

# INSIDE BURNABY SCHOOLS



December 10, 2019

## **Celebrating the Magic of the Season**

The holidays are a chance for students of all ages to showcase their talents to family, friends and the community. The **Burnaby North Marching Band** is an annual delight in Vancouver's Santa Claus Parade. Children from **Sperling Elementary** and other schools entertain at local malls. Our students also perform in theatres, gymnasiums, and sometimes on TV – such as **South Slope Elementary's** choir, who were on Global TV after being part of the CKNW Orphan's Fund pledge day. Grade 1 and 2 students at **Stoney Creek Community School** will be featured next week on television during CTV's morning show. Others, including **Sound Wave Handbell Choir** have entertained residents at homes for Burnaby's seniors. There are also many outstanding drama productions, such as **Byrne Creek's** "John Lennon and Me" and **Burnaby Mountain's** "Little Women."

## **The Gift of Giving**

Our schools also embrace the season of sharing. Many do drives for the community. **Lakeview Elementary** held their annual Jingle Bell Walk, collecting a record amount of food and clothing. Busy student elves, such as those at **Inman Elementary**, the **BC School for the Deaf**, and **South Slope Elementary** collected dozens of boxes of dry goods. They transport them to the food bank – often with the help of parent volunteers.

The District's **Safe and Caring Schools Team** initiated an **Empty Holiday Tree Campaign**. Each ornament was hung with a tag indicating a gift wish from a student who is also a youth in care. The students created the ornaments by hand. Employees in the District's Administration Office were then invited to make one of the student's gift wishes come true. In exchange, staff got to keep the beautiful ornament. The tree emptied quickly. Gifts were shared at the first annual **Youth in Care Holiday Party**.

## **Official Re-opening of Maples**

Maples is one of the Provincial Resource Programs hosted by the Burnaby School District. It's a mental health residential program for students in need of wrap-around support. After moving spaces, an official re-opening was held last month with special guests. The new space includes the addition of a Healing Spirit House. It incorporates a strong Indigenous feel through art to honour the lands. It also serves as a reminder of the healing nature that a connection to cultural heritage and practices can bring.

## **Burnaby Schools Students Represent Canada at the International Science Fair**

Burnaby North Secondary Grade 11 students and twin sisters [Vanessa](#) and [Claire Scrimini](#) will be on their way to Taiwan in February. As BC's only two representatives, they will join 290 students from 20 countries at the International Science Fair for seven days. They are competing with their project "Algae Meets Fungi," which also took Gold at the National Science Fair last May.

## **Learning on Marsville**

Our new strategic plan includes an objective to provide all students with an opportunity to engage in an Applied Design, Skills and Technologies experience. Grade 6 and 7 students at [Parkcrest Elementary](#) had an ADST experience that surfaced through a thematic unit spanning three months involving Mars. They created robotic "Mars rovers." They explored the theme in French, science, art, math and language arts. Finally they put on their space suits with paper mâché helmets that they created, punched their tickets to Mars, and set up their habitats. The unit culminated in a final day where students shared their learnings and creations with families and special guests.

## **Students Consider the Consequences of Vaping**

Several high schools including [Cariboo Hill](#) and [Burnaby Central](#) learned the facts about vaping with Health Canada's "[Consider the Consequences](#)" tour. It took over their school gyms with interactive displays featuring hands-on activities, touch screens, puzzles and more aimed at getting students to think about the consequences of vaping.

## **Student Art at City Hall**

A beautiful student-made "[Community Canvas](#)" is on display at City Hall. Five-Hundred elementary students created it during [Indigenous Learning Week](#), which was put on in partnership with the District and the Burnaby Village Museum. In addition to creating the canvas, during the week Grade 4 and 5 students had the chance to learn directly from Coast Salish elders and knowledge-keepers, who guided students in gaining a deeper appreciation and understanding of local First Nations history.

## **Schools Compete for CBC Music Honour**

Each year, CBC Music hosts the Canadian Music Class Challenge to engage students with our nation's music. Burnaby Schools are heating up the competition with two schools in the top 10s. Even before the school's status as a finalist for two songs was announced today, Grade 6 and 7 students at [Second Street Community School](#) were getting lots of buzz for their rendition of "Camilo." Their version caught the attention of original artists *Said the Whale*, who gave their enthusiastic approval on Twitter. And the District's [Sound Wave Handbell Choir](#) – made up of Grade 7 to 12 students – is a finalist for "Human," which is by Indigenous recording artists from Ottawa. We're also proud of Grade 4 and 5 music students at [Stride Avenue Community School](#) who also entered. CBC will announce winners on December 17, but we think they're all amazing. See for yourself in this video compilation of their submissions. [\[video plays\]](#)