

Superintendent's Report



A Message from the Superintendent

Dear North Vancouver School District Community,

We pride ourselves in the school district being “the natural place to learn,” and with spring—and what lately feels like summer—upon us, I hope you are taking advantage of the many opportunities to experience the school district’s connection with nature.

This month, we welcomed the community to the 54th [Cheakamus Centre Open House](#). Guests enjoyed a day of nature exploration and discovery—making bannock at the Coast Salish longhouse, feeding chickens, petting goats, canoeing on the pond, visiting the salmon hatchery, and taking guided tours of the forest. In case you missed it, the Open House returns next year, on Sunday, May 5, 2024.

On Saturday, May 13, the school district hosted the 2nd [Outdoor Safety and Emergency Preparedness Open House](#). Attendees arrived early to watch a new Talon helicopter land on the Lynn Valley Park grass field and stayed to speak with first responders and experts in emergency management and preparedness, attend workshops, and visit booths hosted by the 20 participating organizations.

These two events highlight ways in which the school district focuses on broad community engagement that is inclusive of all community members. These two events are also examples of what is possible when education partners and community groups collaborate for the benefit of all.

I hope you enjoy the remaining weeks of the school year; weeks that will be filled with graduation ceremonies, concerts and school community events.

Respectfully,

Dr. Pius Ryan
Superintendent of Schools
Superintendent@sd44.ca

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Good News from the NVSD

Visit our [Learn, Share & Grow](#) blog and [News & Announcements](#) to read about the good work happening throughout the school district.

For the stories with images that are included below, please click on the caption for a link to the blog post:

- 2nd Outdoor Safety & Emergency Preparedness Open House ([NVSD blog post](#))
- North Vancouver schools battle it out in new reading competition ([North Shore News](#))
- Windsor Library buzzing with new resources ([NVSD blog post](#))
- Students win search and rescue field trip experience ([NVSD blog post](#))
- School district partners with City and District Fire to bring CPR training to students ([NVSD blog post](#))
- North Shore field hockey players help Canada qualify for Junior World Cup ([North Shore News](#))
- Supporting student identity and empathy through diverse stories ([NVSD blog post](#))
- Cleveland community comes together to host the Spring Olympics ([NVSD blog post](#))
- Seesaw (Instead of Hangman) ([Canadian Teacher Magazine](#))

Announcements

Have your say in B.C.'s largest population health survey

Participate in Public Health's third [Survey on Population Experiences, Action and Knowledge \(SPEAK\)](#) to help improve the health and well-being of our community. The survey asks about physical and mental health, social and economic well-being, and new this year, your experiences with extreme weather and other impacts of climate change. SPEAK is open to adults aged 18 and older and is available in English, French, Simplified and Traditional Chinese, Farsi, Spanish, and additional languages.

Information

2023/2024 School Calendar update

The North Vancouver Teachers' Association (NVTAs) has confirmed the three district-wide professional development dates for the 2023/2024 school year:

- Friday, October 20, 2023
- Friday, February 16, 2024
- Friday, May 3, 2024

The two remaining school-based professional development dates will be determined by each individual school staff committee, and those dates will be published by schools to their local communities before the end of May.

To view a copy of the finalized approved 2023/2024 School Calendar, please visit the [District Calendar](#) web page.

Heading to the Capilano River this summer?

The Capilano River is downstream from the Cleveland Dam, which holds one of three drinking water reservoirs for the region. The volume of water and how it navigates the steep, winding curves of the river can make it unsafe. With little notice, the river can rise more than 5 metres at various points and move faster than 21 km/hour.

For your safety, stay on the designated trails in the park and around the river and also be aware of your surroundings. Under normal conditions, the trails are a safe distance from the river's edge. For more river safety tips, visit Metro Vancouver's website for more [river safety tips](#).

Supporting students and families in the community

Through the Student and Family Affordability Fund (SFAF), the school district is supporting students and their families who are feeling financially challenged due to the rising costs of living. To request financial support at any time throughout the 2022-2023 school year, please complete the form(s) available on the [Student and Family Affordability Fund](#) web page and submit the form(s) in confidence to either your child's teacher, principal, school counsellor or front office staff. A listing of eligible expenses, and answers to common questions, can be found on our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) web page.

NVSD Events

Secondary School Drama performances

School performances open to the community, such as the one included below, are one way to showcase the diverse talent of students. The school district will continue to include information regarding these opportunities in future editions of the monthly Superintendent's Report and Events and Registrations.

Sutherland Drama presents *Pirate Sisters and the Bounty for Bluebeard* by Richard Gremel

May 31 - June 2 | Curtain at 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 Adults and \$5 Students (cash or cheque) and are now on sale. Tickets can be purchased outside the Sutherland Theatre over the lunch hour or at the box office on the nights of the performance.

