

The History and Curator Director of the Royal British Columbia Museum (RBCM) contacted Shan-e-Punjab, as RBCM were getting ready for the 2008 FREE SPIRIT EXHIBIT. The exhibit showcased all the residences of BC, particularly the many cultures that make up the province. SEP was asked as a consultant to provide music for the ethnic food section of the exhibit; assist in dressing the Bhangra display (items for which were provided by the Vancouver International Bhangra Celebration - VIBC); and coordinating/planning/dressing of the Giddha Dance Display. SEP also wants to thank Mr. Kushdev and Mrs. Kuljinder Gill for assisting with the Turban tying of the Bhangra manican.



Our incredible Giddha Team performed at the Greater Victoria Performing Art Festival (GVPAF), to the theme “Lohri”. They achieved the Social Dance Award in the category of folk dance. SEP has been participating in the GVPAF since 1996, and it is a great opportunity to hear from a professional Adjudicator his/her feedback. Although the Adjudicator may not have a background in Indian or Punjabi dance, he/she is very well aware and has viewed dances from all cultures in his/her 20 plus years of experience.



Furthermore SEP was invited to participate in the RBCM’s From the World to BC series of performances showcasing major cultural organizations during the exhibit year. We were invited to be the first to open the series with our annual cultural showcase celebrating Vasaikhi on April 26 2008. The restaurant at the RBCM also provided a special basmati rice/chickpea lunch in celebration of Vasiakhi. All the students did an outstanding job in their performances; the junior team opened the show with a skit/fashion show of the first pioneers to Canada. Below you will find a photograph of some of our first pioneers.



(L to R above) Ms. Justine Johl-Randhawa, Ms. Angela Bamra (teacher), Ms. Raveena Moor (teacher), Ms. Krishna Kashyap, Ms. Joyti Birk, Ms. Harjit Birk, Ms. Amy Sundher (teacher), Ms. Halina Johl, Ms. Meera Kashyap, and Ms. Preeti Kang (teacher). Photographer Jessie Hlady



(L to R above)The Boyz – Mr. Vardeep Gill, Mr. Harjot Gill, Mr. Evan Gill, Mr. Harman Dhillon, Mr. Harbir Sidhu, Mr. Hamraj Sidhu, Mr. Amardeep Sidhu, Mr. Shawn Atwal, Mr. Jason Chahal, Mr. Paviter Sidhu, Mr. Amritpal Sekhon, and Mr. Manvir Pandher.

Thanks to our dholees Mr. Parmpreet Dhami, and Mr. Sanjeev Mahmi.

By providing students an opportunity to perform and share their culture with senior citizens is a special moment. Senior's in their final years of their life, get inspired, motivated and hence raises their spirits when they see children and youth performing. If we can make a positive difference in one of the senior's lives, then it makes learning about your culture through dance all that much more important. The following four photographs performances at Mt. Tolmie Hospital, Amica House and the Sedwick Seniors Residence. Each of these residences organized an evening of tea, appetizers and dinner with an Indian Theme as part of their weekly residence activity.

The Program Coordinators were very proud and extremely grateful and were impressed with the dance skills of the students.



(L to R above) Ms. Navleen Bains, Ms. Jasleen Dhatt, Ms. Manmeet Gill, Ms. Anmol Gill, Mr. Vardeep Gill, Ms. Harkirn Bhela, Ms. Girijia Bhatnagar, Mr. Anmol Chauhan, Ms. Sauvrit Chauhan, Mr. Jagroop Bhela, Ms. Selena Keram, Ms. Jasdeep Bhela and Mr. Nikhil Bhatnagar



(L to R above) Ms. Arleen Atwal, Ms. Jasleen Dhatt and Ms. Manmeet Gill. You will see students already mentioned below.



(L to R above) Ms. Jasmine Lalari, Ms. Malika Bains, Ms. Priya Gill, Mr. Amandeep Sidhu, Ms. Jasmine Johal, and Mr. Nikhil Bhatnagar

Miss Pooja Concert in Victoria, she is a Punjabi female folk singer and is very popular with youth. The senior team performed, many of the singers complemented the skill of the seniors. Many students had an opportunity to speak to her, take photographs and/or get her autograph. (picture below is a bit dark)



Having asked for volunteers to assist in coordinating and leading a workshop for the BC Federation of Labour for Women held at the University of Victoria referred to us from the Vancouver International Bhangra

Celebration, Ms. Preeti Kang and Ms. Amy Sundher were those keen volunteers. The girls had over 28 participants and by far one of the most successful and fun Bhangra dance workshops. The girls were asked to teach so the women would then perform, as the last day was demonstrations of all the workshops. Here are some photographs.



