

community report 2019



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



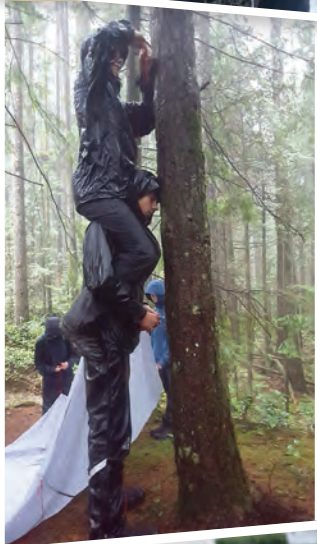
North Vancouver
School District
the natural place to learn®
www.sd44.ca

LEARN • SHARE • GROW



VISION

We provide world-class instruction and a rich diversity of engaging programs to inspire success for every student and bring communities together to **LEARN, SHARE AND GROW.**



VALUES

TRUST - We act with integrity. We are open and honest in our communication with one another.

RESPECT - We relate to each other with care and appreciation. We honour diversity and recognize the exceptional in everyone.

RESPONSIBILITY - We are accountable for our actions. We support positive change, continuous improvement and the pursuit of excellence.

COLLABORATION - We develop relationships and affiliations to achieve shared goals and consider each other in our decisions and actions.



SIX STRATEGIC GOALS

GOAL #1: EXPAND

Expand the availability of best instructional practices and enriched curriculum.

GOAL #2: ENCOURAGE

Encourage the growth of collaborative, adaptive and personalized learning environments.

GOAL #3: NURTURE

Nurture an inspiring and healthy work environment.

GOAL #4: DEVELOP

Develop and promote innovative and sustainable programs.

GOAL #5: PROVIDE

Provide leadership in environmental education and sustainability practices.

GOAL #6: STRENGTHEN

Strengthen and expand reciprocal community relations.



LEARN • SHARE • GROW

Message from the Chair and Superintendent



CHRISTIE SACRÉ

Over the past 12 months, the North Vancouver Board of Education and North Vancouver School District have been undertaking efforts to improve our support for students, staff and parents. We have been striving to engage with our education community with timely information and further opportunities to connect. Concerted efforts are being made to empower our entire education community to work towards achieving our six strategic goals. Throughout this report, you will see connections to each goal listed at the top of the page.



MARK PEARMAIN

Various policies have been created or updated due to collaborative work with our education partners: the North Vancouver Parent Advisory Council, District Student Leadership Council, North Vancouver Teachers' Association, Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 389, and North Vancouver Administrators' Association. New policies include: Policy 308: Use of Physical Restraint or Seclusion, Policy 415: Standards of Investigation, and Policy 808: Re-naming of Facilities and Parts

of Facilities. Updated policies include: Policy 306: Suspected Child/Youth Abuse, Policy 406: Resolving Concerns Regarding Personnel, Programs or Procedures, and Policy 807: Naming of Facilities and Parts of Facilities. Thank you to all those involved in this important policy work.

Students, staff and parents have been involved in academic strategic planning at their schools. They have been working together to determine educational priorities. In the NVSD, a great school is conceptualized as a vibrant learning community comprised of six attributes: a focus on student engagement and learning, a culture of teamwork and collaboration, respect for adult and student diversity, a strong sense of community, strong systemic structures, and ongoing and relevant communication of student learning. Based on these attributes, a framework for school district and school educational planning was created that consists of four house posts of planning and three essential planning strands. The Pillars of Educational Practice (curriculum, instruction, assessment and social emotional learning) support planning, which are viewed through a Universal Design for Learning lens. For more information about school and school district educational planning in NVSD, please read the article by Pius Ryan, Assistant Superintendent, on page 4 of this report.

Other changes and improvements in our school district have been implemented over the past year as a result of feedback received via the Employee Engagement Survey conducted in 2017. For examples of the work that has resulted from the survey, please read the article by Scott Stanley, Executive Director of HR, on page 9 of this report. Staff recently completed a follow-up survey to ensure we continue to move forward with positive change. We look forward to sharing the results.

