

# The Highlighter

June 7, 2016

## Delegations

**Speech by Nolan Philp** – Nolan Philp, a Grade 6 student from George Bonner Elementary, presented his speech on the topic of “how my best brings out the best in others” at the invitation of the Board of Education. Nolan originally presented his speech at the 2015-2016 Annual Optimist International Communication Competition for Deaf and Hard of Hearing students held on April 5<sup>th</sup> at the Michael J. Fox Theatre in Burnaby. He took second place in the oral category and qualified to be invited to participate in the next regional level competition in the Pacific Northwest District Optimist Oratorical Contest April 29<sup>th</sup> - May 1<sup>st</sup> at the Washington School for the Deaf where he also placed second.

**Vancouver Island University Adult Education Program** – Larry Mattin and Keith Chicquen gave a presentation to Trustees on the Adult Education Program at VIU and how it has adapted to meet the needs of district Adult Education students. VIU is working hard at fostering a warm and inviting atmosphere for adult students and have added more elective opportunities. With recent changes to courses that the government will fund, VIU is well versed in the Adult Upgrading Grant administration, which provides tuition funding. Trustees were also informed that VIU is now aware of the Adult Education daycare program, providing free daycare to students who had their first child before the age of 20. The Board expressed their thanks to VIU for taking a difficult situation and turning it into a win for our community and students.

## Education

**Superintendent's Update** – The Superintendent reported on the following district events:

**DSAC at Duncan Rotary Spelling Bee for Literacy** - On Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> eight DSAC (District Student Advisory Committee) students joined Superintendent Rod Allen at a School District table at the Duncan Rotary Spelling Bee for Literacy. The students chose the team name of The Wannabees, produced uniforms and added a student focus to the event.

## Education, continued

**Mini-O Elementary Track and Field Meet** - On a perfect day of mixed cloud and sun, 79 Elementary students with special needs in grades 3 to 7 put on their school jersey and came together for the 2nd Annual 'Mini-O' Elementary Track Meet on Friday, May 20th at the Cowichan Sportsplex to participate in the joy of competition with their peers, and a fun-filled fantastic day together.

'Opening Ceremonies' kicked off the event with a procession of school teams bearing their school banners onto the track accompanied by the one and only Khowhemun Drumline. It was quite an inspiring spectacle of athletes, their resource teachers, EAs, and our International Student Program (ISP) student helpers! Next, they all warmed up their bodies to music led by the Cowichan Aquatic Centre Friday District Swim facilitators.

The track events of 50 meters and 200 meters occurred first in which athletes ran, walked or wheeled to the finish 'stop' line followed by a break for lunch and an opportunity to trade lanyard pins with other athletes or visit the 'chill' break zone for some 'down' time.

Everyone then moved to the infield where athletes rotated through the field events of long jump, tee-ball, Frisbee toss, ball throw, and an obstacle course with the assistance of our ISP student helpers.

The meet concluded with the team relay events of 4 by 50 meters.

A very BIG Thank you to over 50 grade 10-12 International students of the International Students Program (ISP) who encouraged, ran beside, fielded tee-balls, and awarded ribbons to athletes for each event. Also many thanks go to our retired CVTF teachers who graciously gave of their time to orchestrate the events. Education Assistants assisted, and together with parents and resource teachers appreciated, and were astounded by athletes' accomplishments. It was an AMAZING Day!

**Metis Camp** - The Métis Cultural Camp was held this year from May 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> at the Glenora Trail Head 9:30 am to 1:30 pm daily. Classes with Grade 5 students from Ecole Mt. Prevost, Crofton, Maple Bay, Lake Cowichan and Chemainus Elementary schools spent the day moving through a variety of stations.

**Spuptitul** - The 13<sup>th</sup> annual Spuptitul Hul'q'umi'num' speaking competition was held on May 26<sup>th</sup>. Seven schools and over 60 students came together in a celebration of Hul'q'umi'num.

## Education, continued

**Catalyst Spring Update** - The following District Catalyst initiatives recently took place:

### District Poetry Slam

The annual District Poetry Slam competition took place on Tuesday May 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 pm in the Cowichan Secondary (James Street Campus) Library. Approximately 60 students took part in the workshop and 12 students performed in the competition. The Poetry Slam Results for 2016 were:

1. Jalah Novshadi – Frances Kelsey Secondary
  2. Shae Siddalls – Chemainus Secondary
  3. Rebekah Loranger – Chemainus Secondary
- Honorable Mention: Sierra Mackay – Frances Kelsey Secondary

### District Young Filmmakers' Public Movie Night

The Young Filmmakers' Showcase 2016 was held on June 1<sup>st</sup> at the Cowichan Performing Arts Centre Theatre. Approximately 60 students participated from seven schools. About 200 people attended the presentation of the films and students were acknowledged with certificates.

