



*Congratulations
to the
Class of 2020!*



BUNKA SUGINAMI
CANADIAN
INTERNATIONAL
SSCHOOL

DD NEWS

TERM 3 EDITION

*Dedicated to the
Class of 2020 Graduates*

MARCH 2020



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL - Ms. Whitney

CONGRATULATIONS to all of our DD students for successfully finishing the school year! Each and every one of you have earned your place in the next level of your educational journey. Best wishes to our new graduates, the Class of 2020, as you embark on post-secondary studies! **93% of our grade 12 students received HONOURS on their official British Columbia transcripts!** That is an incredible achievement! I have personally never heard of such a high level of achievement by a class of graduates. I am so proud of how hard you have all worked, both students and staff! Way to go!

The COVID-19 pandemic has certainly had a big impact on the operation of the school. With safety as our first priority, the precautionary measures included an abrupt end to our school year. However, we came up with creative solutions for assignments to be completed. Since we conduct numerous assessments for learning throughout the school year, and not just at the end, we are confident that our students' marks are accurate and informative.

The new school year looks to be a really exciting one with some new teachers from Canada, a couple of new course electives, and an expanded DD-Prep program in the junior high. I know we are all hoping that the COVID-19 will go away, but please be careful and follow the COVID-19 protocol in the meantime. Enjoy your spring break, and stay safe!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2020 !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Our in-class graduation ceremony seemed initially to be missing what we normally expect. However, it was the most intimate and personal ceremony ever! Since only classmates and their most significant teachers could be in attendance, it created a comfortable setting in which the graduates expressed their deepest thoughts and emotions about graduating. Many tears were shed... tears of happiness for reaching a milestone, and tears of sadness to have to say farewell... it was a very moving hour. We will remember this special ceremony with much fondness. We wish you, the last graduating class of all-girls, all the best in your future endeavours! This edition of the newsletter is dedicated to the graduates.



FAREWELL...

We are sadly saying good bye to three teachers as they head back to Canada: Mr. Watson, Mr. McIlvaney, and Ms. Brunt. Thank you very much for your outstanding services to BCS and for creating wonderful memories. We are truly lucky to have had you here, and we wish you good luck in the next chapter of your careers!

THE GRADUATION PADDLE

We have started a tradition at BCS whereby the current year's graduating class passes a canoe paddle to the next year's graduating class. Why a paddle?? Well, there are several reasons. A paddle is double-sided, like the DD program. It also represents Canada's heritage of exploration. And, it is a symbol of our graduates' journey, working individually as well as together. The Class of 2020 chose to write the word, "INDIVIDUALITY", on the paddle to represent their class. Paddle hard, but smart. It's important to rest. Be prepared for the unexpected. Remember, graduates, you have developed the skills to think critically and creatively. And you know how to work collaboratively. Communicate clearly. "Paddle your own canoe"... and, you will do great!

CLASS OF 2020
"INDIVIDUALITY"



"Paddle your own canoe."

- Sarah T. Bolton



HOW WILL WE REMEMBER OUR GRADUATES?

Here are a few thoughts provided by some classmates and teachers...

- E. F. affable, confident, fearless, YouTube
- H. G. considerate, self-aware, bold, BTS
- K. H. insightful, inquisitive, genuine, Canada
 - H. warm, gentle, reserved, drama
- N. H. brisk, brave, thoughtful, dancing
- S. I. eloquent, passionate, amiable, anime
- H. I. creative, influential, tenacious, alternative-music
- M. I. unique, independent, perseverance, fantasy
 - K. K. artistic, happy, expressive, piano
- T. K. conscientious, reflective, candid, writing
- A. K. approachable, strong, positive, Naginata
- M. M. polite, determined, gentle, drawing
- J. S. efficient, inspiring, studious, singing
- H. S. persistent, willing, fast-talking, background-music
 - L. Y. curious, diligent, motivated, sports

READING IS GOOD FOR THE SOUL

Recommended readings related to the canoe and paddle:

Paddle Your Own Canoe - Poem (1851) - by Sarah T. Bolton

Canoe Country: The Making of Canada - Story (2015) - by Roy McGregor

Links to stories written by our teachers at BCS:

<https://flashfictionmagazine.com/blog/2019/06/20/unmanned-in-folly/> - by Mr. Watson

<https://foulpapers.com/post/189350182195/farewell-sparks> - by Mr. McIlvaney:

Link to an essay written by a Graduate from the Class of 2020: (shared with permission)

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/zql9gd5esuran8b/Tsuki%20Kayebeta%20Essay%202020.pdf?dl=0>
- by Tsuki Kayebeta

MANY THANKS

We had numerous, fantastic, guest speakers come to our school this past year to inform, excite, motivate, bewilder, and inspire us. Thank you very much to (in the order of their visit):

- Mr. Darcy Kishida, Registered Foreign Attorney, Kojima Law Offices
- Ms. Lesley McKenzie, Head Coach, Japan National Women's Rugby Team
- Luca "Lazylegz" Patuelli, "No Excuses, No Limits" - Motivational Performer
- Mr. Matt Fraser, Counsellor, The Embassy of Canada in Japan
- Mr. Christian Howes, Deputy General Manager, SMBC Nikko Securities
- Mr. Miles Roque, Planning Manager, Canadian Solar Solutions
- Ms. Ann Marie Kilzer, Lead Software Engineer, Curvegrid
- Four Graduates from the Class of 2019

