

INSIDE BURNABY SCHOOLS

May 24, 2022



TOGETHER IN SOLIDARITY ON RED DRESS DAY AND MOOSE HIDE DAY

Red dresses hung from the trees at [Burnaby North Secondary](#), as across the District students and staff marked the **National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls**. Squamish Nation **Elder Xwalactun** guided a ceremony at [Burnaby South Secondary](#). District Indigenous Education staff led a project and teachings for Indigenous youth at [Alpha Secondary](#). And an English 10 class at the school reflected on how systemic racism impacts justice. Also observed this month was **Moose Hide Day** – a campaign to end violence against women, children and LGBTQ+ people. Students and staff at [Burnaby Mountain Secondary](#) came together in thoughtful reflection in a walk led by Squamish Nation Knowledge Keeper **Wes Nahanee**.

STUDENT ARTISTIC ACHIEVEMENTS SHOWCASED

With opportunities to come together on the rise, student achievement in the arts is back in the spotlight, as seen here at Vancouver's Roundhouse. Trustees came together with youth, families and other special guests in a celebration of the first ever cross-district art exhibit by students with diverse abilities. The idea for the professionally installed exhibition came from a [Burnaby North](#) Access Program teacher and was featured by several media outlets. This year is also the 40th anniversary of *Arts Alive*, an annual exhibit of student art put on in partnership with the **Burnaby Art Gallery**. The creations of high school students fill both floors, with the upper showing works by students in the **Artist Apprenticeship Program**, who aspire to a fine arts career. The annual **Burnaby Festival of Dance** was back with most performances in person at host school [Burnaby Mountain](#). Students of all ages from across the District are invited to perform, including these teens from [Cariboo Hill Secondary](#), and these younger children from [Lyndhurst Elementary](#). There have been some excited faces in the crowd as productions – many with live audiences – have returned, such as this play at [Moscrop Secondary](#) and the **Festival of Beginner Bands** held at [Stoney Creek Community School](#). Students at [Westridge Elementary](#) put on a powerful production of *Matilda Jr*. Student art is also making its way into the upcoming civic election. Six youth had their entries chosen in a city contest of art to wrap the ballot boxes. The winners were personally acknowledged by the Mayor at a City of Burnaby meeting. Student winners are Cindy from [Armstrong](#), Jackson from [Aubrey](#), Kaito from [Brentwood](#), Ava from [Montecito](#), Katrina from [Brantford](#), and Ryan from [Burnaby South](#).

SUPPORTING MENTAL WELLNESS

Several schools, such as [Moscrop](#) have used **Mental Health Week** as an opportunity to focus on wellness, including the connection of physical activity to mental well-being. [Cariboo Hill](#) also had a week of creative activities, such as art therapy and a presentation about resiliency. [Burnaby Central Secondary](#) students explored the role that nutrition plays in feeling well.

STUDENTS REPRESENT AT PROVINCIAL FRENCH PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

Congratulations to the five students from the District who were among the first and second round winners at the **Concours d'art oratoire**. There were 82 competitors from Grades 6 to 12.

ADST UNDER WATER

A Grade 6/7 class at [Sperling Elementary](#) is taking Applied Design, Skills, and Technology to a whole other level: below the water's surface. The students are designing and creating underwater submersibles – with hand-drawn plans, special software, and even 3D printing. The French Immersion class has been working with a local Francophone engineer. Their goal is to take what they create and film underwater life in Burnaby.

RAISING STUDENT VOICE AND OPPORTUNITIES

The District co-hosted the seventh annual **Cross-Cultural Anti-Racism Youth Symposium** for Grade 6 to 12 students from across Metro Vancouver. More than 1200 people connected virtually as students – alongside cultural leaders – expressed what they need to be their true and authentic selves at school. And nearly two dozen Black senior secondary students from the District are participating in a program designed to ignite post-secondary horizons. Hosted by the University of British Columbia in collaboration with school districts, the **UBC Black Futures** program includes tours, hands-on practice with the application process, as well as sessions with Black faculty and Black undergrad students.

HONOURING COMMUNITY TRADITIONS AND PRACTICES

Students are proud to share their traditions and culture, as seen with these smiling faces at [Second Street Community School](#). Several schools, such as [Byrne Creek Community School](#), also celebrated Eid this month. [Edmonds Community School](#) was among those who gathered for the feast at the end of Ramadan. At [Stride Avenue Community School](#) henna was on offer to mark the occasion. [Maywood Community School](#) also came together for one of the biggest celebrations in the Muslim calendar.

SHOWING PRIDE AND SUPPORT

The Pride Flag was raised for the first time at the District. A visual symbol of our commitment to celebrating diversity, it's also part of the District's recognition of the **International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, & Biphobia** or IDAHAT. Trustees joined partner groups, the Superintendent, Senior Team, SOGI leaders and district office staff at the celebration. And the annual IDAHAT event for students took place virtually again, with nearly 100 people watching. Speakers addressed the theme of *authenticity*, exploring what it means to be your authentic self.

COLLABORATIVE SCHOOL GARDENING BUILDS AWARENESS & TEACHES SKILLS

With Spring in the air, many schools are working on gardens, such as these at [South Slope](#) and [Armstrong Elementary](#). A group of Grade 12s at [Burnaby Mountain](#) have been leading a collaborative gardening project for several months. After securing a \$1000 grant from **Youth To Sea**, they revitalized their high school's greenhouse and outdoor garden bins. Partnering with the non-profit charity **Sprouting Chefs**, the secondary youth have been working with elementary students, including at [Edmonds](#) and [Forest Grove](#). The younger children have been doing the planting with the high school students nurturing the growth in the greenhouse over the winter. The students hope to share their harvest with the community and build awareness of the environment, growing your own food, and Indigenous plants.