**Lake Cowichan School** - The Lake Cowichan students worked with the Cowichan Lake River and Stewardship Society (CLRSS) at Stoltz Provincial Park. The grade 7 kids learned about our current water crisis and how the CLRSS is going to remedy the problem with increased summer water storage. They learned how to rescue stranded salmon and steelhead fry in the drying pools around the river. DFO scientists then showed them about the aquatic life found on the bottom of the river. They even found a few lampreys and did some DNA sampling on them to see what species they were. The students loved saving the salmon and were quick to take off their shoes and wade into the cool water to try their luck with the pole sines. Approximately 750 fry were saved that day.

**Chemainus Secondary** - Chemainus Secondary celebrated the year-end with our local aboriginal communities. On May 26th the Multi-Purpose Room was filled with about 200 people (students, parents, aunts, uncles, guardians and community leaders) to celebrate our aboriginal youth and celebrate our grads. Each grad was presented with a framed print of our school logo-cougar-this artist logo was created by local aboriginal artists Maynard Johnny. A wonderful night to invite in the community and celebrate the successes of our youth.

**Cowichan Secondary** - Desirae Ridenour of the Cowichan Thunderbirds was named best female athlete of the Island track and field championships for winning the 1,500 and 3,000 metres. She clocked 9:48.42 in the 3,000 to chop more than 10 seconds off the record of 9:58.60 from 1976 set by Olympian and former Claremont star Debbie Bowker. Ridenour almost eclipsed another 40-year-old record held by Bowker [nee Scott] when she won the 1,500 metres in 4:35.73 seconds, just missing Bowker's 4:34.63 from 1976. See more at: <http://www.timescolonist.com/sports/hoff-goes-the-distance-for-gold-at-island-track-and-field-championships-1.2259709#sthash.wEi2SYUN.dpuf>



Cowichan Valley School District

## Education, continued

**Ecole Cobble Hill Elementary** - Grade 3/4 students at Ecole Cobble Hill are being honoured by the Lieutenant Governor of BC for being one of this year's winners of her community music program "Sing Me A Song." Community Choirs, schools and musical groups were invited to write and sing an original song in the lead up to Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday next year. Under the guidance of their classroom teacher M. Eric Desaulniers and their music teachers, Madame Cecily Dhami, the students wrote lyrics and music for the winning entry. The Lieutenant Governor, Her Honour Judith Guichon will be visiting the school on June 16<sup>th</sup> at 10am to present the trophy and a thousand dollars toward their music program or a cause in the community. Here's a video of their entry: My Canada <http://www.mycowichanvalleynow.com/12188/ecole-cobble-hill-wins-lieutenant-governors-sing-song-program/>

**Alex Aitken Elementary – Genius Hour** - At Alex Aitken the grade 6/7 class is working under the umbrella of Genius Hour in open ended Inquiry Learning/passion projects. They have a parent who worked with a group of students where they explored Arduino work – programming little computers. With this technology they work on creating such things as – to make LED lights blink; and making photo sensor and will detect movement and play a tune. Another group is experimenting with remote control devices and have taken parts of three other remote control vehicles and have created one.

**Crofton Elementary – Mason Bees and Gardening** - The Crofton Elementary Grade 1 class has raised Orchard Mason Bees from their cocoon. A local Mason Bee Keeper has been to the class several times to discuss how to raise Mason Bees and the life cycle. Their wooden Mason Bee house resides outside their classroom window so they can watch the bees come and go all day. On May 2<sup>nd</sup> they watched in excitement as the bees emerged from their cell cocoons in their hands. The students learned about the need for the bees in the environment. The best part – they don't sting.

Mrs. Martin's Grade 1/2 class is not only growing seed potatoes, but gave each class K-7 a science lesson in growing potatoes, species of potatoes, health value of potatoes, shared their observations and connections to math. Also, why it takes a whole school community to make sure that the potatoes grow and are not damaged.

**Drinkwater Elementary – Stream of Dreams** - Drinkwater Elementary was very pleased to have RLC Biologists Tracey, Allison and Mary join them for Earth Day Week for the Stream of Dreams program ( [www.streamofdreams.org](http://www.streamofdreams.org) ). All classes participated in a science lesson promoting the importance of our stream system as a natural habitat for fish and then each member of our school community painted a wooden fish for the Lane Road fence. Parent helpers were wonderful, helping with painting and attaching fish to the fence along Lane Road. We were very happy to have the support of Drinkwater PAC and pleased to receive a considerable grant from the Pacific Salmon Foundation for this project.

## Education, continued

**2016 Provincial French Public Speaking Competition** - At this year's pan-provincial French public speaking competition, Concours d'art oratoire held on May 7<sup>th</sup> at SFU in Surrey, Cowichan Secondary student Naomi Davies won 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in the Grade 9 Immersion category for her speech "Après la mort".

