

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**  
**Reporting to Public Session on Tuesday, November 24, 2020**

**1. Burnaby North Students Create Published Book**

What began with a student's love of bugs and rhymes, and a dedicated group of educators who wanted to create an empowering platform to showcase their students' gifts, became a beautiful picture book highlighting the creativity and talent of students.

The Access program at Burnaby North Secondary embarked on a journey of hope, love and storytelling, creating a one-of-a-kind publication. With stunning pictures, imaginative rhymes, and creative story, students with diverse abilities shared their interests and strengths. Some students drew pictures, some coloured and painted, some came up with memorable rhymes, and others edited images using Photoshop software.

The end result is a book that honours and celebrates kindness, compassion, and community.

This evening, Burnaby North Secondary students, along with the dedicated and supportive staff, will share their story and experience. It is their hope that "as you turn and read each page, you can feel the magic."

Recommendation: THAT the Board of Education receive this information.

**2. Mental Health and Wellness in Burnaby Schools**

Burnaby schools are committed to helping students and staff build their skills and knowledge in mental health literacy in order to contribute to the well-being of all.

The district's Mental Health Literacy Team supports schools in building the capacity of staff and students in the area of mental health literacy. Comprised of staff from the district's Safe and Caring Schools and Learning Support Services teams, the Mental Health Team meets regularly to plan for awareness promotion, creation and review of learning resources, leadership in professional development opportunities, and provision of sessions to support students and staff. The goal is to strengthen compassionate learning communities, build mental health literacy, and enhance services and supports across the district.

The global pandemic has brought many additional changes and disruptions to personal and working lives. The difficult times faced by all highlight now, more than ever, the importance of strengthening and supporting the well-being of our communities.

District Vice-Principal—Safe and Caring Schools, Nick Christofides, leads the district's Mental Health Team. Tonight, he will provide an overview of some important work to date including mental health literacy "blitzes", trauma-informed schools training, and resources for students, staff and parents.

Recommendation: THAT the Board of Education receive this information.