

INSIDE BURNABY SCHOOLS

February 27, 2024



HONOURS AND AWARDS RECOGNIZING ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Students from the District's **Robotics (Mechatronics)** program, based at **Alpha Secondary**, are heading to provincials. Seven teams, including youth from the school club, are going to the **BC Provincial Championship Vex Robotics Competition** this weekend. After a full day of competition, the team at **Burnaby North Secondary** won first place at the **Beyond Business Case Study Competition**. Students in the **Palo Alto Cybersecurity Academy** held at **Cariboo Hill Secondary** won first overall in Canada in the Gold Tier of the **CyberPatriot** competition. In it, students are put in the position of newly hired IT professionals. Through a series of online competition rounds, teams are given a set of virtual operating systems. They have to find and fix cybersecurity vulnerabilities – all while maintaining critical services. In addition to winning nationally, they placed 19th in the world of 807 teams. **Moscrop Secondary** teacher **Danny Young** has earned an **Edyth May Sliffe Award for Distinguished Mathematics Teaching**. He was the only Canadian on this year's list of recipients. The **Mathematical Association of America** award recognizes educators for their outstanding contributions to inspiring students in math, particularly through competitions.

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH AND BEYOND

Children at **Confederation Park Elementary** are putting on an operetta for **Black History Month** called **Ruby Bridges**. At **Kitchener Elementary**, students researched Black leaders and the contributions they have made. Two Grade 4/5 classes at **Maywood Community School** created art inspired by the late Black American artist **Jean-Michel Basquiat**. Children in a variety of grades at **Brentwood Park Elementary** spent time learning about Black history, culture, innovations, and achievements. **Alpha Secondary**'s **BIPOC Affinity Group** is putting the finishing touches on a mural they designed. In addition to celebrities and athletes whose work has influenced Black culture in the student's lifetimes, it includes people who have advocated for justice in the past, such as **Martin Luther King Jr.** and **Harriet Tubman**. A student forum was held at **Moscrop Secondary** where Canadian actor **Omari Akil Newton** spoke. He has been doing school tours for nearly a decade, sharing the contributions of Black Canadians in our shared history. **Burnaby Central Secondary**'s **Black Excellence Club** sold Jamaican patties and cookies that they decorated. Funds raised will be used for cultural field experiences and to put on events. At **Burnaby North Secondary**, Social Studies students examined achievements and contributions of Black Canadians past and present. Students from several schools in the District attended a **STEAM competition** called **Blackathon**. The youth joined high school students from across the Lower Mainland. They learned about a Black inventor and "hacked" their invention, as part of a Black History Month event. They also heard about a Black engineer who changed the way video games are played. The District team earned second place in the competition.

FOSTERING A CULTURE OF INCLUSION AND KINDNESS

Burnaby Schools strive to create inclusive, welcoming environments for all students. These recently installed "Stairs of Inspiration" are at **Parkcrest Elementary**. The messages, set in colourful hues, encourage students to believe in themselves and act with integrity. At **Maywood Community School**, "kindness sprinkles" fill a donut on display for all to see as part of **Kindness Month**. The messages within it share acts and words of compassion. High school Leadership students came together at **Burnaby North Secondary** for an **Equity Diversity and Inclusion SOGI Mini-Conference**. Discussions included conversation about creating safe, inclusive and accountable spaces, as well as the role of allyship in leadership. Tomorrow is **Pink Shirt Day**, and many schools have related activities and learning opportunities planned. The day began more than 15 years ago as an awareness campaign about homophobic bullying.

LEARNING WHILE CELEBRATING AND EXPLORING CULTURE

Carnaval provides an opportunity for French Immersion students to learn through a celebration of French-Canadian culture. **École Cariboo Hill** hosted eight elementary schools for an event, complete with **Bonhomme**. The Carnaval mascot also made an appearance at **Cascade Heights Elementary**, where he took over the office. Students at **Brantford Elementary** made **La tûre d'érable** or, in English, maple taffy as part of their learning explorations. **Bonhomme** kicked off multicultural week at **Moscrop Secondary**, where students enjoyed a number of cultural activities. **Second Street Community School**, **Kitchener Elementary**, and **Cariboo Hill Secondary** were among the schools that enjoyed dragon and lion dances for **Lunar New Year**. Primary students at **Lyndhurst Elementary** made dumplings. Elementary students at **Buckingham**, **Gilmore**, **Chaffey-Burke** and **Maywood** created displays to ring in Lunar New Year. Children at **Forest Grove Elementary** – home of the District's **Mandarin Language Arts Program** – are getting ready for their annual school-wide Lunar New Year celebration at the end of the month. Students in the **Multi-Age Cluster Class** or **MACC program** at **Suncrest Elementary** charted their family migration stories. They had conversations about diversity within their class and learned how to find countries on a map. As part of a "**Human Library**" project, youth at **Burnaby Central Secondary** had the chance to hear the stories of people with a wide variety of backgrounds and professions.

SUPPORT FOR AND FROM THE COMMUNITY

Money for elementary schools in North Burnaby was donated by **Branch 148 of the Royal Canadian Legion**. Each school in the area will receive three hundred dollars for sports programs and equipment. The school community at **Twelfth Avenue Elementary** was one of many who came together for **Jump Rope for Heart**. Each year several elementary schools across the District participate in the health promotion event, which also raises funds for the **Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada**. Leadership students at **Alpha Secondary** collected clothing and blankets for donation to **First United**, which helps people on the Downtown Eastside. Students at **Burnaby Mountain Secondary** volunteered time with a medical charity. They prepared hospital beds to be shipped to West Africa. And in partnership with **Burnaby Neighbourhood House**, Senior Leaders at **Burnaby North Secondary** conducted a food drive to help people in the community who need it the most.