Great efforts have been made to improve communication and engagement. Public Board Meetings are now broadcast live on our website and archived for people to view at a later date. Parents, staff, students and the community are welcome at all Public Board Meetings and Standing Committee Meetings. Communications to parents and to staff are now

North Vancouver Board of Education 2018-2022



BACK ROW (left to right): Christie Sacré, Mary Tasi Baker, Devon Bruce, George Tsiakos

FRONT ROW (left to right): Megan Higgins, Kulvir Mann, Cyndi Gerlach

consolidated into updates, which enable more information to be shared but with fewer emails. The internal staff web portal was restructured to help staff easily access the information they need when they need it. A new communications tool and app for parents, called Sangha, has been launched. A parent communications evening was held in November 2018 to gather feedback from parents about communications and potential improvements moving forward.

We also recently implemented a new online engagement tool, Thoughtexchange, that we hope will improve engagement even further. This tool will facilitate active feedback and collaboration with the school district. The Board of Education is using the tool to gather feedback on next year's budget, and plans to use it in the future for initiatives such as strategic planning.

Much work was also done throughout the past year relating to capital projects in our school district. Construction of Argyle Secondary is well underway, and design work for the new Handsworth Secondary is taking place. Approval was received from the Province of BC for a full seismic upgrade of Mountainside Secondary. Once these projects are complete, all seismically high-risk schools in the North Vancouver School District will be seismically safe.

We are pleased to highlight the work done in the past year in the North Vancouver School District. We would like to applaud all parents, staff, students and the greater community for your efforts in making our school district a great place to learn, share and grow.

Sincerely,

CHRISTIE SACRÉ
CHAIR, NORTH VANCOUVER
BOARD OF EDUCATION

MARK PEARMAIN
SUPERINTENDENT, NORTH
VANCOUVER SCHOOL DISTRICT

GOAL #1: EXPAND the availability of best instructional practices and enriched curriculum.

Educational planning

BY DR. PIUS RYAN
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT,
NVSD

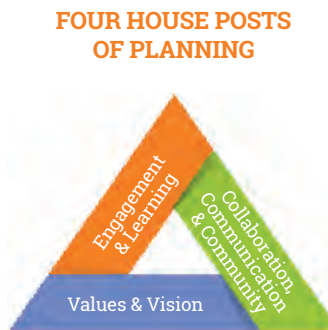
As a school district, we have a vision and values that are supported by our 10-year-strategic plan that comprises six strategic goals. These strategic goals guide the work of all departments. But how do we

strategically plan for the educational components of our work? And how do we connect this higher level planning to the school and classroom levels?

As a school district, we decided to start from the foundation. We asked, "What makes a great school?" Staff, student, and parent representatives engaged in a joint committee process to determine what the NVSD considers to be a great school. It was decided that a great school is a **vibrant learning community comprised of six attributes:**



Based on these attributes, we created a framework for school district and school educational planning.



To support our planning inquiry process, the NVSD is committed to

the **Pillars of Educational Practice: Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment and Social Emotional Learning.**

We view these four pillars through a Universal Design for Learning lens:

UNIVERSAL PRACTICES/ SUPPORTS serve most students. This is when slight adaptations are made in the classroom.

TARGETED PRACTICES/ SUPPORTS are focused on individual or group strategies. For example, providing additional reading supports to a group of students.

INTENSIVE PRACTICES/ SUPPORTS build from and add to universal and targeted supports. Intensive actions serve a much smaller portion of the student population (1-5 percent of students). Typically, these supports are highly individualized and specialized, such as specific support from an educational assistant.

