

STUDENT WINS ROYAL CANADIAN MINT DESIGN A COIN CONTEST / CENTRAL GRAD SPORT BC HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETE OF THE YEAR FINALIST / CONFEDERATION PARK & ARMSTRONG TOPS AT BC DESTINATION IMAGINATION CHALLENGE / NORTH'S DESTINATION IMAGINATION TEAM 1ST IN LOWER MAINLAND / MARLBOROUGH WINS WESTERN CANADA 60-MINUTE KIDS CLUB CHALLENGE / THREE BURNABY SCHOOLS STUDENT REPORTERS CHOSEN FOR CBC'S NEWS DAY / NORTH'S FILM & BROADCAST STUDENTS WIN SILVER IN STUDENT FILM FEST / BYRNE CREEK INDUSTRY CONNECT STUDENTS WIN BRONZE AT STUDENT FILM FEST / ALPHA STUDENT FOURTH AT NATIONAL DEBATE TOURNAMENT / ALPHA STUDENT WINS FIRST IN PROVINCIAL BILINGUAL DEBATE CHAMPIONSHIP / UNIVERSITY HIGHLANDS RECEIVES OUTSTANDING LEARNING IN DEPTH AWARD / CENTRAL STUDENT WINS NATIONAL FOREST WEEK POSTER CONTEST / CENTRAL STUDENT GETS TOP MARK FOR SIR ISSAC NEWTON PRIZE / SOUTH STUDENT WINS LONG JUMP GOLD AT BC HIGH SCHOOL TRACK MEET / CENTRAL STUDENT WINS 200M GOLD AT BC HIGHSCHOOL TRACK MEET / CENTRAL STUDENT WINS NATIONAL FOREST WEEK POSTER CONTEST / LAKEVIEW TEACHER WINS CANADIAN FAMILY GREAT TEACHER AWARD / MOSCROP GRAD WINS PRESTIGIOUS INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER AWARD / MOSCROP SENIOR BOYS WIN FOOTBALL PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS / SOUTH REIGNS AT TELUS BASKETBALL CLASSIC / STUDENT DRIVEN PHILIPPINE RELIEF FUND EXCEEDS \$4,000 GOAL / SOUTH STUDENTS GRNER FIRST PLACE AT ZOOMFEST FILM FESTIVAL / MOSCROP GRAD NAMED PROVINCE NEWSPAPER'S 2013 PLAYER OF THE YEAR / MOSCROP MATH TEAM TOPS IN BC AND 6TH IN CANADA FOR CANADIAN SENIOR MATH CONTEST / NORTH STUDENT WINS FIRST IN CANADIAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY CANADIAN OPEN MATH CHALLENGE / MOUNTAIN STUDENT WINS FIRST PLACE AT LOWER MAINLAND IMPROV GAMES / MOUNTAIN STUDENT SECOND AT LEGAL PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION / EIGHT DISTRICT FRENCH IMMERSION STUDENTS PLACE IN 2014 CONCOURS D'ART ORATOIRE / MULTIPLE AWARDS GARNERED BY DISTRICT STUDENTS AT WOODFINCE FAIR / CENTRAL STUDENT EARNIS TOP CANADIAN PHYSICS EXAM MARK AND COMPETES AT INTERNATIONAL PHYSICS OLYMPIAD / SOUTH'S SENIOR BAND WINS SILVER AT WHISTLER CANTANDO FESTIVAL / MOUNTAIN'S SENIOR JAZZ BAND RECEIVES GOLD AT NELSON CANTANDO FESTIVAL & KIWANIS MUSIC FESTIVAL / ALPHA SENIOR BAND AWARDED GOLD AT KIWANIS MUSIC FESTIVAL / SILVER LINING FOR ALPHA CONCERT AND CHAMBER CHOIR AT MUSIC FEST NATIONALS / CENTRAL MEN'S CHOIR AND CHAMBER A CHOIR WIN GOLD AT KIWANIS MUSIC FESTIVAL / CENTRAL CONCERT CHOIR AWARDED GOLD AT SEATTLE HERITAGE MUSIC FESTIVAL / MOSCROP INTERMEDIATE CONCERT BAND, JUNIOR JAZZ BAND & ORCHESTRA WIN GOLD AT SEATTLE HERITAGE MUSIC FESTIVAL / TEN SECONDARY STUDENTS SELECTED FOR NATIONAL SHAD SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAM / CONFEDERATION PARK RECEIVES EXEMPLARY SCHOOL DESIGNATION BY THE ARTS SCHOOLS NETWORK / SUNCREST TEACHER IS BC'S 2014 MUSIC EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR / SOUTH MATH TEACHER RECOGNIZED BY PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE / MOUNTAIN STUDENT HONOURED BY JOHN HOPKINS UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR TALENTED YOUTH / TWO DISTRICT STUDENTS CHOSEN FOR NATIONAL CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD NATIONAL TEAM / SOUTH STUDENT IS SUSTAINABILITY GURU ON TEDXKIDS TALK

