

INSIDE BURNABY SCHOOLS



October 27, 2020

Running for Terry

Schools throughout the District celebrated the 40th year of the Terry Fox Marathon of Hope, which has raised hundreds of millions of dollars for cancer research. Students walked or ran for the cause in Terry's name, as seen in these images from [Alpha](#) and [Burnaby North Secondary](#) schools, as well as [Montecito Elementary](#). The famous Canadian has become a role model for generations of students who have kept his dream alive. In addition to fundraising at [Inman Elementary](#), a Grade 6/7 class took a close look at Terry's strength of character and considered what traits they might aspire to in their own lives.

Supporting Orange Shirt Day

Every year staff, teachers and students wear orange to honour the survivors of residential schools. It's a time to reflect and reinforce that *every child matters*. Art projects are among the many ways schools create awareness. Class discussion and student projects help build understanding of the history of Indigenous people. Students also learn how we each have a role in working toward meaningful reconciliation.

Elementary Schools Featured as Case Studies

The learning opportunities at [Stride Avenue Community School](#) and [Montecito](#) were showcased by an education network focused on quality & equity. The two elementary schools were given the spotlight as case studies by Networks of Inquiry for Indigenous Education. They highlighted how the schools authentically and deeply incorporated Indigenous worldviews into their school culture – such as this months-long Indigenous Drumming Project, where both staff and students at Montecito gained an understanding of Indigenous perspectives and knowledge through experiential learning.

Anti-Racism: Learning and Unlearning in Burnaby Schools

The District continues its work to support an equitable, diverse, and inclusive environment for all staff, students, and their families. Organizational change is being championed by the Board, senior leadership, and our new Vice-Principal of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion: Beth Applewhite, shown here speaking with students at [Alpha Secondary](#). As part of her work, she has provided workshops throughout the District – sharing how to be an active anti-racist, as well as helping participants both learn and “unlearn” what they know about racism, including bias, privilege and micro-aggressions.

Students New to Canada Gift Mural to their School

Grade 12 students **Ekaterina** and **Regina** created this magical mural for **Alpha**. The artists – both originally from Russia – began the three by six metre painting as part of their class work and spent nearly a year and a half completing it. For both students, Alpha was their first experience of Canada. They say they couldn't be happier to be leaving both a literal mark on their school and a legacy gift for their adopted community.

Healthy School Certified

Burnaby Mountain Secondary is among just eleven schools in BC to be certified as a Healthy School Community by DASH – Dedicated Action for School Health. It's an organization that celebrates school communities for promoting and enhancing health and well-being. School staff, students, and partners at Mountain collaborated over the last year with a particular focus on mental health. Highlights include a "kindness tree" and rocks in the student commons, as well as inspirational messages painted by students on bathroom stalls.

Bike to School Week at Inman Earns Award

Inman Elementary was one of 71 schools who took part in Bike to School Week this year and was among the Top Five Grand Prize winners. They were awarded with "Best First-Time School." More than 4,000 student riders participated in BC, and at Inman, teachers and parents also got involved.

Secondary Students Awarded for Environmental Work

Two 2020 grads, **Azzam** from **Burnaby South** and **Emily** from **Alpha**, were recently honoured with environmental awards from the City of Burnaby for their work during the last school year. The two were very active organizing a number of initiatives at the school level, while also serving as emcees at the district-wide sustainability conference "We Mean Green."

Embracing Nature's Classroom

Taking learning outside is a concept long embraced in the District, with many schools having permanent outdoor classrooms. With the emphasis on outdoor learning in our back-to-school restart plans, more classes are heading outdoors. Examples include everything from learning about Indigenous culture and plants, outdoor science experiments, and reading to studying trees and our environment. As temperatures cool, we're grateful to long-time community partners such as the **Burnaby Children's Fund**, the **Rotary Club**, and **Bases Thrift Store** who help students have equitable access to outdoor clothing.

New Playground at Aubrey

The **Aubrey Elementary** community is enjoying the outdoors on their brand new playground – thanks to parent fundraising led by their PAC and installation by the District's maintenance crew. A ribbon-cutting event with special guests took place last week.

Celebrating the Season

Halloween is just one of many annual traditions impacted by COVID-19. Elementary schools are finding creative ways to mark the season, such as these pumpkin patches at **Brentwood Park**, **Edmonds**, **Stoney Creek**, **South Slope**, **Parkcrest**, and **Lakeview**. Because a field trip wasn't possible this year, school communities – often with the support of their PACs – brought the pumpkin patch to the children.