

INSIDE BURNABY SCHOOLS

February 25, 2025



FLURRIES OF FUN WITH WHAT NATURE PROVIDED

Students – such as these at **University Highlands Elementary** – found inventive ways to take advantage of the recent snowfall. At **Confederation Park Elementary** colourful art was in order. Children at **Brentwood Park Elementary** constructed snow people and forts. Youth at **Edmonds Community School** combined a Planetarium visit with a snowy trip to the beach. Making snow ducks was a popular pastime at **Nelson Elementary**. And a student at **Lakeview Elementary** was inspired to write about snow, the dos and don'ts, as well as their thoughts about how it would have been perfect to declare “no school.”

LEARNING THROUGH A TAPESTRY OF TRADITIONS

At **Forest Grove Elementary**, home of the District's **Mandarin Language Arts** program, children from Kindergarten to Grade 7 learned about culture while celebrating **Lunar New Year**. Students at several schools enjoyed traditional dances, as seen here at **Cariboo Hill Secondary**. **Kitchener Elementary** was among the many schools to recognize the **Year of the Snake** through art. Primary students at **Marlborough Elementary** got creative with projects making dragons and snakes. Children at **Brentwood Park Elementary** also celebrated through art projects, with some wearing special clothing in honour of the new year. At several schools, families were part of the festivities, such as at **Confederation Park Elementary** where a student shared one of their family traditions on a school broadcast. A pre-**Nowruz** celebration was put on for the community and staff at **Twelfth Avenue Elementary**. The District's **Settlement Workers in Schools** hosted the luncheon, with several moms making traditional fare for the approaching **Persian new year**. Students at **Gilpin Elementary** gained a deeper understanding of culture, traditions, rhythm and rhyme, while learning to play drums and percussion instruments from around the world. The six-day **Beats of Belonging** project was funded through an **ArtStarts** grant with support from the school's **Parent Advisory Council**.

UNITING COMMUNITY WITH HEART

The Student Government at **Cariboo Hill Secondary** helped make sure every student received a valentine. The hallways were lined with personalized hearts that began with “Cariboo loves,” followed by the student's name. **Twelfth Avenue Elementary** held a special event on **Valentine's Day** featuring local musician **Krystle Dos Santos** and her Motown Band. The **Montecito Elementary** community enjoyed heart-shaped cookies from the school's **PAC**. Leadership students from **Burnaby North Secondary** worked with younger children to make art for Valentine's Day. At **Inman Elementary**, the entire school came together to form a human heart. Every student at **Inman** also worked to create personalized cards for Valentine's Day. On February 14th they hand-delivered more than 400 of them to people living in their neighbourhood. The children's acts of kindness to spread love and build community were featured in the Burnaby Now.

A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME: EXPLORING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Children and youth across the District are recognizing **Black History Month** this February, including through story, such as at **Aubrey Elementary**. Displays like this one at **Buckingham Elementary** share learnings about the proud heritage of the Black community, their joy, struggles, contributions, and achievements. At **Twelfth Avenue Elementary** Grade 2/3 students created portraits of Black leaders with quotes. The whole school helped make a mural of **Viola Desmond**, a Black Canadian civil rights activist. Also at **Twelfth Avenue**, students built LEGO sculptures with black bricks. They were inspired by a Ghanaian Canadian artist whose work explores Black culture, identity and the future. Both **Confederation Park Elementary** and **Alpha Secondary** put together displays of a periodic table representing Black Canadian writers, artists, entrepreneurs, leaders, athletes and more. Their stories and accomplishments can be accessed by scanning a QR code. Leadership students from **Alpha** shared lessons celebrating Black excellence at **Brentwood Park**. Together, they examined the accomplishments of NASA mathematician **Katherine Johnson**, talked about plant care while learning about agricultural scientist **George Washington Carver**, and made art inspired by the work of **Alma Thomas**. Also during Black History Month, 20 students from six high schools across the District attended their first session of the **University of British Columbia's Black Futures program**. Over the coming months, the Black youth will participate in information sessions, activities and learn from speakers – all with a view to opening up post-secondary horizons.

STRENGTHENING LEARNING THROUGH COMMUNITY

Through a partnership with the **City of Burnaby**, a pilot with free swimming lessons during the school day has been underway for Grade 5 students at **Douglas Road** and **Edmonds** schools. The lessons have one-on-one support for students with disabilities or diverse abilities and were featured in local news. With support from organizations such as the **Pacific Salmon Foundation**, children at **Marlborough** and **Nelson Elementary** schools are learning about the life cycle of salmon by watching it in their classrooms. At **Brentwood Park Elementary** students explored energy conservation during a talk put on by the **BC Lions**. With funding from the **PAC**, children at **Confederation Park** participated in the **Gym Sense Gymnastics** program, learning the fundamentals of the sport. **Taylor Park Elementary** revealed its new playground. Students enjoyed the "accessibility and friendship" swings, along with a visit from their retired principal who began the project with **PAC** support.

EMBRACING JOIE DE VIVRE WITH A FRENCH CONNECTION

Elementary students from several schools enjoyed a visit from **Bonhomme** at **École Moscrop Secondary**. The mascot is part of **Carnaval** celebrations, which provide a chance for students to learn while enjoying French-Canadian culture and cuisine. Likewise, Kindergarten students at **École Marlborough Elementary** enjoyed maple taffy, or **La tîre d'érable**. Traditional crêpes were another part of the festivities. **École Cariboo Hill Secondary** also hosted several elementary schools where students enjoyed cultural activities. After much preparation, Grade 7 students at **École Brantford Elementary** were among those who seized the chance to travel to Quebec to be fully immersed in French. Among their explorations, they've taken part in guided activities at the Plains of Abraham, learned at the Wendat Huron site, visited Old Québec and the famous ice hotel.