

# INSIDE BURNABY SCHOOLS

January 30, 2024



## SNOW MUCH TO DO WITH THE WEATHER

With the recent snowfall, students got creative with what mother nature provided. These children at **Brentwood Park Elementary** built shapes, made snowballs, and even sculpted a snow person to look like their teacher – complete with coffee and a caring heart. A class at **Brantford Elementary** was given the challenge of building the biggest snowperson they could in 10 minutes. At **Kitchener Elementary**, these children practiced their collaboration skills while working together on a snow structure. The work of facilities crews, who were out before dawn clearing the snow for days, was deeply appreciated, as seen here at **Moscrop Secondary**. During the cold snap, Leadership students at **Alpha Secondary** helped out by making over 100 bagged lunches for shelters.

## GOODBYE AND HELLO BURNABY NORTH SECONDARY

The holiday season was bittersweet for students and staff, as they held honoured traditions one last time in the old **Burnaby North Secondary** buildings. The move from the old school took place over Winter Break. To help orient people in their new building, **North's** student government prepared a virtual tour. Let's take a look at part of it. [VIDEO]  
The new school, built with energy efficiency in mind, also includes spaces for child care and adult education.

## FRENCH STUDENTS SHINE BRIGHT ON PROVINCIAL STAGE

Secondary students from two Burnaby schools took top honours in a provincial French-speaking contest called **Dites-le en vidéo**, or in English: **Say It on Video**. Students were invited to submit recordings about topics ranging from their favourite hobby to their perspective on current events. Six Grade 9 students in **Moscrop Secondary's** French Immersion program swept the podium in their categories. They took first, second and third in both the Grade 9 "a" and "b" categories. Additionally, a Grade 10 student at **Burnaby Mountain Secondary** earned second place in the Core French category. Congratulations to all.

## FAMILY LITERACY WEEK FUN AND LEARNING

While literacy is a year-long focus, many schools – such as **Kitchener Elementary** – choose a week for joyful and community building activities. The story *I Hope* by Monique Gray Smith served as a powerful theme, with the week culminating in a Celebration of Learning Assembly. **Westridge Elementary** students had fun with a magical Harry Potter theme. **Second Street Community School** had a book swap, reading in the dark, and a visit from the Burnaby Public Library. In addition to creative school activities, **Twelfth Avenue Elementary** sent home "literacy bingo," and used a read-a-thon as a fundraiser.

## STUDENT VOICE ELEVATED AT DISTRICT-LED BLACK EXCELLENCE DAY EVENT

Students were at the centre of an event celebrating Black Excellence with tens of thousands of people from across BC. Let's take a glimpse at just some of the conversation. [VIDEO] Co-planned with the Burnaby School District and the **Ninandotoo Society**, people from 21 school districts and as far away as Alberta joined online. Minister of Education and Child Care **Rachna Singh** attended in person with students and special guests at **Byrne Creek Community School**. The event included presenters and performers – all in celebration of Black achievements, stories, art, people, joy, love, and history.

## STUDENT PLANNING FOR THE NEXT SCHOOL YEAR

Students are in the early stages of planning for the 2024-25 school year. Among the options at both the elementary and secondary level are district-wide Programs of Choice. This includes everything from Advanced Placement, such as this AP Biology course, to sports academies and exposure to careers, such as Early Childhood Education. To help youth and their families make informed decisions, Student Planning Nights take place at each high school sharing student options and requirements. This one at **Burnaby Mountain Secondary** drew nearly 550 people. An information session for those interested in the District's **Mandarin Language Arts** program was held this month with approximately 50 people at **Forest Grove Elementary**. Grade 7 students also get invited to a session to learn about course selection for their first year of high school. At this one at **Cariboo Hill Secondary**, students sampled the **DigiPen Game Development Academy** – a Program of Choice offered at the school – and electives such as band and drama. More than 700 people attended an evening about District-wide **Career Education** options, which range from trades to technology programs.

## STUDENTS IN THE NEWS FOR THEIR SKILLS AND INITIATIVE

A Grade 6 student at **Armstrong Elementary** was featured by Global News for her work helping people experiencing homelessness. This is the fourth year that **Keanna Lai** has raised funds through projects such as a lemonade stand and yard sale. She was able to hand out \$500 worth of food tokens. Our basketball teams are well represented in the Top 10 rankings. **Burnaby Central Secondary**'s senior girls basketball team is sixth in the Quad A rankings. In the boys' league, **Burnaby South Secondary**'s senior team is also sixth in the Quad A rankings, and **Byrne Creek Community School**'s senior boys are sitting at number 5 in the Triple A rankings. A group of **Moscrop Secondary** students and their teacher were featured by CBC News for their work on a model railroad. Since 2019, successive students have been adding to it. Students in the class learn basic electricity, problem solving, design, woodworking, sculpting, and painting, along with innovation skills. The art class is thought to be the only one of its kind in Canada.