

INSIDE BURNABY SCHOOLS

February 23, 2021



CELEBRATING LUNAR NEW YEAR

The traditional vivid colours and wishes for good luck were evident throughout the District, as students celebrated the “**Year of the Ox.**” Examples at **Forest Grove Elementary** – home of the District's Mandarin Language Arts program – included writing Chinese characters, decorating a Ming vase, and creating colourful dragons for a puppet show. Students at **Confederation Park Elementary** had a virtual visit from a parent who shared what Lunar New Year means in her family. And Kindergarten students at **Taylor Park Elementary** performed a traditional dance in the hallway. Members of **Burnaby North Secondary's** Cantonese Club made decorations, as did others seen on display at **Burnaby South** and **Burnaby Central** secondary schools. At **Edmonds Community School** a class took it outside – performing their lion and dragon dance for each of the school's learning groups.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH: CELEBRATING AND LEARNING

Across the District students are participating in Black History Month. There are a variety of activities inside schools showcasing the proud heritage of the Black community, their joy, struggle, contribution, and achievement. This is the 25th year of Black History Month in Canada and 3000 students had an opportunity to hear directly from the person who brought forward that historic legislation – the Honourable **Jean Augustine**. The first Black woman elected as a Member of Parliament, she provided the official address at the **Lifting Black Voices Youth Conference** last week. It was put on in partnership with four other school districts and the **National Congress of Black Women Foundation**. Burnaby School District staff organized the virtual event in celebration of Black History Month. Many students, such as these seen at **Alpha Secondary**, watched as a group.

INDIGENOUS LEARNINGS IN BURNABY SCHOOLS

Alpha and **Burnaby North Secondary** students got together virtually for an Indigenous learning project under the guidance of Squamish Elder and artist **Latash Nahanee**. Students designed and carved their own individual eagles. Elder Latash also led **North** students in drumming and song. The teens used drum sticks that they made themselves.

FRENCH IMMERSION STUDENTS GET A VISIT FROM BONHOMME

Carnaval was an opportunity for students at **École Marlborough Elementary** to celebrate French Canadian culture and food. Kindergarten students used their ADST skills to build an ice palace or “palais de glace” for Bonhomme – the mascot for the famous Winter Carnaval, which takes place in Quebec City every February. Maple cookies were delivered to students by Bonhomme; the snowman is as magical as Santa Claus to many in Quebec.

I READ CANADIAN DAY IN BURNABY SCHOOLS

Students, such as these seen here at [Stoney Creek Community School](#) and [South Slope Elementary](#) explored some of our country's rich literature on I Read Canadian Day. Now in its second year and held on February 17, the day encourages people to read books by Canadian authors. This class at [Brentwood Park Elementary](#) is seen holding some of their favourites. Participation in the national day was unanimously endorsed by Trustees last year.

THINKING ABOUT THE WELL-BEING OF OTHERS

Students and school staff have been finding multiple ways to build and support community. At [Brentwood](#) Grade 2 and 3 students created heart-shaped clay "ornaments of hope" for residents in Long Term Care homes. The intention was to show residents that people are thinking about them during these challenging times. Valentine's Day Cards by the hundreds were made by students at [Inman](#), [Nelson](#) and [Kitchener Elementary](#) schools. This group of local seniors reported that they were thrilled to receive them! Some cards went with deliveries for [Burnaby Meals on Wheels](#). At [Confederation Park Elementary](#), students collected new and washed blankets, gloves, scarves, and toques to donate to the [Blanket BC Campaign](#). Over at [Westridge Elementary](#), students made Valentine's Day cards and care kits for women and children living in shelters. Students at [Twelfth Avenue Elementary](#) were busy fundraising for the Burnaby Hospital Foundation – doubling their goal for a total of 650-dollars. And the student Sports Executive at [Moscrop Secondary](#) started an online apparel store to both elevate school spirit and give back to the community. They raised 200-dollars for the [Food Bank](#) by sharing proceeds from school-branded face masks.

ENHANCING OUTDOOR SPACES FOR PLAY AND LEARNING

[Chaffey-Burke Elementary](#) students were excited to see the gates pulled back to their new playground – completed last week. The school was one of 40 in BC to receive 125,000 dollars from the Provincial Government for a new accessible playground. Over at [Clinton Elementary](#), new spaces for play and learning opened at the beginning of the month.

NEW BOOK PUBLISHED CAPTURING THE HISTORY OF BURNABY SCHOOLS

A decades-long endeavour by retired Burnaby teachers has culminated in a beautiful book showcasing the rich history in the District. Supported by the Burnaby Board of Education and published by the [City of Burnaby](#), the book – [Inkwells to Internet](#) – details the growth of public education from one-room schools in 1894 to present day. It includes histories of every school in Burnaby, along with many photographs and anecdotes shared by former staff, teachers, and students. The City is gifting a copy to each of our school libraries: serving as a window for current students into the past and our shared history in Burnaby.

STUDENT VIDEO: HOW TECHNOLOGY SUPPORTS LEARNING

A group of Theatre students at [Alpha Secondary](#) created a video to highlight how technology can be a positive part of learning – especially during pandemic times. The intention behind the video was to showcase how student success is supported by both people and technology, or as the students say: "it takes two." These are also the words of [Rob Base](#) and [DJ EZ Rock](#): the '80's hip hop recording artists chosen by the video's creators as the background audio.