



March 12, 2021

Dear Families and Colleagues,

We are reaching out to thank you for everything you are doing to support our joint efforts, and to ask you to remain vigilant, as we head into Spring Break and continue to navigate the impact of COVID-19.

While many of us have fond memories of getting together with family and friends or travelling for vacations during previous Spring Breaks, COVID-19 has changed that and so much more. It has brought worry, disappointment, frustration and sorrow for so many. It has also brought fatigue at a time when we must not let health and wellness slide. As we approach Spring Break, BC is easing some restrictions on connecting outdoors but not on indoor gatherings. Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry has urged everyone to adhere to public health orders, as cases of COVID-19 continue to grow in BC, including variant exposures. There is no doubt that the decisions we make during Spring Break will impact our schools and wider community. Since the beginning of the pandemic, health officials have emphasized that our personal choices affect not just our own health, but that of others in the community. We sincerely appreciate anything you can continue to do to support the public health orders.

As partner groups – the Burnaby Teachers’ Association, CUPE Local 379, the Burnaby Principals’ and Vice-Principals’ Association, the District Parent Advisory Council and the Burnaby School District – we remain in this together. Throughout COVID-19 we have navigated this pandemic through collaboration. We meet weekly as part of the Pandemic Response Committee to collaborate, monitor and respond to emerging events with a thoughtful and coordinated approach.

We want to acknowledge and thank principals, vice-principals, teachers, support staff, all school and district staff, students and families: you have all had a critical role as we care for and protect each other. Safety protocols work not just because of how they are implemented, but because of the people who follow them. We’re grateful to everyone in our school communities – whether in-person or online – for working together to support our collective safety and well-being. We know that, working in partnership, we can continue this together.

We wish you and your loved ones a restful and enjoyable Spring Break and, above all, please take care of yourselves and each other.

Sincerely,

[Handwritten signatures of Daniel Tétrault, Paul Simpson, David Greve, Laura Ward, Gina Niccoli-Moen, and Jen Mezei]

Daniel Tétrault President Burnaby Teachers’ Association	Paul Simpson President CUPE Local 379	David Greve President Burnaby Principals’ & Vice-Principals’ Association	Laura Ward Chair District Parent Advisory Council	Gina Niccoli-Moen Superintendent Burnaby Schools	Jen Mezei Chair Burnaby Board of Education
--	--	--	---	---	--