

Supporting Safe & Caring Schools

When students feel welcome, supported, respected and safe, they are more engaged in learning

February 2017

Dear Students, Parents, Guardians and District Staff,

We know that recent world events have had an impact on our classrooms and communities. On behalf of the Board of Education and senior staff, we want to share with you that Burnaby School District remains committed to creating cultures of belonging in our schools.

When students feel welcome, supported, respected and safe, they are more engaged in learning. We pride ourselves in providing just that - engaging, inclusive environments that support the unique learning needs of each child. It is part of the very thread of our fabric embodied in our mission statement where we prepare and support an inclusive, caring community of learners for the challenges of a changing tomorrow.

Our schools reflect the increasingly global nature of the Burnaby community where 48% of our students speak a language other than English at home. Such diversity provides unique educational opportunities. Learning first-hand about world perspectives on culture, politics and economics enhances class discussions and provides students with deeper connections to the world around them. It also provides a chance to explore, at a basic level, what makes us similar and what makes us unique.

As a District, we continue to promote the ideals of diversity and inclusion through policies and initiatives that promote respect and understanding. The District Code of Conduct guides these behaviours to ensure that our schools are safe and caring learning environments for all.

This week, many schools are participating in Pink Shirt Day activities. It is one of many initiatives that teaches about kindness and respect for others, attributes that help to build a sense of belonging. By keeping you informed about initiatives such as these, you in turn, can support your child. As parents and educators, we share a unique opportunity to work together, to have conversations and model positive behaviours, so that each child grows up to be a socially aware and responsible adult who will thrive in an inclusive society.

Thank you for supporting us in our efforts to ensure that all of our schools remain safe and caring learning environments. For while there are many faces in Burnaby schools – we are truly one community.

Sincerely,



Ron Burton, Board Chair



Gina Niccoli-Moen, Superintendent of Schools



**IMPORTANT INFORMATION
PLEASE HAVE THIS TRANSLATED**

**RENSEIGNEMENTS IMPORTANTS
Prière de les faire traduire.**

**重要資料
請找人為你翻譯**

これはたいせつなお知らせです。
どなたかに日本語に訳してもらってください。

**알려드립니다
이것을 번역해 주십시오**

**CHỈ DẪN QUAN TRỌNG
Xin nhờ người dịch hộ**

**ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ
ਵਿਰਧਾ ਵਰਗੇ ਵਿਸ਼ੇ ਕੋਲੋਂ ਇਸ ਦਾ ਉਲੱਥਾ ਵਰਵਾਰੋ ।**

**INFORMACIÓN IMPORTANTE
Busque alguien que le traduzca.**

**اطلاعات مهم و سودمند
لطفاً از یک نفر بخواهید که برای شما ترجمه کند**

**ITO AY MAHALAGANG IMPORMASYON
Isalin sa wikang tagalog kung hindi maintindihan**

**یرجی ترجمه هذا
معلومات هامة**

**ВАЖНАЯ ИНФОРМАЦИЯ
Переведите это, пожалуйста.**