

# INSIDE BURNABY SCHOOLS

February 28, 2023



## PINK SHIRT DAY: LEARNING AND ACTION

Many schools participate in Pink Shirt Day, which began more than 15 years ago as a student-driven campaign to bring awareness to homophobic bullying. It's also an opportunity to talk about the culture we work to create every day in our schools, such as this project at **Lochdale Community School** focused on the connections between us. **Capitol Hill** and **Buckingham Elementary** are among several schools that held an assembly. **Capitol Hill** created a rainbow hallway to bring visibility to their efforts to combat homophobia and transphobia. **Rosser Elementary** students made displays focused on kindness and empathy. Grade 7 Leadership students at **Cascade Heights Elementary** edited and filmed a video featuring all classes, rainbows, hearts and a focus on lifting one another up. Several schools collaborated on a public display at nearby Lougheed mall. The original poetry and messages of strength and kindness were created by students at **Stoney Creek Community School**, **Cameron** and **Lyndhurst Elementary**, as well as **Burnaby Mountain Secondary**. On the day, itself, students spread kindness to shoppers with gift cards provided by the mall and handmade notes created by the youth. With a grant from **Intentional Acts of Kindness**, Leadership students from **Burnaby North Secondary** handed out flowers and notes to people at the shopping centre across from the school. The **SOGI Club** and Leadership students collaborated at **Burnaby South Secondary** to provide information and messages of support. They created a welcoming display as people entered the building.

## REFLECTING ON AND HONOURING BLACK HISTORY

In the lead-up to **Black History Month**, **Edmonds Community School** was host to an event designed to empower Black youth and their families. A workshop was provided by the **Jr. Black Achievement Society**. Food, dance, music and knowledge were also shared. The **BIPOC Affinity Group** at **Alpha Secondary** planned many activities and displays. They also led the declaration of Black Solidarity Day for the entire school to show – by wearing black – their support and solidarity for Black students. At **Burnaby Central Secondary**, the **Black Excellence Club** kicked off the month with cookies. Later in the month, they held a Black Out Rally with a student MC to a packed gym. Students at **Byrne Creek Community School** visibly honoured the month with the creation of mural art. Black youth from high schools across the District gathered to watch a special screening of *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever*. The event was co-hosted by the Burnaby and New Westminster school districts with support from the **Ninandotoo Society**. Many classes across the District, such as these at **Second Street Community School**, **Brentwood Park**, **Buckingham**, **South Slope** and the **BC Provincial School for the Deaf** explored art, books and stories of success, sacrifice, resilience, and triumph.

## STUDENTS SHOW CARE FOR PEOPLE GLOBALLY AND LOCALLY

Several schools rallied to support people following the devastating earthquake in Turkey and Syria. Leadership students at **Burnaby North** held a Pajama Movie Night with proceeds going to the cause. The **Burnaby Mountain Diversity Club** collected donations of food, clothing, blankets, and more. Leadership students at **Alpha** focused on gathering supplies for babies, such as diapers, clothes and blankets. At **Inman Elementary**, Leadership students collected books by donation and then sold them to raise money for people impacted by the earthquake. Still at **Inman**, more than 30 students looked locally when they created nearly 100 cards to spread cheer at nearby **Chartwell Retirement Residences**. A Grade 1/2 class from **Gilmore Community School** built neighbourhood connections when they spent time with seniors at **Seton Villa** making conversation, art, and memories together.

## A SHOW OF HEART

Many schools have fun with Valentine's Day, such as this Cupid Flash Mob at **Confederation Park Elementary**. Delight and games were also had at a Valentine's Day Carnival at **Lyndhurst Elementary**. Led by the Grade 6/7 class, the event was also a fundraiser for the **Burnaby Firefighters Charitable Society**. The Student Government at **Cariboo Hill Secondary** organized a special project for all students. Hearts were posted throughout the school with each student's name paired with a message of Cariboo's love for them. At **Brentwood Park Elementary**, Kindergarten students headed outside to make hearts from the magic of the forest. And through her work at **Kitchener Elementary**, Grade 5 student Mmesoma Chukwu was inspired to write and publish a story book. She infused it with something for everyone, dedicating it to those who love Valentine's Day and those who hate it, too.

## FRENCH IMMERSION STUDENTS CELEBRATING AND LEARNING

Many schools throughout the District, such as **École Armstrong Elementary**, use **Carnaval** as a chance for students to learn while enjoying French-Canadian culture. At **École Cariboo Hill Secondary**, the winter festival was also an opportunity for leadership and connection with local elementary students – including those from **École Brantford Elementary**, who participated in activities planned by the older students. At **École Capitol Hill** children enjoyed tire d'erable or maple taffy served the traditional way on a bed of snowy ice. And no Carnaval celebration would be complete without a visit from Bonhomme, the mascot. At **École Marlborough Elementary** students were treated to a grand entrance as Bonhomme rode in on a fire truck, courtesy of the **Burnaby Fire Department**.

## HONOURS AND AWARDS

**Byrne Creek** students were winners at the **Regional 2D Animation BC Skills Canada** contest. And with his first-place Wrestling win in the 63-kilogram weight class, **Quentin Mensah** brought home the first-ever provincial title for the school, making **Byrne Creek** athletics history. **Moscrop Secondary**'s Grade 8 math team took top spot at the **Math Challenger** regional competition. The Board Chair presented **Moscrop** with a prestigious award at a virtual **Hub Cycling** event for the work of school staff in promoting sustainable and healthy transport. The group of more than 100 teachers, education assistants, and administrators earned the **School Cycling Advocates Award**. They had the highest number of participants and total distance during **Go by Bike Week**. Their efforts are a great example of the aims of the District's Sustainability Strategic Plan – working together for the strength and well-being of people and the planet.