

INSIDE BURNABY SCHOOLS

January 24, 2023



NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS

As students returned from Winter Break to a new calendar year, a Grade 5/6 class at **Brentwood Park Elementary** was among several who used the occasion as an impetus to set new goals. A Grade 6/7 class at **Buckingham Elementary** focused on a single word to represent their resolutions for 2023. Still at **Buckingham**, Grade 2/3 students considered, amongst their goals, three acts of kindness to do for people. A Grade 2 class at **Gilmore Community School** included new foods to try, as part of their resolutions. Primary students at **Second Street Community School** made these adorable penguins to “waddle into a new year.” Meanwhile **French Immersion** students at **Marlborough Elementary** “gave props” to the new year in their handmade glasses, as they wished everyone a Bonne Année. **Lunar New Year** activities are also well underway across the District. Students at **Burnaby North Secondary** have been celebrating the **Year of the Rabbit** in a variety of ways. This included an event, complete with performances for all to enjoy, that was led by students taking Mandarin classes, as well as **North’s Mandarin Club**. Festivities at **Forest Grove Elementary**, where the District’s **Mandarin Language Arts Program** is held, are in full swing throughout the school – including these student creations from multiple classes. Over at **Brantford Elementary**, intermediate youth painted rabbit pictures – all while learning about the continuous cycle of Chinese Zodiac signs, and how each is represented by an animal. A Grade 5/6 French Immersion class at **Cascade Heights Elementary** created rabbit art that held extra meaning for the 12-year-olds; they were born in the Year of the Rabbit twelve years ago. Students at **Aubrey Elementary** learned that this year’s animal symbolizes longevity, peace and prosperity. Early learners at **Kitchener Elementary** made paper lanterns to celebrate and enjoyed fresh dumplings. Grade 1 and 2 students at **Capitol Hill Elementary** moved through the halls collectively and joyfully as a dragon.

STUDENTS SUPPORT THE ENVIRONMENT

A **Burnaby Mountain Secondary** student has been named a Top 25 environmentalist under 25 in Canada. **Caio Krause Conradt** received the honour from a non-profit organization called **The Starfish Canada**, which works to amplify the voices of young environmental leaders. Caio is president of his school’s **Earthwise Club**. He also facilitates cooking classes and garden clubs for elementary students – opportunities that are part of the District’s partnership with **Sprouting Chefs**. Caio is the Youth Committee Head. Over at **Byrne Creek Community School**, students held a clothing drive to keep textiles out of the landfill. The initiative is among ongoing efforts to promote and contribute to sustainability. Schools continue to support environmental awareness through building connection to the outdoors. For example, at **Stoney Creek Community School**, place-based learning took a group of young students and their teacher to a nearby forest. Students at **Brentwood Park** set out on a tree inquiry. They were delighted to explore an alternate set of questions when they discovered an abandoned bird’s nest on the ground.

PLANNING FOR NEXT YEAR

Students are in the early stages of planning for the 2023-24 school year. As they consider their options, there is much choice in both high school electives and district-wide programs for children and youth of all ages. Several information sessions were organized to help students and families make informed decisions – including at all eight high schools, such as this open house at **Burnaby South Secondary**. Approximately 450 people attended an evening about the District's **Career Education** programs, which range from game development and cyber security to carpentry and plumbing. The high quality of the District's **Programs of Choice** has been in the spotlight recently. The teacher of the **Microsoft Office Specialist program** at **Cariboo Hill Secondary** was named **Educator of the Year**. The honour was awarded to **Jerry Chen** by **CCI Learning**, an education technology company. And in a recent **Burnaby Now** story, a musician and former **Burnaby North** student talked about the pending release of her album. **April Liang** credited taking the **Music Production & Technology** program in Grade 11 with igniting her ability to produce music.

LITERACY WEEK

While literacy is a focus all year, many schools choose a week for joyful activities as a community – such as this “book tasting” by candlelight at **Stoney Creek**. The experience was complete with tablecloths, soft music and books to bite into – figuratively, of course. **Westridge Elementary** students and school staff dressed up as their favourite book characters, decorated doors, and also enjoyed a book tasting. Students at **Chaffey-Burke Elementary** considered the question, “what makes a fairy tale?” While some schools bring in guest readers, at **Chaffey-Burke** they had some fun with chair swapping, as teachers switched classrooms to read for one another's students.

PARTNERSHIPS ENHANCE STUDENT EXPERIENCES

There are many examples throughout the District of how community connection and partnerships strengthen all we do. **Parent Advisory Councils** work in partnership toward the best interest of students. At **Byrne Creek Community School**, students are getting ready for the upcoming **Comic Con** event with special guests – all thanks to the generosity of the school **PAC** and **Burnaby Public Library**. Recently at **Gilmore Community School**, the PAC provided new gym balls for several sports. Over at **Parkcrest Elementary**, students had a sea dome experience, while learning about oceans and conservation actions. The magic of the sea came with a visit from non-profit **Ocean Wise**. Working with **ArtStarts**, the District's **Young People's Concert** series was back on and in-person for the first time since the pandemic began. Elementary students enjoyed a variety of performance arts experiences, including **Black Canadian 365**, which was held last week. The show is by **D.O. Gibson**, a Guinness World Record setting rapper who works to inspire youth.

BEYOND BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Several schools, such as **Second Street Community School**, used the occasion of **Martin Luther King Jr.**'s birthday to explore his life and legacy. The class looked to honour him by serving the community, after reflecting on the question once asked by the civil rights leader, himself: “what are you doing for others?” Also at **Second Street**, students from two classes headed to the school library to research inspirational people for their **Black excellence** projects. **Brentwood Park Elementary** students considered what is perhaps the most iconic quote from Martin Luther King Jr, about judging people by the content of their character. With words and designs incorporated into a cut out of their hands, the students shared their own expressions of solidarity.