

**March 12, 2019**

Good evening and welcome to our final Board Meeting before Spring Break. While many people take vacations then, our schools remain the heart of the community.

Several of our childcare providers operate full-day programs over the break to help support parents who are still at work. Additionally, our community partnerships generate more opportunities for students while school is out. For example, Edmonds Community School is partnering with SFU for a four-day camp during which students will explore everything from science experiments and drama to crafts, games, and sports. And for the third year in a row, we are able to offer a free spring break camp for at-risk youth called “Mind Over Metal.” This is done in partnership with BCIT and the Canadian Welding Association Foundation.

And let’s not forget about all of the field experiences over Spring Break. Many of our students travel to enhance their learning experience – such as Burnaby Mountain Secondary students, who are going to Spain for their AP art history to supplement their learning of art, architecture, and culture; or École Alpha Secondary and Cariboo Hill Secondary music students, who will be going to Austria to visit Mozart’s birthplace, and attend several classical music concerts – all while exploring the concept that individual and collective expression are rooted in history, culture and community. I want to highlight one more from Alpha: a group of students will be in Iceland examining the environmental impacts of climate change.

At the Burnaby School District we recognize the need to empower students and families with opportunities, even when school is out of session.

Finally, no matter how you will be spending your time, on behalf of the Board, I want to wish everyone a wonderful Spring Break.

**Gary Wong, Chair**  
**Burnaby Board of Education**