Dragon Boat Festival stage was taken by our keen middle school teams; one was a duet by Ms. Harkirn Bhela, and her sister Ms. Jasdeep Bhela. The other team consisted of Ms. Siya Kashyap, Ms. Arleen Atwal, Ms. Melody Sidhu, and Ms. Manmeet Gill.



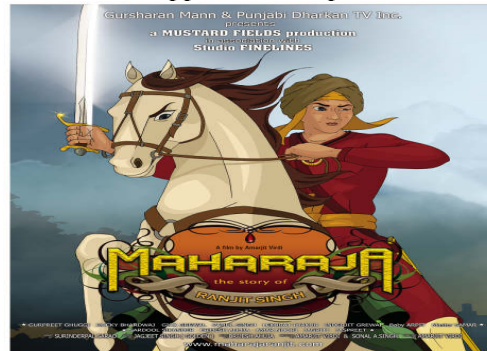
The annual Hindu Parashad – Diwali Event at the University of Victoria, permitted only two groups, Senior/Junior Teams. The Seniors also participated in the VIBC downtown exhibition pre-competition event. (L to R Below Senior blue/green/yellowteam) Ms. Punam Randhawa, Ms. Preeti Kang, Ms. Lauren Labh, Ms. Janessa Sundher, Ms. Nicole Randhawa, Ms. Aneeta Takhar, Ms. Keira Dheensaw, Ms. Amy Sundher and Ms. Jasleen Dhatt. We wish Ms. Takhar all the best as she pursues her studies in nursing starting 2009.



Thanks to all the mom's who either made, and/or purchased a cake, cupcakes or something sweet as part of our annual gigantic cakewalk. We had a scarecrow making contest, and this involved all the students including the senior team, junior team and teachers. I would like to also thank Cakes Etc., Arts Bakery, and Wildfire Bakery for donating cakes. We will continue the Halloween in 2010 not 2009.



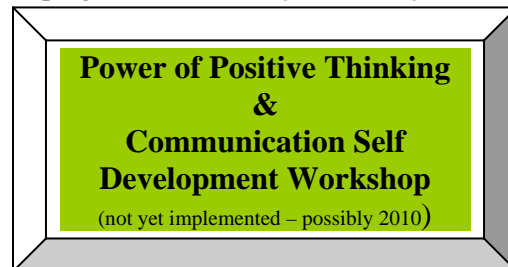
SEP partnered with Punjabi Dharkan TV (Ontario) to present the inaugural animated Maharaja Ranjit Singh – Movie at Spectrum Theatre and could not have done this without the support of our sponsors.



Sponsors included *Island Video, Dr. Gurjit Gakhal, Great Cannon 2 For 1 Pizza, Diva Soft Lite Laser Centre & Esthetics, Burnside Food Market, Pizzaz Pizza, KT Boutique, Sunrise Day Spa & Salon, Amy Khangura Photography, Sukhi Lalli Pharmacy, Dodd's Furniture, Big City Construction Inc., Indian Food Market, Delicious 2 For 1 Pizza, Jas Toora Automotive & Transmission Services Ltd., Deep India Sweets & Catering, Exotic Stone, and Soul Reflections.*

My Cultural Activity Book

We have found a fun way for any student to learn about their culture. It can be used for those rainy days, long trips and/or simply for your own education and information. This book can be adapted to any culture. We are hoping for it to be ready in January 2009/10.



Thank you to all parents, community, sponsors and students for your support and for dressing all the boys and girls.

Westworld

Travel and Active Living from BCAA

3rd ANNUAL TOP 20 Holiday Daytrips

daytripper



The days may be getting shorter, but winter never crimp in one's social calendar. Event organizers in this snow as a fresh canvas – and from Santa Claus to a B this year's boreal agenda is a full-blown multicultural

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From the World to B.C., Victoria

Catch the last installment of this series – part of the *Free Spirit: Stories of You, Me and BC* exhibition at the Royal BC Museum. The December 27 event opens with Tales for Tots: multicultural storytelling presented by Puente Theatre Association and the Inter-Cultural Association of Victoria (10 to 10:30 a.m.), then enjoy two performances by the Veselka Ukrainian Dance Association (11 a.m., and again at noon). Free with museum admission. 1-888-447-7977; royalbcmuseum.bc.ca



Admire the toy trains, out into the yard to it heroes from the glory including the 1940 R and 1912 Pacific Gra Finally, be prepa your sleeves : own Legc empir pr

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Please find above our student Mr. Harjot Gill, his picture was selected to represent the Royal BC Museum as one of the top annual holiday day trips on the Westcoast, published by the BC Automobile Association.