

# INSIDE BURNABY SCHOOLS

December 14, 2021



## ENJOYING THE MAGIC OF THE SEASON

Every year, schools honour multiple traditions and celebrations. Students at **Westridge Elementary**, for example, gathered together to learn about **Hanukkah**. At **Burnaby Central Secondary**, technology met the Christmas tree with a circuit created out of an old chocolate box. At **École Brantford Elementary** children explored what brings them joy. **Clinton Elementary** is in the midst of "Ten Days of Polar Express" with door decorating and festive activities for the whole school. Students at **Kitchener** and **Buckingham Elementary** are committing acts of kindness in the days leading up to Winter Break. In the spirit of togetherness, Big and Little Buddies got together in the library at **Chaffey-Burke Elementary** to collaboratively create holiday art. Reindeer are also making an appearance, such as these by Kindergarten students at **Brentwood Park Elementary**. A festive 3-D village made from paper and natural elements was created by children at **Marlborough Elementary**. At **Burnaby North Secondary** students worked on fine motor skills, making Christmas trees out of wood, nails, string and even real lights. Many at the school took advantage of the chance to start their day enjoying a pancake breakfast. **Branford's** youngest got cozy with a pajama party and reading. Foods and Baking 11/12 classes at **École Alpha Secondary** entered the **Downtown Surrey Business Improvement Association's Gingerbread Village Contest**. They took 3rd and 4th place honours. Real snow added to the magic of the season as seen here in this winter wonderland at **École Aubrey Elementary**. Just enough fell for students to work together to create snow people like these at **Inman Elementary**, this collaborative creation at **Westridge**, and these melting masterpieces at **Brentwood**. A special thank you to the District's hardworking crews, seen here at **University Highlands Elementary**, who helped ensure learning could begin smoothly by plowing and salting, beginning at 4am.

## CREATIVITY BY BCSD STUDENT LEADS TO OPPORTUNITIES AND BUSINESS

Kyle Cooney was featured in the North Shore News for bracelets he created that are much more than pieces of jewelry or linking beads. As the story says, the bracelets "are links connecting Kyle to the world." The young entrepreneur is in Grade 6 at the **BC Provincial School for the Deaf**. Kyle has CHARGE syndrome, which includes deafness, Autism, developmental delays, coordination and balance challenges. With the bracelets, he has been learning business and other skills that support his independence. So far, he's sold almost 300 for just under \$30 each and is expanding to more stores. Most of the money earned goes to Kyle's Registered Disability Savings Plan, which will help support him in adulthood. He is also donating a portion of profits to those in need. Most recently Kyle purchased items, such as diapers and baby food, for the **Archway Food Bank** to help flood relief in Abbotsford.

## STUDENT PERFORMANCES RETURN TO THE STAGE

After a long hiatus, concert and honour choirs were back on the big stage for **Voices 41**. The secondary singers from several schools performed at the Michael J Fox Theatre to a limited in-person audience. Performances returned at many schools, such as this one at **Byrne Creek Community School** where drama students put on a series of short plays over four days. Students and staff in the **Access Program** at **Byrne** also put on a musical play.

## TWO SCHOOLS EARN HEALTHY SCHOOL CERTIFICATION

This is the third year that **Burnaby Mountain Secondary** has earned a healthy school certification from **DASH** – or **Dedicated Action for School Health**. It's a provincial organization that recognizes schools' commitment to enhancing the health and well-being of their school communities. **Mountain's Wellness Council**, with its focus on mental health, is responsible for a number of the school's initiatives. This is **Burnaby South Secondary's** second year earning the designation. Students are seen here supporting South's health goal of having a nutritious breakfast before starting school. 400 breakfast items and recipes were distributed.

## STUDENT TEAM WINS HIGH SCHOOL ETHICS BOWL

Twelve secondary teams from the lower mainland had a day-long ethics bowl hosted by **Simon Fraser University's Philosophy Department**. Students discussed real-world cases and ethical issues. They were judged on their evidence and how well they collaborated, listened and responded to the opposing team. Congratulations to the winning team from our very own **École Moscrop Secondary**.

## ROBOTICS TEAM HEADING TO PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Students in the District's **Robotics (Mechatronics) Career Education Program** hosted at **Alpha** competed in the **BC Regional Robotics Tournament** last weekend. With more than 100 teams contending, the students won the judge's award and are the division finalists. Their impressive performance has them advancing to the BC Provincial Championship.

## THE GIFT OF GIVING

The **University Highlands Elementary** community is collecting food, toiletries and toys to donate to the ongoing flood relief efforts. Students at **Parkcrest Elementary** raised money for the **Abbotsford SPCA** to help them support displaced animals. **Alpha** collected clothing and blankets for the **Salvation Army** to take to flood victims. Leadership students at the school decorated a **Deer Lake Rotary Tree** to put warm boots on children in Burnaby this winter. Among the many schools collecting donations for the Food Bank and Burnaby families in need are **Buckingham**, **Suncrest**, and **Lyndhurst**, as seen here. Several, such as **South Slope Elementary** and **BCSD**, are also offering online food drive options to make a difference. **Inman** students put together nearly 300 dental kits for the **Burnaby Homeless Task Force**. They will be included, along with handmade cards, in comfort kits that will be distributed to Burnaby's most vulnerable. **Lochdale Community School** collected and delivered wrapped presents for distribution by **The Society to End Homelessness** in Burnaby. **Burnaby North** students created 2400 holiday cards in one week for seniors in Burnaby. They were one of more than a dozen secondary and elementary schools participating in Operation Elf – put on in partnership with **Intentional Acts of Kindness** and the **City of Burnaby's Citizen Support Services**.