

INSIDE BURNABY SCHOOLS

October 29, 2024



REFLECTION AND ACTION TOWARD RECONCILIATION

National Truth and Reconciliation Week is a powerful opportunity for remembering and learning about the impact of the residential school system. Several schools, like **Capitol Hill Elementary**, also had a focus on healing and hope. Many – such as **Gilpin** and **Taylor Park Elementary** – came together as a community at assemblies to share learning and connection. Recognizing that this can be a challenging time of year for Indigenous families, several schools hosted dinners. Students in the District's **Professional Cook Program** at **Burnaby Central Secondary** prepared special snacks for their peers who are Indigenous. **Squamish Nation Elder Sam George** shared his personal story at the **Indigenous Family Gathering** at **Burnaby Mountain Secondary**. **Coast Salish Elder Doctor Roberta Price** provided blessings and strength at **Alpha Secondary**. There are many examples of student learning, such as this group work at **Byrne Creek Community School**, and these explorations at **Maywood Community School**. Students at **Aubrey Elementary** reflected on the past and shared their hopes for the future through their school-wide **Origami Reconciliation Project**. At **Confederation Park Elementary**, all grades used Coast Salish shapes to explore the past and the path forward toward Reconciliation. **Parkcrest Elementary** reflected as a school community on the loss of many Indigenous languages. Students at **Lochdale Elementary** grounded their learning in beading. Children at **Lakeview Elementary** considered the meaning of "Call to Action" and were also inspired by art created by their peer from the **Tal-o-qui-aht Nation**. **Brentwood Park Elementary** students created mosaic boards that reflected their learning. **South Slope Elementary** students connected with the land while "Walking Together" after reading a book of the same name by a Canadian Elder. Activities and learning continue beyond Truth and Reconciliation Week. This month, **Forest Grove Elementary** released a painted rock project designed to highlight that Every Child Matters. And a Grade 3 class at **University Highlands Elementary** created a mural inspired by the poem *My Heart Soars* – composed by the late **Chief Dan George** of the **Tsleil-Waututh Nation**.

DEAF AWARENESS FLAGS FLOWN FOR THE FIRST TIME AT SCHOOLS

Students and staff at the District-administered **BC Provincial School for the Deaf** kicked off **International Week of Deaf People** with flag-raising ceremonies. It was the first time that the blue, turquoise, and yellow Deaf flag has been raised at **BCSD**, which is located at both **South Slope Elementary** and **Burnaby South Secondary**. The theme, "Sign up for Sign Language Rights," could be seen reflected in the games and learning activities at **BCSD**. Some examples throughout the week included an ASL competition, Deaf Role Model presentations, ASL Bingo, and "Deafland" – an immersive experience into the Deaf world.

PROVINCIAL ELECTION AND STUDENT LEARNING

Many classrooms used election time as a chance to discuss Canada's democratic system and issues in the community. This mock election *en Français* was held at a school with French Immersion: **Branford Elementary**. High school students at **Cariboo Hill Secondary** learned through a **Student Vote** about how to effectively participate as active and informed citizens. These adult learners are part of a District program run out of **Windsor**. They studied the election process and did a mock vote as part of their real-world learning in the **Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada** or **LINC program**. All candidates in the local riding where **Burnaby South Secondary** is located were invited to a forum to support classroom learning. Students helped moderate and organize it. Thoughtful questions were asked by the youth who attended from several classes.

STUDENT AND STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS RECOGNIZED

A newcomer student at **Byrne Creek Community School** had his murals displayed at the Welcome Centre for the **Immigrant Services Society of BC**. The District has been recognized with a national **Bravo Award** for its **Your Healthy Digital Life** flyer series. The **Canadian Association of Communicators in Education** award recognizes exemplary work in school public relations. **Moscrop Secondary** Math teacher **Danny Young** earned an award from **UBC** for his approach to teaching high school math. Also at **Moscrop**, Math teacher **Stephanie Langille** won an award from the **BC Association of Mathematics Teachers** for her teaching and mentorship. There was wide recognition on **World Teachers' Day**, such as at **Alpha Secondary**, where students delivered coffee and treats to classrooms. Teachers at **Cariboo Hill Secondary** were reminded with sweet treats that we "donut" know what we'd do without them.

FALLING INTO AUTUMN WITH LEARNING AND TRADITIONS

A tradition since 2001, **Moscrop Secondary** held **Cornfest** in honour of the harvest season. Students and staff came together to enjoy corn-feasting and fun-filled games. At **Maywood Community School**, a teacher brought in a pumpkin so big that it filled the back of a truck. It led to some descriptive writing by the students. Children at **Buckingham Elementary** wrote about what they're grateful for as part of a project inspired by **Thanksgiving**. Fall is also traditionally the time when high school clubs get into full swing, as seen here at **Burnaby North Secondary**. Clubs, such as these at **Cariboo Hill Secondary**, are another way for students to explore their interests. This sampling at **Burnaby Central Secondary** highlights how clubs can help strengthen connection at school and support the community. A class at **Branford Elementary** built "connection by connecting" the other half of their pen pal's **Halloween** artwork. The **Parent Advisory Council** at **Twelfth Avenue Elementary** partnered to create a pumpkin patch. **Kitchener Elementary** also had a pumpkin patch and some students made a Halloween-inspired planter. With the help of volunteers and the **PAC**, the school community at **Brentwood Park Elementary** came together to enjoy games, face painting and a pumpkin patch. Leadership students at **Alpha Secondary** carved pumpkins with children at **Rosser Elementary**. And through a donation drive for an Indigenous health centre, Leadership students are looking to give back collected Halloween candy with a **Sweets and Sock** campaign.