

# The Oracle

JUNE ISSUE 2011

**Burnaby South Secondary School  
and the BC School for the Deaf**

5455 Rumble Street

Burnaby, BC

V5J 2B7

tel: (604) 664-8560

fax: (604) 664-8561

<http://south.sd41.bc.ca>



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## Cranes of Hope

In response to the Japan earthquake and tsunami disaster in March of this year, a number of student groups at Burnaby South Secondary School joined forces to fundraise for Red Cross Canada. The "Cranes of Hope" campaign which took place from April 4th to 8th, brought awareness to the disaster by encouraging students to donate money at various locations around the school. In return, students received a crane to symbolize their contribution. For every dollar raised, another crane was also folded to create strings of cranes, following Japanese tradition to symbolize peace and hope. These cranes made their debut at a gala charity concert at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre, and now reside in the Nikkei Heritage Centre. In total, we raised \$4216.83. Grade 8 and 9 students were also taught to fold origami cranes during Collaboration classes to bring awareness to the campaign. This was a great opportunity to bring together the ESL Success Club, Interact Club, WE Council, and Student Government. Way to go, Rebels!

# Principal's Message



What a wonderful year it has been. I can't believe that we are

coming to the end of another school year. We had some amazing year-end events: RebeFest, Graduation Dinner & Dance, Awards Night, music concerts, dance performances, art shows, and the School Leaving Ceremony. We have had tremendous success in academic areas throughout the year as exemplified by the many achievements highlighted throughout the Senior Awards Evening and the Junior Awards Assemblies. We are so proud of our many scholarship winners

that have been announced so far this year. This includes more than 70 UBC Entrance Scholarships, 50 SFU Entrance Scholarships, 3 scholarships from McGill University, 3 scholarships from the University of Toronto, and scholarships from the University of Ottawa, University of Waterloo, University of Rochester, and the University of Alberta to name just a few.

Meanwhile, I am continually impressed by the myriad of wonderful classroom activities that go on day to day at Burnaby South Secondary School. It gives us great pleasure to see our students so engaged in their daily learning as we strive to

put the finishing touches on an excellent school year.

As we look forward to a very busy summer season with several building upgrades and the usual building make-over our fabulous custodial crew will do, Burnaby South will be a wonderful place to be this fall. I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Burnaby South and the BCSD Community, to thank all the parents, staff, and students, who contributed so much to our many activities. I hope you will have a safe and restful summer holiday. I look forward to working with you in the upcoming school year. **Mr. G. Li**

## Admin Blog By D. Ali

Last year, in 2010, our vice-principal Mr. Tyler created what is now the Admin Blog. Though many aren't familiar with it, the blog is actually a very insightful and detailed look into the thoughts of our very own administration. Though some of the content is well above my level of understanding, it seems that Mr. Tyler has gone above and beyond to update the community on our school's achievements, state the opinions of and issues facing the administration, and even ask the community the questions that need to be asked. Mr. Tyler time and time

again has bragged on his blog about the success of our various sport teams, as well as the various social initiatives our school has been dedicated to undertaking. He's gone over topics concerning students and parents, such as 1 week vs. 2 weeks of spring break, the availability of independent and personal studies, and the ability of students to adapt back to school after extended breaks. He's also answered one of my pinnacle questions – other than having a day off, what is the point of pro-d days? Turns out, teachers gather and lead different break-out sessions that explore different key

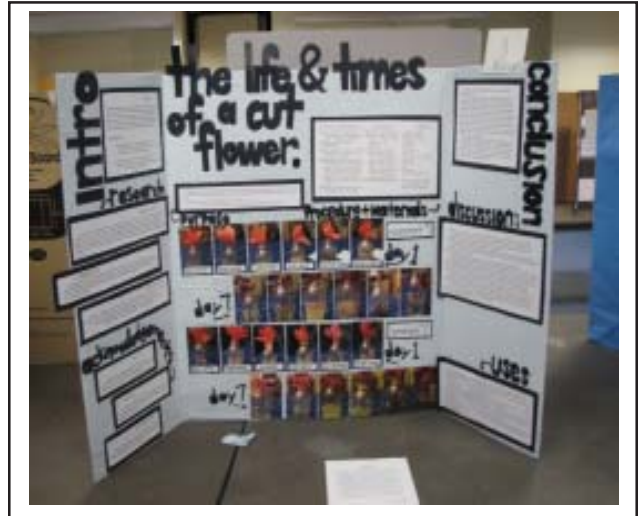
themes of learning. Major topics in the past have included personalized learning, social media in the classroom, and assessment. Finally, the admin blog also has a commenting area, for anybody that wants to ask a question or post a comment for Mr. Tyler.



