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**Luncheon Invitation:** We are pleased to announce that our first luncheon for 2023 will be held at the Burnaby golf course restaurant on Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Doors will open at 11 and lunch will be served at 12:00. You're invited to come early and visit with friends. The price for this luncheon will be \$30. The price for non-members is \$50.

It's really important to know if you will be joining us for lunch. We would appreciate getting an email as soon as possible. Please email me at [rmaierle@telus.net](mailto:rmaierle@telus.net) or Ilse Armanini at [ilse\\_armanini@telus.net](mailto:ilse_armanini@telus.net). If need be, you can phone me at 604-294-3570. We look forward to seeing you!

*Please take the opportunity to invite some retirees to join you for the luncheon. The more the merrier!*

**Birthday Celebration**

Our February luncheon will be honouring members who are turning 85 this year. Besides receiving a complimentary lunch for themselves and a guest, we present each with a token of our appreciation. Each of the guests will also be given the opportunity to talk about a memorable experience from their teaching years.

**Poinsettia Feedback**

"Thank you for the beautiful poinsettia and poem by Dave Carter that was delivered before Christmas. It is lovely to be remembered after having been retired for more than 30 years."

**Christmas Luncheon Feedback**

"Thank you for organizing the Christmas luncheon. It was the first time I attended a luncheon. The food was great! The singing group was wonderful and funny. Most of all, I enjoyed seeing some colleagues that I haven't seen in many years."



This fridge is loaded with high tech features. It even has a GPS tracking system in case you forget where it is.



**EXECUTIVE MEETINGS-** Feb 2, Apr 6, Sept 14, Nov 16

**LUNCHEON DATES** Feb 23, Apr 20, Oct 5, Dec7

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**BURNABY RTA EXECUTIVE MEMBERS**

Rennie Maierle	President	294-3570	<a href="mailto:rmaierle@telus.net">rmaierle@telus.net</a>
Marion Hartley	Well-Being Committee	434-0486	<a href="mailto:mdhartley@telus.net">mdhartley@telus.net</a>
Marilyn Bullock	Director	929-1919	<a href="mailto:stumare@telus.net">stumare@telus.net</a>
Dave Carter	Newsletter Editor	469-0263	<a href="mailto:goodguys1@shaw.ca">goodguys1@shaw.ca</a>
Janet White	Director	433-4373	<a href="mailto:jwhite@telus.net">jwhite@telus.net</a>
Ruth Nicholson	Director	526-9222	<a href="mailto:rdtoffee@gmail.com">rdtoffee@gmail.com</a>
Ilse Armanini	Phone Coordinator	762-2756	<a href="mailto:zoepoodle3878@gmail.com">zoepoodle3878@gmail.com</a>
Elizabeth Beer	Sunshine, Condolences	524-1507	<a href="mailto:ebeer@hotmail.com">ebeer@hotmail.com</a>
Marguerite Henderson	Treasurer		
	Scholarship Treasurer	544-2611	<a href="mailto:margueritehenderson23@gmail.com">margueritehenderson23@gmail.com</a>
Gail MacDonald	Secretary	524-8716	<a href="mailto:hgmacc@telus.net">hgmacc@telus.net</a>
Barb Stoliker	Christmas Outreach	319-2690	<a href="mailto:barbstoliker@gmail.com">barbstoliker@gmail.com</a>
Leslie Lennox	Director	298-3776	<a href="mailto:lesliejlennox@gmail.com">lesliejlennox@gmail.com</a>
Jennifer Murn	Chair-Scholarship	754-4755	<a href="mailto:j.murn@cloud.com">j.murn@cloud.com</a>
Jim Reid	Director	294-8049	<a href="mailto:jreid03@telus.net">jreid03@telus.net</a>
Elizabeth Wilson	Director	522-2384	<a href="mailto:helliwily@gmail.com">helliwily@gmail.com</a>
Merv Magus	Cartoon and Newspaper pictures		

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Thanks to Barb Stoliker for organizing the Christmas Outreach.

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**No longer with us-**Iris McIntyre, Viola Dickson, Lorraine Gannon, Kathryn Graves, Henry Seddon, Harold Wright, Gary Crawford, Adam Kozak, Elizabeth Nemeth, Irene Nonis, Ray Schelstraete and Ray Marsh.

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**Westridge Elementary School**-is hosting a Trivia Night on Friday, March 3, 2023, from 6:00-9:30 p.m. \$25.00 per person which includes 2 slices of pizza and chips. 8 people per table. 50/50 Draw. Silent Auction. Cash Bar. Bring Loonies and Toonies! Fun for ALL!

