

VSBC Celebration News!

A Vancouver School Board newsletter to help our schools celebrate the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games

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www.vsb.bc.ca



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LiveCity educational program - Sign up by Dec 11

During the 2010 Winter Games, the City of Vancouver, with support from the Government of Canada, will host LiveCity Vancouver - two exciting and distinct outdoor celebration sites: LiveCity Yaletown and LiveCity Downtown that will feature weekday educational school programming and weekend family programming, live local, national and international entertainment and Olympic sponsor pavilions.

In partnership with Vancouver 2010, Vancouver School Board and 2010 Legacies Now, the LiveCity Vancouver Education program will welcome Vancouver students from grades six through twelve to join in the excitement of the Games. For most students, this will be their only Games-time experience.

The LiveCity Vancouver Education Program will bring students, athletes, and artists together outdoors at LiveCity Yaletown during the Olympic Winter Games and at LiveCity Downtown during the Paralympic Winter Games. Daily programs will start at 11:30 a.m. and include a one-hour show live from the stage of the LiveCity Yaletown featuring:

- Fun, young bilingual media personalities as emcees
- Olympic and Paralympic Athlete presentations
- Live sport competition on the giant screens
- Live entertainment from across Canada

Following the stage presentation, students will be invited to tour the Sponsor and Government Partner pavilions including Vancouver House to experience their diverse and exciting Olympic programs and activities.

A LiveCity Learning Map will be provided to teachers and include educational activities for students to do as they visit the pavilions and participate in the LiveCity Vancouver event. It will include a focus on Olympic and Paralympic values as

well as sports and history of the Games and will connect to pre- and post-events activities that emphasize critical thinking in the classroom. Each class attending LiveCity Vancouver Education Program will be entered into a draw to win prizes on-site and all classes attending will be entered into a Grand Prize Draw.

Finally, teachers and students will be encouraged to document their LiveCity Vancouver experiences and submit them to the Project Showcase at www.vancouver.com/EDU. Every teacher who submits a project to the EDU Project Showcase receives an official Vancouver 2010 certificate to hang in their classroom or in their school's display cabinet, as well as stickers and pins for their students, and will be entered into a grand prize that includes a Paralympic Torch delivered to the winning school by Sumi.

To ensure the best learning experience, the capacity at the LiveCity Vancouver Education Program is 1500 students per day. **Registration forms are included in the LiveCity package sent to Principals. Space is limited so please fax registration form to Patsy Peters at the VSB (604-713-4443) prior to the deadline date of Dec 18 to be sure to secure space for your class.** Space will be allocated on a first come first serve basis. Parents and support staff are of course welcome to join the schools attending.

Schools are encouraged to walk or use public transit (Canada Line to Yaletown Station) and during the Paralympic Games, the Skytrain Line to the Stadium Station.

LiveCity Downtown is in the heart of the city at Georgia and Cambie. LiveCity Yaletown is on the water's edge at David Lam Park. For more info go to www.livecityvancouver.ca

SCHOOL INITIATIVES: Hamber Secondary "Athletes of the Future"



Hamber choir performs a beautiful version of O Canada for the crowd.

Students at Eric Hamber Secondary showed their enthusiasm for the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics and Paralympics by holding "Athletes of the Future" on Nov 5.

An estimated 1,800 students took part during the day-long event, including approximately 500 grade 6 and 7 students from neighbouring elementary schools. About 200 grade 11 and 12 Hamber youth leaders organized all aspects of the event including decorating the halls and auditorium with colourful Olympics-themed banners and posters, to create a festive atmosphere.



Hamber dancers showed their Olympic spirit by wearing red and white

To start the event, the younger students participated in a torch relay around the school. They were greeted on their arrival by elite athletes and the Vancouver 2010 mascots. Once assembled in the school's large auditorium the students were treated to a beautiful rendition of O Canada by the Hamber Choir and upbeat performances by Hamber's student dancers.