For more articles, visit <http://burnabysouthadmin.wordpress.com>

# RIGHT ON, BURNABY SOUTH!

Congratulations to **Tori Weir**, our Grade 8 student, for winning a Bronze Medal (Excellence Award) at the Canada Wide Science Fair in Toronto this May. In addition to the medal, she also won a \$300 cash prize and University of Western Ontario Bronze Medallist Entrance Scholarship worth \$1000. Her project, "The Life and Times of a Cut Flower" was an experiment to find out the most effective solution (where the solvent is water) which will best extend a cut flowers' life over the course of one week. The control was water, and tested solutions include sugar water, bleach water, sugar/bleach water and a commercial preservative solution.



Kudos to our mathletes! Burnaby South sent 3 seniors (grades 11 to 12) and 3 juniors (grades 8 to 10) to compete in the BC Secondary School Math Contest at Capilano University on Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. Our Junior Team of **Anna Ye, Jacqueline Shen, and Even Zheng** came in 1<sup>st</sup> overall! Individually, Jacqueline Shen tied for 1<sup>st</sup> and Anna Ye came in 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Griffin Tench** in the senior team also came in 1<sup>st</sup>. First place finishers received a cash award of \$100, while 2<sup>nd</sup> place received \$75. Congratulations to you all!

Recently, about 20 students competed at the Burnaby school district's French speech competition "Concours d'art oratoire". Burnaby South students did a great job and some even placed, with two qualifying to compete at Provincials next month! In the core French 8 category, **Michael Zheng** was the 1<sup>st</sup> place winner and is on to compete at the provincials. **Catherina Pan** also placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the core French 8 category and also gets to compete at the Provincials. **Jacqueline Shen** placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the core French 9 category and **Elsie Piao** placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the core French 11 category. Tres bien!

Burnaby South's **water polo team** won a BRONZE MEDAL at the BC Provincial Water Polo Championships! The team ended up with an impressive 5-1 record and narrowly missed playing in the gold medal match, losing by one point in the semi-finals. More importantly, the players had a great time and demonstrated significant growth as a team.

Kudo's to Burnaby South's **tennis team** as they defeated Burnaby North to win the District Banner! The team also played in the BC Provincial Tournament and ended up placing 5<sup>th</sup> in the province. Well done to all!



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# CONGRATULATIONS GRAD '11

By N. Lu

The month of May has been very eventful for Grade 12s in Burnaby South. After two stressful weeks of AP exams, students looked forward to the 13<sup>th</sup> of May, which was when the Grad Dinner/Dance, was held. It was a beautiful sunny Friday and many grads gathered at Queen Elizabeth Park to take



pictures with their friends and families by the luscious gardens and sparkling water fountains. Everyone looked their best on this special occasion, with the ladies all glamorous in their dresses and the men looking sharp in their suits. The limousine was the most common method of transportation on this day for many groups of friends. The massive crowd of grads eventually moved on to the Pan Pacific Hotel,

the location for the dinner and dance. Several teachers also arrived just in time to take pictures with their graduating students. Once inside the hotel, people were struck in awe by the magnificent theme of the night, "From Paris with Love", created by the Grad Council. The food was great and ranged from lasagne and salmon to numerous types of sweets and desserts. After an emotional and nostalgic slideshow of pictures of the graduating class of 2011, the DJ played the first song and the dance began. It was a wild, fun night and many students danced for hours until they ran out of breath and needed to have some water.

**CELEBRATE  
CANADA!**

JUNE 21 TO JULY 1, 2011

CANADA: A PROUD PAST, A BRIGHT FUTURE! • LE CANADA: UN PASSÉ GLOIREUX, UN AVENIR BRILLANT



**LE CANADA  
EN FÊTE!**

DU 21 JUIN AU 1<sup>ER</sup> JUILLET 2011



Canada Day Poster Challenge 2011 National Winner

Agenda's national winner of the 2011 Canada Day Poster Challenge

SERENA CHAN • 15 YEARS OLD/15 ANS • BURNABY, BRITISH COLUMBIA/COLOMBIE-BRITANNIQUE

For more information on the Canada Day Poster Challenge, visit the website at [www.posterschallenge.gc.ca](http://www.posterschallenge.gc.ca). For more information on the Canada Day Poster Challenge, visit the website at [www.posterschallenge.gc.ca](http://www.posterschallenge.gc.ca).

