

When students feel welcome, supported, respected and safe, they are more engaged in learning

February 22, 2022

Dear Families,

This week, many schools in the District are participating in Pink Shirt Day. It began more than a decade ago as an awareness campaign about homophobic bullying. We want to take this opportunity to share with you, on behalf of the Board of Education and senior staff, what kind of community and culture we work to create.

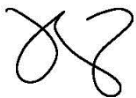
Pink Shirt Day reminds students they can be who they are, encourage others to do the same, and stand up to name-calling, bullying or discrimination. It's also an important opportunity to spark additional conversation about lifting each other up – something that has perhaps become even more vital as the pandemic has gone on. Many of our schools are focused this week on activities that celebrate kindness. When students feel welcome, supported, respected and safe, they are more engaged in learning.

Each and every student and staff member are valued and respected members of our community. We continue to encourage the ideals of diversity and inclusion through policies that are guided by the District Code of Conduct. There are also initiatives and activities throughout the year that explore respect, the richness of what makes us unique, and the strength in our differences. In advance of this February's Black History Month, the Burnaby School District was honoured to host and co-plan the Ninandotoo Society's inaugural event for Black Excellence Day, which was attended virtually by more than 12,000 students and staff from throughout BC. Black Excellence Day, Orange Shirt Day – which honours those who attended residential schools – and Pink Shirt Day are important opportunities that build greater understanding of the lived experiences and challenges within our community.

Learning first-hand about cultures and expressions of who you are benefits us all. The connections between us are beautifully captured by local Indigenous artist Gord Dick from the Tsleil-Waututh and Lil'wat Nations who designed the District's official pink shirt this year. The symbol of the wolf represents how we are all standing together as one heart and the eagle brings healing and guidance from the ancestors.

We value our partnership with families. By keeping you informed about initiatives such as these, together we can continue to build a community in our schools that models kindness, values compassion, and supports a learning environment that benefits everyone.

Sincerely,



Jen Mezei, Board Chair



Gina Niccoli-Moen, Superintendent

IMPORTANT INFORMATION *Please have this translated.*

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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

重要信息, 请找人代为翻译。 | 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.