

INSIDE BURNABY SCHOOLS

April 25, 2023



CULTURAL TRADITIONS AND PRACTICES HONOURED

From classroom explorations to celebrating special occasions in assemblies, there are many opportunities to honour how diversity strengthens our communities. April is **Sikh Heritage Month**. A mother of one of the students at **Second Street Community School** presented to her son's class on the origins and significance of the Sikh turban. Students enjoyed sharing culture and samosas. **Brantford Elementary** held a celebration in honour of **Vaisakhi** – a spring festival and one of the most important dates on the Sikh calendar. As part of their preparations for the assembly, students learned **Bhangra** dance. Let's take a look at their rehearsal. Over at **Parkcrest Elementary**, children made **Ramadan** lanterns to mark the Muslim holy month. In celebration of **Easter**, students at **Parkcrest** and **Marlborough Elementary** created **Pysanky**, in the Ukrainian tradition of decorating eggs.

STUDENT PRESENTATION OPPORTUNITIES

Children and youth had the chance to show off their French language skills at a public speaking competition put on by **Canadian Parents for French**. The District had several winners and participants in **Concours d'art Oratoire**. **École Brantford Elementary** students placed first and second in their categories. **École Moscrop Secondary** students took a bite out of the competition and earned medals. Grade 6 and 7 students – including these from **Inman** and **Brentwood Park Elementary** – took part in a district-wide opportunity called **Sharing Our Stories**. A re-imagining of the former **Grade 7 Public Speaking Challenge**, students were invited to present about "an authentic moment." Zonal showcases will be held in May where youth will share their stories with one another and guests. Deaf and Hard of Hearing students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 competed today at the second annual **DHHproud Showcase**. Put on by the District-administered **BC Provincial Outreach Program, Deaf and Hard of Hearing**, the event brought together children and youth from across the province for a series of contests on the theme, "This is my Deaf/Hard of Hearing World."

FRIENDLY COMPETITION PROMOTING HEALTH & COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Trustees joined students from **Gilpin Elementary**, the City of Burnaby Mayor, and others for the official kick-off of the **Walk30 Challenge**. The District takes part each year in the annual friendly competition, which creates connections in the community and to the local environment. Leading an active, healthy lifestyle is a pillar of the physical education strand of the curriculum, and the Walk30 Challenge gets people of all athletic abilities moving. Several classrooms take part, such as these students from **Glenwood Elementary** who admired spring flowers and blossoms in their neighbourhood on their 30-minute walk. A Grade 4/5 class at **Suncrest Elementary** recently walked in the Seymour Conservation Area while learning about the watershed. Their walking is also connecting them to literature. They were awarded the first prize draw for week one of the challenge: a 50-dollar gift card for a local bookstore.

STRENGTHENING CONNECTION TO THE ENVIRONMENT

In the lead up to Earth Day, Grade 2/3 students at **Kitchener Elementary** created thoughtful collages. **University Highlands Elementary** turned out in full force for their Earth Day Community Clean Up. Earlier, a class from **Highlands** toured the Seymour Hatchery. They did a stream survey, fed Coho smolt, and also collected and observed aquatic invertebrates. Over at **Aubrey Elementary**, primary students released salmon fry into a local stream. **Westridge Elementary** students cleaned up the community along Heron Creek while learning about land stewardship. Across the District, schools have been making the most of local outdoor learning opportunities. At **Rosser Elementary**, children worked together to engineer a bridge in the forest. These Grade 6/7 students at **Chaffey-Burke Elementary** took canoeing lessons at Deer Lake. **Branford Elementary** students did an extensive tree inquiry. Their explorations involved learning about the many kinds of life that seek shelter and food from trees, as well as what the rings reveal about a tree's life experiences – including fires, droughts, infestation, and age. Bird watchers in a Grade 2 class at **Marlborough Elementary** practiced quiet observation and listening skills in nature. When they spotted a heron, it gave them a great show as it went about its business.

AN EARLY CAREER EXPLORATION OPPORTUNITY MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

Grade 6/7 students across the District had the chance to explore marketing and advertising in a project called **Design an Ad**. This year marked record participation numbers, in the more than two decades that the project has been on offer. Over one thousand students from forty classes at twenty elementary schools learned about marketing and designing ads. Put on in partnership with the Burnaby Now, it's also a chance for youth to have their work featured in the local newspaper. Classes design an ad for a local business or organization, which then selects one for publication in the special feature. The chosen advertisements and some runners-up are also on display at Lougheed mall. Here are just two great examples of the critical thinking and hard work that student marketers put into advertisements they designed for the school district.

STUDENTS SHINE BRIGHT AT COMPETITIONS

Grade 11 **Burnaby Mountain Secondary** student **Andrew Sun** earned a gold medal at the **Greater Vancouver Regional Science Fair**. He was also awarded a two-thousand-dollar entrance scholarship to the University of British Columbia for capturing "Best Earth and Environmental Science Project." **Career Education** students in the District's **Programs of Choice** did exceptionally well at the **Skills Canada** provincial competition last week. Seven of the eight students participating took home medals. **2D animators** in the **Graphics & Media Arts** program captured two silver medals, won by Grade 12 students **Jayden De Guzman** from **Burnaby Mountain**, and **Emily Ling** from **Burnaby South Secondary**. A **Culinary Arts** bronze medal was earned by **Professional Cook** program student **Sarah Taylor**, who's in Grade 11 at **Burnaby Central Secondary**. **Moscrop Secondary** Grade 11 student **Connor De Vera-McGinn** took gold and **Ogie Segulja**, who's in Grade 12 at **Alpha Secondary**, secured silver in the **Automotive Collision Repair** category. **CISCO Networking Academy** students also earned gold and silver. Grade 11 **Byrne Creek Community School** student **Tim Generalov** came in second, and Grade 12 **Burnaby South** student **Benjamin Halko** took the first-place prize. He and the other gold medalists have qualified for the **Skills Canada Nationals** in Winnipeg next month.