In honour of Paralympic Schools Week, videos were shown about the Paralympics, while Brad Linnea (alpine skiing) and Patrick Anderson (wheelchair basketball) made inspiring speeches about their Olympic experiences. Linnea said one of his proudest moments was when he was invited to carry the torch in the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games. "I realized it was a special moment and I took the time to savour the moment when I accepted the flame," he said. Senator Nancy Green Raine, Canada's female athlete of the century, also made some brief remarks before meeting with the media at the school to

announce the Paralympic torch relay route.

In the afternoon, all grade 8-12 Hamber students attended workshops facilitated by teachers, special guests and community partners. There were information booths for youth to learn about sports, recreation and leadership opportunities in the community.

Hands-on workshops included "Have a Go" Wheelchair curling, rugby and sledge hockey offered by the BC Wheelchair Sports Association; "Nutrition in Sport" offered by BC Dairy Foundation; "Recreation Leadership" offered by Action Schools BC! and "Sports Literacy" offered by Act Now BC.

Curriculum-related workshops included "The Science of Ski Jumping" and "Olympic Math Challenge." Students with an interest in critical thinking attended "The Olympic Debate," and "Politics in the Olympics." Each student completed three 40 minute workshops in order to complete their passport and win a prize.

Hamber leadership students are in the planning stages for two more ambitious events:

"Youth-to-Youth": Olympic-Themed Webcasts between Canadian Youth

In partnership with the BC Education Leadership Council (BCELC), a series of youth-to-youth webcasts will be organized up to February 2010 that will



Paralympian Brad Linnea tells his Olympic story

twin Grade 11 and 12 classes from Eric Hamber Secondary with classrooms in other Canadian provinces and London, England. As part of the BCELC's "Student WebCast Section of Sharing the Dream," 12 classes (approximately 360 youth) will participate in this series of Olympic-themed webcasts.

"Hamber Olympic Fest": Live Coverage of the 2010 Winter Olympic Games.

To encourage youth involvement and experiential learning among youth, from February 12 through to February 28, a large screen and audio system will be set up in the auditorium at Eric Hamber Secondary to broadcast live coverage of the Games to youth. Classes of Grade 6 and 7 students from neighbouring elementary schools as well as classes of Grade 8-12 students from Hamber, will be given the opportunity to sign up for one-hour sessions in the auditorium.

CONTESTS - Great opportunities for students to get involved!

UBC Global Minds Challenge

Calling all K-12 schools, teachers and students from across the globe!

The UBC Faculty of Education is challenging teachers and students around the world to demonstrate how they use learning technologies to promote a broader understanding of the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in their classrooms.

The UBC Global Minds challenge, which began October 26, asks K-12 classrooms to show how they are using Twitter, mobile phones and other digital technology to help promote student engagement with the Games – with prizes of \$2,010 for the five best submissions.

Examples of projects for the UBC Global Minds challenge:

- a classroom creates a Twitter channel about the experience of Paralympic athletes;
- a teacher uses open source tools to connect with the Olympic and Paralympic Torch Relays;
- a school uses mobile phones and the Internet to foster community-scaled sustainability;
- a group of international schools connects online to share their ideas about global citizenship;
- a YouTube video is created of aboriginal student discussions about Truce;
- a group of special needs students constructs its own space in Second Life.



Creating a Second Life Classroom like the one show here is an example of a project that could be submitted to the UBC Global Minds contest.

The UBC Global Minds Challenge will award up to five (5) prizes of \$2,010 (CAN) to schools that submit projects that are: original, exciting, and pedagogically significant applications of learning technologies in a K-12 school context; and inspirational to a theme of:

- sport;
- culture;
- sustainability; and/or
- global citizenship (focusing on indigenous and aboriginal education, internationalism, equality, social justice and inclusion).

For more information and details on how to enter visit <http://educ.ubc.ca/globalminds>.

Deadline for submitting proposals is **December 19, 2009**. Any questions? Please contact global.minds@ubc.ca.



