

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Reporting to Public Session Tuesday, October 8, 2013

1. Westridge School's Values Carved In Wood

For three months last spring, renowned First Nations artist, Simon Daniel James worked with the entire Westridge Elementary school community on a carving. The images they created together on an 8' X 8' old growth cedar represent the beliefs and values that the Westridge community feel are present in an educated citizen and a true learning community.

Ten powerful words and beautifully carved images that represent those words: fun, freedom, friendship, health, honesty, mastery, learning, respect, safety and compassion, all carved with the help of the whole school community under the thoughtful and patient guidance of Simon Daniel James. The unveiling of this masterpiece took place on Friday, September 6 and is mounted at the school's entrance to welcome all visitors to the school.

This evening, Westridge Elementary School Principal, Dave MacLean and Master Carver Simon Daniel James will share a video presentation of the process the school and community underwent in order to achieve this *Illuminosity* masterpiece.

Recommendation: THAT the Board receive this information.

2. Body Worlds and the Brain Project

On Sept 26, the Burnaby School District was awarded an Innovative Services- Award of Excellence by BC's Representative for Children and Youth, Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond. The district's Cultural Transition Services and Safe & Caring Schools Team members developed the Body Worlds and the Brain Project in 2010. It works with vulnerable refugee and immigrant students and provides early support to those who might be overwhelmed by the settlement process and have perhaps experienced trauma. This 8 week after school program includes activities such as rope climbing and Kung Fu to build confidence and support and includes the support of settlement workers as well as Max, the therapy dog.

This innovative program has been used to address trauma through the back door, focussing on developing competence rather than addressing emotional or behavioural problems. The back door approach also addresses physical aspects such as learning about the brain and the body as a means to enter the world of feelings and past experiences.

The Body Worlds and the Brain project was made possible by the collaborative efforts of Dr. Sarina Kot, Psychologist,