

INSIDE BURNABY SCHOOLS

June 27, 2023



CONTRIBUTING TO THE COMMUNITY

There are many outstanding examples of students making a difference in the community – such as at **Aubrey Elementary** where they raised almost \$4,000 for the **Burnaby Hospital Foundation**. The Leadership Committee at **Brentwood Park Elementary** held several fundraisers including an entrepreneur sale where they sold items they created – all resulting in more than \$2,000 for **Canuck Place Children’s Hospice**. Grade 4/5 students at **Clinton Elementary** created a Snack Shack as part of a focus on careers. They earned \$1,500 in sales that they donated to the **BC Cancer Foundation** for children's cancer facilities. At **Gilmore Community School**, senior students held a Young Entrepreneur Show and donated some of their profits. Grade 7 twin sisters **Iman** and **Khaliya** earned \$200 selling their handmade items. They contributed half of their earnings to an organization that helps girls around the world access education. Also at **Gilmore**, the school collected more than \$2,500 for the **Canucks Autism Network**. **Confederation Park Elementary** students organized a metal recycling event. Because all metal has value, they were able to raise money for the **Burnaby Neighbourhood House**. Several schools, including **Inman** and **Twelfth Avenue Elementary**, participated in **Bike to School Week** – benefiting the environment. Students at the **Youth Hub** won first place in a province-wide **Return-It** contest, after creating and constructing a recycling campaign. Two secondary students were honoured with **City of Burnaby Environmental Awards** for work in their schools. **Caio Conradt** is president of the Earthwise Club at **Burnaby Mountain Secondary** and leads environmental awareness work. **Ziya Merchant** from **Burnaby South Secondary** launched a campaign called Phase Out Plastic Bottles.

HONOURING NATIONAL INDIGENOUS HISTORY MONTH

In addition to work happening throughout the year, many schools have been putting an extra focus on Indigenous learning during **National Indigenous History Month**. Some, such as **Twelfth Avenue Elementary**, have held special ceremonies. This weaving was created by Coast Salish artists **Angela George** and **Caitlin Aleck**. Their design was informed after months of connecting with students and staff, with aspects of the final weave addressing the community and its lands. The unveiling presentation and protocol was led by **Elder Sam George** and **Les George** from the Tseil-Waututh Nation. **Westridge Elementary** hosted a ceremony to honour the work of students that resulted in the first-ever Reconciliation Crosswalk in Burnaby. The gathering was led by Coast Salish **Elder Doctor Roberta Price** and followed Indigenous Protocol. Younger students were present to witness, share the learnings, and carry the Reconciliation work forward. A ceremony at **Burnaby North Secondary** was led by Master Carver and Squamish Nation **Elder Xwalacktun** to wake up the Welcome Post. It will be installed at the new school. Students carved together with Elder Xwalacktun over many months as he shared stories and teachings. **Burnaby South Secondary** came together to enjoy bannock on **National Indigenous Peoples Day**. Students at **Marlborough Elementary** marked the day with a story walk in their outdoor classroom.

CELEBRATING WITH PRIDE

A District-wide family event called **Freedom to Celebrate** was held for the first time and kicked off **Pride Month**. The festivities included enjoying a meal together, an author reading, crafts, face painting, a magician, student performances, and representation by several community partners. Many schools – such as **Moscrop Secondary**, **Suncrest Elementary** and **Maywood Community School** – raised the Pride flag this month. The **Diversity Club** at **University Highlands Elementary** wanted to remind everyone that they belong. Students at **Marlborough** held flags championing equality. **Cameron Elementary** paraded with handmade banners sharing messages of inclusion. At **Stoney Creek Community School** students and staff walked their parade route in colourful clothing. The **Taylor Park Elementary** community wore festive clothing and held welcoming messages during the school parade. Inclusivity and acceptance was also promoted by **Gilmore Community School** during Pride Week, including with a school-wide photo where everyone was encouraged to wear something that makes them feel proud. **Burnaby South Secondary**'s **SOGI Club** organized a lunchtime **Rainbow Crosswalk Dance Party** for staff and students. **Nelson Elementary** marked Pride Month with messages about loving everyone as they are. And a project at **Confederation Park Elementary** shared this month reminds us that living without discrimination is a right for all, that is protected under the Canadian Human Rights Act.

CELEBRATIONS AND EVENTS CLOSE OUT THE SCHOOL YEAR

A District-wide event was held at **Byrne Creek Community School** in recognition of both **Juneteenth** and **Canadian Emancipation Day**. More than 100 Black students and friends came to mark the emancipation of slaves and abolishment of slavery across North America. Put on in partnership with the **Ninandotoo Society**, the celebrations included food, live music and performances, as well as sharing culture and learning. Student voice was elevated in a CBC Vancouver interview where the youth expressed excitement about celebrating with peers. Secondary athletics banquets – such as these at **Byrne Creek Community School** and **Burnaby North Secondary** – are among the year-end celebrations. The events, like these at **Burnaby Mountain** and **Moscrop Secondary** schools, are a way to thank athletes, coaches, volunteers and honour athletic achievement. Many elementary schools, including **Brentwood Park**, held **Sports Days**. Students at **Brantford Elementary** made giant team banners. **Maywood Community School** got creative with a camp theme. **Marlborough Elementary** students had fun at the many stations. Grade 7s at **University Highlands Elementary** came together with their families to open a time capsule and explore its artifacts. It was buried in 2015 when the students were in Kindergarten. Welcome to Kindergarten events, such as these at **Inman** and **Stoney Creek**, happen annually in June for students starting in the Fall. Grade 7 students marked their final days of elementary school at special leaving ceremonies, such as these at **Kitchener**, **Brentwood Park** and **Brantford Elementary** schools. **Honouring Our Youth** is a ceremony for Indigenous graduates that follows local protocol through the generosity of Elders and Knowledge Keepers. All eight high schools held graduation ceremonies at Simon Fraser University on top of Burnaby Mountain. Grade 12 students walked through the picturesque setting to join the awaiting crowd. Graduates also enjoyed evenings of celebration with their peers. All of the District's Valedictorians are featured in a special section of the Burnaby Now. As they ended their public-school experience in anticipation, reflection, and celebration, they shared their words of wisdom with the wider community.