



# News Release

October 14, 2009

## **RBC Foundation grant launches unique after-school program at Lena Shaw elementary school**

*Opening celebration event takes place October 16*

RBC Foundation has provided Lena Shaw elementary school a grant of \$40,000 to support a program that provides students of the inner-city school with structured, supervised—and fun after-school activities.

“RBC is proud to support Lena Shaw’s important program,” says Mark Smith, RBC’s regional vice president. “This is an opportunity for these children to enhance not only their fine arts and performing arts skills but their social interaction and self confidence.”

The program, called “Stars Academy” is the brainchild of school principal Elisa Carlson and was developed by school and district staff working with the Community Schools Partnership program. The Academy runs 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. every school day through the school year.

Several partners from across the Lower Mainland make the Stars Academy an exceptional opportunity for Lena Shaw students to learn while having fun, including; Arts Umbrella, City of Surrey Parks and Recreation, Emily Carr University students, Mad Science, Surrey Art Gallery, University of the Fraser Valley students, and Simon Fraser University “Friends of Simon” tutoring students. These partners, along with one program coordinator will work together to ensure students receive enriching, out-of-the-ordinary experiences that are not only fun and engaging but which build academic achievement and self esteem.

“It is thrilling to see so many community groups join together to support our young students, many of whom would not otherwise be able to experience the services these partners offer,” says Surrey Board of Education vice-chair Shawn Wilson. “Our board thanks RBC for its generosity and vision in supporting the Stars Academy. Research tells us extending the school day with educational activities that are also fun improves academic achievement.”

Lena Shaw celebrates the launch of its innovative Stars Academy after-school program at:

**2:45 p.m., October 16, 2009  
14250 – 100A Avenue, Surrey**

RBC Olympian and rower Scott Frandsen will lead a physical activity after attendees sample a variety of “mad science” and performing arts exercises. There will be remarks from representatives of RBC, the school board and the school.

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