Schools and the school district have been using these guiding principles to engage in the educational planning process. To share this work, the Education Planning website was created: www.vibrantlearning.sd44.ca

Ross Road students use critical thinking to sculpt mining project

BY ANGELA TANCON
TEACHER, ROSS ROAD
ELEMENTARY

During our rocks and minerals unit, students in grade 5 learned about the positive and negative impacts of mining. Through critical and creative thinking, students then created a sculpture made of recycled mined materials to represent their opinion on mining. They also had to identify the mineral mined to create the actual material and problem solve throughout the creative process. To integrate language arts, students were also asked to describe their

sculpture using descriptive writing techniques. Students then had to integrate technology by posting their write-up with pictures of their sculpture online.



Métis paddle making

All grade 8 students at Carson Graham Secondary participated in an interdisciplinary unit for Math and English. Students learned about Indigenous worldviews and cultures by working with Métis artisan, Pat Calihou, to learn how to carve a Métis paddle (math classes) and by experiencing traditional oral stories and jigging (English classes). In addition to Pat Calihou, Heather Myhre, NVSD Indigenous Success Teacher, and Stephanie Maki, NVSD Indigenous Support Teacher, shared Métis traditional stories and were joined by the Norgate Jigglets to share Métis dance with all grade 8 students.

From their experiences, students were asked to reflect on the three IB MYP (International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme) Unit Questions as part of formative and summative assessments. Furthermore, students were asked to reflect and demonstrate their understanding of how experiences connect to place, story, cultural practices and perspectives relevant to First Peoples, specifically Métis.



GOAL #1: EXPAND the availability of best instructional practices and enriched curriculum.

Financial literacy

BY DENEKA MICHAUD
COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER,
NVSD

Paycheques with Employment Insurance, pension and income tax deductions. Bills. Budgets. Savings.

"You have to spend your money wisely," explained Sonje, a grade 7 student at Boundary Elementary School.

Students in Eliza Killam's grade 6 late-French Immersion class at Boundary Elementary School are engaging in a yearlong, in-depth project geared at increasing their financial literacy. From the beginning of the school year to the end, the students work to earn paycheques, they pay taxes, rent and bills, and save for expenses such as recreational activities, entertainment, clothes, post-secondary education, cars, and homes. Mme Eliza decided to undertake the initiative to align with the grade 6 math curriculum (financial literacy) and to provide a valuable lifelong learning opportunity to her students.

"It is amazing to watch these students intrinsically understand financial literacy and to have 'aha' moments that might not otherwise occur until adulthood," said Mme Eliza.



Professional learning

BY CHRIS ATKINSON
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT,
NVSD

Professional learning is paramount to ensuring students receive a world-class education. Profound changes to the British Columbia curriculum over the past five years have heightened the importance of professional development. Employees in the North Vancouver School District go above and beyond to continue the growth of their own knowledge to enhance their professional practice in order to best support students. The depth and breadth of staff professional learning efforts cannot possibly be captured in one single article. Hopefully, this snapshot of staff learning, which has occurred thus far this school year, will offer a glimpse into the hard work taking place:

- ☛ Design Series 2018: Curricular competencies in practice
- ☛ Primary resources for Indigenous Education
- ☛ Core French workshop series
- ☛ A conversation with Shelley Moore
- ☛ Indigenous Education secondary English and Social Studies workshop
- ☛ Intermediate resources for Indigenous Education
- ☛ Lexia Literacy support
- ☛ Physical literacy conference
- ☛ New Teachers Network
- ☛ Curriculum Implementation Day
- ☛ Connecting core and curricular competencies
- ☛ Growing up as a gender variant
- ☛ youth in North Vancouver: A conversation with Seth Watt about the importance of active allies
- ☛ Teaching combined grades: Managing diverse learners
- ☛ Coho 'Discovery Day' workshops
- ☛ Technology training
- ☛ Teacher mentorship
- ☛ Supporting students with ASD in your classroom
- ☛ Reading power workshop - Balancing code & comprehension in the primary grades
- ☛ SET-BC Universal Design for Learning
- ☛ NVTA Professional Development Conference
- ☛ Early Learning dinner & dialogue workshop
- ☛ Engaging all learners: Introduction to OneNote and accessibility features
- ☛ All about competencies: Integrating core and curricular competencies in classroom practice
- ☛ Artists for Kids teacher workshop series
- ☛ Artists for Kids visual art pro-d workshops
- ☛ Leadership for Learning

