

# INSIDE BURNABY SCHOOLS

September 24, 2024



## AN ENGAGING AND ACTIVE SUMMER

Burnaby Schools remained busy places over July and August. Last year's record-breaking numbers for **Summer Session** were surpassed – with nearly 10,000 courses taken. Children and youth enjoyed classes in everything from Rock Band to technology-focused courses, such as robotics. Partnerships helped boost the fun, as seen here at **Edmonds Community School** where the **Burnaby Fire Department** provided a joyous way to cool down in the sun. The District's **Settlement Workers in Schools** program held a summer camp for newcomers to Canada. More than 30 students – originally from Afghan, Eritrean, Kurdish and Ukrainian communities – took part. A wide range of activities and excursions were offered. In August, students, families and District leaders proudly walked in the **Vancouver Pride Parade** – all in celebration of the diversity that strengthens our schools and workplaces. Accomplishments by students continued over the summer. **Alpha Secondary's Stephanie Chu** earned a **Society for Canadian Women in Science and Technology Award** for her science project on infrared radiative cooling. A stunning photo by **Max Thom** from **Moscrop Secondary** won a contest put on by the **American Association of Physics Teachers**. The photo earned third place in its category.

## GOODBYE SUMMER, HELLO SCHOOL

In the final days of summer break, leadership students at **Burnaby North Secondary** gathered to plan events and help peers get settled. The new year began with special welcomes, such as these at **Kitchener** and **Capitol Hill Elementary**. The Grade 8s at **Byrne Creek Community School** gathered for connection time and high school tips, such as opening your locker. Orientations were held across the District to greet and support students who are part of the **International Education** program. The **Indigenous Education Team** grounded the start of the year with teachings and ceremony led by **Squamish Nation Elders Delhia and Latash Nahanee**. More students are taking **Career Education** programs. Their significant increase in popularity, year-over-year, was featured in the news. The first day of school for children at **Confederation Park Elementary** was also highlighted in local media. Children at **Twelfth Avenue Elementary** focused on the power of words. At **Chaffey-Burke Elementary**, students did community-building activities. **University Highlands Elementary** had a fun back to school display with childhood photos of school staff. Connection was also built through fun at **Suncrest Elementary** where students wrapped up the first week with a popsicle and book with a buddy. Many schools, such as **Cariboo Hill Secondary** and **Burnaby North**, held welcome back barbecues. **Brantford Elementary's** included shaved ice and a dance party. **Cameron Elementary** hosted a community event with more than a thousand people. The **North Burnaby Community Fair** – put on with partners – included games, special welcomes, live music, and food.

## MOVING FORWARD WITH LARGER SCHOOLS

Following an announcement by the **Ministry of Education and Child Care** over the summer, exciting news awaited returning students and staff at **Cameron** and **Kitchener Elementary** schools. With a 67.6-million-dollar investment, the Ministry approved a new school building for **Cameron** that will add 425 new student spaces. **Kitchener** will be getting an even larger expansion than previously announced last December, with an updated total of 500 new student seats. This month, the Ministry approved a combined 16-million dollars for prefabricated additions at **Alpha Secondary** and **Nelson Elementary**. All of the schools are in neighbourhoods that have been growing rapidly. **Nelson** will get a four-classroom prefabricated addition – adding 100 new seats for children. While **Alpha** has been approved for a 12-classroom prefabricated addition, with space for 300 more students.

## A CANADIAN ICON'S LEGACY LIVES ON WITH LEARNING AND GIVING

Students throughout the District – including these at **Confederation Park Elementary** – participated in their school's **Terry Fox Run**, walk, or roll. Children and youth, such as these at **Kitchener Elementary**, came together to discuss Terry's legacy as a positive agent of change. Collectively school communities raise tens of thousands of dollars for cancer research. With the fun incentive of getting to soak staff with water, students at **Twelfth Avenue Elementary** raised more than one-thousand dollars. At the high school level, **Alpha Secondary**'s goal is to raise five-thousand dollars to support the fight against brain cancer.

## EMBRACING THE ENVIRONMENT WHILE MAKING CONNECTIONS

Across the District, students continue to develop an appreciation of what nature has to offer through a variety of ways. These Grade 6/7 students at **Branford Elementary** delighted in beachcombing during their field trip that included a four-kilometre hike. A class of Kindergarten children at **Marlborough Elementary** enjoyed fresh salsa with tomatoes from the garden. And thanks to the **Garden Committee** at **Gilmore Community School**, children were welcomed to school with blooms.

## THE STARTING LINEUP FOR FALL SPORTS

Elementary cross-country meets have begun with students coming together from across the District. At the high school level, fall sports such as soccer and field hockey are underway – as seen here at **Byrne Creek**, **Moscrop**, **Burnaby North**, and **Burnaby Central Secondary** schools. Volleyball competition is on, including at **Burnaby South Secondary** where the Grade 9 girls won their home opener. The Junior Girls Volleyball Team at **Burnaby Central Secondary** began the year with three big wins. The Senior Boys Volleyball Team at **Burnaby North** took the top spot over the weekend at the **Thunderbird Classic Tournament** held at UBC. Adding to the excitement, last year's wrestling team from **Cariboo Hill Secondary**, who won Provincials, received their rings this month. **Byrne Creek**'s basketball team also took a look back – celebrating alumni, including one who went on to play post-secondary and another who is playing pro in Germany.