

# Supporting Safe & Caring Schools

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

February 24, 2021

Dear Families,

Although today marks the official Pink Shirt Day, many of our schools will continue to participate in Pink Shirt Day activities throughout the week. Pink Shirt Day began more than a decade ago as an awareness campaign about homophobic bullying. On behalf of the Board of Education and senior staff, we want to take this opportunity to share with you what kind of community and culture we work to create.

We pride ourselves in providing engaging, inclusive environments that support the unique learning needs of each child. When students feel welcome, supported, respected and safe, they are more engaged in learning. With the many ways the pandemic has impacted the day-to-day lives of students and their emotional well-being this year, Pink Shirt Day is perhaps even more important to spark additional conversation about caring behaviour and connection.

Although schools look a little different during the pandemic, we have continued to support school connection and safety – for students attending in-person and online. Many school clubs and councils have continued ‘virtually’ to give students opportunities to connect and build community. With more online activity this year, we have continued to focus on Digital Citizenship and respectful, responsible interactions online. We have expanded our ability to do outreach and support all students, with a particular focus on vulnerability during the pandemic, and our Safe and Caring Schools team has coordinated virtual workshops on mindfulness, internet safety, healthy relationships, and restorative education.

Each and every one of our students and staff are valued and respected members of our community. We continue to encourage the ideals of diversity and inclusion, as well as initiatives and activities in our schools throughout the year that explore kindness and respect for others. An important part of our efforts to support an equitable, diverse and inclusive environment for all staff, students, and their families is our journey to be actively anti-racist. Last month we saw students and school staff lead participation in the inaugural Black Shirt Day. Initiatives such as Black Shirt Day – which raises awareness of the challenges faced by Black and racialized Canadians, Orange Shirt Day – which honours those who attended residential schools, and Pink Shirt Day are important opportunities that build greater understanding of the lived experiences and challenges within our community. These conversations help to create a culture of respect and belonging for everyone.

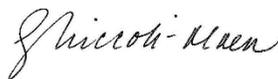
Learning first-hand about others’ perspectives – whether it be about cultural awareness or other expressions of who you are – benefits us all. Pink Shirt Day reminds students that they can be who they are, encourage others to do the same, and stand up to name-calling, bullying or discrimination.

We value our partnership with families tremendously. By keeping you informed about initiatives such as these, together we can continue to build a community in our schools that models kindness, values compassion, and supports a learning environment that benefits everyone.

Sincerely, -



Jen Mezei, Board Chair



Gina Niccoli-Moen, Superintendent

 <p><b>BOARD OF EDUCATION BURNABY SCHOOL DISTRICT 41</b></p> <p><b>IMPORTANT INFORMATION PLEASE HAVE THIS TRANSLATED</b></p> <p><b>RENSEIGNEMENTS IMPORTANTS Prière de les faire traduire.</b></p> <p><b>重要資料 請找人為你翻譯</b></p>	<p>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。</p> <p><b>알려드립니다</b> 이것을 번역해 주십시오</p> <p><b>CHỈ DẪN QUAN TRỌNG</b> Xin nhờ người dịch hộ</p> <p><b>ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ</b> ਵਿਕਰਮ ਕਰਕੇ ਕਿਸੇ ਕੋਲੋਂ ਇਸ ਦਾ ਉਲੰਘਾ ਕਰਵਾਓ ।</p> <p><b>INFORMACIÓN IMPORTANTE</b> Busque alguien que le traduzca.</p>	<p><b>اطلاعات مهم و سودمند</b> لطفاً از یک نفر بخواهید که برای شما ترجمه کند</p> <p><b>ITO AY MAHALAGANG IMPORMASYON</b> Isalin sa wikang tagalog kung hindi maintindihan</p> <p>برجی ترجمه هذا معلومات هامة</p> <p><b>ВАЖНАЯ ИНФОРМАЦИЯ</b> Переведите это, пожалуйста.</p>
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