## Burnaby Retired Teachers' Association-Treasurer's Report-January, 2023

Balance as of October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022                      \$6 594.73  
Income-Luncheons \$2 410.00    Membership Fees \$4 810.00            Total \$7 220.00  
Expenses-Bby Mountain Golf Club \$4 543.29  
Newsletter-Printing \$88.71    Postage \$96.60  
Honorarium \$100.00    Poinsettias \$395.25  
Total \$5 223.85                                      Balance as of January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023            \$8 590.88

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## Burnaby Retired Teachers' Scholarship and Bursary Foundation

c/o Burnaby School District, 4054 Norfolk St, Burnaby, B.C, V5G OC3

Yes, I would like to support the Burnaby Retired Teachers' Scholarship and Bursary Foundation. I understand the money will be used to support graduating students in their future studies.

Enclosed is my cheque for     \$25     \$50     \$100     other (A tax receipt will be issued)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (Please Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
City    Province    Postal Code

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## Good morning, Rennie!

Thank you for the warm welcome you extended to our "Old Broadway" trio at your annual Christmas luncheon yesterday. I was so impressed with how well run the event was. You're an exceptional event organizer and 'MC'! We had a great time (couldn't you tell?), and that was due in no small part to the friendly and receptive audience.

On my way out, some folks asked me if I had a business card. I didn't have any cards on me, and was rushing off to an appointment. You're welcome to share Marilyn's and my email addresses with anyone who enquires.

We're not yet ready to launch a website, but we do often share the attached two documents with prospective 'senior clients' (primarily seniors' residences in Burnaby and the North Shore) -- a brief backgrounder and a photo/bios.

Again, many thanks, Rennie...we left feeling very well fed and appreciated! Merry Christmas, and may the New Year be joyous, healthy and prosperous!

Sincerely, Barb Brolly 604-790-6950 (mobile)

## Our Andante Choir-February 2023

What began as a Burnaby Retired Teachers' Choir has now become a singing community of 30+ retired teachers in their 50's to 90's, and friends, new acquaintances and family members. We will again be accompanied by the fabulous Dayle Piller. Our amazing correspondent, Dorothy Mills, will keep us organized. Marguerite Henderson is taking the helm as our treasurer. Ted and Sharon Hope will be arranging our performance bookings and Linda and Russell Collins will be compiling the music in our binders for distribution.

We meet in the fall and late spring to rehearse for 8-9 weeks and then we perform 5-6 concerts in December and June. We have sung at Lougheed Mall, Edmonds Community Centre, the School for the Retired, many seniors' homes in Burnaby, the BRTA Christmas luncheon, the BTA retirement dinners and with a number of District and school-based student groups. Our repertoire is varied with some traditional, rock, jazz, gospel, swing and calypso styles and including inspirational and sometimes humorous messages. As well there are melodic, harmonic and rhythmic considerations that provide new learning challenges.

We sing some unison, 2-part, SAB and mostly SATB arrangements. There are no auditions but some experience singing in a choir is helpful. Studies have shown the many benefits of singing in a choir, "increase respiratory function, improve overall health, heighten your immune system, improve brain function, increase confidence, give you more energy and improve postures and balance." So, if you think that this would be a good fit for you, RSVP Dorothy Mills at [dmills@shaw.ca](mailto:dmills@shaw.ca) to join.

Musically speaking-Gail MacDonald-Director of Andante. If you have any further musical queries, please feel free to contact me at:604-524-8716 or [hgmac@telus.net](mailto:hgmac@telus.net)

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## Confederation Park 55+ Seniors' Centre Invitation:

A place to make social contacts, to keep active , to keep healthy.

Now open: Friendship Café, the gym, the snooker room, Dance Night, martial arts, etc.

A wide range of activities available. Check , City of Burnaby, "Winter 2023 Program Guide." pp 27-28

For membership and the center's newsletter, contact 604-294-1936. Also, see "What's On In Burnaby" for up-dates.

Confederation Seniors' Centre Address: 4585 Albert Street Burnaby, B.C. V5C 2G6

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## R.R. Smith

Our deadline is fast approaching for applications to the R.R. Smith Memorial Fund Foundation which provides grants for Canadian Charitable organizations with an education focus. Please check the website for criteria information and application forms, which are to be sent to the BCRTA office. [www.rrsmith.ca](http://www.rrsmith.ca)

Letter to the Editor XIV-I remember that conversation at the dinner table as if it was yesterday. It was 1948. I was nine.

