

# INSIDE BURNABY SCHOOLS



November 26, 2019

## **New Accessible Playgrounds for Burnaby Schools**

An outdoor celebration was held for the opening of three new playgrounds for Burnaby Schools. The Minister of Education, trustees, staff, students, and special guests gathered at **Second Street**'s brand new playground to officially open it, as well as those at **Maywood** and **Sperling**. They were funded with three provincial government grants. By covering the costs of installation, the District also enabled the full amounts to be used solely on equipment so all three playgrounds could be accessible.

## **Student Leaders Engage with the District's New Strategic Plan**

At its recent annual retreat, members of the **District Student Advisory Council** dove into the new strategic plan for Burnaby Schools. Increasing opportunities for student voice and engagement is a goal within the plan. Students began the process of generating ideas for how they would like to see the goal achieved.

## **Abundance of Awards**

Excellence is a district-wide value in the strategic plan. Several staff and departments have won awards for their exemplary work.

Burnaby South and Moscrop Secondary Schools were recognized nationally for their **quality daily physical education programs**. Of the BC winners, they won the highest scores in the province for the 2018-19 school year, with South in first and Moscrop in second place. South's Department Head, **Josh Ogilvie**, was featured by Physical and Health Education Canada for his department's success.

The British Columbia Teacher-Librarians' Association gave this year's **Lifetime Achievement Award** to **Patricia Finlay**. The award recognizes Teacher-Librarians who have made outstanding contributions to teacher-librarianship, school libraries, and the organization.

The Burnaby School District has been recognized for its **SOGI Awareness Campaign** with an award of distinction from the Canadian Association of Communicators in Education. The campaign was designed to support and build awareness of the deliberate work the District is doing to make students of all sexual orientations and gender identities feel welcome at school, as well as to provide clarity around SOGI in Burnaby Schools. Communications Manager **Dana Bales** and Communications Specialist **Carrie Sera** received the award at a ceremony held at the Canadian Human Rights Museum.

The District is also being honoured for **its leadership and innovation in reducing greenhouse gas emissions**. We received one of only eight awards in the province from Fortis BC and were recognized for our energy saving efforts in helping BC to meet its climate action goals. Manager **Matt Foley**, and District Energy Specialists **Alexis Takahashi** and **Josh Munro** accepted the award on stage at a special event. Increasing District awareness of climate change and decreasing our environmental impact is a goal in the strategic plan.

### **Moscrop's "Bike to Work" Staff Team Rules**

**Moscrop staff** logged the most kilometres of any Metro Vancouver school team during "Bike to Work Week." The 804 kilometres they cycled instead of driving prevented an estimated 174 kilograms of greenhouse gasses from entering the atmosphere.

### **Burnaby North Wins BCIT Competition**

**Burnaby North business students** earned both first and second place at the "Triple Bottom Line High Schools Business Case Competition" at BCIT. Put on annually in collaboration with the District, it's designed to enable students to hone their business and sustainability leadership skills. This year five high schools participated – North, South, Central, Mountain, and Moscrop – each with two teams. Students are mentored by BCIT Business students, and then apply their skills and knowledge to prepare for the final case championship.

### **Kindness in Burnaby Schools**

Many of our schools do activities and projects that focus on kindness. A group of **Seaforth students** surprised shoppers at Lougheed Mall with flowers and handwritten notes on World Kindness Day. **Marlborough students** and their teachers created a video. Let's watch... (video)

### **Blessing Ceremony at Alpha**

**Alpha Secondary** held a Blessing Ceremony for its newly completed Coast Salish Storyboard, which was carved under the guidance of Squamish elder and artist **Latash Nahanee**. He and the school's students and staff spent many months creating the project. Each symbol carved into the 400-year-old cedar log was chosen for its meaning to the school community. The blessing and ceremony acknowledges the work of all and is a traditional way for the artist to pass responsibility for the storyboard to the community who is receiving it. Grade 9 student **Ben Hourie** spent dozens of hours on the project and was also honoured by being blanketed. Protocol was led by members of the Squamish Nation, including **Chief Ian Campbell** who MC'd the ceremony. The Board Chair, Vice-Chair and Superintendent were among the official witnesses at the ceremony. The finished storyboard is 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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