

VSB Celebration News!

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

SEPTEMBER 2009

vsb.bc.ca



Students joined Olympian Silken Laumen at Britannia's Olympic and Paralympic Day in January 2009

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Welcome to our premiere issue

Welcome to the first edition of the Vancouver Board of Education's newsletter for the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

This newsletter is being produced through the collaboration of the Area Office (Associate Superintendent Gary Little, Education Coordinator, Patsy Peters) and the Communications Department.

The purpose of this newsletter is to inform our VBE community, students, parents and staff, about opportunities for students, resources for classrooms, as well as information to address challenges, during the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

Keeping in mind the "green" goals of the 2010 Winter Games, and our own sustainability goals, we are sending only two paper copies of the newsletter to schools and will put a link to the

newsletter at vsb.bc.ca.

Each newsletter will focus on several themes:

- Educational opportunities for students
- Resources for teachers and parents
- School initiatives and stories
- The Vancouver 2010 Olympic Torch Relay
- Transportation

With less than six months to go before the Olympic Winter Games (Feb. 12 - 28), the Paralympic Winter Games (Mar. 12 - 21) and the Cultural Olympiad (Jan 22 - Mar 21), we are beginning to see many opportunities for students and families. Ticket to Inspiration, Host a City Happening, the 2010 Olympic Torch Relay are only a few such events.

During the 2008/2009 school year many students had the opportunity to partake in the Paralympic Schools Program or attend test events.

A few of our schools (John Oliver, Churchill, David Lloyd George and Eric Hamber) have received grants from the City of Vancouver to put on Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games themed events for students.

In addition to the opportunities, there will be significant challenges during the Winter Games particularly with transportation.

We are working closely with the City of Vancouver Engineering staff and officials at Translink to keep you up to date on transportation alternatives during the Games. We will have more information regarding transportation in future issues.

We hope that you will find this newsletter informative and helpful. If you have any items that you would like to share, please contact Patsy Peters, ppeters@vsb.bc.ca.

SCHOOL INITIATIVES

Passport to Play



On May 27, 2009 over 150 students with disabilities, together with their teachers and support staff, attended **Passport to Play** – a special “sports day” for students with disabilities.

The concept of Passport to Play came from three members of the Vancouver District Students Council (VDSC), who were inspired by a speech from a paralympian. VDSC applied to the City of Vancouver, Host a City Happening Grant Program and was awarded a \$10,000 grant to finance the event.

Working together with the staff of John Oliver's P. E. Department, the Vancouver Park Board and others, including Deb Murin our mentor from the Surrey School District, the students of the VDSC and the staff of John Oliver put in many hours planning the event.

The goal of the day was to link our students with disabilities to organizations

such as Special Olympics, so that the students could learn about possibilities in the community for recreation. We also wanted to provide the students with some fun hands on activities.

The day was a fabulous success, thanks to many people including three members of our VDSC Executive, Alysha Lee, Dami Lee and Sioban McCormick. The staff and administration at John Oliver were welcoming and accommodating, particularly the P.E. staff. The volunteer students from John Oliver really made the day. Without their enthusiastic support and their positive contributions as volunteers, providing hands-on support for the students with special needs, the day would not have been so successful.

For more information on the Host a City Happening Program, visit vancouver.ca

Pan-Canadian Paralympic School Week: Nov 2-6



In anticipation of the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games, VANOC, in partnership with the BC Ministry of Education and the Canadian Paralympic Committee, is inviting and encouraging schools across Canada to participate in a Paralympic School Week that will take place in fall 2009.

Paralympic School Week is endorsed by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) and the Canadian Commission for UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization).

Download the guide at vancouver2010.com/edu

TICKET OPPORTUNITIES

Paralympic Games - Tickets to Inspiration



The Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (VANOC) is organizing the Ticket to Inspiration Program for school groups interested in attending weekday daytime Paralympic Games events at a reduced rate (\$5 per ticket).

The Ticket to Inspiration Program will offer a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for thousands of BC children and youth to experience the atmosphere, excitement and magic of the 2010 Paralympic Winter Games at a reduced ticket price.

As a part of this program, transportation grants will also be available to offset the costs of attending.

A detailed information package and application forms for tickets was emailed to all Administrators on September 1st, 2009. Registration for the tickets begins on September 1st and ends on October 2nd, 2009. Since the applications for tickets are not processed on a first come first serve basis, teachers have adequate time to apply.

See your Principal for further information or contact ppeters@vsb.bc.ca.

Go online! vancouver2010.com/EDU

Visit the official Canadian school portal for the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games for links to all major education programs related to the 2010 Winter Games.

Explore these resources and get ideas on how to bring the Olympic and Paralympic spirit to your classroom.

The Canadian Olympic School Program presented by RBC has engaged students in the Olympic Movement since 1988. Find free downloadable lesson plans, interactive components, and contests at various levels.

Paralympic School Programs: Pan-Canadian Paralympic School Week, Bon Voyage Sumi, Canadian Paralympic Committee, It's The Real Deal, Paralympic School Day - Schools across Canada can put on their own Paralympic School Days using the resources listed.

Teachers' Forum is a professional online community inspiring teachers to share ideas, best practices and classroom resources. Teachers have the opportunity to interact with guest educators, as well as with each other.

Sharing the Dream by the BC Ministry of Education website provides support for the Vancouver 2010 education program. Here teachers can find student webcast series, lesson starters, and Adopt a Country. sharingthedream.gov.bc.ca

Sharing the Dream Webcast Series: Six student-led webcast interviews related to the components of the Vancouver 2010 Education Program: Sport, Culture, Sustainability, Olympism, Paralympism, and the overarching theme of global citizenship.

