

# INSIDE BURNABY SCHOOLS

May 30, 2023



## SHOWCASING STUDENTS' ARTISTIC TALENTS

Inspiring and beautiful art by students with diverse abilities and disabilities is on display in a professionally installed gallery exhibition. **Building a Better Tomorrow Through Art** was initiated by a teacher at **Burnaby North Secondary**. The work of **Moscrop** and **Cariboo Hill Secondary** students is also featured in this 2nd-annual cross-district showcase. The **Burnaby Art Gallery** is spotlighting the talents of students in two public exhibitions. "Magnitude of Enclosures" features the art of Grade 11 and 12 students who are part of an apprenticeship program with the gallery. And the **Arts Alive** "Out of This World" exhibition highlights the creations of elementary students from 15 schools. There were incredible performances at the **Burnaby Festival of Dance**. A tradition since 1980, the festival brings together students of all ages. The **Festival of Beginning Bands** returned for the first time since the pandemic. More than 1000 Grade 7s played at host schools **Inman**, **Nelson** and **Gilmore**. Several schools took part in **Music Monday**, which included a **District Choir Night**. Students' live theatre performances have delighted audiences – such as *The Lion King Jr* by **Confederation Park**, and these plays at **Westridge** and **Cariboo Hill**.

## COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS CREATE OPPORTUNITIES

We are a proud partner of the **Burnaby Festival of Learning**. During the week-long series of community events, Indigenous youth and their families were invited to **Burnaby Central Secondary**. They took part in a hands-on drum-making workshop led by **Elder Alroy Baker**. Seniors were welcomed back into the building at **Second Street Community School** for the 51<sup>st</sup> annual **Seniors' Tea**. Smiles were especially wide this year, as the event that provides connection across the generations had been on hiatus since the pandemic started. Each year the District partners with the **City of Burnaby** and others to offer free early learning events for children under 5 years old and their families. More than 600 people attended one of the three **Play to Learn** events to hear about resources, connect, and enjoy entertainment.

Partnerships also give students exposure to options after high school. More than 30 youth were part of a program for Black students hosted by the **University of British Columbia**. The **UBC Black Futures program** included tours, mentorship and more – all to ignite post-secondary horizons. A group of 16 youth were selected from a pool of applicants to participate in the **Youth Outreach Academy**, put on by the **Burnaby Fire Department**. Students learned about a firefighter's day-to-day responsibilities, did training exercises, and earned their First Aid and CPR certifications. The **Burnaby RCMP's** Youth Section held its first-ever **Youth Academy**. Twenty-four Grade 11 and 12 students, who expressed an interest in law enforcement, had the chance to learn about policing, law, and what to expect if they pursue a career in law enforcement.

## STUDENTS HONOURED FOR EXCELLENCE

Students from **Burnaby North** and **Moscrop** brought home bronze at the **Canada-Wide Science Fair**. A record number of children below age 13 were **Youth Citizenship Award** winners. Recognized by the **City of Burnaby** for their work at school and in the community, all but one are students in the District – including the **Youth Week** logo contest winner from **Burnaby North**. A **Burnaby South** student in the **Cisco Networking Academy** Program of Choice took home bronze for Team BC, after competing at the **Skills Canada Nationals**. Students from **Alpha**, **Brantford**, **Burnaby South**, **Capitol Hill**, **Cariboo Hill**, **Marlborough**, and **Moscrop** were awarded for their French-language public speaking skills. Collectively, they earned twelve medals at the Provincial **Concours d'art oratoire**.

## CENTRING INDIGENOUS VOICES AND SHOWING SOLIDARITY

Red dresses hung along a walking route at **Burnaby Mountain Secondary**, marking the **National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit People**. **Juanita Desjarlais**, a committee member for the **Women's Memorial March**, shared some words to begin the walk. Some classes also took part in **The Red Thread** project. These opportunities to reflect and learn are at **Burnaby North** and **South**. Additionally, **Moose Hide Day** – a campaign to end violence against women and children – was observed. Student voices were at the centre of a District-wide **Secondary Indigenous Youth Gathering**. The day included guidance from **Elder Alroy Baker** and **Elder Doctor Roberta Price**, community building, gathering students' feedback, as well as honouring identity through art and song. Students at **Gilmore Community School** are among those who created personal land acknowledgements, recognizing Coast Salish people and their unceded territory. At **Alpha Secondary**, the drama studio now has a student-created land acknowledgement in a permanent place of prominence.

## LEARNING DURING RECOGNITION DATES

Several schools focused on wellness during **Mental Health Week**. **Cariboo Hill** began with yoga. Later, students enjoyed the calming effects of connecting with animals. The **Mental Health Club** at **Moscrop** put together self-care kits. Additionally, May is **Asian Heritage Month** with students at **Rosser Elementary** marking it by researching prominent Asian Canadians. Research topics at **Maywood Community School** covered everything from famous people to the history of ramen. May is also **Jewish Heritage Month** and nearly 90 students had a chance to engage and ask questions in a session at **Burnaby Mountain** that focused on multi-cultural perspectives. Earlier this month, the Pride Flag was raised at the **District Administration Office**, as well as several schools, such as **Brantford** – all in recognition of the **International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia** or IDAHAT. For the first time since the pandemic began, the annual **IDAHAAT Breakfast** was back on in person. Students from across the District had the opportunity for connection and to hear from keynote speakers. In recognition of IDAHAT, the **Pride Club** at **Brentwood Elementary** made one-of-a-kind stickers for their school community. Over at **Burnaby Central**, students and staff focused on celebrating diversity within the school community, which boasts 61 languages and 73 countries represented. **Cultural Appreciation Week** ended with a joyful show focused on culturally significant clothing.