Teachable Moments for the 2010 Classroom

Earlier this week the Minister of Education provided three copies of the *Teachable Moments for the 2010 Classroom* DVD and brochure to each school in BC.

The DVD contains videos, podcasts, teacher guides, brochures, hyperlinks and other useful resources for teachers, students and parents to view, print and use. DVDs were sent to Principals and can be copied as many times as needed.

In addition, a copy of the *Wired for Fitness* DVD featuring some of the outstanding stories from the 2008 North American Indigenous Games held in Cowichan BC has also been sent to schools.



Carpooling

Share the ride, save money and help reduce congestion! Carpooling, which is defined as two or more persons sharing their daily commute on a regular basis, is just one of the many options available to commuters looking for alternate ways to get to work, not just during the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, but always. The VSB supports the City of Vancouver's goal of reducing car trips to the downtown core by 30% during the 2010 Winter Games.

Commuters who are looking to fill empty seats in their own vehicles or are looking for a carpool to join can take advantage of free ride-matching services through www.carpool.ca or www.ride-share.com.

Plan Now to TravelSmart

Winter Games transportation and transit changes will affect everyone. To better understand how the routes taken to and from work, classes and games events will be impacted, students, staff, faculty and spectators may wish to review individual municipal transportation plans and become familiar with the changes on their route. Below is a list of websites that may help students, staff and spectators plan their travels.

TravelSmart 2010

- www.travelsmart2010.ca/index.php

City of Vancouver

- Road and Parking Restrictions – Overview
www.translink.ca/en/Utilities/2010-Games.aspx
- Traffic Management – Map
<http://olympichostcity.vancouver.ca/>

TransLink

- Public Transit Resources
www.translink.ca/en/Utilities/2010-Games.aspx

Cycling Maps

- Cycling Metro Vancouver
www.cyclevancouver.ubc.ca/cv.aspx

Project Blue Sky www.projectbluesky.ca

- Use their widget to log your human-powered kilometres and help the 2010 Winter Games reach their climate goal.

The Olympic Flame is scheduled to arrive in Vancouver on the morning of February 11, 2010. The flame will spend two days passing through the streets of Vancouver before arriving at B.C. Place on the evening of Feb 12th.

With the support of City of Vancouver and the Vancouver Parks Board, two Vancouver schools - Thunderbird Elementary and Killarney Secondary School have been chosen as celebration sites. They will partner with their local community centre to host local celebrations.

Programmers from the City of Vancouver Park Board staff are designing a dynamic, youth focused program which will feature music, dance, Olympians and Paralympians and a few special surprises.

After the show students and staff will have the opportunity to watch the torch go through their community.

West Vancouver designs education exploration programs for children

West Vancouver is an official Venue City for the Vancouver 2010 Olympics and Paralympics Games.

The Spirit Square Celebration Site at the West Vancouver Community Centre Services Society gives school groups a unique Canadian experience showcasing Sport, Space, Northern Canada and First Nations.

Education Explorations for Children offers a unique combination of exhibit tours, performances and art activities that engage students and provide meaningful learning opportunities that meet curriculum requirements.

The Canadian Space Agency has designed a fun and highly interactive exhibit with special school programs: Steps in Space (Feb 15-26, Aurora Borealis (Feb 15-26 and Space Travellers (Mar 1-21).

Registration for the programs is now open. Programs run from Feb 15 to March 21, 2010.

For further information:
2010schoolprograms@westvancouver.ca

The making of the medals



Artist Corrine Hunt and designer/architect Omer Arbel designed the medals

As unique as the world's top athletes and their awe-inspiring performances, every medal won at the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games will be a one-of-a-kind work of art.

The Vancouver 2010 medals are based on two large master artworks of an orca whale (Olympic) and raven (Paralympic) by Corrine Hunt, a Canadian designer/artist of Komoyue and

Experience the Royal Canadian Mint Pavilion

The Royal Canadian Mint Pavilion will be located at 500 Granville Street in downtown Vancouver from Feb 12 to 28, 2010. The site will be dedicated to the Royal Canadian Mint, its legacy, its unique place in Canada and around the world. Displays will include a showcase featuring the making of the medals for the Vancouver 2010 Winter Games. Visitors will have a once in a lifetime opportunity to get up close to the medals and discover how the design was brought to life.

