



# A Year in our District 2007/2008

## *Educating with Energy and Enthusiasm!*

Teachers, administrators and staff at School District No. 23 worked jointly to educate more than 21,000 students in the 2007/2008 school year. In addition to teaching prescribed curriculum, they also helped to make it a special year that students would remember all their lives.

They planted the seeds of empathy with a multitude of fundraising projects that make a difference locally and around the world. They promoted a life-time of healthy habits by making fitness and good food choices a priority. They also encouraged personal development through music, dance, theatre, field trips, career programs, multimedia, art, science projects, and much more. This is a small snapshot of the year at schools throughout our District.

**In the 2007/2008 school year alone, students and staff raised well over \$140,000 for a variety of local and international charities. Amazing!**

### **Elementary Schools:**

**Anne McClymont:** Energy conservation was the focus at campaigns such as Dining in the Dark. Earth-friendly projects included Kokanee Enhancement and the Green Team. They also helped with Free the Children and the Food Bank's Lunch Bucket Challenge.

**A.S. Matheson:** Grade 5 and 6 students brought history to life at the "Historica Fair" with one student winning a place at the Kamloops fair. Students attended a presentation of Hana's Suitcase by Karen Levine. Author Robert Heidbreder read during Canadian Poetry Week.



**Bankhead:** The Bankhead 'Bulldogs' are an artistic group. Each month,

*Ukulele at Helen Gorman Elem.*

## **Achievements & Awards**

Impressive 82%+ graduation rate

Aboriginal graduation rate continues to improve

Two more Principals receive Canada's Outstanding Principals award

Best District Review in the Province

Two major technology awards

First hybrid engine school bus in BC

100% increase in the number of international students

New StrongStart centre opened

Expanded positive media coverage

First house sold in the RSS Residential Construction Program

Successful year for Storefront School

**Fostering Excellence!** This year, 106 people took 192 courses worth a total of \$44,000 courtesy of the CUPE In-service and Pro-D funds. The Learning Centre offered 313 training opportunities in the areas of Literacy, Numeracy, Health & Safety, and Technology. More than 7,000 District employees, parents and university students took part in the events totalling more than 1,500 hours.

the work of student artists is introduced at a Spotlight Assembly. Student work is also displayed on hallway and classroom bulletin boards throughout the school.

**Belgo:** Hiro Kobayashi, a Grade 1 student, won the City's Clean Air Day poster contest. Seven students competed at the Battle of the Books. Backwards, inside-out, or kooky clothing, Switch Day was memorable.

**Black Mountain:** The school's Free the Children campaign raised more than \$4,500 to build a school in Kenya. A Garage Sale that was organized by the Grade 6 students raised \$1,000 alone. The Year End Talent Show was a perfect finale.

**Casorso:** Students in the Environmental Mind Grind went onto the Regional championship winning first place. The Family Fun Night and the Silent Auction fundraiser were very successful: 130 items were donated raising more than \$7,500.



**Chief Tomat:** Strides were made toward their goals of greater social responsibility and kindness among

*Dr. Knox Middle offers karate as a fitness option*

students. Provincial survey results reveal that far fewer students report being bullied and more report feeling safe at school—exceeding the District and provincial average!



*Spooky times at South Rutland*

**Davidson Road:** Alaina Podmorow, founder of a local chapter of Little Women for Little Women in Afghanistan, is a finalist for the 2008 Me to We Awards. Staff and students also joined in the Easter Seals 24-Hour Relay.

**Dorothea Walker:** Students organized various events to raise money to build clean drinking water systems for children in third world countries. Grade 6 and 7 students produced the very entertaining "History of Rock and Roll".

**Ellison:** Students had a well-rounded year with Music Monday, a simultaneous national concert; built and planted a garden at the school; attended Care and Make it Fair; and 125 people took part in Bike to School Week and even got a fire truck escort.

