

INSIDE BURNABY SCHOOLS

February 22, 2022



CELEBRATING LUNAR NEW YEAR

Many students, such as these at [Gilmore Community School](#) created art for the Year of the Tiger. [École Inman Elementary](#) students gathered outside to enjoy a traditional lion dance. And after first practicing the shapes with playdough, a Kindergarten class at [École Marlborough Elementary](#) made traditional dumplings in celebration of the new year.

HONOURING AND LEARNING ABOUT BLACK HISTORY

February is Black History Month and students are participating in a variety of ways throughout the District. Black stories and authors are featured in school libraries, such as these at [Lyndhurst Elementary](#) and [Stoney Creek Community School](#). Technology was also part of the journey at [Cameron Elementary](#), where students used QR codes in the library to learn about individuals and events that have shaped the country. Leadership students at [École Alpha Secondary](#) are holding a book drive in support of a project started by a UBC student. The books are for a new library and community hub for Black and BIPOC people. At [Confederation Park Elementary](#) students focused on the theme "February and Forever." The Grade 5/6 class was thrilled to get a shout out on Virgin Radio for their exploration of the important contributions of Black Canadians. Influential Black artists were celebrated at [Buckingham Elementary](#). Students explored the artists' work and signature techniques, with the children creating their own colourful masterpieces. Using words such as "equal" and "change," a Grade 4/5 class at [South Slope Elementary](#) focused on civil rights activist Viola Desmond. They showcased their learning with detailed artwork and writing. At [École Moscrop Secondary](#), students had a virtual presentation from Canadian actor **Omari Newton** – who voiced the Black Panther in several animated Marvel projects. Their conversation explored the importance of celebrating Black History beyond February.

A CULTURE OF KINDNESS

Several schools are also exploring kindness during the month of February, including these installations at [Taylor Park](#) and [Marlborough](#). Students at [South Slope](#) and the [BC Provincial School for the Deaf](#) created a kindness tree. A Kindergarten class at [Kitchener Elementary](#) is expressing what it means to be kind through their art. And Grade 3 students at [Morley Elementary](#) are spreading kindness, beginning within – by being kind to one's self. They moved outwards by sharing joy at school, and finally by taking kindness outside to the neighbourhood.

SHOWING HEART ON VALENTINE'S DAY

At [Burnaby South Secondary](#), forty Grade 8 to 12 students worked for weeks on handmade cards for homeless people with their **Heart to Heart Valentine's Day Campaign**. They created 250 cards filled with messages of hope that were distributed by the **Society to End Homelessness in Burnaby**. Over at [Burnaby Central Secondary](#), students initiated **The Care Project** to raise money for **BC Children's Hospital**. With their Care Bear Sale, they sold all of the 120 packages they created for Valentine's Day, raising more than six-hundred dollars. Three classes in Grades 2 and 3 at [Brentwood Park Elementary](#) focused on spreading joy to people in long-term care homes and seniors living alone at home. The sixty cards they made were distributed on Valentine's Day. Families at [École Aubrey Elementary](#) showed their appreciation of school staff by greeting them with hearts and messages decorating the outside of the building on February 14th. There were similar heartfelt displays at other schools, such as these at [Lochdale Community School](#), as well as at [Confederation Park](#) and [Buckingham Elementary](#) schools.

FRENCH IMMERSION STUDENTS EXPERIENCE CANADIAN QUEBECOIS CULTURE

Students at [École Marlborough](#) enjoyed biscuits dipped in maple syrup to celebrate **Winter Carnaval**. They crafted mini versions of Bonhomme, the mascot of the famous festival in Quebec City. Students created art and even decorated their chairs. At [École Inman](#) Bonhomme visited along with the Principal who shared maple treats.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES OF OLYMPIC PROPORTIONS

With the Winter Olympic Games this month, students of all ages explored aspects of global learning. Adults in the District-run program **Language Instruction for Newcomers**, which takes place at [Windsor](#), practiced writing skills while tracking countries' medal counts. So did students at [Brantford Elementary](#), who also used their lunch hour to watch the Canadian women's hockey team play. Additionally, they created Olympic pictograms. Students at [Inman](#) learned new French vocabulary while writing about what sport they would want to compete in. And at [Kitchener](#), students also delved into Olympic sports through art.

INDIGENOUS TEACHINGS

Schools across the District are connecting to Indigenous culture in a variety of ways. At [Inman](#) students reflected on the land through art and building their own personalized land acknowledgements. A Grade 2 class at [Marlborough](#) learned about the Métis Sash and did their own finger weaving. Indigenous artist **Trenton Pierre** presented at [Maywood Community School](#) about the connection to nature and community through art. Students in three primary classes went outside to make sketches for a collaborative mural project with the **Katzie First Nation** artist. Indigenous students at [Burnaby North Secondary](#) enjoyed a pancake breakfast and virtual visit sharing stories with **Richard Van Camp** – an author from the Dene Nation in the Northwest Territories. Staff and students showed appreciation to Squamish Nation Elder **Xwalacktun** for his teachings, mentorship and friendship. Together, they put the finishing touches on the Welcome Post that's been many months in the making under the Master Carver's guidance. It will be displayed in a place of honour when construction on the new [Burnaby North](#) school building is complete.