

INSIDE BURNABY SCHOOLS

November 26, 2024



REFLECTIONS AND HEARTFELT TRIBUTES TO CANADA'S VETERANS

Remembrance Day and **National Indigenous Veterans Day** were recognized across the District this month. This display is one of the ways **University Highlands Elementary** honoured the stories of Indigenous veterans. In a decade's old tradition at a housing centre that opened for veterans at the end of World War II, students from **Cariboo Hill Secondary** planted small flags in remembrance. Students led and performed at high school assemblies, such as at **Alpha, Byrne Creek, Burnaby Mountain, and Cariboo Hill**. Some examples of elementary assemblies can be seen here at **Gilpin, Brantford, and Marlborough**. Remembrance Day is also a time when many classes reflect through art, such as these creations by children at **South Slope, Twelfth Avenue and Kitchener**. Grade 3s and 4s at **Buckingham Elementary** wrote about what peace means to them. Student-created wreaths were a visual centre piece at many elementary ceremonies, such as these at **Rosser and Nelson**. A sharing of cultural knowledge and the honouring of Indigenous veterans took place at a special gathering at **Nelson**. A Grade 4/5 class at **Brentwood Park Elementary** learned about the contributions of **Code Talkers**, who developed a coded system based on the Cree language to disguise military intelligence. Also at **Brentwood**, a Grade 5/6 class shared their learning about Indigenous veterans at the school's assembly. Kindergarten students at **Brentwood** had a visit and lesson about peace and poppies from leadership students at nearby **Alpha Secondary**. As part of the Remembrance Day ceremony at **Seaforth Elementary**, school staff talked about the impact of war through sharing their personal stories and reflections with students. Let's take a look at some excerpts from the video played at the assembly... [VIDEO]

FRESH LEARNING IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Students across the District are learning about sustainability, exploring outdoors and building connection with the environment. Children of all ages planted Indigenous trees at **Nelson Elementary**. They worked as a community with help from the District's maintenance crew. The plantings were part of their school-wide efforts to connect with the land and honour Truth and Reconciliation. Kindergarten students at **University Highlands** have been enjoying "Forest Fridays." A Grade 4/5 class at **University Highlands** "upcycled" newspapers and plastic bags to create water-resistant mats for their gardening sessions. Children at **Kitchener** led a **Stream of Dreams** project. The painted wooden fish on their school fence help raise awareness about protecting waterways and the wildlife that depend upon them. As part of the project, a group of students also participated in a community clean-up. The **Green Team** at **Cariboo Hill** gathered to harvest their potatoes and plant garlic. And a Grade 9 class at **Byrne Creek** hosted a fair exploring climate change, sustainable design, and other ways to help the environment.

ILLUMINATING CONNECTION THROUGH CULTURE AND COMMUNITY

Across the District, school communities come together in many ways – such as this **Diwali** celebration at **Alpha Secondary**. A club at **Cariboo Hill Secondary** planned Diwali-themed games and a photo booth. The **Parent Advisory Council** or PAC at **Branford Elementary** organized a school wide **Rangoli** activity as part of Diwali celebrations. PACs were also instrumental in making movie nights happen for elementary students and their families at **University Highlands, Kitchener, Stoney Creek** and **Taylor Park**. The PAC at **Byrne Creek Community School** provided support for the library's first UNO tournament, which 40 students competed in. Also in the library, students in Japanese classes at **Byrne Creek** shared culture and food with peers. In the **Burnaby Public Library**, a group of women who are newcomers and refugees from Afghanistan have been taking English classes. The weekend program was featured in the **Burnaby Now**. Created by the District's **Settlement Workers in Schools** or SWIS Program, it's taught by a volunteer instructor. In connection with the **Vancouver Writer's Festival**, a Deaf author visited elementary students at the **BC Provincial School for the Deaf**. Students from **Twelfth Avenue Elementary** did a field trip to watch the **Vancouver Symphony Orchestra**. They performed "The Spirit Horse Returns," which includes perspectives from an Indigenous Knowledge Keeper. And Grade 1 students from **Brentwood Park** did some inter-generational sharing and art with their "Grand Buddies" at a nearby seniors' residence.

LESSONS THROUGH SPORT: INSPIRING GROWTH AND TEAMWORK

Canadian Olympic gold medalist **Christa Deguchi** visited **University Highlands Elementary**. In addition to speaking with the children, the judo champion showed the school some expert moves. Two Grade 4/5 classes from **Twelfth Avenue** did a field trip to the **Grey Cup Festival**. They had the chance to enjoy immersive football experiences, ziplines and more as part of the festivities preceding the 111th Grey Cup. An indoor World Cup-themed soccer intramural drew children at **Edmonds Community School**. Elementary volleyball, such as seen here at **Kitchener**, has been culminating in tournaments for many schools. Several – such as this playday at **Burnaby Central** and this one at **Alpha** – are hosted by high schools. As the fall sports season ends, many high schools have been earning banners, including **Burnaby North**. The Grade 8 girls volleyball team are league champions. As are the Junior Boys soccer team. The Senior Girls field hockey team at **North** earned their banner in a shootout with **Burnaby Mountain**. The Provincials for aquatics had several students representing Burnaby Schools, including those from **Burnaby North, Moscrop** and **Burnaby Mountain**. The mixed open relay team from **Burnaby Mountain** brought home the hardware, placing first. Cross-country runners – including this **Alpha** athlete – competed in zone championships. Two female athletes at **Burnaby South** qualified for the cross-country provincials. **South's** Grade 9 girls team came from behind to win the volleyball banner. The Junior Girls volleyball teams from **Burnaby North** and **Burnaby Central** represented the District well at Provincials. **Byrne Creek's** Senior Boys soccer team made school history, winning the Fraser North Championship for the first time. And in the Triple-A field, **Burnaby North** garnered media attention and made it all the way to a tight provincial final. In a 1-0 game, they earned 2nd in all of BC.