

# INSIDE BURNABY SCHOOLS

June 25, 2024



## CELEBRATING NATIONAL INDIGENOUS HISTORY MONTH

Many classes across the District had an extra focus on **Indigenous Education** this month – such as at **Alpha Secondary** where Leadership students joined children at **Aubrey Elementary**. Together, they learned about the medicine wheel and its four quadrants. These designs were revealed by the District in September as the official T-shirts during **Truth and Reconciliation Week**. The two children from **Lakeview Elementary** who created them were blanketed this month for their contributions. The ceremony at the school was led by Knowledge Keepers from the **Squamish Nation** and followed local protocol. Grade 5 student **Paige** from the **Tal-o-qui-aht Nation**, and Grade 7 student **Alyssa** from the **Nisga'a Nation** were joined by family in celebration of their achievements. Students at **Branford Elementary** have been learning about **Powwow** dancing. **Peter White** from the **Ktunaxa Nation** shared teachings with the students over several weeks, culminating in a community celebration. Children at **Windsor Elementary** worked with **Gord Dick** from the **Tsleil-Waututh** and **Lil'wat Nations**. They created this bulletin board inspired by his art and in celebration of **National Indigenous Peoples Day**. **Edmonds Community School** held a re-awakening ceremony that was guided by the **Musqueam Nation** for a **Welcome Pole** taken down during renovations. The pole was created by the late Master Carver **Jackie Timothy** from the **Tla'amin Nation**. It was restored to its rightful home outside the school entrance, in a place of pride for the entire community to enjoy.

## BURNABY SCHOOLS SHOW THEIR PRIDE

The District's **Family Pride Picnic** was a free event for 2SLGBTQ+ families, friends, and allies from Burnaby's elementary schools. Held at **Maywood Community School** in celebration of **Pride Month**, people connected while enjoying crafts, activities and entertainment. Several schools raised the **Pride Flag** this month, including the examples seen here. Students at **Confederation Park Elementary** decorated the stairs to show everyone is welcome. **Brentwood Park Elementary** held a dance party to show their pride and allyship, with the librarian doubling as DJ. Students from **Stoney Creek Community School** and **Lyndhurst Elementary** walked together for a **Pride March** that ended at **Burnaby Mountain Secondary**. The winners of the first District-wide bookmark contest celebrating diversity, equity, and inclusion were notified during Pride Month. Children and youth from across the District were invited to enter designs representing what pride means to them. This creation by **Erika B** from **Sperling Elementary** was chosen from hundreds of entries. **Jemimah K** from **Burnaby South Secondary** won the high school category. The bookmarks will be shared at events, including the upcoming **Pride Parade** this summer.

## ENRICHING LEARNING WITH PARTNERSHIPS AND SPECIAL GUESTS

Through a partnership with **Elevate Ultimate**, several elementary schools – including **Confederation Park** and **University Highlands** – took part in a **District Ultimate Tournament**. The District's **Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada** or **LINC** program regularly brings in partners and speakers, including the **Vancouver College of Dental Hygiene** which talked to adult students. Chemist and children's book author **Emily Seo** made a special visit to **South Slope Elementary**, thanks to support from the PAC. A Grade 1/2 class at **Inman Elementary** enjoyed a chance to build at **Moscrop Secondary** with a Grade 11/12 Woodworking class. They spent the morning making mason bee houses and learning about contributions to the environment. A Grade 6/7 class at **Gilpin Elementary** made art inspired by local artist **Duane Murrin**. They shared their creations with him and were rewarded weeks later with a special visit to their classroom, arranged by their teacher. The amazing experience was topped off with each student receiving a plaque keepsake from Murrin, featuring a print of his art.

## CELEBRATIONS CLOSE OUT THE SCHOOL YEAR

Students at **Rosser Elementary** had 100 reasons to celebrate, as they gathered for the school's centennial. Fun and games were at the centre of the PAC-organized event. Before it was **Rosser**, the 100-year-old building was the original site of **Burnaby North Secondary**. The milestone event and significance of the school's history to the city were featured in the **Burnaby Now**. A District-wide event was held in recognition of both **Canadian Emancipation Day** and **Juneteenth**, marking the struggle for freedom and equality. Nearly 150 students, including some from other districts, gathered at **Byrne Creek Community School**. Students and families organized events to show appreciation for school staff – including a car wash at **Cariboo Hill Secondary**. In return, staff and students held appreciation events for parents who volunteer throughout the year. Secondary students were acknowledged for their many accomplishments, such as at these award events. Elementary **Sports Days** have a long tradition. They're a fun way to build community and for older students to develop leadership skills. End of year field trips have been in full swing, such as this one from **Twelfth Avenue Elementary** where these children enjoyed a day at Playland through the **CKNW Kids' Fund**. Grade 7s were recognized during special **leaving ceremonies**. The gatherings celebrate their learning, final days of elementary school, and transition to high school.

## SAYING GOODBYE TO THE CLASS OF 2024 WITH STYLE

After having had their first year of high school coincide with the start of the pandemic, this year's graduates are finding ways to end school joyfully. Students had special breakfasts and outings together. One student used his final music performance as the backdrop to his promposal. (If you're wondering, she said, "yes.") Grade 12s gathered at dinners and celebrated their accomplishments at dances. **Honouring Our Youth** is a special additional ceremony held for Indigenous graduates that follows local protocol through the generosity of Elders and Knowledge Keepers. Each of the high schools held ceremonies for all graduates at **Simon Fraser University**. School staff joined families in sharing pride in the students' accomplishments. The Grade 12s marked the end of their public-school journeys with a time-honoured flick of their wrists, tossing their grad caps in celebration.