Educational Programming:

As part of the line-up of activities, the Royal Canadian Mint has developed two educational programs that will encourage children to explore Canada's national mint and learn more about our nation's history and culture. Programs are best suited for intermediate students Grades 4-7.

Participants will be led through a series of structured games and interactive activities that are based on the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic circulation coins and also take advantage of the numerous displays noted above. Each session will be 1 hour and 30 minutes in duration and led by a team of five facilitators. Please note that capacity is limited to 25 children /session.

Smile!

Smile! is a creative workshop made up of three different stages including an engraving workshop to learn how coins designs are created and opportunity to create their own coin design. Finally, all participants will have their photo taken

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Tlingit heritage based in Vancouver, BC. Canadian industrial designer and architect Omer Arbel, also of Vancouver, used his extensive knowledge of materials and fabrication processes to create the innovative undulating design of the medals.

Each medal has a unique, hand-cropped section of the art, making it a one-of-a-kind treasure. The dramatic form of the Vancouver 2010 medals is inspired by the ocean waves, drifting snow and mountainous landscape found in the Games region and throughout Canada. The Olympic medals are circular in shape, while the Paralympic medals are a superellipse, or squared circle. Both are equal in size.

The gold, silver and bronze medals were designed with direct input from Olympic and Paralympic athletes who shared their experiences about medals they won at past Games and what they would like to see in future medals.

VANOC has produced an interesting video on the making of the medals at: www.vancouver2010.com/olympic-medals/vancouver-2010-medals/

www.mint.ca features an interactive tour with interesting facts, and ability to see 360 degree rotations of the medals.

with the famous pure gold bullion \$1 million coin.

Going around in circles

This activity will encourage participants to explore various displays found at the Royal Canadian Mint Pavilion. Upon completing five stages, participants will receive coloured bracelets representing each of the Olympic rings.

Both programs include a souvenir bag for each child, to commemorate their experience at the Royal Canadian Mint Pavilion and the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympic Games. Schedule:

The Mint is pleased to offer this programming daily —from February 12 to 28, 2010 from 10:00 to 11:30 and 13:00-14:30.

Reservations:

Schools interested in participating in this free program are asked to submit a request to andreaoberdieck@hotmail.com by January 29, 2010. Kindly include:

- School name, address, contact name and information (daytime phone number and email address)
- Number of children / total number of potential participants
- Preferred dates and times for visiting the Royal Canadian Mint Pavilion (as well as a list of two alternate dates/times*)

*Requests will be accommodated on a first-come, first served basis, and are subject to availability.

Elsie Roy - Gets Active



City of Vancouver Red Fox volunteers at Elsie Roy's Active Adventure Day

The purpose of the Vancouver Parks Board sponsored Active Adventure Days is to introduce students to the SportFit program which encourages them to take part in sports and healthy physical activity. At Elsie Roy, grade 4-7 students took part in a number of activity stations designed to test their abilities. City of Vancouver Red Fox volunteers, comprised of students with Aboriginal heritage supervised the stations.

The Red Fox program combines active play, food security and leadership training to improve the levels of fitness, health, capacity and social responsibility of Aboriginal and low income families in the Lower Mainland.

Justin Alec, from Britannia Secondary's Outreach program has been volunteering with Red Fox for several years. "I heard about Red Fox from a friend and thought the work experience would look good on my resume. It feels great to know I'm now one of those people I used to look up to as a kid."

Similar Active Adventure Days will be hosted at Britannia, Grandview, Macdonald, Mount Pleasant, Nightingale, Roberts, Roberts Annex, Seymour, Simon Fraser, and Strathcona elementary schools in the lead up to the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

VANOC Videos



Looking for a convenient way to bring the Winter Games experience to the classroom?

