



Message from Our Superintendent

As you begin to read through this district newsletter, I would like to remind you that there are exactly two months remaining in the current school year. As unbelievable as that may sound, now is the perfect time to reflect on the many successes and accomplishments (as well as a few challenges) that we as a progressive and innovative School District have experienced over the course of the 2005-06 School Year.

As you all know, this has been a very busy and exciting school year. For the past six months, the district has been engaged in a district-and-community-wide Shared Vision Building process which is committed to reflecting the values and beliefs of all its stakeholder groups, including teaching and support staff, stu-

dents, parents, administration, and community members. The process to date has been very exciting and worthwhile, with the ultimate goal being the development of a shared vision for the School District that will serve to guide us and inspire us as we continue to move forward in the years to come.

There are many accomplishments that have occurred over the current school year that New Westminster has reason to be very proud of. All of our schools are continuing to move forward with their strong commitment of promoting Social Responsibility for all students at the individual, classroom, and school level. One of our district schools (Lord Kelvin) was the recipient of the prestigious Garfield-Weston award last Fall for

being one of the most consistently improving schools in B.C., and provincial exam results at N.W.S.S. this Spring were exceptionally strong and well above the provincial average in the majority of categories. In addition, the district has been helping to support the outstanding work that staff associated with the elementary-middle school athletic program have undertaken in an effort to promote the virtues of confidence, competence, and a sense of 'connection' with the greater school community.

The district is also very excited about the establishment of the Working and Learning Conditions Committee, which is comprised of representation from all of our employee groups in the district. *Continued on page 4*

Spotlight on POWER

POWER staff know the key to their success is the strong relationships they build with their students.

"There is no anonymity at POWER" says teacher Tim Dodds. Staff work hard to develop relationships beyond the academics.

POWER staff also want their students to be accepting of themselves and others. "We've focused on social responsibility before it became a buzz word", says Dean Gebauer.

The team approach used by POWER staff calls for in-

creased meeting time, but they credit the strength of their team for their success with students. "We've had a School Based Team for twelve years. We've always been doing them to problem solve for our students", adds Jim Russell.

The POWER team is very flexible in offering courses that the students need. At times the facility presents challenges, but the POWER team are very creative. Many students take ALC and POWER classes interchangeably. Staff feel this connection to the ALC is

important should students take longer to graduate.

On April 12th, twelve POWER students graduated. The students gave their heartfelt thanks to the staff for their success. It was a very touching ceremony.

Thank you to the POWER Team for all they do for their students: Heather Avison Timothy Dodds, Dean Gebauer, Oscar Hanson, Mei Leong, Malcolm Key, Marie Mungo-Mutebi, Jim Russell, Stephanie Saville, Paula Shima and Alvin Scholzberg.

Inside this issue:

Learning Services Update	2
Student Services Update	2
Human Services Update	3
Around and About SD 40	3
Queensborough Special Programs Committee	3
Elementary- Middle Sports Update	4
Upcoming Events and Pro-d Opportunities	4

Comment from an Outside Service Provider:

"I know you have many excellent teachers and schools, but I would like to complement the Power Program for their excellent work....The staff there are able to engage withdrawn youth and motivate them to continue school until they graduate, even when they have to travel out of their home community to attend school. POWER staff have also been flexible and worked with us in maintaining therapeutic connections...they have accommodated this need for youth in creative ways....we have often spoken about the POWER program and how well it works for our youth."

LEARNING SERVICES UPDATE

On April 9– 11, our district hosted another very successful conference. “**Spring Forward with SmartReading**” attracted over 150 educators from all parts of the province and as far away as Alberta. Thirty-seven districts were represented in all.

The conference began with a DVD highlighting our teachers and students and their work with SmartReading. Many thanks to District Learning Facilitator, **Steve Wyer**, for creating this DVD.

The conference began with table groups generating metaphors of how SmartReading is like an Inukshuk. The planning team chose the Inukshuk because it is a symbol of trust and reassurance for those who travel. The teachers said SmartReading is like an Inukshuk because:

-you build an Inukshuk in layers—like

SmartReading scaffolds learning;

-it points the way and reveals hidden reserves and knowledge;

-take one part away and it will fall—all the parts work together to achieve balance;

-both stand on a solid base of knowledge and understanding;

-it guides and directs all who are in contact with it.

