

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**  
**Reporting to Public Session on Tuesday, December 19, 2023**

**1. Holiday Celebrations**

With the Winter Break quickly approaching, students and staff in Burnaby Schools have been busy with an array of school events and festivities. Winter concerts and holiday schedules continue to celebrate the talent of students and staff, while sharing the gift of music and celebrating diversity.

Brentwood Park Elementary School students were proud to perform an Indian dandiya stick dance titled "Diwali, Diwali" - a vibrant expression of the rich cultural tapestry that makes up the Brentwood Park community. This dance, choreographed by Manju Durairaj, author of *Teaching with Orff*, and featured in John Jacobson's Music Express magazine, highlights the school's emphasis on inclusivity and the importance of understanding and appreciating traditions from around the world.

Heather Kimmie, Principal, Brentwood Park Elementary, and music teacher, Ruby Seah, will present tonight's performance. Students from Tannis Nielsen and Julianna Cerminara's Grade 2/3 class will perform a piece from the concert, "Celebrations Around the World," providing a platform for students to explore and share diverse cultural practices.

**Recommendation:**

THAT the Board of Education receive this information.

**2. Moving Forward: Action Against Racism**

In February 2023, the Board of Education received a presentation from the District's equity, diversity, inclusion and reconciliation team regarding progress to date on recommended priority elements outlined in the Co-Laboratorio final report, *Anti-racism in Burnaby Schools - Listening, Learning and Actioning Change*. The report, shared publicly in September 2022, included recommended elements for the district to consider when moving forward in its action against racism.

Since that time, district staff in both the Human Resources and Instructional Services departments have conducted an initial scan with school and district-based staff in order to gain a deeper understanding of what anti-racism work is already underway in the District, what gaps may exist and what future steps might be considered.

Executive Director of Human Resources, Harpinder Hothi, and Assistant Superintendent, Brandon Curr, will outline how equity, diversity, inclusion and reconciliation are being operationalized in both the Human Resources and Instructional Services departments. Human Resources has moved forward with an emphasis on building capacity, enhancing employee wellness and connection, and revising current Human Resources recruitment processes to promote diversity. The Instructional Services division has focused on building

capacity, curriculum and instruction, and improving the experiences of students, staff and families in Burnaby schools.

**Recommendation:**

THAT the Board of Education receive this information.