

## DANCE

### “Khoo Off to Korea”

**Janis Warren**

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A Port Coquitlam ballet student who played Clara for the Goh Ballet’s Nutcracker last December will fly to Asia next month to perform a prestigious contest. Michelle Khoo, 16, a Grade 10 student at Magee secondary, is one of four Goh students the company is sending to South Korea for the 2015 South International Ballet Competition. There, she’ll have five solos: Talisman and Medora from Le Corsaire, Pulse, Harlequinade and Flower Festival. Khoo said she hopes the competition will be “a good chance to meet more dancers my age and get more performance experience because Vancouver has a lot of great artists but when you encounter different cultures you learn more about the broad range of ballet in the whole world,” Khoo told The Tri-City News last week. She will be at the competition with fellow teen Goh dancers Chihiro Abe, Sara Carver and Letizia Dotto. Last summer, Khoo clinched gold at the Wien Welt Wettbewerb in Vienna — the first time a Canadian has won the highest honour at the International Ballet and Contemporary Dance Competition. With so much travelling and commuting, Khoo said she loves coming home to Port Coquitlam because of its nature trails. “I love going for bike rides in the summer with my family and I feel like the air there is really nice. It’s really nice to get away from the city sometimes and just enjoy the suburbs and nature.”