Ceramic poppy project

Lynnmour Elementary School's grade 4/5 teacher and artist, Paul Best, recently created large red clay poppies with the intermediate students. All intermediate classes and teachers were involved. Each student in grades 4-7 dedicated a poppy in honour of a British Columbian soldier who fought at Vimy Ridge - all soldiers who died the same day: April 9, 1917.

BY PAUL BEST
TEACHER, LYNNMOUR
ELEMENTARY

I was influenced by the Tower of London Poppy installation of 2014. I wanted to create a similar experience for Lynnmour Elementary School students, not only making the ceramic poppies but also directly tying it to an individual soldier, from one of the

17 British Columbian battalions, who died during the Great War. I researched the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) online and found more than a hundred individuals who died in the Battle of Vimy Ridge while fighting with one of the BC battalions. Each student received a printout of the CWGC certificate with the rank, name, service number, battalion

designation, and sometimes the age and next of kin of that particular soldier who they commemorated. As the students were creating their poppies, they had their printouts in front of them. I know that it resonated with them. Following completion of the ceramic poppies, all four classes involved did some kind of research and writing project involving each soldier.



GOAL #2: ENCOURAGE the growth of collaborative, adaptive and personalized learning environments.



Students put mind over metal

Eight secondary students spent a week away from their regular schools to learn how to weld. The students were taking part in the BCIT Mind Over Metal program – a new weeklong partnership program with the North Vancouver School District. The goals of the program are to introduce students to the possibility of a career in welding and to acquaint them with a post-secondary school setting.

“Mind Over Metal proved to be a fantastic new initiative. We are really excited about the student engagement and see great potential for this partnership with BCIT to continue moving forward,” said Jeremy Church, Principal, Mountainside/SmanitaXan Secondary School, North Vancouver School District.

The course focused on safety the first day, as well as a tour of BCIT. Tuesday through Thursday, students learned various types of welding, including MIG welding, stick welding, arc welding and shield welding. On Friday, students worked on projects of their choosing using the welding mode they liked best.

Elementary and secondary schools collaborate



Each secondary school is a Family of Schools with its feeder elementary schools. Each Family of Schools has initiatives to connect its secondary and elementary students. Here are a few examples:

BY NANCY DEMINGER, TEACHER, WINDSOR SECONDARY, AND LINDA DEMINGER, TEACHER, LARSON ELEMENTARY

When students in Nancy Deminger’s English class at Windsor Secondary School recently sat down to write short stories, they had a particular

audience in mind. Each student was tasked with writing a story about a specific grade 2 or grade 3 student from Larson Elementary School. The elementary school students provided short biographies to the secondary school students, who then had to take those bios and

translate them into children’s fiction stories.

“The grade 12 stories are heartfelt, imaginative, and fun,” said Nancy Deminger, teacher, Windsor Secondary.

Adding depth to the project, once the stories were written they were then provided to the grade 2 and 3 students. The young students then illustrated the stories.

“I’m a terrible artist, and my elementary school partner is a way better artist than me. So our story turned out really great,” said Colby, student, Windsor Secondary.

This year was the 20th year that Nancy and Linda, who are also sisters, have undertaken this collaborative writing project.

“The stories create an instant friendship bond between the partners. This activity has proven over the years to be very beneficial for both age groups,” said Linda Deminger, teacher, Larson Elementary.

HANDSWORTH & CLEVELAND



Handsworth Secondary students visit Cleveland Elementary to work with the students.

SEYCOVE & COVE CLIFF



Seycove Secondary students wrote a book called Seycove’s Thunder that they then read to Cove Cliff Elementary School students.

CARSON GRAHAM & CARISBROOKE



Carson Graham band students played for Carisbrooke Elementary students.

