

INSIDE BURNABY SCHOOLS



March 10, 2020

Supporting Families with a 60% Increase in Childcare Spaces

A major childcare announcement was made at [Westridge Elementary](#) yesterday. The District is partnering with the Province and the City of Burnaby to create 601 new spaces at eight different locations on school district property. The vision for these spaces was set out in the childcare plan for the District that was released last September after extensive consultation. The spaces also marked a milestone in the number of new spots created by the province. The District has been a leader for more than 35 years in enabling space in our schools and on our properties for service providers to offer high quality childcare.

Burnaby Schools Get Pink

Our schools participate in Pink Shirt Day activities each year at the end of February. The day was created more than a decade ago as an awareness campaign around bullying. It's also another opportunity to talk to students about caring behaviour and the culture we work to create every day in our schools. Our new strategic plan affirms our dedication to inclusive environments. When students feel welcome, supported, respected and safe, they are more engaged in learning. Students, staff and special guests also went into the community to spread themes connected to kindness, inclusion, and being who you are. Elementary Leadership students from [Edmonds](#), [Gilmore](#), [Lochdale](#), [Maywood](#), [Montecito](#), and [Windsor](#) engaged in random acts of kindness and sang at Metrotown mall. A photo wall at [Buckingham Elementary](#) was a way for students, staff, and parents to show kindness in their community and "Be the 'I' in KIND." Many schools held assemblies, including this one at [Stoney Creek Community School](#). Students at [Burnaby South Secondary](#) crafted expressions of kindness and inclusivity. And a flash mob at [Burnaby North Secondary](#) was a visual way for the students to celebrate kindness.

Celebrating Cultural Diversity and Inclusivity

One of the core values in our strategic plan honours the "power of diversity," which is part of the fabric of daily life in our schools. Students and staff have many ways in which they embrace those values. [Burnaby Secondary Students](#) attended the 5th Annual Metro Vancouver Anti-Racism Youth Symposium last week. A powerful panel of speakers advocated for youth to be strong and courageous as allies in the pursuit of equity for all. [Second Street Community School](#) held a Celebration of Cultures dinner with the community. [\[Cont...\]](#)

Maywood Community School undertook a school-wide project to explore how family, history, and culture impacts our sense of self. A Chemistry teacher at **Alpha** is incorporating Thai, Vietnamese, and Japanese to help English Language Learners with content knowledge and important terminology. **Burnaby North** students are teaching others how to say “I love you” and “we are friends” in multiple languages. **Moscrop Secondary** held a Multicultural Week with displays put together by students and staff. And the fourth annual Diversity Dance took place last week. Students from all eight high schools, as well as those from neighbouring New Westminster hit the dance floor.

Public Speaking Opportunities Support Confidence and Skills

Ali Mohammad from **Stride Avenue Community School** is the winner of this year's Red Carpet Poetry Slam. Ali impressed the judges with his original poem and will be representing Canada SCORES Vancouver at the next level of competition. Canada SCORES Vancouver is a District community partner that runs a not-for-profit after-school program at the school.

The District's Grade 7 Public Speaking Challenge is another opportunity for students to show their skills. It's been around since the 80s. Since that time, every Grade 7 student at all 41 of our elementary schools has taken part. After presenting in the classroom, selected students next compete at the school level, such as those seen here at **Parkcrest**. Students then move on to the District Final, which is tomorrow night. Eight finalists will deliver their speeches at the Byrne Creek Centre for Dialogue.

Planning the Future of Sustainability in Burnaby Schools

The first Sustainability Visioning & Expo brought together more than 100 **Secondary students, staff**, and **special guests**. Additionally, multiple **community partners** shared ideas at Burnaby Central. The “**We Mean GREEN**” event was also a fun way to exchange thoughts. Voices gathered there will help inform the Board's first Sustainability Strategic Plan, which will serve as a multi-year road map. It is critical that our strategy for taking action reflect the entire Burnaby Schools community. Thus, we're inviting others to take part in an online conversation in the coming weeks about how we can better support our planet and reduce our environmental footprint. This is a key goal in our Strategic Plan.

Burnaby South Rebels are Provincial Champions

For the second time in three years, the Senior Boys Basketball Team from **Burnaby South** took the championship banner. The Rebels played their final game of the tournament this past weekend against the Kelowna Owls to enthusiastic fans at the Langley Events Centre. The team has received wide-spread media attention. They sent their love on Twitter to a large group of folks seen in this photo – parents, families, friends, and the community – thanking them for their support.
