

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

February 20, 2026

Dear Families,

On February 25, schools across Burnaby will mark Pink Shirt Day through learning and activities that centre kindness, care, and standing up for one another. While Pink Shirt Day is often associated with positive behaviour, it is important to remember its origins. The day began as a response to homophobic bullying and continues to affirm that homophobia, transphobia, and all forms of bullying and discrimination have no place in Burnaby Schools or communities.

This year, Pink Shirt Day is grounded in the values of the Burnaby School District's [2025–2030 Strategic Plan](#), adopted at the start of the school year. This plan was not developed in isolation. It was shaped through meaningful engagement with students, families, staff, and community members, whose voices helped define the values and priorities that guide our work. At its core, the Strategic Plan affirms a shared belief in belonging. It affirms that we value all forms of diversity and provide equitable access to education so that learning and working environments are safe, inclusive, and welcoming for everyone.

Public education carries both a responsibility and an obligation to uphold dignity, safety, and human rights. Every member of our school community - students, staff, families, and community members - has the right to be treated with respect and to participate in school life without fear of bullying or discrimination. This includes those who identify as members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. Our Strategic Plan commits the District to addressing incidents of bullying to create safer and more inclusive environments where individuals are respected, valued, and empowered to be their authentic selves. Pink Shirt Day reflects this commitment by reinforcing that belonging and safety are foundational conditions for learning, well-being, and engagement.

Across the District, these values are expressed through both policy and practice. Rainbow crosswalks at many schools serve as visible signs that diversity is welcomed and affirmed. District-wide events such as the annual Freedom to Celebrate Family Pride Picnic, which brings families together from across Burnaby to share free food, games, and fun in an inclusive and welcoming environment. Initiatives like this affirm that schools are spaces where everyone belongs. The District's [Code of Conduct](#) further reinforces expectations for respectful behaviour and makes clear that bullying, whether in person or online, is unacceptable. This work is ongoing and requires care, reflection, and collective responsibility.

Building inclusive school communities is a shared responsibility. Families play a vital role through open conversations, support for school initiatives, and reinforcing respect and acceptance. We are grateful for this partnership and for the shared commitment to ensuring schools remain places of dignity, belonging, and opportunity for all.

Sincerely,



Kristin Schnider
Board Chair



Jen Mezei
Vice-Chair



Bill Brassington
Trustee



Gary Wong
Trustee



Larry Hayes
Trustee



Mikelle Sasakamoose
Trustee



Peter Cech
Trustee

IMPORTANT INFORMATION *Please have this translated.*

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معلومات مهمة. الرجاء ترجمتها. | Información importante. Por favor, que esto se traduzca.

Agahiyên girîng. Ji kerema xwe vê wergerîne. | لطفا این ترجمه را انجام دهید

معلومات مهم، لطفاً از شخصی بخواهید تا این متن را برای شما ترجمه کند. | 重要信息，请找人代为翻译。

ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ। ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਕਿਸੇ ਤੋਂ ਇਸ ਦਾ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਕਰਵਾਉ। | 중요한 정보입니다. 이것을 번역하시기 바랍니다.