# Inspiring Excellence

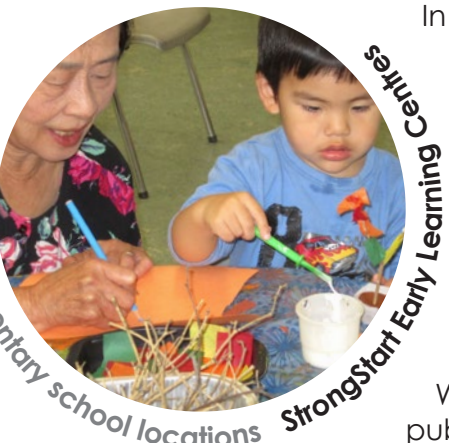
in Burnaby's Public Schools



Forest Grove Elementary  
Mandarin Language Arts



Confederation Park Elementary  
Education through the Arts



12 elementary school locations  
StrongStart Early Learning Centres

**P**ublic Education means that every child is given the opportunity to learn and to be inspired to reach their potential.

In Burnaby's public schools, we work together to provide engaging, inclusive and welcoming learning environments. We embrace the rich diversity found in our school communities, and we support the unique needs of each child.

We are making a difference. It is evident in the many local, provincial, national and international scholarships and awards won by our students, teachers and schools. Success is measured one student at a time, and our teachers and staff are dedicated to providing the support needed to inspire each child to succeed.

We invite you to learn more about Burnaby's exceptional public schools.

- Aboriginal Education | ACE-IT | AP Capstone Diploma Program
- AP Courses | Athletics | Burnaby Youth Sustainability Network | Childcare & Preschool Programs | Community Schools | Continuing Education | Cultural Transition Services | Customized Employment Program | Digital Citizenship Education Through the Arts | English Language Learning | Environmental Sustainability | French Immersion | Independent Directed Studies | Industry Training & Apprenticeship | Innovation Youth Lab | International Education | Learning Support Services
- Mandarin Language Arts | Mini School for High Ability Learners | Multi-Age Cluster Classes | Online Learning | Settlement Workers in Schools | Student Leadership Program | Specialty Sports Programs | Summit Business | Summit Engineering
- StrongStartBC Early Learning Centres | Take a Hike Program | Twice Exceptional Program | Visual & Performing Arts | Youth Support Services



Elisa Colasurdo  
Playing Carnegie Hall



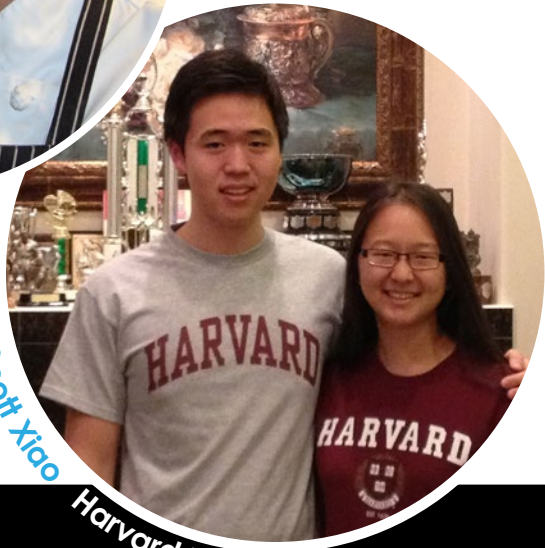
Solly & Lila Mohammed  
Public Education: The Right Choice



Nico Lopes  
An Academic Goal (ie)



Alexandra Houston  
Chef Set for World Travels



Scott Xiao  
Harvard Bound



Agnes Mei  
English Language Learner to Ivy League

For more information about Burnaby's public schools or if you'd like to share your personal story of success, call 604-296-6900 or email [communications@sd41.bc.ca](mailto:communications@sd41.bc.ca)

[burnabyschools.ca](http://burnabyschools.ca)





## Burnaby's Public Schools ~ The Right Choice



The Mohammed family is all about informed decisions, particularly when it comes to the education of their children. They are experienced veterans now, having gone from a public school to the independent system and back again – a choice they now know was the best one for their daughter Lila (grade 12) and son Solly (grade 8) who are both thriving at Burnaby Mountain Secondary.