Me: “Liver! I hate liver! You can’t make me eat it! Yuck! Ugh!”

My Dad: “You’re not leaving the table until your plate is clean. When I was a boy we couldn’t afford meat. We ate vegetables and grass! As a special treat we had liver on Christmas and our birthdays. And don’t you start crying or I’ll give you something to cry about!”

Me: “But my friend, Jimmy Reid doesn’t have to...”

My Dad: “If your friend jumped off a cliff, would you jump too?” And what about your Grandma? It would break her heart if she found out you didn’t eat your liver!”

Me: “I don’t think...”

My Dad: “That’s the problem. You don’t think! I don’t want to hear another word!”

My Mom: “I went through nine hours of hard labour to bring you into this world. Someday when you have children, I hope they make you suffer the way you are making me suffer! It’s a Mother’s prayer!”

Me: “I didn’t mean...”

My Mom: “Hard labour, and I didn’t even have an epidural!”

Me: “What’s an epadooral?”

My Dad: “Are you sassin’ your Mom, Boy!?” I have a good mind to take you out to the woodshed and give you a whipping!”

Me: “What’s a woodshed?”

My Mom: “Come to think of it, it might have been ten hours.”

My Dad: “Do you want to grow up to be a wimp? Liver will make you strong and smart. If you keep on going on like this, you’ll end up as a bum like your Uncle Marty and also, the children in Europe are starving!”

Me: “Send them the liver!”

My Mom: (Crying) “The doctor said I could have died giving you birth, but I took a chance. If I’d only known!” (I am now bawling and choking down my liver with copious quantities of milk and water)

Jump ahead to 2022. A dinner table with my wife, Adira,, our grandson, Damien (we’re looking after him so his parents can have a respite) and me.

Damien: “Kale! I hate kale! You can’t make me eat it! This is kray kray!” I’ll die first!”

My Wife: “It’s not just kale! It has quinoa and a sprinkle of acai berries!”

Damien: “This is child abuse!” I’m phoning the Hot Line!”

My Wife: “If you don’t eat it, there will be no electronics for you for a whole day!”

Damien: “You wouldn’t! You couldn’t! Please, don’t! Ok, you win!” (he gags it down with copious quantities of milk and water and races to his room clutching his cell phone).

My Wife: (Speaking to me) “By the way, your hematologist, Doctor Gore, phoned, and you are very anemic. He says we have to have liver once a week until your next check-up.”

Me: “Liver! I hate liver! I won’t eat it....

My Wife: “ You WILL eat it or you won’t be watching NFL Football on TV this weekend.”

Me: “You wouldn’t! You couldn’t! Please don’t!.....



**An early Christmas gift-entertainment by “The Old Broadway Trio”**



At the BRTA Christmas luncheon on December 1<sup>st</sup>, we were provided with great food for our bodies and amazing music for our souls. We were entertained by Barb Brolly, Peggy Busch and Marilyn Rushton, a.k.a. “The Old Broadway” Trio . They are a hip, 65+ group that had a Pandemic hiatus and are now entertaining live. Their songs feature jazz, blues and Broadway, with a dash of comedy thrown in. All three performers have a wealth of experience with choirs including the West End Singers, the Maple Leaf Singers Community Show Choir, PALS 55+ choir and the City Soul Choir.

## **Burnaby School Board-I**

### **NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS**

As students returned from Winter Break to a new calendar year, a Grade 5/6 class at Brentwood Park Elementary was among several who used the occasion as an impetus to set new goals. A Grade 6/7 class at Buckingham Elementary focused on a single word to represent their resolutions for 2023. Still at Buckingham, Grade 2/3 students considered, amongst their goals, three acts of kindness to do for people. A Grade 2 class at Gilmore Community School included new foods to try, as part of their resolutions. Primary students at Second Street Community School made adorable penguins to “waddle into a new year.” Meanwhile French Immersion students at Marlborough Elementary “gave props” to the new year in their handmade glasses, as they wished everyone a Bonne Année. Lunar New Year activities are also well underway across the District. Students at Burnaby North Secondary have been celebrating the Year of the Rabbit in a variety of ways. This included an event, complete with performances for all to enjoy, that was led by students taking Mandarin classes, as well as North’s Mandarin Club. Festivities at Forest Grove Elementary, where the District’s Mandarin Language

Arts Program is held, are in full swing throughout the school – including these student creations from multiple classes. Over at Brantford Elementary, intermediate youth painted rabbit pictures – all while learning about the continuous cycle of Chinese Zodiac signs, and how each is represented by an animal. A Grade 5/6 French Immersion class at Cascade Heights Elementary created rabbit art that held extra meaning for the 12-year-olds; they were born in the Year of the Rabbit twelve years ago. Students at Aubrey Elementary learned that this year’s animal symbolizes longevity, peace and prosperity. Early learners at Kitchener Elementary made paper lanterns to celebrate and enjoyed fresh dumplings. Grade 1 and 2 students at Capitol Hill Elementary moved through the halls collectively and joyfully as a dragon.

