

BURNABY PARENT COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS CONFERENCE

Burnaby DPAC in partnership with the Burnaby School District is pleased to invite you to participate in what will be a very exciting day of fun - learning, networking and sharing

DATE: Saturday, April 4, 2009

Time: 8:00 AM – 4:15 PM

**Location: CASCADES ELEMENTARY (near Burnaby General Hospital)
4343 Smith Avenue, BURNABY, BC**

AGENDA

8:00	coffee and registration
8:30	Keynote: THE POWER OF PARENTS
9:30	Workshop session A
10:30	Break
10:45	Workshop session B
12:15	Networking lunch – courtesy of Burnaby DPAC
1:15	Workshop session C
3:15	The Story of Stuff
	What's Next? – Let's celebrate!!!

COST: \$10 for Burnaby, \$25 for out of district participants

Included in the conference are handouts, coffee, snacks, lunch

Descriptions of sessions and workshops which will be offered at the conference can be found at www.burnabydpac.com. We would appreciate receiving your registration on or before Wednesday, April 1, 2009. Please be sure to include your name, address, phone number(s), email, school district and school name along with your first and second choice for each workshop session.

You can register online at www.burnabydpac.com, email the information to burnabydpac@yahoo.ca or FAX your information to: **604-664-8581 ATTENTION: DPAC**. Payment will be accepted at the conference. If you wish to send a group from your PAC or DPAC, for your convenience we can invoice your group direct, just let us know. These workshops are open to all parents, with some of the workshops being of particular interest to parents who have an active role on a PAC/DPAC.

KEYNOTE:

THE POWER OF PARENTS - *effective communication makes a difference!!* (8:30 AM)

Parent involvement spans the continuum from entering a school to providing leadership. Why do parents become involved? Why don't parents become involved? Parents are encouraged to participate in their school's Parent Advisory Council. What does involvement mean? To receive information, or be a decision making partner? Are PACs involved with student issues, family issues, school/community issues, or all three? Whether you are meeting with the school principal, helping a parent with a problem, or speaking to a group, how you communicate makes a difference. Effective communicators can focus on and clarify issues. They know how to listen and consider other information and perspectives. This information will help you build communication skills that will help you in your role at school — and in your personal life!

WORKSHOPS – the ABC’s

Workshop A1: *PAC 101*

Yesterday you became involved with your PAC, today you find yourself answering calls from distraught parents, helping with meetings, and a whole host of other things. There will always be parents who need help in understanding the school system and solving problems. Who knew they’d be calling you! As a parent leader you are well placed to help. This session will help you gain skills and knowledge you can use to effectively assist parents and students as well as introducing you to the roles, relationships and responsibilities of the Parent Advisory Council.

Workshop A2: *The Parking Lot*

We all know what happens in the parking lot. This session provides an opportunity to share that conversation over coffee with other parents. Sometimes you may feel there is no way to “jump off the treadmill” and tell others about what you are up to. Here is a chance to do just that. Good communication can help ensure more efficient use of your time and resources. Discover different ways to let others know about – and support – what you are doing. Do you have things you wonder about? Have your questions answered, ideas shared and gain perspectives on parenting and education in Burnaby.

Workshop A3: *Study Skills for Parents – Supporting your child’s learning*

Learn some tricks and tips that will make learning and remembering easier for you and your child. Does your child know what their learning style is? Do you know yours? What about those multiple intelligences – a greater understanding of these can provide new insights in to learning? Be prepared to learn more about yourself while you gain tools for your parenting toolkit.

Workshop B5: *Parent Advisory Councils – tackling difficult issues, helping parents help themselves*

Sometimes PAC executive members receive calls from parents who have concerns of an individual nature; for example, a complaint against a staff member or a concern about bullying. How can the PAC help? Would you like to learn more about how to tackle difficult issues, develop personal relationships and to minimize confusion and conflict? This session will help parent leaders learn how to create a positive forum where issues can be discussed in a safe and non-threatening way.

Workshop B6: *Stranger in a Strange Land: Parenting the Cyberage*

Information to follow.

Workshop B7: *Effective Meetings: The Constitution, Robert’s Rules and Committee work*

All PACs are required to have a constitution. This workshop will explore the why, what, where, how and when of your constitution which will provide an understanding of the importance of following your constitution, making changes and what you can do if you find yourself in violation of your constitution. What are Robert’s Rules? How can they be helpful at a meeting? What is generally accepted protocol for committee work? These are all useful tools to have. Participants are welcome and encouraged to bring a copy of their PAC’s constitution.

Workshop C9: *Substance Abuse – The Bigger Picture The First Step in Prevention is Understanding “Why”*

Material to be covered: Stress – what happens in our brain/body? What are drugs.....really? How long have they been around? Why do people use them? Addiction – What is an addiction, dependency need not be addiction? Why are so many of our young people developing drug addictions?

Workshop C10: *Unfolding the Mystery: PAC Finances – it all counts*

Financial management is an important function of every PAC. Take the mystery out of this process. Learn effective record-keeping. Understand financial statements and budgeting as you familiarize yourself with key areas of your PAC financial management, including GAAP, tax refunds, school resource allocation, funding and gaming. If you have any forms you use, that would be helpful for others, please bring them with you to share. This workshop is open to any parent but would be particularly useful for Treasurers or those considering becoming Treasurer.

Workshop C11: *Mission Possible: SPEAKING UP!*

Our public education system tries to meet the needs of many different learners. How do we work together – educators, support staff, community, parents to speak up for children? Learn skills to approach problem solving in a positive way. Discover how “Speaking UP!” supports all involved in public education. You will go home with a copy of Speaking Up! A Parent Guide to Advocating for Students in Public Schools and a greater understanding and more confidence in your ability to speak up for children. You will learn: what advocacy is and why it is important; the processes for solving problems at the school, district and provincial levels and the importance of knowing this information; how to identify and work through problems; and what information and resources are available to you.

THE STORY OF STUFF (3:15 PM)

From its extraction through sale, use and disposal, all the stuff in our lives affects communities at home and abroad, yet most of this is hidden from view. **The Story of Stuff** is a fast-paced, fact-filled look at the underside of our production and consumption patterns. **The Story of Stuff** exposes the connections between a huge number of environmental and social issues, and calls us together to create a more sustainable and just world. It'll teach you something, it'll make you laugh, and it just may change the way you look at all the stuff in your life forever.

WHAT NEXT? LET'S CELEBRATE!!!

FOR MORE INFORMATION: email Deborah Garrity at burnabydpac@yahoo.ca or call 604-437-8812