

WEDNESDAY
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VOL. 7 N° 111



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CARMINE MARINELLI, 24 HOURS

PARTY'S OVER

POLICE RIOT REPORT PROPOSES 'AIRPORT-STYLE' SCREENING AT SKYTRAIN STATIONS AND BANNING EVENTS THAT CONCENTRATE LARGE CROWDS OF YOUTH P4-5

VANCOUVER

Billboard tracks speeders P3

Digital billboards have been installed in Burnaby and Surrey to deter speeders and prevent child deaths in school zones.

ENTERTAINMENT

Entourage nears final episode P14

The HBO series about boys being boys was never meant to be deep, but after eight seasons the show has proven its relevance.

SPORTS

NFL season preview pack P27-34

The National Football League is back in session, and 24 hours brings you a complete look-ahead of the upcoming season.

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Dead Burnaby woman identified

The female victim of a Burnaby homicide last week was identified as 57-year-old resident Bayush Hagos, RCMP said Tuesday. The suspect, who has been arrested, remains in hospital. An autopsy is being conducted. RCMP found the deceased Hagos and another injured woman Sept. 1 in the 4100 block of Maywood Street in Burnaby. — 24 HOURS



Free parking, there's an app for that

Local Vancouver developers Allan Young and Quan Nguyen manually collected parking information around the city to develop Park 'in' Spot, a free iPhone and iPad app that uses GPS to locate nearby free and paid parking. Young hopes to collaborate with more cities to expand the app, which is available for free on iTunes. — 24 HOURS

Digital drive-by



Burnaby and Surrey are snapping shots of speeding cars in school zones and posting their photos on giant digital billboards in an effort to prevent recurring back-to-school traffic deaths. PHOTO SUBMITTED

Teacher job action upsets parents

STEPHANIE IP
24 hours

As parents across the province send their kids back to school this week, at least one parent is unhappy about teachers' demands for salary increases.

"We're all working people. We'd all like to have a raise," said Vedna Kumar. "But (teachers are) lucky they get summers off, they get winter breaks off, they get spring breaks off. I'd love to have that."

Kumar's seven-year-old son attends Captain James Cook Elementary and her 17-year-old son will graduate this year from Killarney Secondary in southeast Vancouver. She's worried the negotiations will lead to full-scale walkouts and affect her older son's ability to apply to university.

"The way I look at it, they had all summer to discuss," she said.

Education Minister George Abbott is adamant student and parents will notice very little

impact during the first phase of job action and said the province has not planned any back-to-work legislation just yet.

"We're going to be monitoring it each and every day," he said, adding he's had little indication of what's next, although the B.C. Teachers' Federation has admitted walkouts and picket lines are a last resort.

Vancouver School Board chairwoman Patti Bacchus is optimistic about students' return to school but hopes the negotiating parties will find a resolution sooner rather than later.

"We're really asking both the parties at the table to get focused on resolving this and do some serious negotiation," Bacchus said. "The best thing that could happen is ... to take away this air of uncertainty and anxiety that any kind of dispute creates."

@stephanie_ip



@24hoursvan polled the Twitterverse for parents' thoughts and reactions on the first day back at school.

@shadwell123: Son's back-to-school bbq and Christmas concert have been "postponed." Principal doesn't say it's b/c of strike, but obv. it is.

@LeanneViola: it was fine! Loved taking the kids to school and watching my youngest enter Kindergarten!

@sqweezieq: Where r the days when the teachers did it cuz they loved doing it not for the \$. Parents make min \$ & struggle 2 get supplies

@Vancitygirl03: Traffic was insane! And uh, what's with the whole strike thing?? Can we get some info on that??

The billboards are the brainchild of the non-profit organization Preventable, and are the first of their kind in North America, according to the group. The BCAA Road Safety Foundation is also on board.

"Surrey is the largest school district in the province and we have about 70,000 students walking and cycling around their schools each day," Surrey Mayor Dianne Watts said. "It's very important to ensure they are safe and that drivers are aware of the reduced speed limits."

To maintain the "surprise factor," the billboards are mo-

bile, moving from one school to another each day from Sept. 6 to 9.

But some question the surprise factor of suddenly seeing yourself on a giant billboard.

"(BCAA) is a very reputable organization, and I imagine they'd be responsible in how they're approaching this," said SFU clinical psychologist Joti Samra in a phone interview from the set of her Oprah Winfrey Network show. "But my initial reaction is that visually, seeing a picture of yourself is completely unexpected — a surprise.

"You could imagine that

would have potential negative impacts, such as your attention, ironically, being diverted. If your eye is off the road, it impacts your ability to (drive) well."

Preventable was also behind last year's controversial Pavement Patty, a 3D optical illusion pavement image of a small girl chasing a ball, which appeared realistic to drivers 30 meters away but disappeared as they got nearer. Skeptics argued the scary illusion could lead to accidents.

erica.bulman@sunmedia.ca

ERICA BULMAN
24 hours

Children across the province are skipping their way back to school this week. However, two of them are expected to die before the week is out, probably at an intersection, according to a B.C. organization dedicated to reducing avoidable injuries.

Giant billboards are going up near schools in Burnaby and Surrey to photograph speeding cars whose images will then appear instantly on the billboard with the message: "Before you rush through here, have a word with yourself."