### **STUDENTS SUPPORT THE ENVIRONMENT**

A Burnaby Mountain Secondary student has been named a Top 25 environmentalist under 25 in Canada. Caio Krause Conradt received the honour from a non-profit organization called The Starfish Canada, which works to amplify the voices of young environmental leaders. Caio is president of his school’s Earthwise Club. He also facilitates cooking classes and garden clubs for elementary students – opportunities that are part of the District’s partnership with Sprouting Chefs. Caio is the Youth Committee Head. Over at Byrne Creek Community School, students held a clothing drive to keep textiles out of the landfill. The initiative is among ongoing efforts to promote and contribute to sustainability. Schools continue to support environmental awareness through building connection to the outdoors. For example, at Stoney Creek Community School, place-based learning took a group of young students and their teacher to a nearby forest. Students at Brentwood Park set out on a tree inquiry. They were delighted to explore an alternate set of questions when they discovered an abandoned bird’s nest on the ground.

## **Burnaby School Board-II**

**PLANNING FOR NEXT YEAR**-Students are in the early stages of planning for the 2023-24 school year. As they consider their options, there is much choice in both high school electives and district-wide programs for children and youth of all ages. Several information sessions were organized to help students and families make informed decisions – including at all eight high schools, such as this open house at Burnaby South Secondary. Approximately 450 people attended an evening about the District’s Career Education programs, which range from game development and cyber security to carpentry and plumbing. The high quality of the District’s Programs of Choice has been in the spotlight recently. The teacher of the Microsoft Office Specialist program at Cariboo Hill Secondary was named Educator of the Year. The honour was awarded to Jerry Chen by CCI Learning, an education technology company. And in a recent Burnaby Now story, a musician and former Burnaby North student talked about the pending release of her album. April Liang credited taking the Music Production & Technology program in Grade 11 with igniting her ability to produce music.

**LITERACY WEEK**-While literacy is a focus all year, many schools choose a week for joyful activities as a community –such as this “book tasting” by candlelight at Stoney Creek. The experience was complete with tablecloths, soft music and books to bite into – figuratively, of course. Westridge Elementary students and school staff dressed up as their favourite book characters, decorated doors, and also enjoyed a book tasting. Students at Chaffey-Burke Elementary considered the question, “what makes a fairy tale?” While some schools bring in guest readers, at Chaffey-Burke they had some fun with chair swapping, as teachers switched classrooms to read for one another’s students.

**PARTNERSHIPS ENHANCE STUDENT EXPERIENCES**-There are many examples throughout the District of how community connection and partnerships strengthen all we do. Parent Advisory Councils work in partnership toward the best interest of students. At Byrne Creek Community School, students are getting ready for the upcoming Comic Con event with special guests – all thanks to the generosity of the school PAC and Burnaby Public Library. Recently at Gilmore Community School, the PAC provided new gym balls for several sports. Over at Parkcrest Elementary, students had a sea dome experience, while learning about oceans and conservation actions. The magic of the sea came with a visit from non-profit Ocean Wise. Working with ArtStarts, the District’s Young People’s Concert series was back on and in-person for the first time since the pandemic began. Elementary students enjoyed a variety of performance arts experiences, including Black Canadian 365, which was held last week. The show is by D.O. Gibson, a Guinness World Record setting rapper who works to inspire youth.

**BEYOND BLACK HISTORY MONTH**- Several schools, such as Second Street Community School, used the occasion of Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday to explore his life and legacy. The class looked to honour him by serving the community, after reflecting on the question once asked by the civil rights leader, himself: “what are you doing for others?” Also at Second Street, students from two classes headed to the school library to research inspirational people for their Black excellence projects. Brentwood Park Elementary students considered what is perhaps the most iconic quote from Martin Luther King Jr, about judging people by the content of their character. With words and designs incorporated into a cut out of their hands, the students shared their own expressions of solidarity.