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Canada  
Canada

Canada

## Canada Day Poster Challenge

Congratulations to Burnaby South's **Serena Chan** for being the National Winner of Canada Day Poster challenge. Serena's poster had to interpret the theme **Canada: A proud past, a bright future!** She feels that Canada is shaped by its colourful history, its beautiful landscapes, and its diverse culture. It is home to many great people – people who make differences. Canada's history, pride, beauty, and multiculturalism is what makes it unique – it is what makes it "Canada" to me. Way to go Serena!

# SOUTH ACCOMPLISHMENT CONT

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The **senior choir** participated in the Kiwanis Fraser Valley choral competition and received a GOLD rating (90 - 100%), a trophy for "promising Choir" and \$125.00 gift

certificate for Long & McQuade Music store. The choir performed three selections and then took part in a 45 minute workshop with one of the adjudicators. It was a fun and worthwhile experience. The students all left with smiles on their faces!!

## BBS Dance Recital

by D. Bhardwaj



varying in dance forms from Latin to Irish to HipHop. There were also many small group performances from senior students, including a performance called "Enter the Circus". The show had a variety of performers that had practiced in small dance clubs during weekdays during this past school year. Also performing were the Rebel Nations Bhangra team, the BBS Bhangra Team and also the Hawaiian Dance club led by Ms. Wilson. The show finally concluded with a great last piece called "Pride", a tribute to Martin Luther King Jr.

The 2011 Dance Recital was a great opportunity to showcase the hidden talent of dance within each and every Rebel. From my personal experience, the Recital felt like a professional show. Although the recital took place on May 30, 2011, students had been preparing for it since last October. The preparations went like this: a dance style had to be chosen, appropriate music has to be found, costumes had to be made, finishing touches were put on and the hardest part of all; the students had to be taught to the tee.

This year we had two grade 8/9 classes perform dances, titled: "Dancing in the Dark" and "The Charleston". There were also 3 solo performances done by Kelly, Jana and RJ,



# Rebelfest 2011

by E. Piao

The sun seems to know just when it is the most needed—at Rebelfest, the annual Burnaby South year end celebration occurred on Thursday May 19<sup>th</sup>. On the beautiful afternoon, students from grade 8 to 12 all tossed aside their overdue homework and



swarmed to the field for some serious cupcake decorating, gladiator jousting, Velcro wall climbing, bungee running and all the other fun stuff!

Rebelfest 2011 set a record high number of interactive booths this year with something for everybody, whether you're hungry for some action or just plain hungry for food. The booths included some all-time favourites like Henna Tattoo and Pop the Balloons, as well as some new faces behind Facepainting, Honeyduke's, the Handsome Men's Club and many more.

For those who had one too many cupcakes or bounced just a little too long

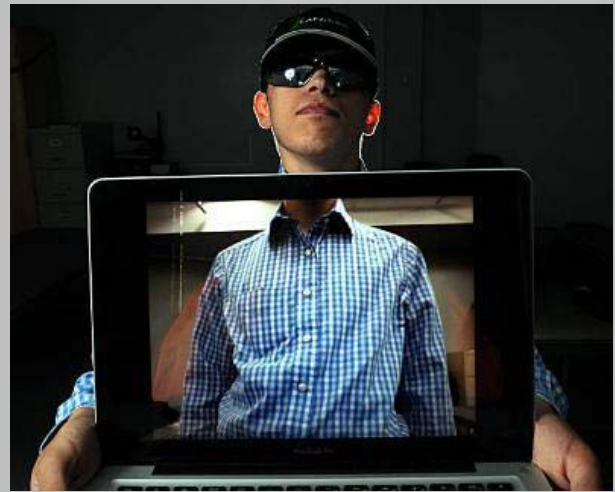
on the Bouncy castle, the Talent Show was the place to be. The show this year featured a variety of performances ranging from martial arts to singing. Kathleen Macapili was crowned the winner of the talent show for her beautiful interpretation of her original song. Great job everybody!

Overall, in the words of a certain talent show singer, the afternoon was simply "fun, fun, fun, fun". Rebelfest was a great success thanks to participation from many clubs, councils and individuals. Special thanks to all student government members and their sponsor teachers for putting together this school community building event.



