

INSIDE BURNABY SCHOOLS

November 28, 2023



COMING TOGETHER TO HONOUR VETERANS

Across the District, schools recognized both **National Indigenous Veterans Day** and **Remembrance Day**. Students led and performed at assemblies, such as at **Inman Elementary**. **Kitchener Elementary's** gathering included a service member on the trumpet. A Private in the Canadian Army shared reflections at **Branford Elementary**. Many classes also did projects. This one at **Cascade Heights Elementary** includes student reflections on the meaning of peace. In a decade's old tradition at a housing centre for veterans, students from **Second Street Community School** planted small flags in remembrance. **Alpha Secondary** featured handmade poppies as part of a display in a high-traffic area. It also included the stories and photos of some people who've sacrificed for our freedoms.

THE ART OF EMPOWERMENT IN ACTION: NEW SCHOOL MURAL

Students and school staff at **Moscrop Secondary** are turning a concrete retaining wall into a statement. This artist's rendering shows where the project is headed. The expansive mural underway was made possible by the **City of Burnaby** through a youth program called **Changing Colours Art of Empowerment**. As part of the program, Moscrop students participated in a creative expression workshop, with the goal of making a series of large-scale murals. This is the first of three projects that will be installed at the school.

STUDENTS BUILD CAREER PATHS WHILE MEETING COMMUNITY NEED

High school students in the District are learning about early childhood education in a way that used to have to wait until post-secondary. The **Early Childhood Education Assistant Program** is new this year. It's the first of its kind in BC with classes led by a school district. The innovative program offers credit toward graduation, supports students' career paths, and helps the community's need for more qualified early childhood education workers. Media outlets reported on the program, with many stories elevating the voices of two students: **Batoul**, who is in Grade 12 at **Cariboo Hill Secondary**, and **Felipe**, who is in Grade 11 at **Burnaby Mountain Secondary**. Both are working with children aged 3 to 5 while doing their practicums at **SFU Childcare**.

SUPPORTING NEWCOMERS WITH CONNECTION AND LEARNING

Children in our schools who are new to Canada connected with one another and the land on a recent field trip. The family activity was held at **Capilano River Regional Park** and led by the District's **Settlement Workers in Schools**. Sponsorship was provided by the **Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Foundation**. An eight-week program to help immigrant families in Burnaby is underway at **Maywood Community School**. **IPALS** or **Immigrant Parents as Literacy Supporters** is a long-running program in the District. It's designed to help immigrants set their children up for success in school. Put on in partnership with **Decoda Literacy**, the program is offered in the families' first language. Children join in play-based activities that support literacy and numeracy in the early years.

WORKING TO DISMANTLE RACISM AND CELEBRATING THE STRENGTHS IN OUR DIFFERENCES

The Burnaby School District participated in and led the organization of the **BC K-12 Anti-Racism Educator Summit**. The **Ministry of Education and Child Care** funded the event. It was an opportunity for the 15 participating districts to come together as a network to move anti-racism work forward. Keynote speakers, who are world-renowned leaders in anti-racism work, shared their knowledge and guidance. Students, district leaders, administrators, and teachers attending from across the province also had the chance to participate in equity labs that focused on student voice, resources, mental health, racist incidents, as well as training and facilitation. Learning about one another's cultures, experiences, and perspectives supports students with building deeper connections to the world around them. As part of our ongoing journey and work to create a better path forward together, schools have continued to honour culture and diversity, such as this **Diwali** celebration at **Aubrey Elementary**. This Grade 7 student and her family shared their special family **Laddoo** recipe as the class learned about Diwali. **Fiji Day** was held at **Edmonds Community School**, with families coming together to enjoy traditional foods and learn about Fijian culture. Support and partnership for the event was provided by the **United Way**. **Buckingham Elementary** and **Moscrop Secondary** recognized **Day of the Dead** with a common symbol of the holiday: masks. Still at **Buckingham**, Grade 3 and 4 students came up with ideas for a new Canadian stamp. Many were inspired by Indigenous art. In another class at the school, Grade 6/7s are learning how to weave quarter bags in the traditional **Musqueam** style. Students at **Taylor Park Elementary** enjoyed **Motown Music** and learning about its history. **Krystle Dos Santos**, an award-winning soul, jazz and R&B singer with Guyanese roots, performed with sponsorship from **Art Starts**. And elementary students from across the District came together for the annual **Young People's Concert Series**. In this performance, students listened to **Marimba music** from Zimbabwe, fused with West African and Afro-Cuban sounds.

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS: SPREADING JOY AND CARING FOR COMMUNITY

Student performances are abundant in the weeks leading up to the holiday season. The choir at **South Slope Elementary** put on a beautiful night of caroling at a local garden centre. **Voices 41** was a highlight for high schools. Their evening performance showcased secondary choirs from across the District. The **Sound Wave Handbell Choir** includes musicians from seven different schools. The Grade 7 to 11 students are preparing for their Christmas performance this month. In the spirit of holiday giving, students have also been thinking about what the community needs. This tree in Lougheed mall was put up and decorated by **Burnaby North Secondary** students. It's part of the **Rotary Club's Festival of Lights** and is a fundraiser for **Boots for Kids**. **Burnaby North** students also created hundreds of Christmas cards for local seniors through a partnership with **Intentional Acts of Kindness**. Students at **Brentwood Park Elementary** are leading a **Sock it to Poverty** campaign. They're collecting winter wear for distribution by an Indigenous health and wellness cooperative in the Downtown Eastside. **Confederation Park Elementary** held its annual **Art Show Extravaganza**, offering people an early chance at some holiday shopping. It featured student creations and a silent auction, with all proceeds going to the **BC Cancer Foundation**. Leadership students at **Alpha Secondary** created cards. They'll be added to holiday hampers put together with **North Burnaby Neighbourhood House** and **St. Michael's Hospice Centre**. The **Alpha** students also added their creative touch while decorating the **Burnaby Christmas Bureau** toy room; a place that helps ensure all children can enjoy the magic of the season.