

January 30, 2024

Good evening and on behalf of the Board, a warm welcome back to each one of you as we kick off the new year with enthusiasm and a sense of renewal. We hope that your winter holidays provided a well-deserved break filled with joy, and relaxation, and you were surrounded by those that mean the most to you.

The Board of Trustees wants to express our heartfelt appreciation for the outstanding efforts displayed during the recent snow-related closures. Our dedicated staff and administrators across the school district worked tirelessly to ensure the safety of our schools and district buildings and, most importantly, the well-being of our students, some of whom arrived at school on those snow days. Your commitment to maintaining a secure and nurturing environment has not gone unnoticed. Thank you for your resilience and dedication during those challenging days.

As we embark on this new year, the theme is unmistakably "new." It's a time for fresh energy, innovative approaches, and the pursuit of our student's success. The challenges we faced over the last few years have only strengthened our district.

In the spirit of "new," I would like to remind new to Burnaby schools' families that registration for the 2024-25 school year is just around the corner. February marks the beginning of this important process where we welcome new students to register to join our educational family. Simultaneously, other Burnaby students are in the early stages of planning for their 2024-25 school year. Among the options at both the elementary and secondary level are district-wide Programs of Choice.

This upcoming year holds the promise of new discoveries, new accomplishments, and new milestones for both our students and our dedicated staff. Let's approach each day with a fresh perspective, embracing the opportunities for growth and success that lie ahead.

On behalf of the Board of Education, I extend our deepest gratitude to each member of our school community (students, families, caregivers, staff, teachers, administrators, and senior staff) for your unwavering commitment and hard work. Together, let us make this new year a testament to our collective dedication to the success and well-being of our students.

Welcome back, and here's to a year filled with endless possibilities and achievements! Thank you.

Bill Brassington, Chair
Burnaby Board of Education