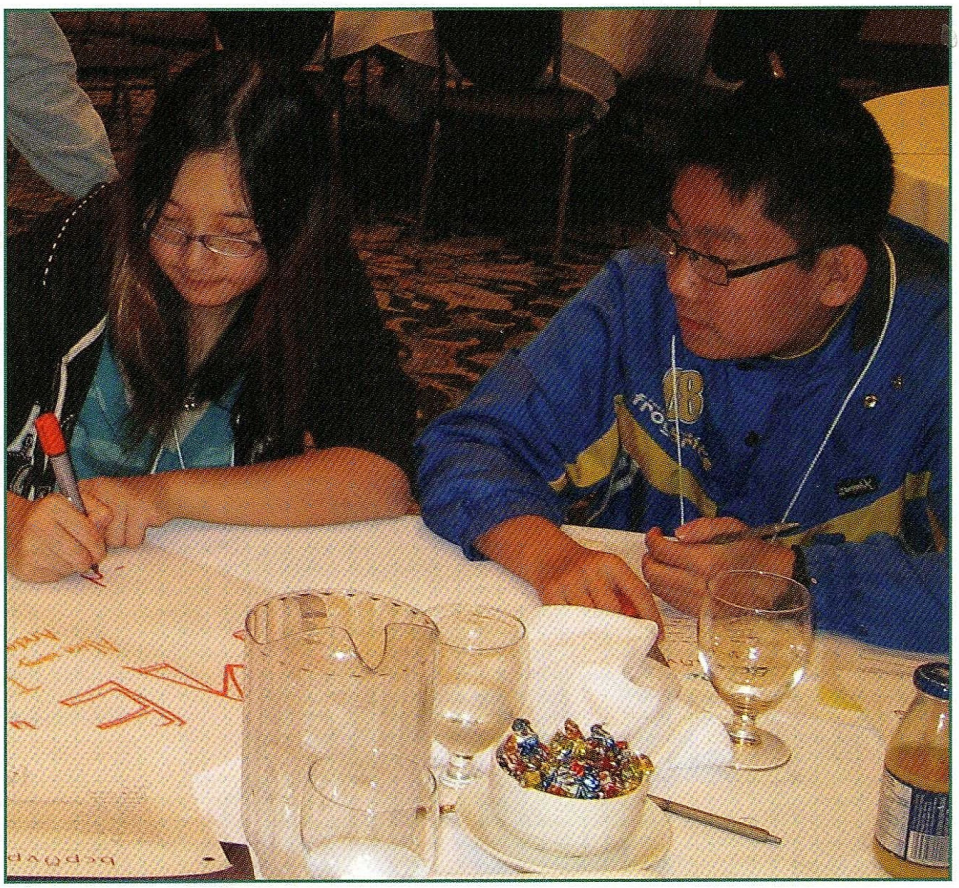
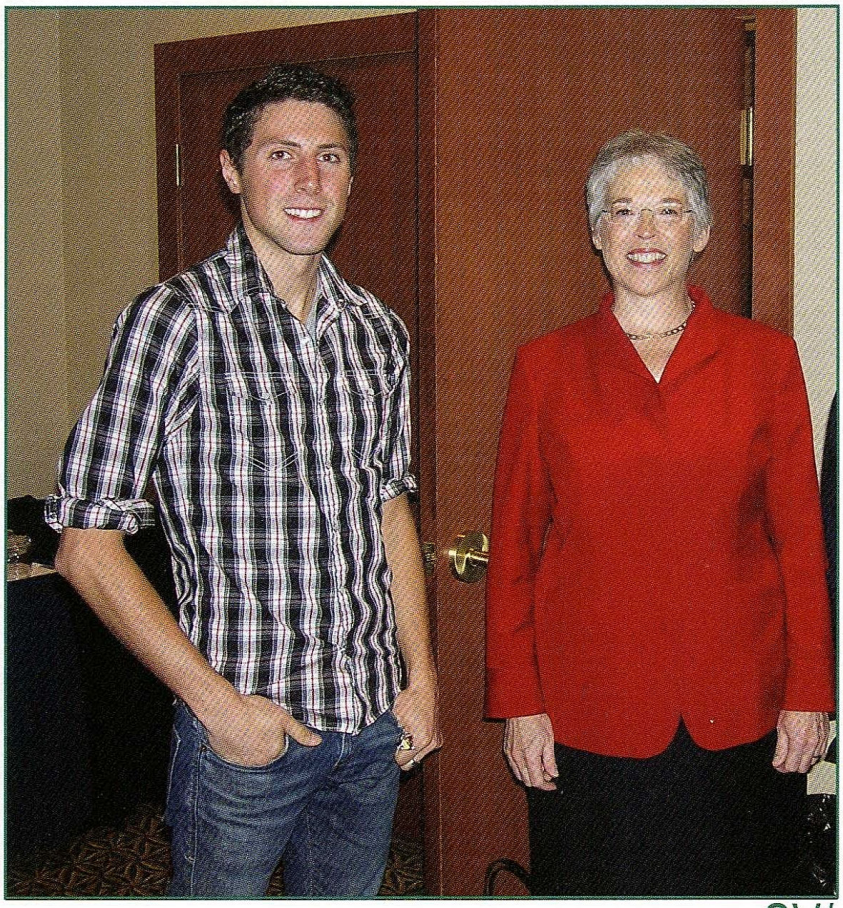
BC Student Voice

