

# INSIDE BURNABY SCHOOLS



January 28, 2020

## **Burnaby Schools Mark Lunar New Year**

Events to celebrate the “Year of the Rat” have been happening in schools in the days leading up to Lunar New Year and will continue into February. The [Burnaby North Secondary Access Program](#) made their own dragon for their traditional dance celebration. And a group of parents at the school treated staff to a special Chinese lunch. Meanwhile, Elementary students at [Kitchener](#) made home-made “long-life noodles,” and crafted their own dragons for the celebratory dance through the school.

## **Enhancing Student Learning With What Nature Gives Us**

Students throughout the District were delighted with the chance to learn in the snow. Classes used the opportunity to engage in an Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies experience, with many doing snowman building competitions. Others at [École Marlborough Elementary](#) experimented with freezing bubbles. Later they watched the reaction when a substance went quickly from hot to cold – learning while making tasty French treats in the snow called “**la tûre d’érable**,” which is also known as maple taffy.

## **February is Registration Month**

Students and families are planning for the next school year. Rooms have been packed at the evening events held at elementary and secondary schools. They’re a chance to find out more about learning options in [Burnaby Schools](#).

## **Indigenous Carving Project Strengthens Community and Learning at Moscrop**

The entire school community at [Moscrop](#) has been carving a Spindle Whorl under the guidance of renowned Indigenous artist and **Squamish Nation Elder Xwalacktun (pronounced: Wuh-LACK-tun)**. The process began with a “visioning evening” where staff, students, parents, and the artist discussed the ideals that best represent Moscrop. The artist took those themes and created the design. Examples include a Coast Salish canoe with a Moscrop black panther showing the journey the school is on together. Another is a tree with roots symbolizing that we are all the same people with the same grass roots. Throughout the process, the artist has shared stories and Indigenous learnings with students as they’ve helped to carve it. Following a traditional blessing ceremony next month, the Spindle Whorl will be displayed for all to see as they enter the school. It will be placed in a special setting painted by student artists.

### **Secondary and Elementary Students Collaborate To the Benefit of Both**

Secondary students often spend time with little buddies usually from the catchment schools nearby. It gives elementary students an opportunity to visit their future high school, form friendships, and learn from older students. Their high school counterparts also benefit by acting as leaders and role models. There are approximately 100 students from **Cariboo Hill** providing mentorship. The Secondary students do everything from planning and developing after school programs and community work to playing and learning together with children from **Armstrong** and **Second Street**. The result is a strengthened and caring community. Elsewhere, Secondary students and their Kindergarten buddies collaborated on a monster art project in their 3D Studio Art class at **Byrne Creek**. Original art by the younger students acted as a blueprint for the older ones who turned the images into 3D objects using materials such as wire, glue, and textiles. The Kindergarten students from **Stride** were proud to see their adorably scary designs realized.

### **Home Economic Students Help Animals in Australia Impacted by Fires**

Students at **Burnaby Mountain** are helping animals that have been injured or displaced by the devastating bushfires in Australia. Working in their Textiles Class with help from students representing all grade levels in the high school, they've created dozens of pouches and liners for small roos, wallabies and possums. They also crocheted a handful of nests for birds and rodents. Their work was sent to Australia on a cargo flight yesterday, along with contributions from other crafters in the Vancouver area.

### **Star Athlete Balances Her Dreams and Education with Support from Burnaby Schools**

**Burnaby Central** student Emily Bausback became Canada's senior women's figure skating champion earlier this month. The Grade 12 student is enrolled in the Athletics & Visual & Performing Arts Program. It enables athletes and artistic performers to balance their practice and performance schedules with academics. The Program of Choice – along with Burnaby Online courses – supports Emily as she competes for Canada internationally.

### **Literacy Week in Burnaby Schools**

Family Literacy Week is celebrated around the District in various ways to highlight the benefits of reading and writing skills for all family members. Many schools invite guest readers such as the Superintendent, district staff, and School Liaison Officers, who share their favourite books with students. Readers include other community partners, such as those seen here: local firefighters and the Mayor of Burnaby.

### **Doors Become Canvases for Positive Messages**

Students at **Burnaby Mountain** used bathroom doors as the backdrop for positive quotes chosen by students. The art is part of the school's mental health strategy, as students support each other with positivity both in their own lives and at school. **Byrne Creek** artists focussed on the classroom, painting this door with a meaningful message from Margaret Mead.