

**Good Evening and Welcome to Education in Burnaby**

**Sept 10, 2013 – the first public Board Meeting of School Year 2013-2014**

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

On behalf of the Board of Education, I would like to welcome you back to another new school year that promises to be exciting and full of energy, fresh opportunities, and hope. This is also the time when we extend a special welcome to our newest and youngest of students – the new kindergarteners. For them, and for their families, a whole new world is opening up which is full of discovery and endless possibilities!

Many of you worked throughout the summer to ensure our Summer School and International Education programs were successful; others made sure our buildings and grounds were looked after well; and yet many others worked to maintain our school district operations while the rest of us were on holidays. Thank you for looking after the district's needs so well!

Like other school years, we have our fair share of challenges ahead of us, however today is about the hope and opportunity that defines us as a “great place to learn!” It is about teaching and learning; working and managing; music and sport; leadership and social responsibility; and about looking out for one another, for our schools, and for our communities.

**Thank you for your commitment to public education in Burnaby –**

**Hai Ch Ka**

**Baljinder Narang, Board Chair**