

አስፈላጊ መረጃ። አባክዎ ይህን እንዲተረጎም ያድርጉ። | አንዳሲ ሓበሬታ። ብኸብረትኩም እዚ ከም ዝተርጎም ግብሩ።
معلومات مهمة. الرجاء ترجمتها. | Información importante. Por favor, que esto se traduzca.
Agahiyên girîng. Ji kerema xwe vê wergerîne. | لطفا این ترجمه را انجام دهید | معلومات مهم. لطفا از شخصی بخواهید تا این متن را برای شما ترجمه کند.
ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ। ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਕਿਸੇ ਤੋਂ ਇਸ ਦਾ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਕਰਵਾਉ। | 중요한 정보입니다. 이것을 번역하시기 바랍니다.

May 31, 2021

Re: Honouring the Children Found at Tk'emlúps Indian Residential School

Dear Families:

It is with profound sadness that we reach out to you today. Last week we learned about the heartbreaking discovery of the remains of 215 Indigenous children found at the former Tk'emlúps Indian Residential School. Our deepest and most sincere condolences go out to the families of the children and to all communities closely affected. The impact of this tragedy is vast, and our hearts are also with Indigenous students, families, and staff in the Burnaby School District.

Since we heard this devastating news last week, we have been connecting with Elders and local Indigenous community members to seek guidance on how we may proceed as a community to come together, provide space to heal, and mourn alongside one another. Today, in acknowledgement and honour of the children lost, to honour those who have suffered trauma and harm at the former Residential School in Kamloops, and to pay respect to families and communities who are mourning, the Canadian flags at our school and district sites are flying at half-mast until further notice. Over the weekend a message was also sent to all district staff, inviting them to wear orange throughout the week. We encourage students to wear orange, as well, as a reminder of our collective commitment to protect and create safe learning environments for youth to share their voice. In difficult times, it is even more important to lift each other up and continue the healing journey together. We will be offering the Indigenous Education Team time to heal through a drum circle and will be connecting with school learning communities to ensure they have what they need to lead during this time.

School counsellors are available for support should you find it helpful. There are also community resources where confidential help can be accessed:

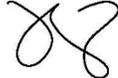
- Indian Residential Schools Survivor Society 24 Hour Crisis Line – 1-866-925-4419
- Indian Residential Schools Survivors Society Resolution Health Support Program 1-877-477-0775 (Support services for former Residential School students and their families)
- First Nations Health Authority – Virtual Counselling and Health Services 1-855-344-3800 (www.FNHA.ca/VirtualHealth)
- More resources can be found on the District's website here: <https://burnabyschools.ca/counselling-and-mental-health-resources/>

Our deepest condolences go out to the generations of families who live daily grief and trauma as a direct result of the residential school system. As a district, we will keep working closely with Elders, listen, deepen our understandings, reflect and act, as we continue our journey together toward meaningful change.

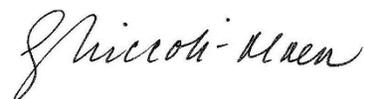
With deep gratitude and respect,



Rob Smyth, District Principal



Jen Mezei, Board Chair



Gina Niccoli-Moen, Superintendent