

INSIDE BURNABY SCHOOLS



January 22, 2019

SPRING BREAK IN JAPAN FOR BURNABY SOUTH'S AP CAPSTONE STUDENTS

Burnaby South's Grade 11 AP Capstone students will be travelling to Japan this spring. They received a 10-thousand-dollar "Student Exchange and Mobility Award," which is given annually by the Ministry of Education. Students are using it to travel to Tokyo and present their Capstone research projects to their counterparts in the "Super Science Program" at Tokyo Gakugei (gah-koo-gay) University International Secondary School.

The ten-day trip is a chance to further strengthen an existing educational and cultural relationship between the two schools. For a number of years, students and staff from the Tokyo high school have visited Burnaby South. We also want to note that this was made possible by teacher Andrea Burbidge (bur-bidge), who applied for the award for her AP Capstone students.

ALPHA INDIGENOUS STUDENTS APPLY THEIR OWN IDEAS TO A GIANT STORY BOARD

Indigenous students at Alpha Secondary are creating a piece of art to greet all who come to their newly rebuilt school. Students are carving a Story Board under the guidance of a Squamish elder, whose nation generously donated a 400-year-old cedar log for the project. It weighed roughly two thousand pounds and had to be transported by crane. Students planned what they would put on the Story Board carefully. Each animal and symbol was chosen for its meaning, including representation for wisdom, leadership, teacher, friendship, and the joining of cultures. The finished Story Board will be displayed at the front entrance as a symbol to everyone that Alpha stands for inclusivity, acknowledges the Coast Salish land on which it stands, and welcomes all who come to the school.

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BASKETBALL SEASON BEGINS

Basketball season is here at both elementary and secondary schools. This is but one great example of our many partnerships with parents and families. At the elementary level, volunteer drivers are critical to getting the students to games; and often, family members help coach. At the secondary level, our schools have a reputation for having some of the most skilled athletes in the province. None of this could happen without the dedication and support of our teachers, coaches, and families – all of whom give their time outside of school hours to foster the well-being and growth of our young athletes.

NEW PLAYGROUND FOR SUNCREST ELEMENTARY

Students, families, staff, trustees, and special guests gathered last week for the official opening of a brand new playground at Suncrest Elementary. This valuable addition to the school is the result of a provincial grant, as well as contributions from the Suncrest community, and support from the District.

We all know how important play is in the lives of children. While they're enjoying themselves and getting exercise, they're also developing social and problem-solving skills. Our students will make great use of the playground, and so will the community outside of school hours. As such, this shiny new playground not only enriches the lives of the students at Suncrest, it supports the building of a strong community.