

INSIDE BURNABY SCHOOLS

November 23, 2021



COMING TOGETHER TO HONOUR VETERANS

Flags were at half-mast across the District in recognition of National Aboriginal Veterans Day and Remembrance Day. As part of preparations for the ceremony at **Burnaby Mountain Secondary**, the choir was led in singing the Coast Salish Anthem by Squamish **Elder Latash Nahanee, Delhia Nahanee Dalgum'ha** of the Nisga'a Nation and the District Principal of Indigenous Education, Rob Smyth. This display at **Burnaby Central Secondary** honours the many Indigenous men and women who served. The school's in-person assembly was held in shifts to avoid crowding. Over at George Derby – a housing centre for Veterans – students from **Armstrong Elementary, Second Street Community School**, and **Cariboo Hill Secondary** planted small flags. The students' efforts to raise proceeds to support programs for the veterans who live there were featured on CTV News. And also showcased locally in the Burnaby Now. Each year, schools across the District honour veterans and those serving now in a variety of ways, including learning projects and assemblies, as seen here at **Marlborough Elementary** and **Stoney Creek Community School**. It involves a variety of contributions showcasing talents, such as at **Alpha Secondary** where drama students prepared a special piece.

STUDENTS AND STAFF CELEBRATE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Many classrooms and staffrooms in schools across the District were places of celebrating and learning, as people came together to honour Diwali – the festival of lights. Students at **Capitol Hill Elementary** created art. Celebratory activities were organized by the community at **Edmonds Community School**. Families at **Maywood Community School** brought Diwali treats for staff and provided information for the whole school. At **Inman Elementary**, an Education Assistant shared her culture and teachings with students with a stick dance, as they prepared for a virtual concert to recognize families celebrating Diwali. At **Second Street** the whole school painted diyas in advance of a wider celebration. The diya represents enlightenment, knowledge or wisdom.

SPORTING SUCCESSES

The return of school sports has gotten especially exciting now that we've entered the fall championship season – with many Burnaby student athletes and teams qualifying for Provincials. In swimming, **Burnaby North Secondary's** Girls Swim Team earned the top title in BC and are this year's AAA Aquatics Provincial Champions. The Grade 9 Girls Volleyball Team from **North** had a strong season culminating in a third-place finish at Provincials over the weekend. While there are too many successes of all sizes to list, these are just some of the smiling faces posing with their championship banners and ribbons – such as this **Burnaby Central** soccer team, this **Byrne Creek Community School** rugby team, and this group of cross country runners from **Burnaby South Secondary**.

LEARNING ABOUT ALLYSHIP AND HISTORY

In honour of **Trans Awareness Week** and the **Transgender Day of Remembrance**, **Burnaby Mountain** welcomed secondary student **Cole Sheehan-Klassen** from the **Burnaby Youth Hub** as a guest speaker. A former **Mountain** student, himself, Cole is a trans advocate and student leader. He helped the school community to learn about gender identity and expression, history, and what it means to be an ally.

SCHOOLS SPREAD KINDNESS

Students at several schools have been busy committing acts of kindness. Grade 4 and 5 students at **Chaffey-Burke Elementary** wrote thank you cards to Emergency Room staff at **Burnaby Hospital**. At **Brentwood Park Elementary**, Grade 2 and 3 students are gearing up to send kindness to seniors with special handmade clay ornaments they're working on for holiday season hampers. Kindergarten and Grade 1 students at **South Slope Elementary** spread positivity throughout the school with messages for **World Kindness Day**. Grade 4 students at **Taylor Park Elementary** disseminated joy with their kindness dance, as did Kindergarten students at **Seaforth Elementary**. The **Seaforth** students spent a day focused on caring behaviour. They went into the community with signs asking drivers to "honk for kindness," provided coffee and goodies to the construction crew working on the seismic upgrade for their school, and created thank you cards for healthcare workers that were picked up by a nurse. In the following video, the students reflected on what they can do, themselves, to make a difference to others. Let's watch.

STREAM OF DREAMS

Two more schools have installed colourful hand-painted images of fish on the fence. The Stream of Dreams project was founded in Burnaby more than 20 years ago by a then ten-year-old girl and her mother who wanted to bring awareness to the 5,000 fish killed in Byrne Creek, when toxic material was dumped into a storm drain. As they did then, today the fish symbolically come back to life with the help of local schools and the Stream of Dreams, such as these seen here at **Stoney Creek Community School**. Parent volunteers put up this colourful and meaningful installation at **Buckingham Elementary** a few weeks ago. Students, such as these at **Capitol Hill** are still learning about the connection fish have to storm drains. The children marked the drains around the school to remind people that the water – and anything in it – empties straight into local waterways.

STUDENTS BUILD CONNECTION AND HELP THE COMMUNITY

Students at **Second Street** collected hundreds of non-perishable goods for a food drive held in honour of one of the biggest festivals recognized by Sikhs around the world. **Gurpurab**, also known as **Guru Nanak Dev Jayanti**, celebrates the birth of the first Sikh guru. A school-wide art project was also undertaken to show how we are all connected and need to care for one another. Students and a teacher at **Burnaby North** were among the volunteers at **Guru Nanak's Free Kitchen** for people in the Downtown Eastside and were featured this month in a CityNews Vancouver story. And after a class discussion about the floods in Abbotsford, Grade 4 and 5 students at **Gilmore Community School** sprang into action demonstrating their own lesson in kindness and helping others. They rallied to collect items to bring to the **Archway Food Bank** in Abbotsford to support families in need.