

# INSIDE BURNABY SCHOOLS

March 11, 2025



## IGNITING THE POWER OF DIVERSITY, KINDNESS AND BELONGING

Students across the District participated in **Pink Shirt Day** activities, such as these displays to build awareness at **Confederation Park** and **Kitchener Elementary** schools. This kindness wave at **South Slope Elementary** and **BCSD** promotes respect for one another and celebrates diversity. A Kindergarten class at **Buckingham Elementary** collectively created a "Guide to Spreading Kindness." **Brentwood Park Elementary** had a "Let Kindness Grow" theme. They ended with a Kindness Parade in the community. As part of Kindness Week at **Marlborough Elementary**, Kindergarten students worked with their Big Buddies on ways to heal a wrinkled heart after reading a book together. Children at **Brantford Elementary** created art focused on "hanging bullying out to dry." Student voice was an important part of assemblies, which were held at numerous schools. Students had fun putting the "I" in kind, in a social-media-worthy display at **Burnaby Central Secondary**. More than 150 students from across the District attended the **Diversity Dance** at **Byrne Creek Community School** this month. The annual event is hosted by the District's **SOGI Committee** and is an evening of fun, celebration and belonging for everyone.

## CULTIVATING CREATIVITY AND COMMUNITY THROUGH THE ARTS

Students at **Burnaby Central Secondary** participated in a **Lift Every Voice** event with **Marcus Mosely and Friends**. Mosely is a renowned gospel singer, speaker, and member of the BC Entertainment Hall of Fame. Youth learned how music unifies, connects people and serves as a powerful platform to let one's voice be heard. Mosely led the work with youth in the school's **Black Excellence Club** and **Concert Choir**, culminating in a special evening performance together. Let's take a listen to part of the show. [Video] At **Cariboo Hill Secondary**, their **Fine Arts Night** featured a collection of student-created art for auction. It also showcased drama, dance and music performances by students in the Visual and Performing Arts department. Children at **Lakeview Elementary** delighted audiences this month with their spring musical. Together, they brought to life their version of **Mary Poppins Junior**. Youth at **Burnaby North Secondary** are getting ready to share their spectacular performance of **Mama Mia**. With three shows, two casts, and incredible vocals, the students have been working hard for months to launch it. Youth at **Burnaby South Secondary** are in the news for their performance of **The SpongeBob Musical**, with a scope so large it practically rivals a Broadway show. It features a full pit orchestra, a cast of 50 student performers – including dancers and singers – as well as more than 80 students working behind the scenes in stagecraft. Given that SpongeBob takes place "under the sea," they've been especially mindful of their environmental impact by using found, recycled and borrowed materials to build set pieces, props, and costumes. Let's take a peek at their marketing video. [Video]

## FROM MATH TO MEDALS: STUDENTS ACHIEVE EXCELLENCE IN MANY ARENAS

Three teams from **Moscrop Secondary** took first place titles at the **Math Challengers Lower Mainland Regional Competition** held at **UBC**. All three have qualified for the provincial competition. Individually, 16 students from **Moscrop** finished in the top ten for their grade level. In a competition with half the teams coming from outside of Canada, the **robotics** group from **Byrne Creek** placed 2<sup>nd</sup> of the BC teams and 14th overall. They were also selected for playoff rounds for the first time at the **Pacific Regional FIRST Robotics Competition**. At the provincial **VEX Robotics Competition**, one of the District's Robotics Teams – hosted at **Alpha** – won the championship. They qualify, once again, for the world championship. Students from five Burnaby high schools competed against others in the region at the **Ethós Lab Blackathon** event. About 150 students learned about a Black inventor, and then worked to hack their invention. **Cariboo Hill** earned a second-place win. In sports, student-athletes have been competing in the final days of the winter season. Many have earned high achievements, including the **Senior Boys Wrestling Team** at **Burnaby North**. The Senior Girls and Boys **Table Tennis** Teams also scored championship banners for the school. Wrestlers at **Cariboo Hill** followed up last year's win at Provincials, with an encore of gold and silver medals at this year's competition.

## STEAM-POWERED LEARNING AND FUN

There are many examples across the District of students delving into **Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics** or **STEAM** in their classes. At **Branford Elementary**, students got creative with an amazing race-style lesson, tackling math challenges. Students at **University Highlands Elementary** dug into science by investigating owl pellets. A chance to learn about thermal energy was had while making tea and pancakes at **Westridge Elementary**. Kindergarten students at **Marlborough** had a tasty lesson about liquids and solids while making ricotta cheese. **Kitchener** students built this city. A class at **South Slope** had a publishing party after using technology to create non-fiction books. And **Buckingham** students, made colourful pop art inspired by the work of **Keith Haring**.

## HONOURING SIGNIFICANT DAYS WITH SHARING AND CONNECTION

More than 70 people gathered at **Gilmore Community School** for **Nowruz**, the **Persian New Year**. Led by the District's **Settlement Workers in Schools**, or **SWIS** team, students and their families who are newcomers from Afghanistan, Iran, Syria and Azerbaijan celebrated together with school staff. The SWIS team also organized a Nowruz celebration at **Alpha**. Nearly 40 students expressed pride in their heritage with dancing and sharing food for Nowruz. Also at **Alpha**, a horn section and keyboard player were part of the **Mardi Gras** celebrations for what's known as **Fat Tuesday** – a feast day before the fasting season of **Lent** begins for Christians. For **Ramadan**, students at **Capitol Hill Elementary** created lanterns. Children at **South Slope Elementary** and **BCSD** were among those who chose from a curated collection of library books – all to support learning and awareness of the Muslim holy month. More than 25 Afghan women, who are parents in Burnaby Schools, gathered at **Edmonds Community School** in advance of **International Women's Day** at a SWIS-organized event. The group of newcomers – including former officials, educators, and journalists – came together to talk about the treatment of women and girls in Afghanistan, as well as to share joy in their own daughters' learning at school in Burnaby... *That's Inside Burnaby Schools for Tuesday, March 11, 2025.*