I WAS minimally aware of the positive and negative aspects of communicating through technology before coming to Student Voice. For instance, I was unaware of the fact that there are multiple websites which are specifically designed by teachers and educators to assist students with their learning and studies. Not only that, but I never paid particular attention to the significance of educational websites such as Wikipedia or spark-notes. As for the consequences of communicating using technology, I realize now that what I sent, either through texting or on the internet can cause great devastation and misery to others and myself. Now I finally understand the importance of self control and security. I know that the ideas which we discussed and contributed are valuable and significant for the improvement of the education system. For once I had power and was able to actively impact and improve BC's education system.

Tony Zhao, Grade 10
New Westminster Secondary





LIVING in a world where technology is constantly advancing, we as teenagers are frequently misusing and overusing technology. For instance, respectful relationships between students and teachers are broken when cell phones go off in class and when teachers discover rowdy pictures online. However, when do we realize that technology can be used constructively to benefit the learning environment, we'd better be able to incorporate it into education. At my school, teachers post notes online so we may access them at all times and PowerPoint is sent by email to be used a supplementary study material. Moreover, technology can be used to correspond to individual learning styles. For instance, visual learners will have easier access to diagrams and video clips and audio learners are able to hear poetry and speeches. Using technology to spice up the dull learning process will keep students focused and interested in the topic under consideration, which in the long run will better achievements.

Andrea Xu, Grade 11
New Westminster Secondary

5.3.4d

THE KEY to education is information, which is the key to change. We now swim in the stars of possibilities cyberspace has opened for us. I hope that the "corrupt" uses of technology don't distract us (the people of the world) from using its potential to do good. There is so much opportunity now that we have begun to develop into an instant would after uniting the people from cultures around the world to help each other. It has already begun. Humanitarian initiatives and environmental causes have been using technology to broadcast their movement worldwide. My mom was an organizer at the past "Me to We" annual Peace Conference and she told me how astounded she was at the diversity of nations that attended the conference. Not only did she work with people that had travelled just to be a part of that conference, but they were broadcasting its proceedings around the world. Think of the advances we could see in world education, health (through education) and sustainability, if we could make information we have a tangible resource to the rest of the world. There are many countries that still need to be brought to the advances for the 21st century, but if we can make that our goal, to technologically educate the rest of the world, think of the problems we have taken the first steps to solve. By educating people in technology you give them access to better jobs, better education and through them we will see health issues decrease. An example of how education improves health is the AIDS epidemic. Researchers have proven that by educating women about STD's and AIDS, social pressures, pregnancies and contraceptives, the rate of AIDS spread decreases and the rate of children being born with AIDS significantly decreases. If this is what is possible face-to-face education, think what is possible in the future, absolute instant earth. I know that this is a long way down the road, but there is nothing wrong with shooting for the cyber stars.

Frances Brown, Grade 12
Seycove Secondary, North Vancouver

COMMUNICATION affects our lives greatly, whether it takes shape in the way we stand when we speak to someone, the words we use or our ability to use technology like facebook and cell phones. It is what we have, along with our actions to show the world who we really are and to make a place for ourselves in it. Because of the rate at which modern day technology is changing and evolving, we are constantly being given new opportunities to express and share ourselves. Although there are negative aspects to the use of communication technology, I see it as a very positive thing because it has created a worldwide community of creativity and new ideas. The invention of the internet has opened up the possibility for every person to have a say in government, culture and in anything that interests them. Through technology I have learned and experienced things that are completely outside of the sphere of life I was born into. I have had the privilege to truly be part of a global village.

