

# INSIDE BURNABY SCHOOLS

May 28, 2024



## STUDENTS RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR SKILLS

Grade 6 and 7 students from across the District took part in a public speaking forum called **Sharing Our Stories**. The speakers delivered 3 to 5-minute speeches about authentic moments in their lives. Two finalists from each school participated in a zonal showcase event. Three **Alpha**-based teams made it to the **VEX Robotics World Championship** with teams from 50 countries. One made history capturing the first award at worlds for the District-wide **Robotics (Mechatronics)** program, taking the **Division Design Award**. At the **Skills BC** competition, two students earned silver and one achieved bronze. Three more won gold and invitations to compete at the **Skills Canada Nationals** in Quebec City. After qualifying regionally, the **Moscrop** Drama Department was awarded a **Gold Honour Troupe Banner** at the **Canadian National School Theatrical Arts Recognition STAR Festival**. **Alpha Secondary**'s Concert Choir earned gold at the **Whistler Music Festival**. And youth from **Alpha**, **Burnaby South**, **Cariboo Hill**, **Moscrop**, **Marlborough**, and **Seaforth** schools were awarded for their French-language public speaking skills. Collectively, at the **Provincial Concours d'art oratoire** they earned nine medals, with many of the winners seen here.

## SETTING THE STAGE TO SHOWCASE STUDENTS' TALENTS

Students of all ages from across the District performed at the **Burnaby Festival of Dance**. A tradition since 1980, it was hosted by **Burnaby Mountain Secondary** over three nights. District choirs came together for their Spring Sing and Ring Concert, featuring the **Piccolini Children's Choir**, **Corovoce Youth Choir**, and **Sound Wave Handbell Choir**. The ringers, along with students from 17 different elementary and secondary schools played in front of a national audience at **Constellation 2024**. The opening ceremonies at the conference for music teachers featured an **Honour Orff** ensemble, which was made up of more than 90 Burnaby students from ages 7 to 17. Students at **Burnaby Mountain** had the chance to connect with and appreciate the talents of their peers from Hawaii. The visiting band was composed of 105 students. At the annual **Festival of Beginning Bands**, hundreds of Grade 7s showcased their skills. Many schools put on spring plays – including this production at **Alpha Secondary** based on the classic board game, Clue. Students at **Cariboo Hill** performed *Midnight's Wildest Dreams*, a twist on Shakespeare's classic. The **Westridge Elementary** community came together for an elaborate production of *Annie Jr.* Students at **Inman Elementary** put on *Seussical the Musical*, which even drew a crowd from **Maywood**. The third annual **Building a Better Tomorrow Through Art** public exhibition opened with a reception for the student-artists, their families, and more special guests. Led by the Access program at **Burnaby North**, the creations of youth with disabilities and diverse abilities from **North**, **Alpha**, **Byrne Creek**, **Cariboo Hill**, and **Moscrop** – as well as schools in Vancouver and New Westminster – were on display at the **Roundhouse**. For two different public exhibitions at the **Burnaby Art Gallery**, an opening night with student artists and many special guests was held. This year, the annual exhibition through the **Arts Alive** program highlights artists in Grades 8-12. And Grade 11 and 12 students who are part of the **Artist Apprenticeship** program created the *Paper Allegories* exhibit.

## EMPOWERING HOPE FOR RECONCILIATION THROUGH ACTION

An unveiling ceremony at **Burnaby North** of a Coast Salish house post was led by members of the **Tsleil-Waututh Nation**. **Master Carver Xwalacktun** from the **Squamish Nation** worked collaboratively with students and staff to create the carving. Each aspect was chosen for its meaning. It was installed at the entrance to welcome all who come to the new school. **Red Dress Day** is recognized by the District – such as at **Alpha Secondary**, where a poignant display was hung to honour **Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two Spirited People**. At **Brentwood Park Elementary** each class has done deep learning about Reconciliation and Canada's shared history as part of their **Project of Heart**. Every student and staff member created a tile to represent their learning. The tiles will be gathered into a unified art piece by **Trenton (Rain) Pierre** of the **Katzie First Nation**, and displayed as a symbol of the school's collective work toward Reconciliation.

## BEYOND THE GAME: COMING TOGETHER THROUGH SPORT

Elementary students from across the District participated in a track competition in a university environment. Grade 4-7s ran several race types over multiple meets that were hosted by **Simon Fraser University**. As the spring sports season nears an end, many high school teams scored banners, including **Burnaby South** who are the **Senior Ultimate AAA champions**. For the second year in a row, **Moscrop**'s tennis team took the **Burnaby New Westminster Schools Athletic Association** championship. Another example is the all-Burnaby competition between **Burnaby North** and **Burnaby Central** for the **Fraser North Championship** in **Senior Girls' Soccer**, which was featured in the local news. After an NHL playoff drought in Vancouver lasting nearly a decade, **Canucks** fever made its way into schools, such as this classroom at **South Slope Elementary**. Youth in an **Economics 12** class at **Burnaby North** examined the impact of a playoff run on consumer spending. Still at **North**, the school held a viewing party during the Edmonton series. Students and staff enjoyed the ritual of playoff hockey together, as a community.

## PARTNERSHIPS ENRICH SCHOOL COMMUNITY AND BEYOND

A group of students who are new to Canada are part of an after-school art group at **Westridge**. Arranged by the District's **Settlement Workers in Schools** or **SWIS**, the class includes children from Mexico, the Philippines, Afghanistan and Ukraine. The community-building activity is led by a parent volunteer who taught art classes in Ukraine. Additionally, nearly 200 newcomer children from 12 different elementary and secondary schools participated in a SWIS-led field trip providing post-secondary exposure. As part of the **Friends of Simon** program, the students visited different faculties at **SFU** and worked on a variety of projects. More than 40 youth from each of the District's high schools were part of a program for Black students designed to ignite post-secondary horizons. The **UBC Black Futures** program included tours, mentorship and speakers. For families looking for ways to help their children with safe and healthy use of technology, the District held four information evenings. More than 350 people came to hear about practical supports. The evenings were part of a broader strategy launched earlier this year to help with the knowledge and skills that students need to navigate technology safely and in a useful way. A virtual information evening providing clarity about **SOGI** was attended by nearly 200 parents and caregivers. It was also a chance to have questions answered. Students from across the District came together for the annual **IDA HAT Breakfast**, put on in partnership with the **SOGI Committee** to mark the **International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia**. The keynote speaker was **Monica Helms**, who created the Transgender Flag. Seniors at the **Swedish Assisted Living Residence** in Burnaby were entertained by a group of Leadership students from **Burnaby North**. The youth created and led a Senior Showcase with music and dance performances.