

INSIDE BURNABY SCHOOLS

September 28, 2021



NO SUMMER SLOWDOWN

Burnaby Schools were busy places over July and August. **Summer Session** was a hot choice for students and their families, with record enrolment of more than 8000 registrations. Students could choose core courses, as well as learning a new skill or pursuing an interest. Fun was also on order with everything from art and music to gardening and robotics.

For the second year in a row, Community School Coordinators from the District helped run a **Summer Food Hub** at **Byrne Creek Community School**. It was a true community partnership with more than 50 volunteers – including school district staff, trustees and other local elected leaders. The hub helped support more than 400 people: all students and their families from Byrne Creek and elementary schools in the area.

SHOWING OUR PRIDE

The Burnaby School District wants everyone in our school communities to show their true colours and celebrate who they are. Vancouver's annual Pride Parade was virtual again this year. We joined in on the festivities in August with this submission that formed part of the official online celebrations.

TAKING SHAPE: A NEW HIGH SCHOOL

Much progress on construction of the new **Burnaby North Secondary** was made over the summer. The photos from left to right were taken a day apart and show the first walls of the Theatre and Conference Centre going up. Work continues, with the new school expected to be complete in 2023. It will be ready early that year for North's 1800 students, along with space for childcare, adult education, and a conference centre.

EXPERIENCE IN CLASS INSPIRES STUDENT AUTHOR

While many people have ramped up enjoyment of their streaming services during the pandemic, a Grade 12 student at **Cariboo Hill Secondary** used the time without his typical activities to publish four books – including one inspired by what he learned about electronics at Cariboo. That book by **Keyaan Vegdani** guides the reader through a variety of electronics projects ranging from beginner to advanced. He asked his teacher to edit the book and included him in the dedication with thanks for showing “the fun in creating electrical contraptions.” Keyaan's books are garnering attention, with his most recent about Crohn's disease having been featured by CBC British Columbia. The student is donating a percentage of each purchase of that book to Crohn's and Colitis Canada.

A JOYFUL RETURN TO SPORTS

There were many smiles on the faces of student athletes across the District as school sports returned to high school – all with health and safety protocols at the forefront. Special thanks to the volunteers, school and District staff who help to make it happen. The competitions have already begun – with cross country and soccer student athletes from [Byrne Creek Community School](#), [Burnaby Mountain](#) and [Burnaby North Secondary](#) schools seen here.

ELECTION LESSONS

While several of our schools hosted polling stations for the recent Federal election, classrooms throughout the District also used the occasion for a mock vote. The ones seen here are at [Parkcrest](#), [Brentwood Park Elementary](#) and [Moscrop Secondary](#) schools. Learning opportunities included classroom discussions about the Canadian political process, and why it's important to make your choice count. Some students, such as the Grade 4's work seen here from [Second Street Community School](#), also considered what they would do if they were Prime Minister.

THE BEAUTY OF OUTDOOR LEARNING: NEW MURAL

With school communities throughout the District embracing the benefits of learning outside, [Kitchener Elementary](#) started the school year with a new mural for their outdoor learning space. The massive 110-foot painting is the result of a large-scale community effort, created in partnership with the City of Burnaby. The reinvented outdoor space took the entire 2020-21 school year to complete, with preparation of the site by District maintenance staff starting last fall. Every student at Kitchener – from Kindergarten through Grade 7 – had a chance to put their mark on it. More than 350 people contributed their painting skills, including artists from the City's Community Arts Program.

KEEPING TERRY'S DREAM ALIVE

Students throughout the District help support Terry Fox's legacy by participating in their school run – several of which are happening today. Runs last week shown here are from [Buckingham](#), [Brantford](#) and [South Slope Elementary](#) schools. Collectively school communities raise thousands of dollars to support cancer research. Students also discuss Terry's heroic efforts and think about how they, too, can help be positive agents of change in both big and small ways.

ONGOING JOURNEY OF RECONCILIATION

This is **Truth and Reconciliation Week**. Schools throughout the District are honouring those who attended residential schools, acknowledging what was taken away & reinforcing that every *child matters*. In recognition, flags at schools and all District sites will be lowered to half mast every day this week. As part of the learning, students and staff are again participating in Orange Shirt Day. Indigenous principles of learning are also important day-to-day, as we move forward together in an ongoing journey of reconciliation. Earlier in the month, a class at [École Brantford Elementary](#) wrote messages for survivors of residential schools and wishes for the missing Indigenous children. Each Grade 6 and 7 student then folded their message into an origami crane. Collectively, the display is intended to serve as a symbol of hope and healing.