These first day of the conference consisted of large group and break out sessions. The second and third days, however, provided teachers with the opportunity to see SmartReading in action in our District Demonstration Teachers’ classrooms. Thank you to all of the Principals and to the teams of K-12 teachers who hosted the visitors.

E-mail and thank you notes reflect the power of the wonderful work going on in our classrooms:

“From a jaded ‘old’ teacher, thanks for really giving me something so wonderful to use and embrace with my kids.”

“Thank you for the inspiration and the means to help me help all of my students become more powerful learners.”

“I am truly excited about what the teachers have shared with me and I can’t wait to return to learn more.”

“Many thanks for the time and energy! We have loads to work with and try out in our classrooms.”

If you are interested in seeing SmartReading in action, please call Linda at 6337.

STUDENT SERVICES UPDATE

It has been very busy with many initiatives in the Student Services Department. **Janet Grant** and **Diane Halkett** have met with Elementary and Middle school ESL teachers to design a district template for Annual Instructional Plans. The goal is to have the template ready for implementation in the coming school year. In addition to the template, the March 21st meeting focused on the assessment, identification and service of ESL students.

Another initiative involves working with our Elementary and Middle school Resource teachers to streamline the high incidence IEPs. The goal is glean efficiencies by making these IEPs more “user friendly”.

In the area of understanding our special learners, Diane gave a very informative presentation on “Depression, Anxiety and Learned Helplessness” at the Secondary

Resource Teacher meeting on April 18th.

We want to thank District Learning Facilitator, **Ann Nottingham** and McBride Resource teacher, **Ardyth Moorcroft**, for their February 16th session on Word Work for our SEAs, members of our District Itinerant team and Speech & Language Pathologists. Our Aboriginal Support Workers had a similar session in January. Ann also facilitated a session on SmartReading for our District Itinerant Team and SLPs on March 29th.

Work is underway in finalizing an External Agency Protocol and refining the Threat Assessment Protocol for our district. More details will follow soon.

And, we were very pleased to be able to purchase new assessments for our district: the BRIEF (inventory of executive functioning); the CELF-IV (receptive and ex-

pressive language screen); and additional achievement and ability assessment tools for ESL students. These assessments will provide valuable information for student programming.

Brain research-based materials that support the District’s goal of Social Responsibility have also been purchased. These resources focus on early intervention. More information will follow as these materials arrive. And, we have also been able to purchase updated child abuse prevention programs: Care Kits (Grades 2-3) and “Let’s Talk About Touching” (K/1). Training for these resources will take place in the fall.

We are very pleased to welcome **Tanya Merx** to our district. Tanya is replacing our Intern School Psychologist, Anne Blaney, who is on leave. Welcome, Tanya!

My Child Wouldn’t Do That-On the Internet

On April 11th, **Glenbrook Middle School** hosted a parent and student forum on Internet Safety. The dangers of instant messaging and cyber-bullying were part of this informative and highly successful forum.

Many thanks to New Westminster Community School Coordinators, **Trevor**

Cave and **Sharon MacKay** and GMS staff for organizing this event. And, a special thank you to the New Westminster Police Service and Nathan Falkenholt from Telus for facilitating this forum.

If you would like to see the Power Point presentation, please visit the School District #40 website at www.sd40.bc.ca.

LDP...

Monday, April 24th was the last of four sessions of our District **Leadership Development Program**. The topic was “A Day in the Life of a Principal”. Other topics this year included “Building Learning Communities” and “Ethics in Leadership”. These sessions are for new and aspiring Principals and Vice-Principals.

Information about next year’s LDP program will come out in September.

HUMAN SERVICES UPDATE

Vince Ready Award

Districts have received the following information regarding Vince Ready's award with respect to TOC pay and seniority arising from his October recommendations. Briefly, Mr. Ready has determined that:

1. While \$190. is the new daily base rate, any superior local rates will continue to apply (\$ 190. is greater than the previous daily base rate for our District);
2. Any superior local provisions with respect to pay in lieu of benefits will also continue to apply;
3. TOCs will now move to the grid after three consecutive days of work, not necessarily in the same assignment;

4. TOC seniority will accrue when TOCs are paid in accordance with an amended B.2.6, or pursuant to any superior local provision;

5. The use of TOC seniority will be in accordance with existing collective agreement provisions (e.g. if the use of seniority is limited to employees with a continuing contract, then this seniority will be included in the aggregate at that time);

6. The effective date of these changes is April 1, 2006.

More information will follow.