Charlotte Kidd, Grade 12, Handsworth Secondary, North Vancouver

Technology has always been a controversial subject. Some prefer to use it as little as possible and some use it every day. I believe that the time we spend on the computer, texting, etc, we are losing time to do more important things. When we could be exercising or doing work we are emailing, texting and messaging. We are slowly losing the ability to interpret things through body language due to the amount of texting and messaging. There is no expression used in messaging to understand the message. Face-to-face is the best way to communicate will be always.

Kirstie Cote, Grade 11
DP Todd Secondary, Prince George

Communication, expressing yourself in either a bland or creative way. As simple as a greeting, yet it can also be portrayed in modern art. Communications is the foundation of society, without it there would be no point for technological advances such as cell phones, the internet, emails or Facebook. Over the years communicating has continued to become less personal and more centered around technological devices. But what about our most beautiful forms of expression such as dance, art, paintings, poetry and love letters? These forms are the cherished classics and they will endure because respect for the arts will always remain. Our generation is blessed, we are privileged to not only have classical expressions but also to have the option of technology to make our lives simpler.

Shelby Rollefson, Grade 11
N. Peace Secondary, Ft. St. John

Technology and communication affects us in our everyday life. Young adults are experiencing many new ways to communicate, but is it right? Or are we loosing sight of what talking to people and seeing them physically really means? Technology has helped us to develop and discover new things. I find that cell phones are a big thing with our age group. People act like it is the end of the world if they forget their phone at home! When I go out for dinner with friends I find that no one is really there, they're constantly texting or checking Facebook on their phones. Technology is helping us to grow and discover new and better things we are just losing sight of what it means to hangout with our friends.

Alexandra McKeown, Grade 11
Thomas Haney Secondary, Maple Ridge

There is no cell service where I live, no in-class calls, no texting and no photo sharing. It is always a shock to visit a city and see three out of five people walking with their heads down, texting their friends. You also have to love the people chatting away on their cell phone in a restaurant or at the movie theatre. Can you not "enjoy" the thing you are doing? People are going outside less and are becoming enclosed in their own worlds. I'm glad I grew up in the middle of nowhere.

Jordie Laidlaw, Grade 11 • Queen Charlotte Secondary

It's hard to imagine my life without a cell phone. It's ridiculous, but true. Young people have developed such a strong relationship with our phones, iPods and computers that whenever we are found without them it is a shock. When my cell unexpectedly dies, I can't help but feel completely detached from the world. I'm no longer constantly in the know and it kills me. What I wish for our generation is to lose our dependency on technology because it is so much more personal receiving letters and calls.

Colleen McGuire, Grade 12
Burnsview Secondary, Delta

Me To We Campaign

Our leadership class gives the students in my school an opportunity to feel like they are making a difference in their learning environment, and allows us to have an opinion on the change that goes on. We organize all sorts of events for the school, and we are also very involved in the community. Volunteering is a major part of leadership, and we try to help both the school and the community in any way we can. Recently we did a fundraiser for *Me to We*, an association that helps the children in Third World countries, where we sold eco-friendly t-shirts. We made announcements and posters and got an overwhelmingly positive response from all of the students as well as staff, and raised enough money to shelter fifty disaster victims for a day. Later in the year we are also planning on having a Music Fest showcasing local youth talent, benefitting the same organization. I believe leadership is a vital part of my school, and teaches many lifelong lessons. It gives us as students a chance to make an impact on our school and community, as well as teaching the organizational skills needed to plan events and be successful. Leadership sets a foundation for lifelong prosperity, giving us the confidence to go after our dreams, and the skill-set to achieve them.

Ballenas Secondary Leadership, Parksville

My high school

years have been some of the best years of my life. My schooling has provided me with wonderful opportunities and many fantastic memories. One of the things that has made my years so special are the clubs and organizations I am involved in. I am very grateful for all the phenomenal teachers and advisors that encouraged me to be active in my school and community. Not only have they helped me pave a path for my future, the groups I have been in have taught me and given me tools to use the rest of my life. If I could give any piece of advice to people entering high school or even in middle school, it would be to ret involved, voice your opinion and take action in your school and community.

Jasmine Howell, Grade 11 Timberline Secondary, Campbell River

BC Student Voice is published on occasion to celebrate the success of BC Student Voice through the assistance of the BC Principals' & Vice-Principals' Association

For information write: BC Student Voice, #200-525 West 10th Avenue, Vancouver V5Z 1K9 or call 604-689-3399 or email: sharon@bcpvpa.bc.ca