## "The Colour App" from Burnaby South's IDS course!

A small number of South students have been taking an Independent Directed Studies (IDS) course to learn how to create iPhone apps. **Alex Jurgensen**, a visually-impaired student, decided to create an iPhone app that could help him better colour coordinate his clothing. His inspiration for the iPhone app came from another visually-impaired friend who wanted to be able to know what colour her clothes were so that she could be better dressed. Alex then combined this idea with his passion for computers to create the app. He is not done yet, as Alex is creating more apps to help visually-impaired people. Stay tuned to find out what he'll be creating next!



## DO IT GREEN 2011

By S. Li

"Do It Green 2011" was a festive, district-wide conference aiming to educate students and their supporters on climate change and sustainability. Participants had one school day's time to educate themselves about sustainability by attending various workshops run by numerous businesses, organizations, and school partners. Aside from learning about the environment, workshops offered leadership and volunteer opportunities directly through programs run by the partner organizations. As a group, we were briefed on many environmental issues such as the tar sands, deforestation and the issue of choosing tap water over bottled water. The Burnaby Youth Sustainability Network is extremely grateful for the support of sponsors such as BC Hydro, Happy Planet, Metro-Vancouver, and the city of Burnaby. Keynote speakers made inspiring speeches, which gave students that needed boost to take action and make their everyday lives greener. Towards the end of the festival, a draw took place, and many spectacular prizes such as books, backpacks, coffee mugs and even a mountain bike were given out!

The leader of the BYSN commented : "[Do It Green] was a wonderful collaborative effort in terms of how many youth supporters such as organizations and companies ran workshops to empower youth on how to green their school communities."

South had students from grade eight to twelve attended this event, and many students thought it was a fun, education experience and said they would be looking forward to attending again for the following year. Well done South!

Also, congratulations to **Tiffany Yang** for winning the DSAC Youth Environmental Star Award. She is the President of South's Green Team Club.

## Literacy Week

Literacy Week took place from April 11-15 this year. There were two main events: the second annual book swap and grade 8 Jeopardy games. All grades were invited to come to the courtyard at lunchtime on Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> to "get their read on" through purchasing or swapping a gently used book. There were many titles to choose from as novels were generously donated by the Burnaby Public Library, staff, and community members. The turnout was great and many students walked away with a lot of summer reading material! All proceeds from this event went to the Japan earthquake relief fund.



The grade 8 Jeopardy games took place during French classes. Teachers brought their students to the library to compete in a literacy battle. Topics included anywhere from texting slang to famous authors, fairytales, books that are movies, novel settings and well-known side-kicks. Students enthusiastically participated against one another to become Literacy Jeopardy Champions.

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## Sun Run By M. Daluro

The 27th annual Vancouver Sun Run was held on Sunday, April 17, 2011 with almost 50000 runners. The morning started off a little chilly, but, slowly the sun came out making it a perfect day to run this 10km race. Burnaby South, once again, participated in the School Team Challenge that encourages school spirit and active living. Our team, the Burnaby South Rebel Runners had a little over 70 members and everybody excelled. An extra special congratulations goes to Travis Fraser and Taylor Devito who were respectively the top male and female runners from our school.

This race continues to successfully promote healthy and active lives, as well as gives members of the community a free tour of the city, and at the same time, it really allows one to see the city. One starts on Georgia Street, goes over the Burrard Street Bridge and finishes right by BC Place. However, the best part of the Sun Run is that it really is for anybody. From someone in a wheelchair to a 5 year old, anyone can participate. So, when time comes for registration next year, don't be afraid to sign up!

## Dragon Boat By J. Kubik



Loading the dragon boat for the first time one chilly January day, I was ready for another leisurely canoe ride reminiscent to those from past summer camps and scenic family outings. But as we paddled out into the waters amid Downtown's ritzy apartments, little did I know I was in for a big surprise. That evening, I came home, muscles sore and arms numb, ready to melt under the covers of my bed. I was hungry, cold, and couldn't wait for next week's practice. The first day was exhausting as we struggled to paddle together. But, by the end of the month, we were no longer paddling as individual members of a team, but as one. Every week was a new adventure as we paddled faster and farther, sharing a few laughs and countless splashes along the way. Through dragon boat, I became part of something powerful yet graceful: an experience I'll never forget.