

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Reporting to Public Session on Tuesday, September 24, 2024

1. National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Every year on September 30th, we observe the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day in the Burnaby School District. This day is deeply significant as it honours and remembers the children who never returned home and the Survivors of residential schools, along with their families and communities. It's a time for us to publicly acknowledge and remember the tragic and painful history, as well as the ongoing impacts of residential schools, which is a crucial part of the reconciliation process.

Orange Shirt Day is a grassroots initiative led by Indigenous communities. It aims to raise awareness about the inter-generational impacts of residential schools on individuals, families, and communities, and to emphasize that "Every Child Matters." The orange shirt symbolizes the loss of culture, freedom, and self-esteem that Indigenous children experienced over generations. On September 30th, we encourage everyone to wear orange to honour the thousands of Survivors of residential schools.

In our schools, we see many examples where non-Indigenous students and staff are taking the lead in this important work to honour Indigenous students and communities. This shared responsibility is incredibly impactful and meaningful, helping to move us forward together in the spirit of reconciliation. In the Burnaby School District, truth, reconciliation, and healing are present all week, with students and staff wearing orange leading up to the September 27th Orange Shirt Day assemblies and the September 30th National Day for Truth, Reconciliation, and reflection.

- **Date:** September 30th (National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day)
- **Lead-Up Activities:** Throughout the week leading up to September 30th, students and staff across the school wear orange, lead events and create interactive story boards to show their support and commitment to reconciliation.
- **Assemblies:** On September 27th, schools hold Orange Shirt Day assemblies to educate and engage students about the history and impacts of residential schools.
- **Reflection:** On September 30th, the entire school community takes time to reflect on the importance of truth, reconciliation, and healing, honouring the Survivors and remembering those who never returned home.
- **Student Leadership:** Students from the Burnaby North Secondary Visual Performing Arts program and Student Government class provide a great example of Reconciliation in action. These students personally chose to highlight Truth and Reconciliation through a meaningful project. They created a video to honour the learning and show their respect to students, community, and staff. Their dedication to our continued learning helps strengthen the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, demonstrating the shared responsibility and care that is so impactful.

We are honoured to have some Burnaby North Secondary leadership students in attendance to share their experiences, hopes, and commitment to this important work. Additionally, Gena Sanderson, a valued member of the District Indigenous Education Team, is here to share her story and express her appreciation for the collaboration and initiatives led by the students. This collective effort underscores the power of shared responsibility and the meaningful progress we are making together in the journey of reconciliation.

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education receive this information.

2. Enhancing Student Learning Report

School districts across the province are required to develop a long-term plan to improve student achievement. The Enhancing Student Learning Report (ESLR) focuses on system-wide continuous improvement, enhancing student outcomes and life chances for all students. With a particular emphasis on English Language Learners, Indigenous students, children and youth in care and students with disabilities or diverse abilities, the report is submitted to the Ministry of Education and Child Care annually.

The Enhancing Student Learning Report is also intended to support Boards of Education in the development of Strategic Plans as well as provides a framework by which districts can reflect on and adjust practices and share progress publicly.

Roberto Bombelli, Deputy Superintendent, will provide an overview of the District's 2024-25 Enhancing Student Learning Report summarizing the data and findings.

The final report, once approved, will be submitted to the Ministry of Education and Child Care by October 1, 2024.

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education receive this information and approve the Enhancing Student Learning Report 2024-25.

3. How We're Doing Report 2023-24

The Burnaby School District's five-year Strategic Plan was launched in 2019. It articulates the District's mission, vision, values, priorities, and sets out goals and objectives. Annually, the District releases a public report capturing new progress over the prior school year toward the Burnaby Board of Education's priorities outlined in the Strategic Plan; the priorities guide system-wide work happening across the District.

This is the final year of reporting on the current plan. Much was achieved. This year's How We're Doing Report includes achievements about everything from student excellence to system-wide accomplishments, such as supporting mental health, the path to Reconciliation, and work toward supporting diversity and inclusion. The report reflects that schools are critical places for the whole community, showcasing work with newcomers to Canada, as well as increasing access to high quality child care.

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education receive this information.