

INSIDE BURNABY SCHOOLS

September 29, 2026



SUMMER REFLECTIONS: A SEASON TO CELEBRATE

Summer Session classes and related fun remains a popular choice, with more than 10,200 registrations. Growing interest led to 200 more registrations than last year. Participants at **Marlborough Elementary** were among those who got to see **Burnaby Firefighters'** equipment in action. The refreshing learning opportunity was featured by **Freshet News**. A student organized a fundraiser during Summer Session at **Cascade Heights Elementary**. Valerie sold 165 freezies for a dollar each to raise funds for meals on the Downtown Eastside. 35 newcomer youth from Afghanistan, Eritrea, Sudan, Iran, and Syria participated in a **Summer Camp Program** partly funded by **Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada** and a **BASES Thrift Store** grant. Led by the District's **Settlement Workers in Schools**, the camp supports connection and belonging for students who are new to high school. A **Burnaby North** graduate had a full circle moment, becoming a summer camp leader for the **Burnaby Art Gallery**. **Erin Curley** was in the **Artist Apprenticeship Program** in high school, which is a career exploration opportunity put on in partnership with the gallery and District. Erin is working toward becoming an art teacher. In August, the Burnaby Schools community proudly walked in the **Vancouver Pride Parade**.

WELCOMING STUDENTS: A YEAR IN THE MAKING BEGINS

Leadership students, including those from **Burnaby North** and **Alpha Secondary**, gathered in the summer to connect, plan events, and call incoming Grade 8s to welcome them. Students who are part of the **International Education** program were greeted and supported at special orientations across the District. The new year began with gatherings and welcomes, including these at **Kitchener** and **Brentwood Park Elementary**. The Class of 2039 was welcomed by schools, such as **Lakeview Elementary**, as they started Kindergarten this month. At the other end of their school experience, many youth in this year's grad class are taking time to honour the moments of their final year of public school. This "Last First Day" for Grade 12s was at **Burnaby North**. And "This Aint Our First Rodeo, It's Our Last" Grad Barbeque was at **Burnaby Mountain Secondary**. At **Confederation Park Elementary**, children played during an afternoon of community building that was supported by the **City of Burnaby's Parks and Recreation** department. Many students at **Brantford Elementary** began school by writing their hopes for the year. Student athletes jumped right into tryouts for fall sports, including at **Moscrop**. Competition, such as this volleyball action at **Burnaby South Secondary**, is now well underway. Following tryouts, rehearsals for theatre productions, including at **Burnaby Mountain Secondary**, are up and running. Student leaders at several schools organized theme days, such as this silly sock day at **Burnaby Mountain**. **Cariboo Hill Secondary's** school community came together for a Back-to-School Barbeque. Student Government at **Byrne Creek Community School** led a school Spirit Week that included Jersey and Twin Days, setting the tone for the year ahead.

MAKING STRIDES ON BURNABY SCHOOLS CAPITAL PROJECTS

Students and staff at three elementary schools began the 2026-27 school year with the added excitement of exploring their new building or completed expansion. **Stride Avenue Community School**'s state-of-the-art building, as well as **Brentwood Park** and **Nelson Elementary** schools' expansions were move-in ready to welcome their school communities. An expansion at **Kitchener Elementary** is also anticipated to be ready this fall. Construction started in the summer for an addition at **Alpha Secondary** and a three-story replacement school for **Cameron Elementary**. **Brentwood Park Elementary** is also starting phase 2 of construction at the school. These and other capital projects in the District and beyond were celebrated at a Burnaby Schools-hosted provincial event held at **Stride Avenue** at the beginning of September. Additionally, the capital projects underway at **Brentwood Park** and **Cameron** incorporate a collective total of more than 100 new child care spaces. A new before and after school care centre on District property at **Kitchener Elementary** opened the first week of school. With provincial funding, Burnaby Schools led construction of the newly opened facility. It provides families in the community with 24 child care spaces for elementary-aged children beyond the school day. Construction of several additional child care centres is complete. The building at **Parkcrest Elementary** is awaiting occupancy. The providers that will run the centres in the newly constructed buildings on the grounds of **Brentwood Park Elementary**, **Twelfth Avenue Elementary**, **Stoney Creek Community School**, and **Stride Avenue Community School** are working with child care licensing in the hopes of being able to soon welcome children.

STRENGTHENING CONNECTIONS AND COMMUNITY

Leadership students at **Kitchener Elementary** were involved in the design work for a new community basketball court recently completed by the **City of Burnaby**. A flex session at **Byrne Creek Community School** focused on supporting students, including by exploring mental wellness and digital literacy. **Cariboo Hill Secondary** was among the schools that held events for Grade 8s to build school connection with games and community building. Students at **Burnaby North** led activities, including to connect with the outdoors, at the Grade 8 retreat. As schools recognize the **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation** this week, there are many Indigenous learning opportunities throughout the year. Among the activities at the Grade 8 retreat at **Alpha Secondary**, students created story stones, learned about oral Indigenous storytelling traditions, the Coast Salish Anthem, and explored an Indigenous plant match station. A Grade 6/7 class at **Brantford Elementary** began the year with outdoor learning and a hike. The **Parent Advisory Council** at **Brantford** organized a visit from the **Vancouver Lion Dance** group, sharing culture at a special event marking the new school year. At **Marlborough Elementary** for the **Mid-Autumn Festival**, a Kindergarten class invited parents into the school to help make mooncakes. Meet Mr. Ruggles who is now part of the team at a **Provincial Resource Program** administered by Burnaby Schools at the **Maples Adolescent Centre**. The puppy, seen here in the teacher's office and outside the **Maples School Program**, provides another way to connect with students at the **Maples Adolescent Treatment Centre Healing Spirit House**. As the smallest team member, Mr. Ruggles is making a big difference by helping to build community and providing an additional way for students to engage in learning and school life.