It's The Real Deal, created by the Canadian Paralympic Committee, is a free online teachers' resource. The program offers multi-media lessons, lesson plans, athlete interviews, fun activities and photos for students in Grades 4-8.

Pan-Canadian Paralympic School Week November 2-6, 2009: Download the Paralympic School Week Guide and sign up to receive a limited edition Paralympic School Kit. The week-long program adopts the ideals of the Paralympic Movement and showcases



2010 Olympic Torch Relay School Kit: Free educational resources that will help students make their pledges and bring the excitement of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Torch Relay to life in classrooms across the nation. These bilingual classroom activities are available for download at olympicschool.ca/torchrelay and link to learning outcomes in social studies, language arts, math, science and physical activity.

Canada CODE Education Resources: This fall, teachers will be able to inspire and engage their students, and fulfill curriculum requirements, with Canada CODE. In addition to the educator's guide, the NFB is creating digital storytelling tips that can be used in conjunction with the guide.

Cultural Olympiad School Activities: provides an overview of Cultural Olympiad events that encourage school group attendance by providing support such as special rates, matinees and educational materials.

Vancouver 2010 Aboriginal Education Resources. The Vancouver 2010 *Find Your Passion in Sport* posters provide a unique opportunity for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students to learn about Aboriginal athletes and their commitment to their sport and culture.

Ticket to Inspiration: Updates on the sale of tickets for the Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Winter Games.

Get your class together and help Canadian athletes Own The Podium: You can contribute to their hard work, get involved in their success and celebrate the excellence by supporting them. Get your class together to raise \$20.10 for our athletes! olympicfoundation.ca/

Films for Change is a template aimed at secondary level students that provides a way to integrate National Film Board documentaries on environmental issues across a range of classroom contexts and subject areas.

SportFit is a free, easy-to-use interactive program that encourages children and youth to discover sports that match their physical abilities and individual interests. sportfitcanada.com

Heroes Live Here™ encourages children and youth to discover what makes a hero, to celebrate the everyday heroes in their own lives and to act heroically themselves through projects that reach out to their community.

TORCH RELAY NEWS

The Olympic Flame is scheduled to arrive in Vancouver on Feb. 11, 2010. The relay will run in the Vancouver area on Feb. 11 and 12 with an evening celebration on Feb. 11 at David Lam Park.

The flame will reach its final destination, B.C. Place on Friday, Feb. 12 symbolizing the start of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games. The Olympic Flame will visit many areas of Vancouver with the street detailed route to be announced just prior to the flame's arrival in Vancouver.

Although the exact street details of the route of the Olympic Torch Relay have not yet been revealed, we do know that during the time the relay will go through Vancouver, the Olympic Flame will be close to many of our schools.

We are currently working with staff from the City of Vancouver to help interested school communities to celebrate the torch relay. Further information about opportunities for schools will be available in the coming issues of VSB 2010.

Celebrate the Olympic Torch Relay in your own way!

In just a few months, Canada will welcome the world's finest athletes as part of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games. As a precursor to the Games, the Olympic Torch Relay will make its way across Canada, travelling from coast-to-coast-to-coast joining together all Canadians in celebration.

The Government of Canada has a special invitation for not-for-profit organizations and schools: you can receive a grant of up to \$15,000 to celebrate the Olympic Torch Relay in your own way!

Your proposed project(s) must: Commemorate the passage of the Olympic Flame; Target youth participation; and Demonstrate the energy of Canadian youth, their ingenuity and creativity.

There are so many possibilities — you can be creative! Most importantly, ensure your project is fun and makes you and others feel part of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games experience. After all, these are our Games and this is our time to shine.

For more information and to download an application package, please visit the Olympic Torch Relay section at canada2010.gc.ca.

Deadline to submit an application is: Sept. 21, 2009.

Adopt a Country Program

Adopt a Country is a school-based program where schools or classrooms "adopt" one of the countries participating in the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. Students from Kindergarten to grade 12 will learn about global citizenship by

- Working together as a class or school to select a country;
- Engaging in research and discussion about geographic, economic, environmental and cultural topics;
- Connecting with related local cultural organizations to learn about their adopted country and to potentially make connections with students in the adopted country;
- Displaying their learning to the community; and,
- Cheering for their adopted country during the 2010 Winter Games.

Recognizing that teachers already have a busy class schedule, the Adopt a Country school program is designed to be integrated into existing class work. The activities are meant to provide teachers with ideas to support the learning opportunities that the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games offer.

For more information go to sharingthedream.gov.bc.ca and click the "Adopt a Country" tab.

TRANSPORTATION



Photo from www.travelsmart.ca

The 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games will be the largest event ever held in our city. Transportation during the Olympic Games may prove to be challenging for some.

The Vancouver Board of Education has established an Olympic Transportation Committee comprised of staff from various departments as well as representatives of different union groups.

We are working with Kevin Millsip, our Sustainability Coordinator, and with staff from both the City of Vancouver Engineering Department and Translink to keep you informed of options for travel during the Winter Games.

The VBE has requested staff to work with the City of Vancouver, Translink, and VANOC to develop a transportation plan to assist employees and students reach schools and work places during the Olympic Games. A VBE committee of partner groups is reviewing ideas and options to facilitate transportation during the Olympic Games. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

You may also wish to review some transportation ideas by visiting travelsmart.ca.