

INSIDE BURNABY SCHOOLS

March 29, 2022



EMPOWERING OPPORTUNITIES

Grade 6 and 7 students at several schools tried their hand at marketing when they created an advertisement for a local company or organization. The career exploration opportunity culminated with chosen ads published by the **Burnaby Now** in a special feature called Design an Ad. In our classrooms – such as this example at **Brentwood Park Elementary** – you'll find students designing and creating while delving into Applied Design, Skills and Technologies or ADST. A group of Grade 8-12 students from across the District participated in a Spring Break welding camp called Mind Over Metal. This opportunity for hands-on learning and career exploration is offered to students who would benefit the most and might not otherwise get the opportunity to attend such a program. It is put on by the **British Columbia Institute of Technology** in partnership with the District and the **Canadian Welding Bureau Foundation**.

SHARING INDIGENOUS TEACHINGS

A group of Grade 8-12 students at **École Alpha Secondary** have been meeting once per week with Squamish Nation Elder Ketximtn Alroy Baker and Cultural Student Ianna Lewis. They've been leading the group of Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth, along with Indigenous Education and school staff. Over several weeks, the students *earned* the drum by participating in local drum protocol. Through their dedication, the youth were invited to make their own. Following teachings about how to honour and take care of the drums, the students will learn and then share local song and dance with the school community.

PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS FIND A WAY

Meet baby Henrik – whose photo is seen here at **Second Street Community School**. In previous years, he would have been able to come right into the classroom of the Grade 3s who have been learning from him. With a little creativity, the **Roots of Empathy** program has continued virtually. Under the program, students follow a baby's growth – observing their emotions and expressions. This also provides a safe space for children to learn and talk about their own feelings, which supports positive mental health and well-being – something that has become perhaps even more important as the pandemic has gone on. Another long-running program **Parents as Literacy Supporters in Immigrant Communities** or **IPALS** has continued virtually. The latest session wrapped up this month. Put on in partnership with **Decoda Literacy**, it helps local Burnaby families who are immigrants set their children up for success in our schools. Play-based activities to support literacy and numeracy in the early years are shared virtually once per week for eight weeks. Parents then provide photos at the next session talking about the learning. The program is offered in the families' first language, providing connection with a view to a positive transition for the child to school.

STUDENTS EXPLORE THE CONNECTION BETWEEN CULTURE AND COMMUNITY

Throughout the year, there are many opportunities across the District to celebrate culture and how diversity strengthens our school communities, such as **Cultural Week** seen here at **Byrne Creek Community School**. Primary students at **Lyndhurst Elementary** explored how we are stronger together. And students in the **Multi-Age Cluster Class** program at **Suncrest Elementary** created a **Quilt of Belonging**. The squares represent the many cultures that make up Canada, reflecting diverse experiences and perspectives. The students are creating their own class quilt, designed to represent the culture that they bring.

LEARNING WHILE SUPPORTING COMMUNITY

A club at **Burnaby North Secondary** collected donations to create a Thrift Expo to raise awareness of important issues and collect funds to help vulnerable people. True to its full name, the **STAT Club** – which stands for Securing Today and Tomorrow – set up the thrifting initiative to promote sustainability. They then took the five hundred dollars raised through sales and donated it to **The Society to End Homelessness in Burnaby**. Over at **Brentwood Park Elementary**, the school community raised one-thousand dollars through their Hearts for Truth campaign, while journeying as a school on their own path toward reconciliation. They donated the funds to the **Gord Downie and Chanie Wenjack Foundation**, which aims to build cultural understanding between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

A FOCUS ON HEALTH

Earlier this month, students at **Burnaby South Secondary** devoted a week to health and well-being initiatives. A number of groups were involved with Catering students providing healthy snacks. Students had fun learning about nutritional choice, by estimating how many teaspoons of sugar are in various beverages and comparing them. The Mental Health Awareness Club and Music Council curated a stress-busting and relaxing playlist. And the school's Makerspace Club organized an activity promoting a sense of calm and good sleep. They provided materials and guidance to make lavender sachets.

SCHOOL SPORT TRIUMPHS

The crowd went wild as the **Burnaby South** Rebels Senior Boys Basketball team battled and won against Semiahmoo – taking the top spot in the 4A Provincial Championships. Congratulations to the Rebels on their third Provincial win in four years! The story was widely covered by the media – including the multiple layers, such as overcoming injury, and a long and friendly history between the teams and coaches. The game was also streamed live from the venue. As many said on social media, the student athletes did it with the support of staff, volunteers and their community of friends and family. There are many more sporting triumphs big and small across the District – here are some highlights. The **Burnaby Mountain** Lions Senior Boys also made it to the 4A Provincials – their first time in a decade. The **Burnaby Central** Wildcats Senior Girls competed in the 3A Provincials, making it to the semi-finals. In gymnastics, the **Moscrop Secondary** Panthers team took silver at the Provincials. Grade 12 **Burnaby North Secondary** wrestler, Gina Bolognese, brought home second for the Vikings at Provincials. And earlier, the **Byrne Creek** Bulldogs Senior Boys Basketball team won the Fraser North Zone Triple A Championship banner for the first time in the school's history.