

INSIDE BURNABY SCHOOLS

May 26, 2026



CELEBRATING SHARED BELONGING THROUGH INCLUSION IN ACTION

The fifth annual ***Building a Better Tomorrow Through Art*** exhibition opened with an evening honouring student-artists. After months of preparation, more than 100 creations by youth with disabilities or diverse abilities were featured at the **Round House**. Led by Access program educators at **Burnaby North Secondary**, the work of students across three school districts was showcased. A Grade 7 student has won the **BC and Yukon Easter Seals National AccessAbility Week Design Contest**. In **Alyssa's** submission, the **Nelson Elementary** student said her creation represented "unity and community in play." An art class at **Byrne Creek Community School** worked on a collaboration with students in the Access program, creating big movement art. In recognition of the **International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia**, the District held its annual student breakfast. Local actor **Sam Darkoh** met with Grade 5 to 7 students at **Windsor Elementary** to talk about human rights and how to help stop hate and discrimination. More than 130 newcomer students from multiple schools went on the **Friends of Simon** field trip to Simon Fraser University. Led by the District's **Settlement Workers in Schools**, the outing provided post-secondary exposure and community building. At the opening of **Morley Elementary's** new playground, **Premier David Eby** announced new accessible playgrounds provincially, including for **Lochdale** and **Marlborough Elementary**. The event began with a land acknowledgement from **Luna**, a Grade 3 student who is originally from the **Alexander First Nation, Treaty 6 Territory**. Kindergarten and Grade 1 students sang "Leave the World a Little Bit Better." The event ended with time to enjoy the new accessible playground.

HONOURING LEGACY: A LOOK BACK AS WE MOVE FORWARD

Windsor Elementary held a celebration in honour of the school's centennial. A "Memory Lane" wall showcased the history of the 100-year-old school. Dignitaries were among those at the community connection event. Attendees took photos, reflected, and shared stories about **Windsor's** impact on their lives. **Stride Avenue Community School** also held a community event. They invited former students and staff to honour the current school building before **Stride Avenue** students move into their newly built school next fall. More than 300 people came for the celebration to reconnect and remember.

WORKING TOGETHER TO NURTURE MENTAL WELLNESS

Wellness Week at **Burnaby Central Secondary** is one of many examples of schools focusing on mental health. Students at **Byrne Creek** handed out healthy snacks to highlight nutrition during their Wellness Week. Both **Confederation Park** and **Kitchener** celebrated their mental wellness learnings with a "**ConfIDANCE**" as part of the **Kind Mind Program** with the **Kelty Foundation**. Youth at **Burnaby Central** and **Moscrop** were the first in BC to benefit from the **Rogers Screen Break** program. Olympic medalist and PWHL player **Sarah Nurse** spoke about the connection between mental wellness and healthy use of screens.

POWERING ACADEMICS WITH CREATIVE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

A Grade 7 class at **Kitchener Elementary** explored Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics with this **STEAM** project. At **Brentwood Park Elementary**, a Grade 4/5 class had a “math explosion” in their room. **Twelfth Avenue Elementary** came together for **Math Fest**. Student leaders created math games and challenges that they shared with the community. This writing by primary students followed a story workshop in **Lakeview Elementary**'s library. After working on procedural writing at **Chaffey-Burke Elementary**, a Grade 6/7 class spent some time analyzing existing board games in preparation for making their own. **Battle of the Books**, which promotes a love of reading, drew the attention of students from across the District. Children in Grades 6 and 7 “battle” in teams, working together to answer questions about the 10 books that they have read for the competition. School teams “battle” against groups from other Burnaby Schools. In a tight contest, **Lakeview**'s team had the highest score. Similarly, there is also a **District French Battle of the Books**. Separately, French Immersion students from **Brantford Elementary** practiced their language skills on a trip to Quebec. At the BC and Yukon's **Concours d'art oratoire** event, a dozen Burnaby Schools students were among those who placed in the top three. Youth from the District took 19% of the available medals at this year's regional French public speaking contest. Top students in Grades 11 and 12 qualify for the national competition.

APPLAUDING STUDENTS' ARTISTIC EXPLORATIONS

A reception was held to open two professionally installed exhibitions featuring student art. The **Burnaby Art Gallery** is showcasing the youth's creations until the end of the month. **Arts Alive (de)Construction** includes paintings, sculptures and more by students from seven high schools. The second exhibition, called **Realizations**, presents the work of 12 students who are part of the **Artist Apprenticeship Program**. The career-exploration opportunity is for youth in Grades 11 and 12. Students of all ages from across the District performed at the **Burnaby Festival of Dance**. An annual tradition since 1980, it is hosted by **Burnaby Mountain Secondary** over multiple nights, with hundreds of students participating. The celebratory event also involves collaboration across elementary schools and secondary dance programs. **Primary Days of Music** brings together Grade 2 and 3 students from neighbouring schools. They share their performances with one another. The **Burnaby Sings Choir Festival** included more than a dozen elementary and high schools. **Confederation Park Elementary** is home to **Education Through the Arts** – a District-wide Program of Choice option. The school recently held a **Young Actors Project Residency**, including a lesson in masks. Several schools showcase students' talents at performances, such as this one at **Marlborough Elementary**. This Singing in the Garden event was performed for 450 people at **Stride Avenue Community School**. And this talent show at **Nelson Elementary** saw students perform in front of peers and family. Children from two schools have made it to the finals of a national music contest. **Capitol Hill Elementary** has two finalist videos in the **CBC Music Class Challenge**. **Second Street Community School** is a finalist for their performance of the original song “If I Was in Charge of the World.” At the end of May, winners will be announced in the contest that's entered by thousands from across Canada.