachers are working in
these schools across
the province!

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This year the theme is “Follow the Reader” and will focus on leadership, teamwork, and finding out about the world, as the “world” is coming to BC next winter for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympics Games. Find out more about the KidsSRC at <http://kidssrc.bclibrary.ca/>.



Teen Reading Club



If you are between the ages of 13 to 18, don't miss this great opportunity to participate in the Teen Reading Club (TeenRC) with other readers across the country. The theme for this year is “Read About It!”

The TeenRC program is a safe, online book club where teens can discuss their reading and book-related ideas. Participants can post their own reviews, discuss books with peers online, and win prizes through their reviews. Last year teen readers posted over 3,000 book reviews of more than 2,000 books!

TeenRC first started as a B.C.–based summer program in 2005. It became so popular with members and librarians that it was extended across Canada and throughout the school year. The Club's main goals are to encourage teens to read, and to support them in their reading, writing as well as thinking.

Check out the TeenRC at www.teensrc.ca to see how you can become part of the club too.

Free Vehicle Idle-Free Sign for Your School



Share an environmental or sustainability effort and your school could receive up to four free vehicle idle-free signs.

The B.C. Government is offering “BC Is Idle Free” signs through Hub for Action on School Transportation Emissions (HASTE) to B.C. schools. This is an initiative aimed

to reduce vehicle idling and increase awareness of harmful emissions. Schools are invited to submit an environmental or sustainability learning opportunity that is being planned or has been accomplished. Schools may order up to four signs. Schools that participated in the iWalk 2008 or the iWalk to Breakfast 2008 event are also eligible to receive the signs.

For more information and to access the online registration form, please visit the HASTE website at www.hastebc.org/school-anti-idling-sign-order-form.

FUN Camps for Students in Summer



The second summer of Friends Uniting for Nature (FUN) Camps is here! This is a non-profit, summer leadership program for 8 to 16 year-olds, focused on providing environmental education through fun, hands-on activity.

Youth aged 13-16 are invited to take part in the Peer Leader Program. The FUN curriculum will focus on activity and personal development for the students. Participants will learn through activities including bike maintenance workshops, solar oven and car construction, arts and sports.

The goal is that they will build confidence and pass their knowledge through drama, daily sketching and journaling in nature, as well as leadership training workshops. Participants will spend most of their time outdoors and some time learning on the University of British Columbia campus. The camp will run Monday to Friday, July 6 to August 28. Registration is now open at www.funcamps.ca. A limited number of scholarships may be available for those requiring financial assistance.

The FUN Camps curriculum will be developed in part by a team of high school students from the Vancouver area. Interested in contributing to the curriculum development? Or looking for additional information on registration and volunteering? Please contact Maia Green, FUN Camps Coordinator at maia@funcamps.ca.

Our Hidden Heroes Writing Contest



Do you know someone who in their own way makes a difference to others or to their community?

The Hidden Heroes Education Society, a non-profit program, is inviting all grade one to eight students across Canada to take part in the writing contest. Students can write or submit a drawing about themselves or someone they know who has made a positive contribution to the world. The goal of the program is to help empower participants to acknowledge their own or others' positive contributions, and to continue making a difference.

All entries must be submitted by email from a teacher by June 5, 2009. A winner will be chosen by random draw to receive an Acer Aspire Netbook. For more information on contest rules and the program, please visit www.ourhiddenheroes.org.

B.C. Green Games Celebrate Young Environmental Leaders



Above photo: Students at Burnaby Mountain Secondary working on the school's organic gardening project

Students across B.C. are taking the lead in sustainability efforts in their schools and communities—just check out their entries from the B.C. Green Games! The Green Games was the first-ever, province-wide environmental contest, aimed to encourage students to document and share projects that make positive environmental changes in their school or community.

Young sustainability leaders rose to the challenge and a total of 140 student groups from 34 school districts submitted their initiatives from September to October 2008. Some of the student projects included schoolyard gardens, waste reduction, habitat preservation, community stewardship projects and a variety of energy-reduction initiatives.

Each of the winning 23 schools with \$2,000 for their green efforts. Three schools also received a solar photo-voltaic system from SolarBC in a random draw. Congratulations to all the winners and participants for their contributions to the environment! See the winning projects on the Green Games website at www.bcgreengames.ca/gallery/the-winners.html.

Visit the EdInfo site at: <http://www.bc.ed.gov.bc.ca/edinfo/>.

Comments, questions, submissions: EDINFO.EDUC@gov.bc.ca.

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