

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA PROVINCIAL SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

5455 Rumble Street
Burnaby, British Columbia V5J 2B7
(604) 296-6880, ext. 605009



BCSD May Newsletter

Dear BCSD Families/Guardians,

It is hard to believe that we are already approaching the end of another school year, with only three weeks left before summer break. The past months have gone by so quickly and have been filled with learning, growth, celebrations, and many memorable moments across our BCSD community. As we move into the final weeks of the school year, we look forward to recognizing our students' accomplishments and enjoying the many year-end activities and events together.

Canadian Video Relay Service

On May 14, representatives from the Canadian Video Relay Service (CVRS) facilitated an informative workshop focused on emergency communication using Video Relay Service (VRS). The session provided students with practical instruction on how to access and use 9-1-1 emergency services and the 9-8-8 crisis helpline through VRS calls.

Students learned step-by-step procedures for placing emergency calls, including how interpreters support communication between Deaf users and emergency operators. The presenters also emphasized when and how to use each service appropriately, highlighting the importance of quick access to support in urgent or crisis situations.

The workshop included demonstrations and guided practice opportunities, allowing students to engage directly with the process in a safe and supportive learning environment. Overall, the session strengthened students' confidence and awareness in using accessible emergency communication tools when needed.

Career Pathways

On May 14th, a representative from the Sign Language Institute of Canada provided a career presentation for students focused on job opportunities within the Deaf community. Students learned about various career pathways, including becoming a Deaf Interpreter, ASL Instructor, Mentor, Artist, Performer, and Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The presentation also highlighted the education, training, and skills required for these professions while encouraging students to explore future careers that support accessibility, communication, and the Deaf community.

Career Panel

On May 14th, BCSD staff and I participated in a career panel where they shared our educational journeys, career experiences, and perspectives as Deaf professionals.

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Students learned about different career paths, accessibility, advocacy, mentorship, and the strengths Deaf individuals bring to workplaces and communities.

We discussed challenges we faced, how our careers evolved over time, and the importance of building confidence, skills, and strong support networks. The discussion provided students with meaningful insight, encouragement, and inspiration as they begin thinking about their own futures beyond high school.

School Leaving Ceremony

On May 20th, our BCSD graduates walked across the stage with pride, celebrating an important milestone in their educational journey. Surrounded by family, friends, and staff, students were recognized for their hard work, perseverance, and accomplishments throughout their years at BCSD. It was a joyful and memorable moment as graduates stepped forward into their next chapter with confidence and pride.

We also extend special recognition to Jimber Tan, who delivered the valedictorian speech. Jimber represented the graduating class with confidence, thoughtfulness, and pride, delivering a heartfelt and memorable address.



Burnaby South Secondary and BCSD Dance Performance

On May 25th, students from Burnaby South Secondary and the BC Provincial School for the Deaf came together for the “On the Record” dance performance. This year’s production featured dancers from Grades 8–12, highlighting collaboration, creativity, and inclusion through movement and expression. The performance also included a special staff finale, with 21 staff members joining the stage to celebrate community spirit and school connection. We are especially proud of BCSD students who participated and demonstrated confidence, teamwork, and enthusiasm throughout the performance.



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ASL Classes

On May 26, BCSD and Burnaby South welcomed students and staff from the Pacific School of Innovation and Inquiry (PSII) in Victoria. PSII students, who are hearing learners taking ASL as a foreign language, joined BCSD and Burnaby South ASL students for an afternoon of ASL activities, games, and a visit to the BCSD archives. The visit provided a meaningful opportunity for students to connect with peers from different programs, share experiences, and build community through a shared interest in ASL, Deaf culture, and the Deaf community.



Life Skills Class

On May 27th, Life Skills students went on a field trip to Olympic Village Square. Students practiced taking the SkyTrain and participated in a scavenger hunt to identify landmarks around the neighbourhood. They also developed real-life skills by ordering and paying for their lunch at Subway. To finish the trip, students enjoyed ice cream before taking the SkyTrain back to school. It was a wonderful day of learning, independence, and community exploration in beautiful weather.



Wavefront Centre for Communication Accessibility

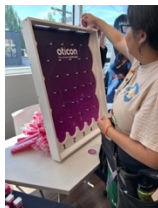
On May 27th, Grade 10–12 students visited the Wavefront Centre for Communication Accessibility in Vancouver as part of its 70th anniversary year. The visit provided students with an opportunity to learn more about communication accessibility and support services for Deaf, Deaf-Blind, and Hard of Hearing individuals.

Students explored the organization's accessible facilities and learned about a wide range of programs and services, including ASL interpreting, captioning, hearing healthcare, technology support, and community outreach initiatives. They also had the opportunity to meet audiology professionals and vendor partners while exploring assistive technologies and community resources available at the event.

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The experience offered valuable insight into accessibility, inclusive design, and the importance of removing communication barriers within the community.



Yearbook:

Most students placed their yearbook orders last fall. As of May 29, there are only 22 yearbooks remaining for purchase.

The final deadline to order a yearbook is June 4th. If any copies remain after this date, they will be available for sale on Friday, June 12th.

BCSD Survey

Under contract with the Ministry of Education and Child Care, Deetken Insight (a B.C.-based strategic advisory firm) is conducting a review of the B.C. School for the Deaf (BCSD) to better understand how programs and supports are working for Deaf and Hard of Hearing learners.

To support this review, the Deetken team is seeking input from parents and caregivers of students currently enrolled at BCSD. You are invited to share your perspectives on your own behalf and/or in conjunction with your child or children by completing the survey available at the link below.

<https://questionnaire.simplesurvey.com/f/s.aspx?co=7hZ3y49A>

Please note that all responses will be kept confidential and will only be shared in aggregate form. Individual responses will not be shared outside of the Deetken Insight research team. The survey is open until June 12, 2026.

If you have any questions or concerns about the survey, please contact the email address provided within the survey.

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Here are some important dates for June:

- **May 31-June 6** - National AccessAbility Week
- **June 4** – A School Community Gathering: Honouring and Remembering Mike Kellett (staff and students only)
- **June 4** – Indigenous Students: Honouring Our Youth Ceremony
- **June 6** – BCSD Grade 12 Ceremony and Awards
- **June 9** – Yearbook Distribution
- **June 11** – All library books must be returned
- **June 19** – K-12 Annual Kickball Event
- **June 19** – Last Day of School
- **June 20** – Grade 12 Dinner and Dance
- **June 24** – Final Mark Posted

Thank you for your continued partnership and support!

Sincerely,



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