

September 11, 2017

On behalf of the Board, I am delighted to welcome our students, parents, teachers and staff back to school. It's an exciting time for public education – for teachers and learners alike - and this year promises to be another engaging and successful one.

We are pleased to welcome to our District almost 50 new full-time equivalent teachers. They include some former Burnaby schools students who are excited to return to our district in a new capacity in front of a classroom. Our new teachers bring with them fresh ideas to share, and in turn, they will benefit from the rich experience of our current teacher and administrative leaders.

This year marks the second year of the redesigned curriculum implementation for kindergarten to grade 9. It's also the second year for exploration of the redesigned curriculum for grades 10-12. The excitement is building and innovative activities continue to be developed, shared and embraced, with more than 180 teachers and administrators participating in the District's **Communicating Student Learning Initiative**. The redesigned curriculum includes meaningful hands on **Applied Design and Skills Technology** activities that encourage team building and critical thinking. To this end we welcome a new program consultant who will support schools to make these happen. Watch for more cardboard boats, coding robots and flying drones coming soon!

The **Facilities Team** had a busy and productive summer with a priority to prepare almost 50 new classrooms districtwide. Additional summer projects included moving portables, painting and cleaning schools, finishing playground installations, and other minor capital projects. Check out the newly installed outdoor classroom at Aubrey Elementary and a colourful student inspired West-coast mural at Windsor Elementary.

The **seismic capital projects** work at Alpha Secondary and Montecito Elementary was full speed ahead this summer and included the help of 10 district students who were hired by Unitech Construction. The frame of the new wing at Alpha is complete – and it remains on target for completion in the fall of 2018. And the addition of new classrooms and a new school library is complete at Monticito - and the library was open for business the first day back, thanks to the volunteer efforts of teachers and students who were unpacking boxes their last day of summer vacation.

Looking ahead to 2017-18, some completed technology projects will enhance the learning experience. Over 1,000 computers have been updated in elementary schools to keep kids connected. Additionally, the district has moved to an updated wireless network that will enable students to soon be able to **Bring Their Own Device**.

Launching this fall is a blended learning initiative for our adult students in the award winning **Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC)** program. It will include the addition of online learning to enhance and support class based instruction.

This report is a fraction of the extraordinary things taking place throughout our District that support the learning taking place in our school communities, yet they clearly reflect that it is a team effort to make it all happen.

Education is everyone's business, and I'd like to close by acknowledging the supportive relationships we have with our partner groups - parents, teachers, students, support staff and administrators – as well as our community partners. For it is through a collaborative effort with these partners that we achieve our mission, to prepare and support an inclusive, caring community of learners for the challenges of a changing tomorrow – **and inspire our students to succeed.**

Thank you for your support of public education in Burnaby Schools.

Baljinder Narang, Vice-Chair
Burnaby Board of Education