

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Reporting to Public Session on Tuesday, February 25, 2025

1. Celebrating Black History / Black Futures in February and Beyond

Inspired by a District sponsored Black Excellence event, the Burnaby Central BlackEx Club has been running since the fall of 2022. For Black History/Futures Month 2025, the students have been making weekly announcements about Black historical figures and events. On February 26th they are hosting a Black History Month (BHM) celebration in the school theatre that includes performances and a traditional/cultural fashion show. All students and staff are welcome. Students have also been raising funds with weekly food sales highlighting Cuisine from the African Diaspora. Members of the Club will be attending the "Lift Every Voice" concert on Thursday February 27th. Gospel and Soul Singer – Marcus Mosely – will be performing an evening of song to celebrate BHM. He will perform a few songs with the school's Concert Choir and 6 – 8 members of the BlackEx Club. BlackEx Students are helping take donations at the door. The proceeds will support their club's future initiatives. The entire school community is welcome. The BlackEx Club will attend a session on Black History and Black Music in the Library earlier the same day.

The Cariboo Black Excellence Club is a new affinity group that began this school year. This group has created a large and engaging mural in the main foyer of Cariboo Hill Secondary School to commemorate Black Canadian Excellence. On the daily announcements, students are celebrating Black Canadians who have made significant achievements and/or contributions. The Club has collaborated with the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) and the Mental Health Student Groups to create an awareness presentation around the impact of discriminatory language and hate speech on youth mental health. This presentation is being presented to grade 8's through 12.

Tonight, we are honoured to introduce Burnaby Central Secondary students from the BlackEx Club, Ynabiel Gebremichael, Kingston Smith and Alicia Bakacheza, and members of Cariboo Hill Secondary's Black Excellence Club Olivia Nwabueze, Sara Tesfamariam and Salem Yohannes Tesfamichael, who will share how they have been uplifting and celebrating Black Excellence.

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education receive this information.

2. Literacy in Burnaby Schools

The Burnaby School District's Responsive and Inclusive Literacy Framework has been created to empower educators to implement evidence-based literacy practices to ensure that every student has access to effective, engaging and transformative literacy instruction. Professional development opportunities at a District and school level have been created to support educators and has been focused on literacy instruction and classroom assessments.

This evening, Kathryn Yamamoto, Director of Instruction, will provide an overview of literacy in the Burnaby School District as well as share information about the Ministry of Education and Child Care Literacy supports.

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education receive this information.