

INSIDE BURNABY SCHOOLS

March 12, 2024



STUDENTS' SKILLS AWARDED AND RECOGNIZED

Burnaby Schools students wowed the judges at the **Skills Canada Regional Competition**. Impressive work can be seen here by youth in the **Professional Cook Program** held at **Burnaby Central Secondary**. Students in the District-wide program took home gold, silver and bronze medals. Two students in the **Graphic & Media Arts** program held at **Byrne Creek Community School** won gold medals in the **2D Animation** category. Two more students were awarded silver. All gold medalists have qualified for Provincials, which will be held in Abbotsford next month. The Grade 9 team from **Moscrop Secondary** earned first place at the **Math Challenger Regional Competition**. The Grade 10 team from the school took second in the contest held at Simon Fraser University.

CELEBRATING WITH PRIDE AND APPRECIATION FOR ONE ANOTHER

More than 150 students from across the District attended the **Diversity Dance** held at **Byrne Creek Community School**. The annual event is hosted by the District's **Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Committee**. In the spirit of celebrating diversity and inclusion, the dance is for everyone. This year, internationally recognized performer **Kendall Gender** signed autographs and performed for the crowd. The **SOGI Committee** has also launched a **Pride Bookmark Contest** that's open to all students. One elementary submission and one high school entry will be chosen. The winners will have their bookmarks shared, including at the **Vancouver Pride Parade** this summer.

SETTING THE STAGE TO SUPPORT STUDENTS' ARTISTIC TALENTS

Children at **Confederation Park Elementary**, the arts-integrated school in the District, worked on dance skills through a **Ballet BC Outreach** program. Elementary students from multiple schools are rehearsing for a vocal performance at an upcoming conference for music teachers. The annual **Burnaby School District Jazz Festival** featured high school ensembles in multiple age groups. Visual and Performing Arts students at **Cariboo Hill Secondary** held a special evening showcasing their talents in art, music, drama and dance. **Burnaby South Secondary** is among the many schools putting on plays and performances. Actors there took the audience down the rabbit hole with their rendition of **Alice in Wonderland**. Students, such as these at **Burnaby Central Secondary**, are competing to represent their school in a District-wide talent contest to be held next month. Youth at **Burnaby North Secondary** also showcased their talents last week in the hopes of making it to the big event in April. Performers there were encouraged to come out to an open audition. Let's take a look at the student-produced video call out.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR POWERFUL CONNECTIONS WITH THE ENVIRONMENT

At **Forest Grove Elementary**, staff and students are making the most of what mother nature provides – learning alongside one another and the land near their school. A Grade 6/7 class at **Brantford Elementary** headed to the mountains for a scavenger hunt and teamwork in the snow. Students at **Confederation Park Elementary** examined how animals survive in the winter. At **Marlborough Elementary**, primary students have been learning about and watching the lifecycle of fish. There was much excitement as the first alevin at the school hatched. The **BC Lions** came to **Taylor Park Elementary** and shared a presentation about resource conservation. Students learned about how to be **Energy Champions**. In the classroom at **Brentwood Park Elementary**, big buddies helped their little buddies explore how rain clouds work. Grade 3/4 students at **Buckingham Elementary** did an artistic study of trees while creating art inspired by **Emily Carr**. Leadership students from **Burnaby North Secondary** worked with Grade 1/2 children at **Aubrey Elementary** on spring-inspired art. And the **Green Team** at **Cariboo Hill Secondary** made the most of the lunch break by presenting to students at the school about recycling.

PARTNERSHIPS EXPAND HORIZONS FOR STUDENTS

Residents at a long-term care home sent a public thank you this month to students at **Armstrong Elementary**. Together, they celebrated **Lunar New Year** across the generations with thoughtful hand-crafted cards by the children. A Captain with the **Burnaby Fire Department** made a special visit to **Brantford Elementary** to talk about fire safety. A parent at **Montecito Elementary** from the **Shíshálh Nation** partnered with the school on an incredible opportunity. **Geena Jackson** is a judge and creator of **Bears' Lair**, a reality TV series about Indigenous entrepreneurs. She leads a related youth camp, that all Grade 6/7 students at **Montecito** got the chance to participate in. The children worked on developing a product, budget, marketing, and presenting their ideas. Let's take a look at just one of the projects they came up with.

HONOURING BURNABY'S SUPERINTENDENT AND SAYING FAREWELL

This month marks the last of **Gina Niccoli-Moen's** tenure as Superintendent. She has dedicated 34 years to public education – all of it in Burnaby. Her career began as an English teacher at **Burnaby South Secondary**, but her ties to Burnaby Schools run much deeper than that. Her first experience with the District was as a Grade 1 student at **Westridge Elementary**. She would later go on to graduate from **Burnaby North Secondary**. In a testament to how much relationships matter to Niccoli-Moen, her best friends from elementary and high school attended her retirement party. Held last month at **Burnaby Central Secondary**, the Mayor of Burnaby was among the many who honoured her. In recognition of Niccoli-Moen's dedication and leadership, Coast Salish Matriarch **Elder Doctor Roberta Price** – from the **Snuneymuxw** and **Cowichan Nations** – initiated an honouring ceremony. It was done this month for the outgoing Superintendent on behalf of Elders and the District's Indigenous Education Department. **Squamish Nation Elders Ron Johnston, Xwalacktun, and Latash Nahanee** joined Elder Doctor Price in speaking as witnesses. They spoke about Niccoli-Moen's commitment and action toward Reconciliation, as well as how her work touched them in different ways. **Elder Dehlia Nahanee** from the **Nisga'a** and **Squamish First Nations** shared the gift of song. Led by Squamish Nation **Elder Alroy Baker** and following local protocol, Niccoli-Moen was blanketed, brushed and cleansed with cedar bows. She received blessings to start her retirement in a good way. Her last day as Superintendent is March 3.