Go to www.vancouver2010.com/olympic-videos/ for videos and podcasts.

- Biathlon
- Cultural Olympiad Videos
- Curling
- Figure Skating
- Ice Sledge Hockey
- Luge
- Meet Speed Skating's Finest
- Nordic Combined
- Paralympic Alpine Skiing
- Richmond Olympic Oval
- Sport and the Environment
- Torch Relay Route and Videos
- Wheelchair Curling with the Experts
- Vancouver 2010 Introduces Ski Cross

Space still available - Register Now!

sport fit™ - Easy as 1-2-3!

Run a SportFit Challenge prior to the Torch arriving Feb 11th!

As the 2010 Winter Games approach, a perfect way to capture your student's growing interest in being active is by running a SportFit Challenge. SportFit is a sport discovery program that is fun, non competitive and allows you and your students to explore over 70 sport activities. 2010 Legacies Now will provide a SportFit event leader for each school that participates - we will train 20 students from your school to deliver the challenges to their fellow students and manage the event for the day. Book your spot now as there is limited space - please contact dmitchell@2010LegaciesNow.com to secure your day or if you have questions.

▲ **Step 1:** Students complete eight simple and fun activity stations to help identify their physical abilities.



▲ **Step 2:** Students go online to register (www.SportFitCanada.com), fill in a personal preferences questionnaire and enter their activity station results.

▲ **Step 3:** Find the sports that fit! SportFit matches the activity station results and personal profile and then recommends three summer and three winter sports for each student. *Students can download a customized certificate based on their results.*



Mittens for Kids



Children at Emily Carr Elementary proudly display their new mittens

Vancouver philanthropist Mary Ann Clark is giving Vancouver students a helping hand by taking Olympic mittens and turning them into thousands of hot lunches for inner-city kids.

Clark launched Mitts for Kids with the goal to put a pair of the \$10, red Olympic mittens on all 27,000 kindergarten and elementary school kids in the Vancouver School District.

Clark approached the Hudson's Bay Co. with her scheme and HBC agreed to sell her the mitts for \$9 a pair.

Through \$10 donations, Clark hopes to raise \$259,000 to give mittens to children in kindergarten through Grade 7. A portion of the money raised will go the Hot Lunch program for inner city schools.

"The children were very pleased to get the mittens and the weather outside makes them a perfect cozy gift," said Queen Alexandra Elementary Principal, Catherine Feniak whose students recently received new mittens.

An Honour to perform



Members of the VSB District Honour Youth Choir pose with the mascots

Vancouver School Board's first District Honour Youth Choir sang at the 100-day Countdown of the 2010 Olympics at the Olympic Village dedication ceremony on November 4.

The 35 student choir performed an inspirational version of O Canada at the beginning of the official ceremony attended by local and international media.

They joined Olympic and Paralympic athletes and officials in witnessing City of Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson

handing over the keys to the Olympic and Paralympic Village Vancouver to John Furlong, Chief Executive Officer of the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (VANOC).

Selected from 12 secondary schools in Vancouver, the students are led by four section leaders from UBC and director, John Trepp. The students sing in their respective school choirs and all auditioned to form the 2009-2010 Honour Choir. The choir sings all types of music and they rehearse once a week at the VSB Education Centre to prepare for various performances throughout the year.

John Trepp, retired music educator, has led a variety of choirs for 30 years at Magee Secondary School. He is a respected choral director, who is actively involved in workshops, clinics and retreats in Canada, the USA, Mexico and Thailand.

In 2010 the singers plan to participate in a number of Olympic events including performances at Robson Square Media Centre, being part of an Olympic show at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre and participating in the 400 member massed choir for the Paralympic Games opening ceremonies.

Editor's Note: In the October edition of Celebration News we omitted the names of the students who contributed the article on the Olympic Truce. Thank you Andrew Wang and Sonia Renger for your contribution.

If you'd like to share your stories with Celebration News email Patsy Peters at ppeters@vsb.bc.ca