Maintaining the Teacher on Call (TOC) and Casual Lists

Despite our efforts (since July 1, 2005, we have added 41 teachers to our TOC

list and 34 casuals to the casual list), the demand continues to exceed supply.

On Saturday, April 8th, **Bob Parsons** (District Vice-Principal HR and Health & Safety) represented our District at a job search event for Simon Fraser University student teachers. Bob is also working with Faculty Associates at the University of British Columbia to set up a similar event for their student teachers. In addition, **Christine Nagy** (HR Officer) recently spoke to Special Education Assistant students at Douglas College about employment opportunities in our District.

Bob, Christine, other HR staff as well as many members of the District's Administration Team continue to interview applicants for our TOC and Casual lists. Once again, more information to follow.

Around and About SD 40

Chinu Das is the new Multicultural Services Coordinator for our district. She has a long history of involvement in multicultural issues in New Westminster. She is looking forward to working with schools and our community to promote multicultural awareness and understanding.

On March 21st, **Connaught Heights** was honoured to have a visit from Aboriginal artist, Roy Henry Vickers. Mr. Vickers spent the morning sharing stories, drumming and singing. All present benefited from his words of wisdom. Many thanks to Mr. Vicker's sister-in-law, **Sharlene Briggs**, for arranging for this visit.

Connaught Heights also hosted the Stqw'eylem Traditional Pow Wow on March 24, 25 and 26th. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn about Aboriginal culture and traditions.

QMS Grade 7 student, Nicole Panton, won first place in the Terry Fox Run Poster contest. Nicole's poster was chosen from hundreds of entries from across BC and the Yukon. Her poster will be professionally printed and distributed to all schools participating in the Terry Fox Run in September 2006. Congratulations to Nicole!

NWSS students came in first place in the

CANSTRUCT competition last month. There were 23 entries from throughout the lower mainland. Over 60 NWSS students, under the sponsorship of **Meiyan Yip**, constructed a huge toy soldier using canned food. These cans of food will be donated to the Food Bank. Canstruction Vancouver is part of a global anti-hunger project and, for the past 14 years, this project has been held in more than 50 cities across North America. Congratulations to the NWSS team!

If you have an item of interest to contribute to this section of the newsletter, please forward it to jgrant@sd40.bc.ca

Queensborough Special Programs Committee Presented with Partnership Award

The Queensborough Special Programs Committee was honoured with a Partnership Award on Friday, March 3rd at a Chapter Council Meeting of the BC Principals' and Vice-Principals' Association. Partnership awards are presented to individuals who have, over an extended period of time, demonstrated strong support for public education and created a direct benefit for students.

The Special Programs Committee of Queensborough was recognized for the

valuable support provided to principals, teachers and students by sharing their energy and expertise to Queen Elizabeth Elementary and Queensborough Middle School.

Among the many projects the QSPC has supported are: raising more than \$90,000. for playground equipment; providing money, personnel, materials and guidance for the creation of the large wood caring mural for QMS; coordinating and providing grant money for ESL

summer programs; providing volunteers and coordinators for events and activities in the school and community centre; supporting PAC fundraising at both schools; and, raising awareness and promoting interaction between students and seniors through the Senior Tea held in conjunction with the May Day Assembly at QE.

Congratulations and thank you to the Queensborough Special Programs Committee for all they do for our students!

UPCOMING EVENTS

SCHOOL DISTRICT #40 (NEW WESTMINSTER)

1001 Columbia Street
New Westminster, B.C. V3M 1C4

If you have an article to contribute to this newsletter, please contact the editor, Janet Grant, At 604-517-6160

"Success Through Education"

Visit the district website:

www.sd40.bc.ca

Pro-d Opportunities...

May 12th: Nobody Likes Me... Everybody Hates Me! Michele Borba, Executive Hotel, Burnaby. www.creedseminars.com

August 21-25: The Autism Spectrum Disorder Course for SEAs, SFU Harbour Centre: www.actbc.ca

August 23-24: Teaching Social Thinking, Victoria: www.actbc.ca

August 28 & 29: Raising boys' achievement, Coast Plaza Hotel, Vancouver: mentoringboys.com

Thursday, April 27th: **Grade 1 Grade Group** (1:00–3:30 p.m. at McBride). Preparing for the Reading assessment.

Tuesday, May 2nd: **Finance and Administration Committee** meeting: 7 p.m. at GMS.