Their decision to try independent schools seemed right for them at the time, the schools were faith-based and mirrored their value system. For their elementary aged son, it worked. But to their surprise, for their daughter who was in secondary school, the foundation for learning didn't meet their expectations. They recognize that foundations in certain subjects – especially in grades 11 and 12 – is imperative to the transition from secondary to post-secondary. The family also values the arts, and artistic opportunities were limited.

As their son finished elementary school, the Mohammed family reviewed their options. They decided that the best choice for their children was to return to a public school for both the artistic and academic opportunities it offered. Just four months in, they know it was the right choice.

For their children, the first day at their new high school was a big one. They immediately felt accepted and safe in a school that embraces its diversity, thus creating an inclusive atmosphere. Parents Emily and Reza were delighted to discover that the public school promoted excellent values and the social climate amongst peer groups was healthy.

Lila jumped right into theatre, thrilled that the production was *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Academically, her marks reflect the expertise of the teachers and administrative team – she's already on the Honour Roll, with Distinction. And as awkward as the transition to grade 8 can be, Solly is also thriving. Many classmates from his independent school are at Mountain, so he already had a friend base. He's particularly excited about the opportunity to expand his proficiency playing the trumpet under the instruction of the school's specialized musical directors. Next year he looks forward to auditioning for the jazz band.

*“Public schools have so much to offer – diversity, academic excellence, fine arts and a solid learning foundation. We believe in the public education system, and in everyone working together to make it stronger. Ultimately it benefits us all.”*

## From English Language Learner to Ivy League



Agnes Mei was a new immigrant to Canada when she started grade 10 at Burnaby South Secondary. Assessed as an ELL level one learner, she barely understood a word of English. She envied those students who were able to speak in front of the class, and vowed one day to be just like them.

Today, Agnes is a second year Business student at the University of Pennsylvania, on full scholarship. She credits the entire learning experience at Burnaby South for her success, particularly the teachers, administrators and staff who provided her with many opportunities and encouraged each student to maximize their potential. When she chose to take two additional AP courses on top of her regular course load, the teachers were 100% behind her, offering her any extra support she needed to succeed.

*“The learning environment was one where every curiosity was satisfied, so that every ambitious dream could come true.”*

Agnes acknowledges that her friends and classmates also played a key role and were her constant source of energy. When she founded the International Culture Club, they promoted, organized and planned events to ensure that it thrived. Their support made her even more determined to achieve her goal of encouraging interaction between students of all cultures.

In the summer prior to Grade 12, Agnes was accepted to Stanford University's summer quarter to study with its undergraduates and conduct an independent research project with a Stanford professor. This positive university experience confirmed that the learning skills she had acquired at Burnaby South were transferable and gave her the confidence to aim high in her academic pursuits.

Agnes was the school's 2012-13 Governor General Academic Medal recipient. She believes she's where she is today because of the people and the engaging learning environment at South. In turn, the school staff and her friends credit Agnes for enriching their lives with her positive attitude and determination.

## An Academic Goal (ie)



Nico Lopes is not your typical teenage boy – he's balancing school and hockey – the latter that has him poised to go places “in the net.” His hockey career began at age 3, playing minor hockey at Hollyburn. His educational journey began at age 5 at a French Immersion school in West Vancouver. It was grade 8 when the juggling act began. With hockey practices after school each day and “away games” on school nights, it was difficult to keep up with his studies.

It was important to Nico and his parents that he be successful in both school and hockey. When Burnaby Central Secondary partnered with the Burnaby Winter Club to offer a hockey academy, his family knew that this was an opportunity to make it happen. Nico entered the program in 2013.

*“The Hockey Program at Burnaby Central was a game changer for me. I can focus on school and hockey without the conflicts of challenging practice and game times.”*

Every other day at 7 am he's got dryland training, a credited course. He trains with his teammates, a Central teacher and a BWC coach. Then he's off to classes and on the ice at 2:15 pm. Nico gets home at a “normal” hour to relax a bit before studying. Hockey games are on the weekend only and there is a chance to build comradery as the team travels together.

Being in a semestered school offers more flexibility in Nico's schedule and allows him to accelerate his courses. This year he'll finish Pre-Calculus 11 and 12. He also appreciates the exceptionally supportive teachers, administrators and his coaches.

