

# INSIDE BURNABY SCHOOLS

June 28, 2022



## NATIONAL INDIGENOUS HISTORY MONTH

Many classrooms across the District had an extra focus on Indigenous learning this month – such as this one at **Chaffey-Burke Elementary** where students explored the significance of the medicine wheel. At **Morley Elementary**, a Grade 6/7 class was treated to bannock and a feast, when student Ava and her Mom prepared their family recipe of Nisga'a tacos. At **Burnaby South Secondary**, students gathered for a spectacular Learning Powwow. **Elder Alice Guss**, from the Squamish Nation taught students at **Burnaby North Secondary** how to harvest cedar bark. Under the guidance of Squamish Nation Elder **Alroy Baker** and Cultural Student **Ianna Lewis**, students from **Alpha Secondary** represented the District in **Drums Across North and South America** in a video-compilation for **National Indigenous Peoples Day**. Indigenous games were integrated into Sports Day at **Edmonds** and **Maywood Community Schools**. Several schools, such as **Maywood**, unveiled Indigenous art and other projects that were created over many months in the spirit of reconciliation. Their new mural was a collaboration between students and Katzie First Nation artist **Trenton Pierre**. A special ceremony was held at **Taylor Park Elementary** to unveil the completed totem and panel that now greets all who enter the school. **Simon James** from the Kwakwaka'wakw Nation led the project and Indigenous teachings. The District and City of Burnaby came together in partnership to support the efforts of a Grade 6/7 class at **Westridge Elementary**, who initiated the first-ever reconciliation crosswalk in Burnaby. The design was unveiled at a special event. It features Thunderbirds mirroring each other and was created by Coast Salish artist **Atheana Picha** who worked with the students. Squamish Nation Elder **Wes Nahanee**, trustees, the Superintendent, district leaders, the Mayor and Council, as well as the **Indigenous Youth Drum Group** from **Burnaby North** were among the special guests. The students' leadership and revealed design was featured by several media outlets.

## STUDENTS SHINE WITH AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Two students received **City of Burnaby Environmental Awards**: **Burnaby Mountain Secondary** student **Casey Lo** and **Smith Hemsley** at **Sperling Elementary**. Both had projects at school that were highlighted by the City in sharing their outstanding contributions to sustainability. Two **Burnaby North Secondary** students won at the **Canada-Wide Science Fair**: **Angela Cao** took silver and **William Li** brought home bronze. At the **Skills Canada Competition**, **Hung Huynh** from **Burnaby South Secondary** won silver in the IT Network Systems Administration category. **Moscrop Secondary's Tyler Shine** earned Bronze in the Autobody Repair category. In the **Walk30 Challenge**, **Lyndhurst Elementary** was recognized as the class who walked the most to school, and **Twelfth Avenue Elementary** was the school with the most registered students. **Brentwood Park Elementary's Ana Varjic** won this year's Easter Seals' **National AccessAbility Week** flag design competition in the Grade 6-8 category.

## PRIDE MONTH

Schools celebrated Pride this month in many ways with at least a dozen schools raising the flag for the first time –the colours of pride served as a symbol of their commitment to celebrating diversity. Across the District, many shared what pride means to them, as part of a month-long Twitter campaign. At several schools – such as **University Highlands Elementary** – students also explored the meaning of pride. Many more created displays, had activities and discussed the importance of being your true self and honouring each other.

## RETURN TO IN-PERSON TRADITIONS

The Class of 2027 was able to visit their respective high schools this year, such as these “Vikings for a Day” at **Burnaby North Secondary**. The Grade 7s enjoyed the preparations by secondary Leadership students. Families were once again able to attend Welcome to Kindergarten events, such as at **Kitchener** and **South Slope Elementary**, where they could see their child's school for next fall. You could feel the excitement in the air as, after two years, elementary track was back. At zone meets hosted by high schools, families were abuzz as, after so long, they were able to watch their children in track. Many schools enjoyed having field trips again, including these Grade 7s at **Kitchener** who had camp at Timberline Ranch. Year-end band concerts, like these at **Brentwood** and **Confederation Park Elementary** also returned. Sports Day, seen here at **Brantford, South Slope, Morley**, and **Taylor Park Elementary**, was a huge hit across the District – with students of all ages joining in on the fun at stations planned by Leadership students. At many schools, such as **Parkcrest** and **Twelfth Avenue Elementary**, the day culminates in a tug-of-war of Grade 7 students versus teachers. **Burnaby South Secondary** gathered as a community of present and past to celebrate the school's centennial. Along with the **BC Provincial School for the Deaf**, former and current students, administration, teachers and school staff joined special guests, including trustees, for the fun event. **Maywood Community School** also seized the chance to come together, holding a barbeque with families and partners, including local firefighters who cooked hotdogs. And schools were once again able to host traditional leaving ceremonies for Grade 7 students -- making their final days of elementary school special, such as these at **Inman, Buckingham** and **Brantford Elementary**.

## CELEBRATING THIS YEAR'S GRADUATES

Collectively, the Class of 2022 earned a whopping six point eight million dollars in scholarships this year – including the **Beedie Luminaries** from Burnaby Schools, who were celebrated with their peers from other districts at a grand event this month. Graduates were able to enjoy the traditional build up to their final days of public school, with activities such as those seen here. Stunning graduation ceremonies were held by all eight high schools outdoors at **Simon Fraser University**. Students walked the steppingstones that span a large pond in the picturesque setting before taking their seats. One by one, each graduate crossed the red carpet to accept their diploma from their principal. Grade 12s gathered at dinners and celebrated their accomplishments at the dances. An additional and meaningful event with special ceremony was held to honour Indigenous graduates and their families. The annual **Honouring Our Youth** evening took place at **Burnaby Central Secondary**. The words of wisdom from each valedictorian in the District was featured in local media outlet the Burnaby Now, with photos and speech excerpts.