**George Pringle:** Charitable students and staff raised \$900 for the SPCA, purchased 40 mosquito nets for families in malaria-prone countries, and their Read-a-thon bought supplies for an orphanage in Laos. Students enjoyed Active Living Day, cultural and sporting events.

**Glenmore:** Students raised \$20,000 for Jump Rope for Heart, won \$1,000 in the 2008 Eco Challenge Greenest School competition, and got the thrill of a lifetime performing with Holly Arntzen at the Mary Irwin. The school helped to purchase Djembe Drums

for a Remembrance Day Drumming for Peace concert.

**Glenrosa:** Aladdin Junior was a spectacular production that kept audiences enraptured. More than \$10,000 was raised for charities including the Terry Fox Foundation and Jump Rope for Heart (they raised \$8,450 setting a new record in 18 years of jumping).

**Helen Gorman:** The philosophy of "Creating Compassionate Communities" was put into action with fundraisers and a trip to the Westside Council meeting to lobby for pedestrian and biker safety. They got to play ukulele with a Langley Ensemble.

**Hudson Road:** More than 200 students and staff took part in Bike to School Week and raised approximately \$9,000 for Jump Rope for Heart. The hardworking PAC raised money to build the Westside's only wheelchair accessible playground.

**North Glenmore:** The 'Gators' raised \$2,046 for BC Children's Hospital and won the top fundraising award: they brought in half of the event's total of \$4,092! Two students were finalists in the international Great Geography Challenge.

**Oyama Traditional School:** Students improved their reading skills as they raised money for activities and field trips through the Read-a-thon fundraiser. Students shone at the Regional and District Public Speaking Competitions

**Peachland:** Nearly 300 students and staff peddled to school during Bike to School Week and Toys R Us donated a bike prize. Participants in the BC Children's Hospital run won the "Spirit Award" for team spirit. The Spring Carnival was a success!

**Pearson Road:** Students were "All Fired Up and Ready to Go!" successfully raising money for a new playground and the BC Heart and Stroke Foundation.

**Peter Greer:** It was a year of numerous fitness, cultural and educational activities at Peter Greer! Some students also took part in social justice workshops at Care and Make it Fair.

**Quigley:** In addition to raising money for the Terry Fox Foundation, the Salvation Army Food Bank, and UNICEF and helping the homeless, Quigley Elementary received two prestigious awards: the Anita Tozer Award from the City of Kelowna for community service and the Mayor's Environmental Achievement Award.

**Raymer:** Students took part in the Historica Fair at the Laurel Packing House, the Fun Fair, field trips, etc. Their new Composting Project turns fruit and vegetable peels into gardening gold.

**Rose Valley:** Students and staff earned the trophy in the Food

Bank Lunch Bucket Challenge. They won \$500 and donated it back to the charity. The graduating class took a trip to Silver Lake. Parents/volunteers were treated to a "Mug 'n Muffin".

**Rutland:** Students grew through Thinking Cap Challenges such as "Planning for a Greener Future", a "Beeper Bowl" and served up a "Soaring with Support" breakfast.

**Shannon Lake:** Many at SLE took part in the Terry Fox Run, sold Poinsettias for Christmas fundraising, went to the Apple Bowl Track and Field event, and enjoyed a "Fun Day".

**South Kelowna:** The Ministry of Education considers SKE to be an exemplary model of a healthy school! Principal James Minkus also commends the work of the SPC for being an effective, decision-making team dedicated to improvement.

**South Rutland:** Students took part in the Great Geography Challenge winning 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes! They enjoyed an H.R. MacMillian StarLab planetarium that was set up in the gym.

**Springvalley:** Students enjoyed an "Idol" competition, a BBQ and Family Fun night with a Cake Walk, and numerous field trips, contests, and fitness activities.

**Watson Road:** During the school-wide Run for Fun, students ran a total of 49,958 laps. Numerous students also read books throughout the year to prepare for Battle of the Books.



