

# INSIDE BURNABY SCHOOLS

December 17, 2024



## CELEBRATING THE HEARTWARMING MAGIC OF THE SEASON

Students have been getting into the holiday season, including through art projects such as these by children at **Buckingham Elementary**. Project **Deck the Halls** at **Confederation Park Elementary** spread festive decor throughout the school. The **Confederation Park** Choir entertained holiday shoppers – as did children from **Lakeview Elementary**, to the delight of patrons at another local mall. Several classes at **Twelfth Avenue Elementary** went ice skating. At **Alpha Secondary** students and staff collaborated to create a display showcasing a variety of cultural celebrations in December. Students from **Alpha** also led a class at **Brentwood Park Elementary** in building gingerbread houses. Student Government at **Cariboo Hill Secondary** organized a pancake breakfast. Youth in the **International Program** took in the sights at holiday hotspots. Several schools – such as **Moscrop** and **Burnaby Mountain Secondary** – held winter concerts. Drama performances were also a highlight, such as this cabaret at **Alpha**. Students at **Suncrest Elementary** hit the dance floor to showcase their hip-hop skills, while children at **Stride Avenue Elementary** took their audience on a snow day adventure. District choirs – made up of students from several schools – held their annual holiday concert. The District's Sound Wave Handbell Choir supported **Hope in the City**, a **Salvation Army** fundraiser.

## SHARING THROUGH THE GIFT OF GIVING

Students at **Aubrey Elementary** learned about business through a craft fair. They donated proceeds to the **BC SPCA** to help animals. At **Branford Elementary**, student entrepreneurs held a **Mistletoe Market** with their handmade items. The children donated part of their earnings to charity. Students at **Gilmore Community School** collected socks for people who are unhoused. A group of Grade 7s at **Montecito Elementary** held a toy drive for **Mamas for Mamas** and the **Downtown Eastside Women's Centre**. These Leadership students from **Burnaby North Secondary** had some festive fun decorating trees at a local mall. The **Deer Lake Rotary Club's Festival of Lights** is a fundraiser for **Boots for Kids**. Leadership students at **North** also raised more than four thousand dollars for **Cystic Fibrosis** research. Additionally, students in Leadership at the school organized their own **Operation Elf** to provide hand-made cards to residents at a local care home. Leadership students at **Alpha Secondary** held both a clothing drive and food drive to support people in need. **Alpha** students also organized a bake sale to earn funds for **Children's Hospital** and created handmade cards for hospitalized children. **Kitchener Elementary** was one of the schools that participated in the **Burnaby Christmas Bureau's Angel Tree** project. In a separate initiative, Grade 7s at **Gilpin Elementary** created their own Angel Tree to provide holiday gifts for 50 local school-aged children. **Gilpin** families selected a tag with the child's age and their wish. The presents will be delivered in time for the holiday season.

## SUPPORTING THE FUTURE AFTER GRADUATION

Post-secondary fairs are held at high schools and give students a chance to talk directly to several universities and colleges, all in one place, about what they offer. This one at **Cariboo Hill Secondary** was for students in Grades 10 to 12. An information session was held at **Byrne Creek Community School** for Black-identifying students from across the District, as they begin to plan their post-secondary journeys. The session for Grade 11 and 12s was intended to raise awareness about campus life, scholarships, and a financial award program for Black students at the **University of British Columbia**. **Burnaby North Secondary** held a **WorkBC Job Fair** with information about career paths, interactive kiosks, and a chance to get hands on.

## SHINING BRIGHT WITH RECOGNITION AND WINS

**BCIT's School of Business** hosted a competition for students from two school districts, with more than 100 attendees. In the **Enactus BCIT High School Case Competition** students had to work together to tackle a marketing case challenge, showcase their creativity, and demonstrate strategic thinking. The work of the team from **Burnaby North** earned a 2nd-place finish. Teams from **Burnaby South Secondary** also did very well, taking 1st and 3rd place. These Grade 7 girls from **Brantford Elementary** are all smiles, as they showcase their volleyball and cross-country District championship hardware. Retired teacher **Barb Hart Harris** – who spent many years at **Burnaby South** and **Cariboo Hill** – is being inducted into the **Burnaby Sports Hall of Fame**. Harris is being recognized for her decades of contributions to field hockey as an athlete, builder of the sport, and former high school coach. **Confederation Park Elementary** held its annual art show and sale in time for holiday gift giving. The school was recently one of 10 in Canada and the United States to be awarded an **Exemplary School** designation from the **Arts Schools Network**. French Immersion and Core French students from the District were big winners in the annual **Canadian Parents for French Dites-le en vidéo contest**. In the competition, students showcase their French speaking skills through video on a topic of their choice. Eleven students from **Burnaby Mountain**, **Cariboo Hill**, and **Moscrop Secondary** collectively earned two 3<sup>rd</sup> place spots, five 2<sup>nd</sup> place titles, and four 1<sup>st</sup> place wins. The District had the most submissions among all school districts, and the most winners. Elementary children from **Capitol Hill**, **Second Street** and **University Highlands** were finalists in five categories in a national music contest, which is entered by thousands of students. Let's take a peek at their outstanding entries in **CBC's Canadian Music Class Challenge...** [VIDEO] Winners were announced yesterday, with **Capitol Hill** taking top spot in the **Primary/Elementary** category of "**Cuddlebug**" karaoke. With this masterpiece, these students at **Burnaby Central Secondary** won 2nd place in the high school category of the prestigious **Gingerbread Lane Contest**. The instructor who leads the District's **Professional Cooks Program** encouraged his students to enter. Two students in the program recruited a friend and together spent weeks after school planning, baking, and shaping the details on their enchanted gingerbread forest. Their winning work in the Hyatt Hotel's annual contest was recognized in local media. An estimated 20,000 visitors are expected to view it – along with other professional award-winning sugary structures – over the holiday season.