

INSIDE BURNABY SCHOOLS

April 28, 2026



ADVENTUROUS LEARNING OVER SPRING BREAK

Nearly 240 registrants took part in the first-ever District-run **Spring Break Camps**. With courses such as cooking and sewing, children had the chance to learn practical skills. Several of the Grade 4 to 8 students chose sports camps, with others opting for academic enrichment such as robotics. A group of high school students from across the District attended a welding camp, put on in partnership with BCIT. This hands-on career exploration camp was offered to youth who might not otherwise get the opportunity to attend such a program. The annual **Burnaby RCMP Youth Academy** was held at **Burnaby Central Secondary** over the break. It gave high school students a chance to explore a possible career in law enforcement. Specialized policing was highlighted through visits from the Explosives Disposal Unit, Police Dog Services, and Integrated Forensic Identification Services. Schools often offer field trips – some of which take place over academic breaks. A group of students and teachers from **Burnaby North Secondary** traveled to Europe, with cultural learning opportunities in Czechia, Austria, Switzerland and Lichtenstein.

SPRINGTIME TRADITIONS AND CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS

Students at **Alpha Secondary** came together to celebrate **Nowruz** with support from staff on the **Settlement Workers in Schools** or **SWIS** team. They made traditional food for the **Persian New Year**. The SWIS-sponsored **Universal Friendship Club** for newcomer students at **Moscrop Secondary** held celebrations for **Easter** with games and treats. A Grade 3/4 class at **Buckingham Elementary** got creative with egg cartons and made adorable bunnies. Leadership students from **Burnaby North** organized an **Easter** egg hunt and made crafts with Kindergarteners at **Parkcrest Elementary**. **SWIS** staff led a joint gathering for **Eid al-Fitr** at **Edmonds Community School**. Three-hundred people gathered to mark the end of the Muslim holy month and celebrate **Nowruz**. Joyful dancing was part of the SWIS-led **Eid** and **Nowruz** event at **Byrne Creek Community School** with cultural activities and learning.

CONNECTING WITH INDIGENOUS STORIES THROUGH FILM AND ART

About 800 students from across the District attended special screenings of a documentary called **Saints and Warriors** that features a graduate from **Alpha Secondary**. The film follows alumnus **Desi Collinson** and his teammates as they prepare for the **All Native Basketball Tournament**. The documentary, which is streaming on Crave, celebrates the relationship between basketball and **Haida** resilience. Students had the chance to participate in a question-and-answer session after the film. It was moderated by Desi's former high school coach, **Wayne Best** who is now the **Safe Schools Specialist** at **Burnaby Central Secondary**. Over at **Inman Elementary** a Grade 1/2 French Immersion class created art inspired by **Métis** artist **Christi Belcourt**. The students presented it to visiting **Métis Dancers** as a gift for sharing culture with the school community. Inspired by Northwest Coast Indigenous art, Grade 2s and 3s at **Buckingham Elementary** depicted salmon.

DISTRICT EVENTS AND PARTNERSHIPS CONNECT COMMUNITY

Before Spring Break, the District hosted the annual **Diversity Dance** for secondary students from across Burnaby Schools. Youth gathered at **Byrne Creek Community School** for dancing and entertainment in an inclusive atmosphere. An information evening to support **youth with disabilities or diverse abilities** on their next steps after high school was held at **Burnaby Central**. Along with displays by organizations that offer support, graduates shared their personal journeys. This month, hundreds of parents registered to attend a District-led information evening called **Understanding AI in Education**. Presenters shared how the District is working to equip both educators and students with the skills to navigate AI's potential – all with an emphasis on responsible use, academic integrity, and student learning. Youth from **Burnaby Mountain Secondary** initiated a **Count Buddy Club** in partnership with the District's **SWIS** team. Initially designed to build connections and provide support for students from new immigrant families, this year the program expanded. The high school youth are working with ELL students at **Stoney Creek Community School** and **Cameron Elementary**, playing literacy games, making crafts, and building community. As part of the **Burnaby Healthier Community Partnership**, the District helped lead **Burnaby Walk and Roll Day**: an event to promote active travel, including to and from school. Held at **Edmonds Community School**, students and school staff will keep the momentum going with a four-week focus on **Walking Tuesdays**. **Gilmore Community School** was part of the **City of Burnaby**'s first **School Street** pop-up, which also promotes active travel. The street by **Gilmore** was temporarily closed to cars. During school drop off and pickup times, the road was transformed into a place of play and connection. The District was part of organizing the **AP Canada Forum**, which included the voices of Burnaby Schools students on the national stage. AP students from **Cariboo Hill Secondary** also presented to the audience from across Canada. They shared research they've done as part of a new **AP Seminar Course** called **The Afro-Canadian Diaspora**.

STUDENTS TRANSFORM LEARNING INTO AWARD-WINNING ACHIEVEMENTS

Burnaby Schools students earned 15 of the 23 wins at an event led by the District-administered **Provincial Outreach Program: Deaf and Hard of Hearing**. Three-hundred students from 17 school districts and four independent schools came together for one or both of **POPDHH**'s annual events, including **Friendship Day**. The theme was "not a disability, but a difference." Students from the **BC Provincial School for the Deaf**, **Burnaby Mountain Secondary** and **Stoney Creek Community School** were among the winners at the **DHHproud Showcase**, which had categories for **DHH Art**, **ASL Poetry**, and **Spotlight Presentations**. The **Robotics Team** from **Byrne Creek Community School** ranked in the top three from BC who competed at the **First Robotics Competition**. With teams from as far away as Vietnam, the **Byrne Creek** students finished 22nd out of 44 teams. Students in District-wide **Programs of Choice** earned gold, silver and bronze medals at the **Skills Canada British Columbia** event. After a six-hour competition, the podium was fully owned by youth in the **Cisco Networking Academy**, which is held at **Burnaby South Secondary**. A silver medal was captured by a student in the **Professional Cook** program, which is held at **Burnaby Central Secondary**. And a **Cariboo Hill Secondary** student in the **Auto Collision and Refinishing Technician** program took home the gold medal.