Other Provincial finalists from SD79 were:

Max Beaudet – Grade 8 Francophone – "Bill Gates" – Cowichan Secondary School

Joseph Morelli – Grade 8 Immersion – "Steve Jobs" – Cowichan Secondary School

Simon Minkow – Grade 6 Early Immersion – "Les Activités creatives" – Mount Prevost School

Macy Wieve – Grade 7 Early Immersion – "Comment être une vraie Canadienne" – Mount Prevost School

Chloé Cizeron – Grade 7 Francophone – "L'Égalité pour les filles et les femmes" – Mount Prevost School

**Hector McIntosh Public Speaking Competition** - The finals of the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Hector McIntosh Public Speaking Competition were held on May 16<sup>th</sup>. SD79 schools did great this year. The results were as follows:

Grades 4-6:

1<sup>st</sup> – Queen of Angels

2<sup>nd</sup> – Bench Elementary

3<sup>rd</sup> – Drinkwater Elementary

Grades 7-8:

1<sup>st</sup> – Maple Bay Elementary

2<sup>nd</sup> – Bench Elementary

3<sup>rd</sup> – Frances Kelsey Secondary

Grades 9-10:

1<sup>st</sup> – Lake Cowichan School

2<sup>nd</sup> – Frances Kelsey Secondary

3<sup>rd</sup> – Brentwood

Grades 11-12:

1<sup>st</sup> – Frances Kelsey Secondary

2<sup>nd</sup> – Shawnigan

3<sup>rd</sup> – Brentwood

**School District Website** – Glen Posey, District Principal of Instructional Programs, unveiled the new District website, which is in the process of going live and will continue to mature in the coming weeks. As well, the new District logo was shown, replacing 'study' Cowichan with 'learn' Cowichan. The process of updating various areas with the new logo has begun.



## Education, continued

**Capital Projects** – The Superintendent gave an overview of capital projects undertaken over the past year including new cladding at Bench Elementary and at Palsson Elementary, and new cladding, windows and classroom work done at Cowichan Secondary School. Tansor and Alex Aitken have also had cladding upgrades. A project planned for the summer is an interior kitchen at Alexander, a “heart of the home” which will provide an area for students to get meals and engage in learning and communication.

**Specialty Academy Fees for 2016-2017** – The Board of Education passed a motion approving the specialty academy 2016-17 activity fees of \$1220.00 (5 payments of \$244.00) for the Frances Kelsey Secondary School Specialty Hockey Academy.

**Board Evaluation and Superintendent Assessment** – The Board of Education decided to initiate a board review through BCSTA in the Fall. Methods of Superintendent Assessment were evaluated and the Board decided to wait for the BCSTA/BCSSA Superintendent review process to be developed and then consider it for suitability. If it has been determined by March 2017 not to meet the board's needs, then they will consider an alternative process at that time.

**National Aboriginal Day** – The Board of Education passed a motion to acknowledge National Aboriginal Day on June 21, 2016.

## Business & Operations

**Transportation Supervisor** – The Secretary-Treasurer announced that long-time employee Tom Clark has been selected as the new Transportation Supervisor for the District.

**Capital Plan Announcement** – The Secretary-Treasurer advised that the Ministry of Education has approved 3 school projects – replacement of an asphalt to metal roof at Maple Bay Elementary and Ecole Cobble Hill and a boiler upgrade at Frances Kelsey Secondary School. As well, two new school busses were approved.

**Disposal of Real Property Bylaw No. 2016-01 (Former AB Greenwell Elementary School Crown Land Property)** – Trustees gave three readings and passed Disposal of Real Property Bylaw No. 2016-01 (Former AB Greenwell Elementary School Crown Land Property). The School District is in the process of transferring the former AB Greenwell Elementary School to the Town of Lake Cowichan for use as a Public Works Yard.

**Board Meeting Time Change** – In the closed portion of the meeting, the Board of Education passed a motion changing the start time of Closed Board Meetings to 3:30 pm and Open Board Meetings to 4:30 pm effective September 2016.

## Schedule of Upcoming Meetings and Events

Event	Date/Time	Location
District Retirement Event	June 13, 5:00 pm	Cowichan Golf & Country Club
Advisory Committee Meeting	June 14, 4:00 pm	Annex
Spring BBQ	June 20, 3:00 pm	Cowichan Exhibition Grounds
Board Education and Business Committee Meeting	June 21, 4:00 pm	Boardroom
Closed Board Meeting	September 6, 3:00 pm	Boardroom
Open Board Meeting	September 6, 4:00 pm	Boardroom
VISTA Conference	September 30 – October 1	Sooke, BC

### Board of Education Trustees

[Candace Spilsbury](#), Chair  
[Barb de Groot](#), Vice-Chair  
[Elizabeth Croft](#)  
[Randy Doman](#)  
[Rob Hutchins](#)  
[Cathy Schmidt](#)  
[Joe Thorne](#)