THE BRITISH COLUMBIA PROVINCIAL SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF
5455 Rumble Street
Burnaby, British Columbia V5J 2B7
(604) 296-6880, ext. 605009

September 29, 2026

BCSD September Newsletter

Dear Families and Guardians,
I hope this newsletter finds you well. We are excited to welcome our students back to BCSD and begin another year of learning, growth, and connection. September has been a busy and meaningful month, filled with new opportunities, activities, and celebrations. We look forward to sharing more of our students' learning and achievements throughout the year.

Internet Outage
September was a challenging month as both students and staff experienced limited access to the internet. The prolonged outage affected many educational activities and communications, including the distribution of this newsletter. Unfortunately, we were unable to send the newsletter before September 30. We are pleased that the internet service now appears to be restored and functioning well. Thank you for your patience, understanding, and flexibility during this time.

Cell Phone Policy
Prior to the start of the school year, I sent a letter outlining our cell phone policy. Thank you to families for supporting and encouraging students to place their phones in the classroom cell phone box when entering class. The implementation of this practice has been very successful. It has helped students stay focused on their learning, participate more fully in classroom activities, and engage with their peers and teachers. We appreciate your continued partnership and support in maintaining a positive and focused learning environment.

International Week of Deaf People (IWDP) took place from September 21 to 27. This annual celebration promotes awareness of sign languages and the rights of Deaf people around the world. It brings Deaf communities and allies together to celebrate linguistic diversity, Deaf culture, identity, history, and community. As part of our celebration, we held a special flag-raising ceremony at the school flagpole. During the ceremony, I presented to all students about American Sign Language (ASL), Deaf culture, Deaf history, and Deaf identity and pride. The ceremony provided an opportunity for students and staff to come together and recognize the rich history, culture, and contributions of the Deaf community. Throughout the week, students participated in learning activities and discussions highlighting the importance of sign languages, Deaf identity, accessibility, inclusion, and the contributions of Deaf people locally and around the world. It was a meaningful week of learning, celebration, and connection.

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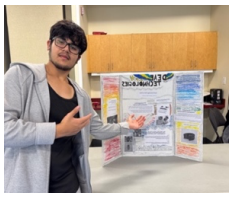


IWDP Exhibition
Our Grade 10–12 students created and designed their own projects for an interactive IWDP exhibition. Students explored topics connected to Deaf culture, Deaf history, Deaf people, technology, and community, and found creative ways to share what they learned. The exhibition included posters, infographics, student presentations, games, and interactive activities for visitors to explore and participate in. We invited BCSD classes as well as ASL students from Burnaby South Secondary to visit the exhibition, view the students' work, ask questions, and participate in the activities.





More than simply presenting their projects, students had the opportunity to share their knowledge, connect with one another, and learn together. It was wonderful to see BCSD and Burnaby South students interacting and creating a stronger connection through ASL, Deaf culture, and community.



Field Trip to Deafland
Our Grade 8 and 9 students visited the BCSD Elementary school and volunteered to support Deafland activities for BCSD students and hearing students from South Slope Elementary**.** The purpose of Deafland is to give hearing individuals an opportunity to experience what it is like to be Deaf. Participants were not allowed to use their voices and instead communicated through signing and gestures. They had a wonderful opportunity to connect with younger students, and serve as positive Deaf role models**.** It was great to see our secondary students encouraging and supporting younger learners through ASL and Deaf community connections.

VCC Field Trip
Grade 10–12 students were invited to visit the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) classes at Vancouver Community College (VCC) and connect with Deaf and Hard of Hearing students.

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This was a great opportunity for our students to experience the Deaf community outside of BCSD, learn more about post-secondary education, and meet new people.

Students also participated in VCC's celebration of the International Day of Sign Languages, where they watched VCC students showcase their creativity through ASL poetry, storytelling, and handshape stories. It was a meaningful day of learning, connection, and celebration of Deaf culture and community.

Photo: BC School for the Deaf students and staff gathered to celebrate International Week of Deaf People, recognizing ASL, Deaf culture, Deaf history, and Deaf pride.



Orange Shirt Day
For Orange Shirt Day on September 29, students and staff proudly wore orange shirts to honour the children who were taken from their families and communities and to recognize the ongoing importance of truth and reconciliation.

IEP Meetings
Families and guardians will receive an email from our LSS teachers, Kelly Sizto and Christine Ehrlich-Brady**,** with information about the IEP process, including instructions for completing the survey and signing up for a meeting time. Please complete and submit the survey by October 20. IEP meetings will take place from October 26 to November 6.

Here are some important dates for you to be aware for the month of October:

October 12	Thanksgiving Day (school closed)
October 15	Re-Take Photo Day
October 23	Pro-Day (school closed)
October 26-Nov 6	IEP meetings

We are looking forward to an amazing year together! Thank you for your continued support and partnership as we work together to create a positive, inclusive, and supportive learning environment for all BCSD students.

Sincerely,

Cathy Bennett, M.Ed., Ed.S.
BCSD Principal

Jennifer Zuvic, M.Ed
BCSD Vice-Principal
