

INSIDE BURNABY SCHOOLS

September 27, 2022



A VIBRANT SUMMER

Burnaby Schools were busy places to be over the summer. The popularity of **Summer Session** continues to soar, with almost 8,000 students attending more than 400 courses. Hands-on and fun learning opportunities continue to be in demand, such as robotics and other classes that explore technology. Summer also saw a resurgence of in-person traditions. The **Vancouver Pride Parade** returned in July, with many participants dancing alongside the District float and DJ. **Burnaby Pride** at Civic Square was also back on. Trustees shared a District-created crossword puzzle and colouring page, with some attendees creating their own competitions to see who could finish it fastest. Over at **Byrne Creek Community School**, volunteers, Community School Coordinators and school staff came together to help run a **Summer Food Hub**. They collected and distributed donations to more than 300 adults and children. Many students also continued their care for community over the summer break. Youth from **Burnaby North Secondary** started their fundraising for the Christmas Bureau. And at the end of August, **Maywood Community School** was the site of a provincial announcement to support school communities. The BC Government's new **Student and Family Affordability Fund** allocates millions across BC to help those in need with supplies, school meals, activities, and field trips.

SUPPORTING NEWCOMERS FROM UKRAINE

The District's **Settlement Workers in Schools Program** – or **SWIS** for short – organized a summer reading club for students from Ukraine at both the elementary and secondary levels. Dozens of children whose families fled from the war in their home country have found friendship and learning opportunities in the program. Continuing into the fall, it's led by two volunteer teachers from **Alpha Secondary** and **Armstrong Elementary**. Additionally, 40 newcomers from Ukraine attended a SWIS-run picnic where the Board Chair delivered a warm welcome. And a field trip for 12 Ukrainian youth was led by a **Moscrop Secondary** graduate, who is originally from Ukraine. The students went to see a movie, played games in the park, and learned about what to expect at high schools in Burnaby. SWIS workers also distributed 100 new backpacks donated by Telus.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

The new District Administration Office has been honoured with a **Heritage BC Award** for the restoration of the former school building and modern office addition. The original grand front entry stairs built in 1914 were among the features brought back to life. Other historical elements, including a cupola, were restored. Separately, **Burnaby Online** was recognized when it was chosen as one of 18 designated **Provincial Online Learning Schools**. And the **District Principal of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion** has been chosen as a finalist for the **Premier's Award for Excellence in Education**. **Beth Applewhite** has been leading anti-racism work at the District with teachers, students, families, leadership, and community groups since 2020. This year's award winners will be announced on October 14.

A JOYFUL START TO THE SCHOOL YEAR

As students went back to school at [Westridge Elementary](#), they got to cross the newly completed **Reconciliation Crosswalk**. The first of its kind in Burnaby, the idea came from Grade 6 and 7 students, who wanted to put reconciliation into action. Coast Salish artist **Atheana Picha** created the design after working with the class. Students and staff at [Clinton Elementary](#) returned to the news that they are expanding their **Indigenous School Garden**. This, after being selected over the summer from 1200 applications for a \$3000 grant from **Whole Kids Foundation**. [Seaforth](#) and [Parkcrest Elementary](#) students and staff began the 2022-23 school year with seismic improvements and upgrades to their buildings. Still at [Parkcrest](#), on the first day of school, students in **Brenda Montagano's** class had a lesson on pursuing your dreams. It was inspired by the news that a former Parkcrest student was Britain's new Prime Minister. The Burnaby School District connection garnered local, national, and international media attention. Let's take a look at the story that aired on Global News on the first day of school. Schools also started off the year with a return to traditions, such as barbecues and family picnics – as seen here at [Branford](#) and [Lyndhurst Elementary schools](#), as well as [Cariboo Hill Secondary](#). There were special welcomes for the youngest students – such as a **Welcome to Kindergarten** event held at [Armstrong Elementary](#), and a visit to the school office at [Kitchener Elementary](#). And the youngest at high school – the Grade 8s – also had special activities, such as this puzzle scavenger hunt at [Alpha](#), and this field trip at [Burnaby North](#). Over at [University Highlands Elementary](#), students sang at **StreetFest**, which is put on by **Simon Fraser University** and partners. The community event moved from online and back to in-person this year.

KEEPING TERRY'S DREAM ALIVE

Each year, students throughout the District, such as these at [Moscrop Secondary](#), [Confederation Park](#), and [Twelfth Avenue Elementary](#) participate in Terry Fox runs and campaigns. Collectively, thousands of dollars are raised to support cancer research.

FALL INTO SPORTS

Competitions in high school fall sports have begun – including soccer, with student athletes from [Burnaby North](#), [Burnaby South](#), [Moscrop](#), and [Burnaby Central Secondary](#) seen here. And after a disruption caused by the pandemic, elementary cross-country meets are back on for the first time in three years.

DISTRICT CO-HOSTS MAJOR CHILD CARE ANNOUNCEMENT

The child care centre at [Cascade Heights Elementary](#) was the site of a media event held by the provincial and federal governments about fee reductions for infant and toddler care. The announcement was co-hosted by the District and **Cascade Heights YMCA Childcare Centre**. The centre, itself, is one of many resulting from a plan approved by the Burnaby Board of Education to expand space for child care on school properties.

ONGOING JOURNEY OF RECONCILIATION

This is **Truth and Reconciliation Week**. A school-wide art project at [Glenwood Elementary](#) is one example of the learning happening across the District to honour people who attended residential schools, and to reinforce that *every child matters*. Secondary students at the [Royal Oak Alternate Program](#) are working on a garden project. Their hand-painted rocks will be combined with larger ones that read *Namwayut*, meaning *we are all one*. Orange pansies donated by a local nursery will also be part of the installation. The **Provincial Outreach Program, Deaf and Hard of Hearing** collaborated with Indigenous representatives on productions in ASL. They created several videos, including the **Orange Shirt Day** story. Additionally, in recognition of **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**, flags at schools and all District sites will be lowered to half-mast on Friday.