

INSIDE BURNABY SCHOOLS



June 23, 2020

Expansion of In-Class Learning

June 1st marked the expansion of in-class learning throughout BC. Our schools welcomed students who chose to return with warm greetings and safety protocols in place. School staff also received kind wishes from families, such as these at [University Highlands](#) and [Taylor Park](#) elementary schools. The [Highlands](#) community also returned to a freshly painted rainbow walkway – the first at a Burnaby elementary school. Meanwhile students at [Sperling](#) used the first day back to market their class business venture. The Grade 6 and 7s decided to work with the times and make a business out of sewing, marketing, and selling cloth masks to the school community. They learned many new skills and raised \$500 for charity.

Celebrating Creativity and Supporting Community

Throughout the pandemic, teachers and schools have also found creative ways to maintain year-end traditions – such as class photos. These, at [Inman](#) and [Lochdale](#) were done with Bitmoji and another from [Brentwood Park](#) was done with a drone. School communities have also continued to inspire students with unique assignments. At [Alpha](#), Grade 9 and 10 Visual Art students created maps of their lives during the pandemic: a graphic reminder of some of their generation's experiences. A remote-learning "Passion Project" at [Brentwood Park](#) led to ten-year-old **Kiana Sosa** publishing her own book, which is now available on Amazon. Students continue to demonstrate supportive leadership. **Juhi** and **Red** at [Byrne Creek](#) handmade more than 100 individualized cards for seniors at two local care homes. And **Haley**, at [Burnaby North](#) painted 100 rocks for the courtyard at two seniors' homes to put a smile on people's faces. A student and teacher from the [Burnaby Youth Hub](#) were part of a national speaker series – hosted by Outward Bound Canada, which is a partner with the District's Learning Pathways programs. **Clifton Huxtable** and his student **Izzy** shared multiple learnings, with Izzy highlighting what has supported her ability to weather living through a pandemic. Meanwhile, the **Youth COVID-19 Team** – a group of 19 students from multiple high schools – have been collaborating and supporting their peers, including putting out a statement on the Black Lives Matter movement. They are also working with a wider coalition of organizations as part of Burnaby's coronavirus response. Several students and schools have supported the community through efforts with food. A 16-year-old student at [Alpha](#) led a "Feed the Frontline" project. **Joon Choi** spearheaded the delivery of thousands of dollars' worth of food to healthcare workers at Burnaby General Hospital. Let's watch her video. **[pause while video plays]** Meanwhile, at [Confederation Park](#), the school community has raised almost \$1500 and counting for the Greater Vancouver Foodbank, and organized a food drive. At [Forest Grove](#), the school garden was harvested to help nine families.

Student Honoured for Act of Bravery

It was a hero's welcome for **Marlborough** student **Josh Johnson** at a special celebration in the presence of his family, firefighters, community members and dignitaries. The Burnaby Fire Department presented the eleven-year-old with an award for bravery for his part in rescuing his grandmother from their burning home in 2018. He also received a guaranteed spot in the Youth Fire Academy when he reaches Grade 11, should he choose it.

Transitions for Students

Elementary communities are marking their **Grade 7 students'** final year at the school with leaving ceremonies. Schools and parent volunteers have been creative with ways to mark the occasion – such as with small in-person gatherings with physical distancing, virtual events, and parades.

This is a particularly exciting time for students, families, school staff and all of us, as we celebrate graduation. **A virtual ceremony** with speeches, musical presentations, grad videos and more is taking place tonight for the entire **Class of 2020**. Students picked up their caps with tassels and gowns in anticipation. In addition to unique elements from each school in tonight's celebrations, every school is also doing something additional and special. Examples include the graduating class coming in small groups in spaced out increments to allow for physical distancing, as well as the chance to cross the stage and also to take photos in full grad regalia. While it's different than previous years, people are coming together to make it memorable. Several graduates and valedictorians have also been featured in the media. This week, the Burnaby Now will showcase all of the District's **valedictorians**.

As our graduates look toward the fall, many are celebrating significant scholarship wins. Almost \$6.8 million in scholarships has been awarded so far to Burnaby grads. Of special mention, **Burnaby South Secondary** student **Susan Chung** was awarded the prestigious **Schulich Award**, which comes with a whopping \$80,000 UBC entrance scholarship. Eighteen Burnaby Schools students were awarded the **Beedie Luminaries Scholarship** of up to \$40,000 each – for demonstrating both academic ability and sharing compelling stories of resilience. **Byrne Creek** student **Arnauld Alandou** was awarded a 2020 **Cmolik Scholarship** of up to \$40,000 for demonstrating tenacity and academic ability while facing adversity. Congratulations to all scholarship winners and to all graduates and their families.