

INSIDE BURNABY SCHOOLS



March 12, 2019

PINK SHIRT DAY – AN AWARENESS DAY FOR ANTI-BULLYING AND KINDNESS

Our students led by example on Pink Shirt Day in a variety of ways and in many places throughout Burnaby. After warming up at our Board Meeting last month, students from Stoney Creek Community School, Lyndhurst and Cameron Elementary Schools brought happiness to mall-goers with a flash mob dance at Lougheed Mall, which was broadcast on Global TV News at 6. Across town, Grades 6 and 7 Leadership students from seven of our elementary schools spread kindness at Metropolis at Metrotown with handwritten notes and small gifts for shoppers. The students also created a magnificent rainbow display made up of colourful poster board messages. It was enjoyed by hundreds of onlookers and shared widely on social media.

There were also many activities going on within our schools. We value kindness every day of the year in Burnaby Schools, and appreciate the opportunity to spark additional conversation about caring behaviour on Pink Shirt Day.

IT'S A PATTERN: MOSCROP MAKING ITS MARK IN MATH

After four of six separate contests, Moscrop Secondary's Math Team is currently in second place in all of Canada in the National Mathematics League. They are just one point behind first place. Moscrop teams also came first in BC in both the Intermediate and Senior Competitions. And wrapping up the month of February, the Grades 8, 9, and 10 teams all came in first place at the Lower Mainland Math Challengers Competitions. What's their secret? Principal Paul Fester attributes their success to a school culture where math is "cool" and younger students are mentored by older ones.

Hundreds of Burnaby Schools elementary and secondary students enter math contests throughout the school year. In addition to the experience, the results of math contests can be helpful when applying to post-secondary as a way to exhibit numeracy skills and preparedness for the next level of education beyond high school.

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SHARING THEIR VOICES: INDIGENOUS STUDENTS CREATE HIP HOP SONG AT SCHOOL

A group of Indigenous students from throughout the District came together at Burnaby North Secondary for a period of five days. Working with Indigenous role models, the students enjoyed career exploration through exposure to song writing and music production. They wrote and recorded an original song that shared their collective voice in a powerful and creative way. At the end of the week, the recording was played for family, friends, and educators in a celebration of the students' achievement. The experience was arranged by Mary Hotomanie, a District Indigenous Enhancement Teacher. She noted that this is one of the many ways the District's Indigenous Education Department works to create a connection with the education system – in a way that has meaning for Indigenous students and supports pride in the sharing of culture.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT THE POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS OF CANNABIS

With the legalization of cannabis, the District's Safe and Caring Schools Team arranged for student access to a Government of Canada interactive installation. It allowed students to learn about the potential side effects of cannabis use with hands-on activities, such as virtual reality. Through it, students had the chance to see how cannabis affects their cognitive ability. They could see the difference it made to their coordination, memory, and attention. The "360° brain" allowed youth to explore how cannabis impacts each area of this vital organ, as well as the potential long-term effects on a developing brain. The installation, called "Pursue Your Passion," came to five of our high schools from January to early March. It also offered a chance to try other safe options, such as music creation, as a healthy alternative to give the body a natural high.

HOW SHARING CULTURE IS CONNECTING ADULT ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

When you're learning a language it can sometimes be hard to connect. Recognizing that culture is something that can be experienced and shared, regardless of one's stage of language proficiency – the Edmonds Community School LINC Program recently hosted a cultural event for its English language learners. Put on in partnership with the African Descent Society – the event included drumming, dancing, a fashion show, and a presentation about black history in the Lower Mainland. "LINC" or "Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada" provides free English classes for adult immigrants and refugees. The program is federally-funded and run by the District. The classes incorporate English language learning with topics such as housing, banking, Canada's political system, laws, and culture.