*The inaugural class in the Utility Arborist program (Rutland Senior)*

## *Building for the Future*

As neighbourhoods evolve and change and schools age, District planners have worked within budgets to build for the future, often using 'green' materials.

**Mount Boucherie Secondary:**  
The 400-student expansion with a kitchen and music room opened in February.

**Dr. Knox Middle School:**  
The new 800-student Dr. Knox Middle will open in September 2008.

**Chute Lake Elementary:**  
Construction has started on this new school in the Mission.

**Lifelong Learning:** The first StrongStart centre opened welcoming pre-school children and their parents/caregivers. Online high school courses were available to people of all ages. An unparalleled number of career/life programs (75 and counting) prepare our students for fulfilling work upon graduation.



*"Music cheers me up and makes me happy," Jessica, on Music Monday*

### Middle Schools

**Constable Neil Bruce:** A new school logo was designed by an Aboriginal artist who is a former SD23 student. The logo depicts a bear cub (the CNB mascot) and a family of bears to symbolize the supportive school community. Students and staff raised \$3,335 for the BC Cancer Association.

**Dr. Knox:** This year's fundraising focused on BC Children's Hospital--they raised an amazing \$25,000. Emma Walker, Madelyn Light, Cody O'Neil and Derek Ling, had outstanding science projects that earned national recognition and awards.

**Glenrosa:** The first year of the Educating Different Genders Equally (EDGE) Program was a success with 100% of students meeting or exceeding course requirements in English and math. GMS made memories with an Air band competition, a Hoe Down dance, a school-wide science fair, and other events.

**KLO:** Students, parents and staff raised \$1,100 for the Terry Fox Foundation; filled two trucks with food and gifts for the Salvation Army Christmas Hampers; 60 students took part in a 30-hour famine and raised over \$5400; sponsored a Masquerade Ball, and more to raise \$6,000 for Camp Goodtimes; the list goes on!

**Rutland:** The Jr. boys' rugby team reached the Okanagan Valley finals. Grade 8 and 9 band students performed for thousands on a 4-day concert tour in Alberta. Students and staff produced Grease Review to rave reviews!



**Springvalley:** Students at SVM got to try out a variety of activities such as yoga and guitar at the first-ever Wellness Day. The school unveiled five hand-carved paddles by

*The first Wellness Day at Springvalley Middle*

Gordon Marchand to celebrate Aboriginal culture. WEB students organized Spirit Week and dances.

### Secondary Schools

**George Elliot:** Forty students wrote AP exams with AP English results 30% above the world average, and experienced the second largest improvement in provincial graduation rates. Students also performed Penumbra, a musical. Students and staff raised \$15,000 for an impoverished orphanage in Laos.

**Kelowna:** Students rolled up their sleeves to give 86 donations to the Canadian Blood Services, participated in the B.C. Youth Parliament, debated at the Law Foundation Cup, travelled to Europe then produced projects to honour Kelowna's fallen soldiers, and raised \$64,000 for the BC Cancer Foundation.

**Mount Boucherie:** Overall, the school experienced exceptional results with respect to transitioning students and being a provincial leader in graduation rates. A major building expansion was completed in February and to celebrate they held an impressive opening ceremony including a hot breakfast for hundreds.

**Outstanding students won:**  
63 Provincial, 102 Dogwood District-Authority, and 17 Secondary School Apprenticeship Scholarships

**Okanagan Mission:** OKM was BC School Sports "Outstanding School" award winner, placed in the Environmental Mind Grind, made 76 donations to the Canadian Blood Services, and senior bands had a European tour.

**Rutland:** Students raised awareness of child labour in Africa, donated to have a well built in India, walked for water, and raised money and eyebrows with their Shave your Head campaign. RSS boasts ground-breaking programs such as martial arts, utility arborist/forestry and residential construction.

**Central and Storefront Schools:** These schools continued to provide a vital services to students in need, a door to a better future for mature students, and online courses for all students.