

# BOARD CHAIR REPORT

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April 11, 2016

This Thursday, April 14th marks Vaisakhi day, the start of the harvest season, celebrated all over India, by people of all backgrounds.

Today, in 2016, Vaisakhi is recognized around the globe, including right here in Burnaby by our students, families, and staff.

It's a time to rejoice and appreciate the abundant resources provided by Mother Nature.

It's also a time for sharing, giving, and being in the festive spirit, most famously by dancing the folkdance of the Punjab: bhangra!

Vaisakhi also has special significance to those of us that practice the Sikh religion. As it was on Vaisakhi day 1699, when Sikhs were called to action; to stand up for the principles of equality, freedom, justice, and the oneness of humanity.

On that Vaisakhi day, 317 years ago, the 10th Guru of the Sikhs, Guru Gobind Singh, bestowed a unique identity – a uniform, if you will – to unify the downtrodden and uplift the oppressed.

Men and women, regardless of caste, colour or creed, were given the royal names of Singh and Kaur, and were empowered to carry themselves with grace and strength – no matter the obstacles in their path.

All who would accept the majesty – Congratulations to all who are celebrating this auspicious occasion on behalf of the Burnaby Board of Education, I wish everyone a very Happy Vaisakhi!

Harman Pandher, Vice -Chair  
Burnaby Board of Education