Nicos's future is mapped out – Junior A hockey, an NCAA scholarship and then a chance to play pro-hockey. He's on the “powerplay” to make it happen.

## Playing Carnegie Hall



Alpha Secondary grade 12 student, Elisa Colasurdo, will be representing her high school internationally – playing oboe and English horn at Carnegie Hall, as part of the 2015 High School Honors Orchestra Performance Series. She was selected for this prestigious opportunity from a submitted audition. As amazing an individual accomplishment as this is, Elisa's family is quick to credit the support, guidance and influence of many of the School District's finest music teachers who have played significant roles throughout her music career.

Elisa's musical career began at Confederation Park Elementary. It was there that she discovered the oboe. She became particularly inspired in grade 6 when the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra's (VSO) Connects Program visited the school.

Her secondary school music teachers were also enthused about supporting Elisa's talent and have also encouraged her to participate in auditions outside of school. She's a member of the Vancouver Youth Symphony Orchestra and has played with the BCMEA Honours Wind Ensemble for two seasons. Elisa started playing the English horn just three years ago, working with a private teacher.

Elisa is interested in a career in medicine or pharmacy, however, this opportunity to play at Carnegie Hall has opened her eyes to further musical pursuits. Whatever is in her future – it's a bright one.

*The District is proud of the specialized music teachers who set the stage for the District's award-winning choirs and bands, and for students to go on to pursue individual musical achievements.*

## Harvard Bound



Scott Xiao's family moved from North Vancouver to Burnaby so that Scott and his sister Grace\* could attend Burnaby North Secondary. They were particularly impressed by the school's extensive Advanced Placement Program. They also felt that the large student population would create an environment of varied talents and interests, and that this rich diversity would support success for their children today – and in their post-secondary careers.

*Scott makes a point of recognizing how encouraging his teachers are. He's a National AP Scholar, and has taken 13 AP courses. He's also participated in multiple competitions and Olympiad programs, and knows that the direct support from his teachers has buoyed his success.*

He represented Canada at the 2014 International Chemistry Olympiad held in Hanoi Vietnam where his team claimed a bronze medal – and won the Canadian Chemistry Contest. Nationally his school team came first in the 2013 Waterloo Cayley Mathematics Contest, and as an individual he came fifth in the University of Toronto's 2014 National Biology Competition.

A full page summary of Scott's impressive academic, leadership, music and athletic accomplishments conveys how genuine and well-rounded he is. The founder of We Youth Help – a volunteer organization that performs at seniors homes and hospitals, he is also a member of the Vancouver Youth Symphony Orchestra. He was recently featured on CBC for his creation of a Mendelssohn video where he simultaneously plays the violin, piano and cello! In his spare time he is a ski instructor, a lifeguard and is a two-time water polo provincial champion.

As a result of the opportunities that Burnaby North has provided for their children, the Xiao's are staunch supporters of the public education system and applaud its merits. The many accomplishments of Scott and Grace are proof that Burnaby's public schools support and inspire excellence in learning.

\*Grace Xiao graduated in 2013 and was the Governor General Academic medal recipient. She's now a sophomore at Harvard, and looks forward to her younger brother Scott joining her at the ivy league university this coming fall.

## Chef Set for World Travels



Alexandra Hourston is a proud member of the Ojibwa and Cree Nations. She received her Dogwood in June of 2014, and graduated from the ACE-IT Professional Cooks Training Program. She's now completing her apprenticeship at the award-winning Loden Boutique Hotel in downtown Vancouver. She's also eligible for the Secondary School Apprenticeship Scholarship.

Always a self-confessed picky eater, Alexandra explains that it wasn't until she attended a few traditional family gatherings that her idea of food changed. In fact, she was so inspired, that in the summer of grade 10 she took a First Nations cuisine course at VCC. It was taught by native chef Andrew George and his encouragement greatly influenced her decision for the future.

*The Professional Cooks Training Program put Alexandra a step ahead in achieving her career goals.*

Her decision to enter this program was also influenced by the fact that she wanted to travel and see the world. She wisely concluded that cooking is a universal skill, and a trade that would always be in demand in any country of the world. With a background in cooking, she would have the freedom to travel.

One of the highlights of the ACE-IT Professional Cooks Training Program is when its students fly to Maui for a two-week work experience at the Fairmont Kea-Lani. It was certainly a great beginning to Alexandra's world travels. Armed with a little French, Italian and Japanese, she'll soon be taking her skills on the road. Alexandra plans to further explore her own culture through food and to then share her culture with the world through the culinary arts and the universal language of food.