Thursday, May 4th: **Kindergarten Grade Group** in Erika Warkentin's classroom at Tweedsmuir (8:30–11:30 a.m.); **Grade 4 Grade Group** for collaborative marking of the reading assessment and a conversation about Math Makes Sense at McBride (1:00–3:30 p.m.)

Tuesday, May 9th: **Grade 3 Grade Group** for collaborative marking of the reading assessment and a conversation about Math Makes Sense at McBride (8:30–11:30); **Grade 5 Grade Group** for collaborative marking of the reading assessment and a conversation about Math Makes Sense (1:00–3:30). School Board meeting: 7:30 p.m.

Monday, May 15th: **Grade 2 Grade Group** for collaborative marking of the reading assessment at McBride (1–3:30)

Tuesday, May 16th: **NWTU Annual General Meeting**: 3:30 p.m. at NWSS; **Social Responsibility Committee**: 5:00 p.m. at GMS; **Education Committee**: 7:00 p.m. at GMS.

Monday, May 22nd: **Victoria Day**

Tuesday, May 23rd: **School Board Meeting**: 7:30 p.m. at NWSS.

Wednesday, May 24th: **May Day** at Queen's Park (weather permitting)

Saturday, May 27th: **CUPE General Meeting**: 9:30 a.m.

Friday, June 2nd and Saturday, June 3rd: Community Schools present "**YAM JAM**" and "**Arts in the Park**"

Sunday, June 4th: Community Schools present "**12th Street Ragtime**"

Tuesday, June 6th: **Finance & Admin. Committee Meeting**—7:00 p.m. at GMS.

Wednesday, June 7th: **NWTU Spring Retirement Tea** at GMS.

Tuesday, June 13th: **School Board Meeting**: 7:30 p.m. at City Hall

Thursday, June 15th: **Grade 1 Teachers** are invited to develop the reading protocol for Sept.'06—1–3:30 at McBride

Saturday, June 17th: **CUPE General Meeting**—9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, June 20th: **Social Responsibility Committee**—5:00 p.m. at GMS; **Education Committee**—7:00 p.m. at GMS.

Thursday, June 22nd: **Grades 1–8 Reading and Writing Tally** sheets due to Yoko.

Tuesday, June 27th: **School Board Meeting**: 7:30 at QMS.

NOTE: The Grades 6-7 (Elem.) and Grades 6-8 (Middle) Grade Groups are being established at each school.

Elem.-Middle Athletic Assoc. Update

The NWEMAA is very pleased about the high level of student and teacher participation in our district's extra-curricular sport programs. Sport is natural vehicle for promoting social responsibility and great way to enhance student connectedness to our school and district community! Thank you coaches and organizers for providing additional opportunities for students to be successful at school.

The basketball and cosom hockey tournaments were a success. Thank you to the students and staff of the following schools for hosting our district tournaments:

QMS - Grade 6 Girl's and Boy's Basketball

Lord Kelvin- Grade 7 Girl's Basketball

GMS - Grade 7 Boy's Basketball

John Robson - Grade 7 Girl's Cosom Hockey

Tweedsmuir - Grade 7 Boy's Cosom Hockey

Current and Upcoming Events:

Grade 6,7,8 Ultimate (GMS – Karen Wright, Janice Kaplan)

Grade 8 Boys Volley Ball (GMS – Donny Pham, Susan Benedict, Carmen Loewen)

Grade 6-8 Track and Field (GMS – David Blatherwick, Jeff Meville)

Elementary Track Meet June 6 @ Mercer Stadium

Reminder: there is an Elementary Track Meeting on Tuesday May 9th @ Kelvin for ALL schools who are competing at June's District Track Meet.

Yours in Education and Sport,

Rob Smyth

New Westminster Elementary – Middle School Athletic Association

Superintendent cont.

The intent of this important new committee is to collectively explore ways to continually improve the quality and diversity of educational programs and services for all students in New Westminster. Finally, the School District has continued to work in close partnership with the Ministry of Education over the past few months to ensure that the secondary school capital project continues to progress in a fashion that will ultimately lead to the completion of the most progressive and innovative secondary school in the history of the province.

In summary, as we continue to move swiftly toward the end of the current school year, with important activities such as the district track meet, planning for graduation and, of course, May Day still to come, please do take a few moments to reflect on all the wonderful and amazing accomplishments that we have achieved over the course of the past eight months, and take pride in the fact that your daily commitment and efforts are important and integral reasons for the overall success of this great School District.