

September 24, 2024

Good evening and welcome.

It is important for us to recognize and honor the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. This day serves as a reminder of the trauma and injustices experienced by Indigenous communities in Canada, including the impact of residential schools.

In this week leading up to the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, I would like to share that all of Burnaby schools will be focusing on truth and reconciliation. Truth and reconciliation work, inside and outside the classroom, provides opportunities for students and staff to engage in discussions, learning activities, and events that highlight the importance of understanding and addressing the historical trauma experienced by Indigenous communities.

It is crucial for us to acknowledge the deep-rooted historical trauma felt by many individuals and communities in relation to schools, and also acknowledge the continued trauma caused by other colonial institutions. As we strive to create safe and inclusive learning environments for all students, it is imperative that we address and understand the lasting effects of this trauma.

As a Board of Education, we must continue to prioritize reconciliation and work towards building meaningful relationships with Indigenous communities. This includes incorporating Indigenous perspectives and teachings into our curriculum, providing support for Indigenous students and families, and actively working towards truth and reconciliation in our school district.

I encourage all members of our school community to take this week as an opportunity for reflection and learning, and to join us in our commitment to creating a more equitable and just education system for all. Every Child Matters.

Bill Brassington, Chair
Burnaby Board of Education