

**Good Evening and Welcome to Education in Burnaby  
February 12, 2013**

**Hung hey fat choi – sun ni fy lok!  
Gong shi fah chi – shin nian quai luh!**

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

This 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.

For while there are many faces in Burnaby schools –  
We are truly one community here in Burnaby School District...

Today, we celebrate diversity of cultures by marking the Lunar New Year – the Year of the Snake. People who are born in this year are said to be intuitive, introspective, and refined. In the Chinese Zodiac, snakes are considered intriguing and capable of having a mesmerizing effect on others. People are encouraged to be social, renew old friendships, and make new connections.

They are also encouraged to keep an open mind in order to find happiness, prosperity, and success in the workplace. And they are known to prefer quality over quantity.

Here at Burnaby schools, the Year of the Snake encourages us to strengthen all that we do so well; and to explore new opportunities for our students to learn and succeed by providing them with the quality education that they deserve.

This is our commitment to our students, our families and the community this Lunar New Year – Year of the Snake and beyond, despite the fact that it continues to become increasingly more challenging to balance our budget as we face reductions in funding and increased costs.

As a Board we remain dedicated to protecting quality public education in our Burnaby schools.

**Hung Hey Fat Choi! Happy New Year!**  
Thank you -

Baljinder Narang  
Board Chair  
Burnaby Board of Education

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