Public Board Meeting – May 23

A Board of Education Public Board Meeting takes place on Tuesday, May 23 at 6:30 p.m. Visit our [Public Meetings](#) web page for information on how you can participate and to review the meeting agenda and board package (the latter is posted on the Thursday afternoon preceding the public meeting).

Ready, Set, Learn – Events running until May 24

Ready, Set, Learn is an initiative aimed at encouraging and supporting children's early language and literacy skills. Intended for families and their children (ages 3 to 5 years), Ready, Set, Learn is designed to foster positive connections among families, schools and early learning community partners and support children as they prepare for Kindergarten. Ready, Set, Learn events are taking place at multiple locations throughout the school district until May 24 and are free to attend. Review event details at [Ready, Set, Learn](#).

Endless Summer – Exhibition open until June 17

Endless Summer is an exhibition and series of public programs that features the collaborative works of artists Katie Kozak and Lucien Durey, which contemplate lineage, ancestry, queerness, sustainability, and healing within a context of reimagining place-based relations that serve the social and cultural landscape of their shared communities. For information about this exhibition hosted at the Gordon Smith Gallery, visit the [exhibition](#) web page.

NVSD Registrations

Summer Learning – Registration open

[North Vancouver Summer Learning](#) provides a platform for students to explore and extend learning opportunities while fulfilling their educational requirements through a variety of opportunities in the month of July.

Students can register for one Summer Learning course from the following course offerings:

- [Full Credit Academic Courses](#) (including a variety of options to meet the [Indigenous-Focused Graduation Requirement](#) - NEW this year)
- [7/8 Transition](#)
- [English Language Learning \(ELL\)](#)
- [Eslha7an Secondary Review & Completion](#)
- [Numeracy 8/9 Foundations](#)
- [Literacy 8/9 Foundations](#)

[Registration](#) is open to students within and beyond the NVSD. Registration closes on Friday, June 23 at 12 noon.

Academies – Registration ongoing

Late applications and applications to be on academy waitlists continue to be accepted for many NVSD Academies. However, there are limited spaces remaining for Field Hockey and the Business and Gaming Entrepreneurship Lab.



For more information about our Academy program offerings, please visit the [Academies](#) web page. For an application form, email academies@sd44.ca.

AFK Senior Summer Visual Art Intensive – Registration open

From July 4 to 7, secondary students (ages 15 to 18) will explore drawing, painting and printmaking with acclaimed artist Mark Johnsen and a certified BC Teacher in the beautiful setting of the Gordon Smith Gallery. New and creative printmaking techniques will be introduced and students will be able to explore and create new works that can be added to their personal portfolios. Visit Artists for Kids' [Spring & Summer Day Camps](#) for information and to register.

Elementary Band and Strings – Late Registration period open

Elementary Band and Strings is a unique instrumental music program that complements the Ministry of Education and Child Care's Arts Education curriculum and provides school-based instrumental instruction to students in Grades 5 – 7 for Band and Grades 4 – 7 for Strings. Visit [Elementary Band and Strings](#) for information, including program fees.

North Vancouver Online Learning – Online registration open

NVOL provides engaging, accessible and interactive learning experiences for students. Students can enrol any time during the school year and have one calendar year to complete their course. Students can also choose to engage in their NVOL courses entirely remotely online or in a blended model of online and in-person interactions at our NVOL Centre.

Visit the [NVOL website to see our full suite of courses](#) from Grades 8 through 12 in both English and French. The French Immersion online course offerings allow students the opportunity to meet the requirements of their Diplôme de fin d'études secondaires en Colombie-Britannique online through L' École Virtuelle de Vancouver nord.

Reminder: NVOL is now a Provincial Online Learning School.

Community Initiatives

Mayors' Food Bank Challenge – Month of May

The Greater Vancouver Food Bank is challenging the Mayors of the City of North Vancouver, the District of West Vancouver, the City of Burnaby, the City of New Westminster and the City of Vancouver to rally their communities to raise funds to fight hunger. You can donate by choosing your city or contributing to the overall campaign. Visit [Mayors' Food Bank Challenge](#) for more information.

Go by Bike Week – May 29 to June 4

HUB Cycling's Spring Go by Bike Week returns to Metro Vancouver from May 29 to June 4. This



year's event will have 30 Celebration Stations where participants can ride by for free snacks, basic bike maintenance, cycling maps, prizes, and more. [Register](#) solo or as a team.

Missed an issue?

Updates from the Superintendent, including the monthly Superintendent's Report, are [available for review](#).

The North Vancouver School District is situated upon the unceded traditional territory of the Skwxwú7mesh Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation. We would like to thank the Coast Salish people and value the opportunity to learn, share and grow on this traditional territory.