

INSIDE BURNABY SCHOOLS

January 25, 2022



SUPPORTING STUDENT PLANNING FOR NEXT FALL

Students across the District have lots of options for programs to explore their interests, and numerous electives are offered at the secondary level. AP Biology students from **Burnaby Mountain Secondary** are seen here presenting their inquiry projects. And AP Physics students at **École Alpha Secondary** are testing their projectile projects. There's something for everyone with Programs of Choice focused on technology, sports academies, trades and career training – as well as educational enrichment, such as French Immersion and AP Capstone. To help students and families navigate the choices, several information sessions have been underway. In support of health and safety, instead of open houses at high schools to learn about course planning and more, they're sharing information online for the second year in a row. Each school is taking an approach to best meet the needs of their community, with everything from a virtual tour, to a pre-recorded video or live presentation. Hundreds of people have already attended the series of sessions put on by the **Career Education** department. Students who have taken the programs shared their firsthand experiences. At the **BC Provincial School for the Deaf**, students in the secondary dance class love it so much that they created a promotional video to encourage others to select the course. Here's an excerpt... [video]

BURNABY SCHOOLS ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

Students are the leaders of tomorrow and today, and it is always exciting to hear about graduates finding success in their chosen fields. Former **Moscrop Secondary** student **Nabil Karim** gave a shout out to his old high school in a news article celebrating his new high-profile role: host and reporter for Turner Sports network's NHL and NBA coverage.

SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE CHOICES

As we seek opportunities to reduce our carbon footprint, the District is supporting school communities to do the same. One of the ways we're doing so is by installing electric vehicle charging stations. All high schools now have at least two stations, except for **Burnaby North Secondary**, which will get theirs when the new building is complete. Additionally, the District's Maintenance Services Centre has two electric vehicles in its fleet and four EV stations. The new District Administration Office was designed to include four outlets. This work is a piece of larger efforts to reduce our environmental impact and contribute to sustainability.

SEIZING COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT LEARNING AND ACCESS

There are many examples of how partnerships and community strengthen all that we do.

The **District's Settlement Workers in Schools** support immigrants and refugees who are new to Canada. Working with the **Vancouver Sun Children's Fund Adopt-a-School** project and **TransLink**, this month they were able to secure more than four-thousand dollars' worth of concession transit passes. They will be distributed to forty teenagers who are part of newcomer families and would otherwise have challenges with fees for a bus to get to high school.

Taking learning outside is a concept long embraced in the Burnaby School District. A group of teachers were successful in their application for a "Friends of the Environment" grant from TD Bank. The group maintains a blog to support teachers' confidence with outdoor learning, including using school gardens. They host sessions and other opportunities to learn from each other. Their **B-Outside Place Based Learning Group** received the seven-thousand-dollar grant for this school year to support professional development and project opportunities for classrooms learning outside. The network has 90 teachers in the District, connecting with 21 schools and 21-hundred students.

IT'S LITERACY WEEK IN BURNABY SCHOOLS

Every year throughout the District, schools participate in **Literacy Week**, which is currently underway across BC. Over at **Stoney Creek Community School** students had a "hats off" to literacy day, where they were encouraged to drop everything and read in their favourite hat, headband or toque. Another example of Literacy Week fun is at **Montecito Elementary** where students read in the dark. The connection between reading and pleasure supports learning and student success.

INDIGENOUS CARVING PROJECT SUPPORTS LEARNING AND COMMUNITY

The entire school community at **Taylor Park Elementary** is involved in a new project under the guidance of Indigenous artist **Simon James**, whose ancestral name is **Winadzi**. He is from the **Kwakwaka'wakw Nation**. James created the design for the carvings after several months of connecting with students, staff and families, who shared their values and stories with him. James is also working with **Squamish Nation Elder Sheryl Rivers** to honour local teachings and protocol. Beginning this month, all students from Kindergarten to Grade 7, along with staff, are getting the chance to listen to James' teachings and work on the carvings. Let's take a look at the early stages of the work... [video]