



A house post representing the house of education for Burnaby was unveiled at the District Administration Office. Master Carver [redacted] from the [redacted] worked for many months on the post with students and staff from several schools. As they carved the red cedar together at [redacted] and the [redacted], Xwalacktun shared stories, teachings and culture. At the end of the last school year, he led a ceremony at [redacted] to “wake up” the finished post before it was transferred to its new home. Xwalacktun was present to witness the process as district facilities staff guided the post into its permanent place of honour.

[redacted] community members led a ceremony in celebration of the journey to create the house post. At the end of the ceremony, Xwalacktun described the many stories the post tells that came from conversations with the students, as they thought about what would embody the school district. For example, salmon represent a school of fish, schools, as well as the Burnaby Board of Education and District. A butterfly with aluminum wings represents the deaf community, with two hands below it signing the word butterfly. We are invited to consider what tracks we are leaving behind for others to follow, including our footprint on the environment. Many more meanings are carved into the post. Local Indigenous protocol was followed at the ceremony, which was both a celebration honouring the artist and an official transfer of the artwork into the District’s care.

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Nearly fifteen-hundred children have registered to be part of the program at the District. The province-wide program is for children who are not yet school age. They attend with their parent or caregiver. Funded by the Ministry of Education and Child Care, there is no cost to participants. Twelve of our schools serve as locations for the popular District-wide program. It is open to children from birth to age 5, with registration taking place throughout the school year. Early Childhood Educators focus on play-based learning with the children, marking a joyful beginning to their experience with the Burnaby School District.

Partnerships in the community enhance learning and well-

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