

INSIDE BURNABY SCHOOLS

April 26, 2022



HONOURING THE PLANET

Throughout the District, students are making powerful connections to the environment on Earth Day and beyond. "We promise to take care of the earth," says this message from a Grade 2 French Immersion class at **École Brantford Elementary**. Grade 2/3 students at **Brentwood Elementary** shared ideas on how each of us can help take care of the planet. Primary students at **Lochdale Community School** and **Marlborough Elementary** expressed their love of Mother Earth through art. Over at **Buckingham Elementary**, the school community showed off their earth-friendly modes of transportation. At **Twelfth Avenue Elementary**, students focused on keeping the planet beautiful by cleaning up garbage. As did the **Burnaby Mountain Secondary** Earthwise Club, whose members picked up more than five kilograms of trash. And a Grade 4/5 class at **Stoney Creek Community School** used tongs to clean up the area by the creek. Also at **Stoney Creek** earlier in the month, a Grade 3/4 class took action. They wrote letters to their local Member of Parliament asking to support preservation of the creek and salmon that spawn there. At **Burnaby Central Secondary** students and staff were invited to create art for an installation designed to reflect our relationship with the environment. Called "This is Us" the exhibition went up at the beginning of the month and included original photographs, illustrations, and even musical compositions. Collectively, the display showed the kinship we have with the living world.

STUDENTS RAISE FUNDS TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY

Throughout the District, students are leading fundraising campaigns and building awareness of important issues and initiatives. Youth at **Burnaby South Secondary** are working to help people in developing countries get equitable access to vaccines for COVID-19. The initiative is being led by the South We Council, a student club. The school community has generously donated more than six thousand dollars and counting. And both **Burnaby Central Secondary** and **Sperling Elementary** recently learned that they were among the highest of schools in BC and the Yukon for funds raised for the **Terry Fox Foundation**. **Central** was top 6 for high schools with more than five-thousand eight-hundred dollars. And **Sperling** was 14th among elementary schools, with a total of more than eight-thousand four-hundred dollars raised. Collectively, schools in the District raise tens of thousands of dollars each year for cancer research with their annual Terry Fox runs and initiatives.

A FRIENDLY CHALLENGE ENCOURAGES PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

It's week three of the **Walk30 Challenge**, where all are invited to log their walking minutes in a friendly competition between Burnaby and New Westminster. Trustees joined students from **Twelfth Avenue Elementary**, the City of Burnaby Mayor and others, as seen here for the official kick-off. The annual event includes schools. The city with the most minutes logged wins the coveted golden shoe trophy.

SHOWING SUPPORT

Administrators and staff at the [BC Provincial School for the Deaf](#) recognized **National Deaf LGBTQ Awareness Week** with a video showing their support. Messages were delivered in sign language with subtitles. Those communicating emphasized the importance of being there for each other, as well as how much they value the diversity brought to the community. In the video, they also reminded all students that the most important thing is to be proud of who you are and to love yourself.

DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING PRIDE SHOWCASED AT EVENT

A District-administered provincial program hosted the inaugural Deaf and Hard of Hearing Proud Showcase this month with 80 students from across BC. The event, for Kindergarten to Grade 12s, began with a series of contests. It featured Deaf Image Art, ASL poetry, and a communication competition. This year's theme was "What Makes you Proud to be Deaf or Hard of Hearing?" Seven Burnaby Schools students placed in the top three across a variety of categories at the event, which was put on by the BC Provincial Outreach Program, Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

SCHOOL-WIDE INDIGENOUS WEAVING PROJECT

All students at [Lyndhurst Elementary](#) participated in an Indigenous weaving project over five days. It began with Spelexilh Anjeanette Dawson, a Squamish Nation Knowledge Keeper and Master Weaver, sharing the history of trapping. She also discussed both the cultural significance and methods of Coast Salish weaving. Each student had the opportunity to make their own quarter bag. Traditionally, the bags held 25 cent pieces to give to people who helped during ceremonies and Potlatches.

SHOWCASING SCIENCE

For the first time in two years, high school students were able to take their science projects in-person to compete at the Greater Vancouver Regional Science Fair. Several Burnaby Schools students received honours and awards. Four of them earned the top prize known as the Grand Award and are advancing to the Canada-Wide Science Fair. They are **Andrew Sun** from [Burnaby Mountain](#), and **Angela Cao, William Li,** and **Terriane Zhang** from [Burnaby North Secondary](#). The virtual event will be held in May.

HELP FOR TEENAGE REFUGEES DEALING WITH TRAUMA

After a two-year break during the pandemic, the District's Settlement Workers in Schools team restarted a program for teenage refugees called **Body Worlds and the Brain**. The program helps youth dealing with trauma by providing "backdoor counselling" through group confidence building with play and activities among peers. The most recent cohort of teen refugees – most of whom are originally from Afghanistan – wrapped up the 10-session program earlier in the month with a field trip. The thirty students, from secondary schools in the District, went to Timberline Ranch in Maple Ridge. There they did a challenge course, team building activities, and horseback riding.