

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Reporting to Public Session Tuesday, September 22, 2015

1. Stride Avenue Aboriginal Drum Group (Coast Salish Welcome Song)

The Stride Avenue Drum Group is comprised of both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students in Kindergarten through grade five and are a reflection of the spirit of Stride Avenue Community School. The entire process from securing elk hide and maple wood, making the drums, learning the history and respecting protocols was embraced by all and involved Stride's Aboriginal community as well as non-Aboriginal parents. The music teacher Judith Lee, the Vancouver Friendship Centre, Spirit of the Children Society and Mary Hotomanie, Aboriginal Education Resource Teacher were instrumental in the success of this project.

This evening Mary Hotomanie, District Aboriginal Resource Teacher will provide an overview of this project and introduce the students from Stride Avenue Community School. The Stride Avenue Drum Group will perform Chief Dan George's Coast Salish Anthem.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.

2. Orange Shirt Day

Orange Shirt Day is an annual event held on September 30 to honour the survivors of Indian residential schools. The event emerged from a residential school commemoration event in Williams Lake, BC in 2013. It grew out of Phyllis Jack Webstad's story of her first day at the St. Josephs Mission Residential School when she proudly wore a bright orange shirt bought by her grandmother. It reflected the excitement she felt. The staff took her orange shirt and other clothing and the colour orange reminded her that there was no one at the school who cared about her feelings of worthlessness. September was selected in remembrance of the time of year when First Nations children were gathered up and taken to these schools. Orange Shirt Day is meant to set the stage for and practicing anti bullying and anti racism in schools. It is an opportunity for schools and communities to come together in a spirit of truth and reconciliation and hope for the lives of children to really matter. Aman Rai and students will share their thoug

3. Aboriginal Worldviews and Perspectives Report