

INSIDE BURNABY SCHOOLS

September 26, 2023



AN ACTION-PACKED SUMMER

Hanging out with Burnaby Schools over the summer continues to be a record-breaking trend for students. Within minutes, thousands signed up for **Summer Session**. There were more than 9,500 registrations this year. With everything from showcasing your inner artist, and exploring nature in different ways, to learning hands-on new skills, there's something for everyone. A new credit course for Grade 10 to 12 students was held in partnership with **Simon Fraser University**. Called **Becoming a Digital Activist & Other Tools for Surviving an Online Life**, the summer class considered some of the biggest questions in digital media. Also over the summer, some students seized opportunities through their school's **Work Experience Program** – such as this one, exploring the world of construction. From experimenting with virtual design to shadowing on-site, these **Burnaby Mountain Secondary** students learned about a potential career. Additionally this summer, a group of 30 Principals from Seoul, South Korea, visited **Marlborough Elementary**. They came to learn about primary and early childhood education in our District. Maintenance staff used the summer months to work on school grounds and inside spaces, alongside custodial staff who were able to carry out deep cleans. The **Settlement Workers in Schools** program continued to offer ways for newcomers to connect over the summer. At this workshop, students and families – who came to Burnaby from Ukraine – made traditional flower crowns to mark **Ukrainian Independence Day**. In July, Trustees joined other local representatives at **Burnaby Pride** celebrations. Trustees, staff, students, and families proudly walked in the **Vancouver Pride Parade** – all in celebration of the diversity that strengthens our schools and workplaces. For the second year in a row, the Burnaby School District float featured a retired principal who added to the festive atmosphere as DJ.

STARTING THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR BUILDING COMMUNITY

Many schools – such as **Aubrey** and **South Slope Elementary** – began the year with a literal sign of welcome. **Burnaby North Secondary** leadership students gathered to plan events and got a sneak peak of their new school. Grade 8s from **North** connected with one another at a retreat at Belcarra Regional Park. A group of students from **Moscrop Secondary** had the chance to visit the **Cheakamus Centre** in Squamish for an outdoor learning experience. The Grade 8s at **Alpha Secondary** got to know one another at an after school social and dance. **University Highlands** and **Buckingham Elementary** schools were among many that held picnics with families. **Branford Elementary** students made mini piñatas in preparation for their welcome-back barbecue, which was also a celebration of **Mexican Independence Day**. At **Brentwood Park Elementary**, interactive storytelling stations were enjoyed by Kindergarten students and their families. **Maywood Community School** created a community rock garden. Leadership students at **Taylor Park Elementary** led a carnival for the school. **Confederation Park Elementary** focused on a "connections" theme. And in an illustration of the long-lasting strength of school connections, **Cariboo Hill Secondary** had a visit from members of the first graduating class from 1972.

LEARNING FROM TERRY'S LEGACY

Each year, students throughout the District, such as these at **Alpha** and **Maywood**, participate in a **Terry Fox Run**, walk, or roll. Collectively, many thousands of dollars are raised by our schools. **University Highlands** and **Rosser Elementary** collected \$1,000 each to support cancer research. **Aubrey Elementary** surpassed its goal of \$2,500. At **Twelfth Avenue Elementary**, students wrote messages to honour Terry. Children at **Confederation Park Elementary** created art as a tribute to Terry Fox and the **Marathon of Hope** that he started in 1980. A display of original newspaper clippings and inspirational quotes at **Second Street Community School** helped students consider Terry's legacy, and how children and youth can be positive agents of change.

FALL SPORTS ARE OFF TO A RUNNING START

Elementary cross-country is on. Students, such as these at **Kitchener Elementary** are learning proper warmup technique. While training in their neighbourhood, these **Brantford** students are also practicing how to safely cross driveways and streets. At the high school level, fall sports such as soccer are underway – as seen here at **Burnaby South**, and **Burnaby North Secondary** schools. Volleyball competition is ramping up, including at **Byrne Creek Community School**. Teams, such as **Moscrop Secondary**'s Panthers, are already seeing tournament action.

OUR COLLECTIVE ONGOING JOURNEY TOWARD RECONCILIATION

This week, several learning opportunities are happening across the District as part of a focus on **Truth and Reconciliation Week**. A District-administered provincial program has collaborated with Indigenous representatives on a series of American Sign Language videos. The goal is to build understanding of Truth and Reconciliation Week in an accessible way. Most recently, the **Provincial Outreach Program, Deaf and Hard of Hearing** created a video in ASL that demonstrates sign names for local Indigenous communities. This is in addition to an existing ASL adaptation that explains the origins of **Orange Shirt Day**. Flags at all schools and District sites will be lowered to half-mast in recognition of **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**.

EARLY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES GROW

These children are part of an historic moment in the Burnaby School District. Last week marked a first, when the **Just B4 Preschool** opened at **Chaffey-Burke Elementary**. While our schools and properties have been home to child care and preschool centres for many years, this is the first operated and staffed by the District. Run by qualified Early Childhood Educators, the Just B4 Preschool program is for children born in 2019. It's designed to provide a rich, nurturing, play-based learning environment, which stimulates children's thinking, creativity and engagement. The **Early Learning Framework** and the **First Peoples Principles of Learning** provide the foundation for the program's curriculum. Children are given opportunities to invent, investigate, build theories, play, and learn skills necessary for living and learning together – always in the spirit of wonder and joy.