

SCHOOL TRUSTEES

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Good Evening and Welcome to Education in Burnaby on January 28, 2014

We begin by acknowledging and thanking the Coast Salish Nations of Musqueam, Tsleil-Waututh and Squamish on whose traditional territories we teach, learn, and live.

As a school district, we pride ourselves in celebrating diversity. And we celebrate diversity in our school district each and every day where more than 80 different languages are spoken in the homes of our students.

Diversity enriches our lives, bringing with it some wonderful educational opportunities; and a chance to learn together what makes our cultures similar and what makes them unique.

Today, we celebrate diversity of cultures by marking the Lunar New Year – the Year of the Horse that falls on January 31st. Legend has it that in ancient times, Buddha asked all the animals to meet him on Chinese New Year. Twelve came, and Buddha named a year after each one. He announced that the people born in each animal's year would have some of that animal's personality. Those born in horse years are cheerful, skillful with money, perceptive, witty, talented and good with their hands.

Throughout the district, the spirit of the “horse” is recognized in our strong work ethic and our unremitting efforts to improve. We encourage our staff and students to be energetic, warm-hearted, sharp and capable; and to be great communicators. The “horse” encourages us to be determined to achieve our goals, and to explore new opportunities for our students to succeed, as we provide them with the quality education that they deserve.

This is our commitment to our students, our families and the community this Lunar New Year – the Year of the Horse and beyond, because as a Board we remain dedicated to protecting quality public education in Burnaby Schools.

Hung Hey Fat Choi! Happy New Year!

Thank you for your interest in public education.

Baljinder Narang
Board Chair