

September 5, 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Subject: *Welcome to the 2017/18 school year – a message from the Chair and the Superintendent*

Welcome to the 2017/18 school year! We hope you enjoyed the warm summer weather and had a relaxing break with family and friends. September is a month of transitions as families settle into life after the summer break and adapt to new routines. September is also a month filled with change and anticipation - new teachers, new challenges, new opportunities and new things to learn! The entire staff of the North Vancouver School District look forward to working with families in supporting our students with their learning.

The 2017/18 school year marks a return to the restored contract language of the North Vancouver School District and we will see changes to routines, systems and procedures to ensure that we are in compliance with our Collective Agreement requirements. To meet some of the new requirements, our Facilities and Planning Department has made changes in many schools to increase classroom space in addition to the Capital improvement work that was already taking place. Our Human Resources Department was extremely busy over the past few months and we are very excited to welcome the 60 additional new staff who have been hired to work with our students across the system.

Throughout all this change our core focus of providing the best education program for each child will remain consistent. The North Vancouver School District is deeply committed to inspiring success for every student and we thank you for being an important education partner.

With implementation of the K-9 new curriculum now complete, 2017/18 will see a new K-9 provincial reporting structure to support the curriculum. The new K-9 provincial report card will include performance standards for K-3 and letter grades for grades 4-9. Additionally, the school district will continue to pilot alternative options for communicating student learning across multiple school sites. Similar to last year, the core competencies will be integrated, all year, throughout the curriculum, with student self-assessments taking place in early June. The new curriculum for students in grades 10-12 will be in the last optional implementation year; although many of our Secondary Schools are already well down the road to full implementation, successfully exploring concept-based and inquiry-based learning.

Our deeper understanding of Aboriginal Learning will continue to be a focus for 2017/18. We are working to ensure that the First Peoples Principles of Learning and the Aboriginal Ways of Knowing are embedded within the curricular framework for all learners within the North Vancouver School District. The 2016-2021 Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement (AEEA) provides a framework for the ongoing commitment to strengthen our partnership with the local and urban First Nations and Metis Nation of BC. This commitment from the school district will ensure that relationships will continue to grow in a positive manner and all partners

will work together to ensure that the attributes of the AEEA will be implemented to support students.

The North Vancouver School District prides itself on educational excellence and we are pleased to partner with you to enhance the innovative teaching and learning that is taking place in our schools. If you have questions, we encourage you to connect with your child's school.

We are confident that the 2017/18 school year will be successful and look forward to sharing stories and accomplishments over the course of the year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christie Sacré".

Christie Sacré  
Chair, North Vancouver Board of Education

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Pearmain".

Mark Pearmain  
Superintendent, North Vancouver School District