

# INSIDE BURNABY SCHOOLS

March 30, 2021



## **TRAFFIC CALMING CHANGES SUPPORT CHILDREN'S SAFETY**

Collaboration between the City of Burnaby and the Burnaby Board of Education is enhancing safety where children learn and play. City Council approved the changes after examining a request presented by Trustees to expand school zone times and add speed humps around schools. Effective the first day students returned from Spring Break, school zone hours are significantly increased from the previous 8am to 5pm; they are now in effect from 7am to 10pm when schools are in session. Burnaby is the first municipality in the greater Vancouver area to enact these expanded hours. Multiple speed humps will be installed by 2026.

## **SECONDARY STUDENTS WIN MEDAL IN REGIONAL ANIMATION COMPETITION**

**Byrne Creek Secondary** is making a habit of earning medals in the annual BC Skills Canada Competition for 2D animation. Grade 12 student **Alyssa Banser** and Grade 11 student **Minh Thu Nguyen** took the bronze medal for their collaboration in this year's virtual event. This adds to the school's gold and silver medals won last year. Competitors are tasked with an on-the-spot challenge to be completed in six hours. This year, participants had to detail, plan, and execute the development of a complete animated story, based on a character sneezing – all while demonstrating knowledge of the 12 principals of animation in their project.

## **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATED IN BURNABY SCHOOLS**

Students throughout the District honoured International Women's Day in a variety of ways.

**Alpha Secondary** featured a timeline showcasing female leaders and their contributions.

**South Slope Elementary** highlighted both fiction and non-fiction library books about girls and women. Poetic readings about diverse women were also shared. And at **University Highlands Elementary**, students used sidewalk chalk messages and symbolic representation to share learnings with the rest of the school about trailblazing women.

## **'RADICAL' MATH GAME LEADS TO STUDENT COLLABORATION**

Students in **Byrne Creek Community School**'s math club, called "The Radicals," have been leaving math challenges outside for younger students in one of their feeder schools:

**Stride Avenue Community School**. The "Math Walks," as they're called, are a game where the secondary students post challenges outside of the elementary school for participating students. Once a week for a month, a mysterious Byrne Creek Bulldog hid a Math Walk problem somewhere outside the school. Each challenge is intended to help students develop their confidence with numeracy, mathematical reasoning and communication skills. The outdoor hunt meets online communication when students share videos of how they came up with their solutions. With COVID-19 impacting opportunities for the younger students to visit their future high school, the weekly solution videos have also allowed for virtual introductions to secondary students and staff – offering a glimpse of life at Byrne Creek.

## **BURNABY NORTH YEARBOOK HONOURED - AGAIN**

[Burnaby North Secondary](#)'s 2019-2020 yearbook entitled "Curiosity" captured one of the first-place titles in an annual North American-wide competition. Recognized by the American Scholastic Association, the yearbook captures the school year both before and after the changes brought by COVID-19, including these portraits of students in what they had intended to wear to prom. The content was curated and created by a class of Grade 11 and 12 students under the guidance of their teacher **Stella Teng-Davis**. This is the third year in a row that she and her students have won First Place with Special Merit.

## **100 DAYS OF LEARNING**

This has been quite the school year, but who's counting? Actually, it's an annual tradition. Elementary students celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school in many ways. Examples include: Decorated doors, lists, and "10 times 10" exercises at [Taylor Park](#). Crowns and number art at [Kitchener](#). And 100 reasons why we love our school at [Seaforth Elementary](#).

## **EMBRACING OUTDOOR LEARNING**

Across the district outdoor learning has been on the rise, including this example from [Second Street Community School](#) involving parents and special guests at Robert Burnaby Park. [Gilmore Community School](#) students studied minerals, starfish and more on a neighbourhood walk to the water. Here, [University Highlands Elementary](#) students learned about soil and planting the school garden. And, [Westridge Elementary](#) students explored proportions in math – in the sunshine – using objects found in nature.

Grade 1, 2 and 3 students at [Brentwood Park Elementary](#) harvested cottonwood buds on a walk to Beecher Creek. Back at school, a District Indigenous Resource Teacher showed the students how to infuse the buds with oil, making a salve for inflammation and skin irritations. Grade 4 and 5 students at [Maywood Community School](#) learned about local plants in the Burnaby Indigenous History resource. Students researched medicinal uses for the plants, also under the guidance of one of the Indigenous resource teachers.

## **ANNUAL PUBLIC SPEAKING CHALLENGE REIMAGINED DURING THE PANDEMIC**

This year's **Grade 7 Public Speaking Challenge** had students reflecting on "Life Lessons They Have Learned in 2020." This [Nelson Elementary](#) student's speech was just one example. School competitions went virtual, as seen here with students at [Inman](#) and [Lakeview](#). With the District finals event on hiatus, school finalists competed against counterparts in other schools via live video. Since 1983, the challenge has had students writing a speech on a particular theme. They deliver the speech in front of their classroom peers, with the top speaker from each class moving on to the next level.

## **BURNABY STUDENTS TO REPRESENT CANADA AT INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE FAIR**

[Burnaby North Secondary](#) students **William Li** and **Rowan Ross** are competing for Canada at the 2021 Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair. The Grade 11 students' project focuses on bio-friendly extraction of microplastics from water – using a type of round worm. They and six other students from across Canada were selected by a panel based on criteria: including creativity, scientific inquiry and communication skills. The event will be held virtually in May and involve students from more than 80 countries.