ARGYLE FAMILY OF SCHOOLS



Argyle FOS grade 7 and 8 students came together for a fun interactive presentation by BC Lions players.



Argyle Reads brings the school’s leadership students into local elementary schools through story time.



Lynn Valley Elementary kindergarten and grade 1 students came to Argyle for Santa’s Breakfast.

GOAL #2: ENCOURAGE the growth of collaborative, adaptive and personalized learning environments.



Women in educational leadership luncheon

BY KATHLEEN BARTER
DISTRICT PRINCIPAL, NVSD, AND
SANDRA SINGH, PRINCIPAL,
BRAEMAR ELEMENTARY

On October 13, 2018, 18 administrators and educational leaders from the North Vancouver School District went to the inaugural Women in Educational Leadership luncheon at UBC. The guest speakers were Jenni Donohoo, author of *Collective Efficacy*, and Suzanne Hoffman, Superintendent of Vancouver School Board. Both women shared insights into their journeys. All who attended were inspired. The event provided a great opportunity to spend a Saturday afternoon with educational leaders from all over British Columbia and to network and share stories.



Hacking goes to the gals

BY DEVON SACRÉ
STUDENT, CAPILANO UNIVERSITY

Hackergal is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to introducing young girls to computer coding and to level gender inequality in technology fields. Thirty-two girls at three different schools in the North Vancouver School District recently took part in a six-week Hackergal program. The schools involved were Ridgeway Elementary, Highlands Elementary, and Windsor Secondary. The program enabled the students to meet others with similar interests, collaborate, learn how to code computer programs, and learn how to debug and fix problems on



computers. A group of ten grade eight Windsor students took part in the Hackergal program, supported by teachers Lisa Ottenbreit and Cara Lightman.

"It was a great opportunity to meet new people," said Erica, a Windsor student.

"It was fun to learn something new," said Rachel, a Windsor student.

At the end of the six-week Hackergal program, students took part in a Hackathon. The Hackathon was a nation-wide event. Students did coding challenges along with girls from across Canada.

Digital Media Academy workshop series are a huge hit

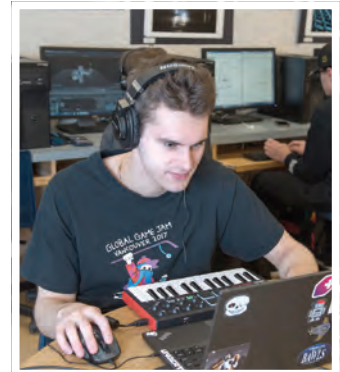
BY JENNIFER VANDERMYYE
DIGITAL MEDIA ACADEMY (DMA)
ASSISTANT, NVSD

The Digital Media Academy's workshop series have been very popular this school year. In partnership with the Vancouver Film School (VFS), a series of free, after school workshops for students have been offered at Argyle Secondary School.

"What an opportunity for families to have this kind of offering, especially for free as many of these types of classes are very expensive for

many families," said a parent of one of the attendees.

DMA's partnership with the VFS ensures that a variety of educational seminars and workshops are offered not only for DMA students, but for all students in the North Vancouver School District. Students from across the North Shore have attended. The workshops were exceptionally popular and classes were at capacity. Topics included 'Animation for Beginners' & 'Intro to 3D surface modelling and FX in MAYA'.



In the DMA itself, we understand the need for students to receive real world experience and mentorship. The DMA workshop series allows students from outside the academy to also learn from experienced professionals.

Curriculum implementation day

On November 2, 2018, all staff in the North Vancouver School District came together to learn, share and grow. It was the first time since the 1990's that all 2,500 employees were brought together on the same day for the same learning. Feedback obtained from our employee engagement survey

in 2017 clearly demonstrated a desire for more learning together as a school district. Dr. Leyton Schnellert, an Associate Professor in UBC's Department of Curriculum and Pedagogy, spoke to all staff about enhancing our professional practice to best support students.

GOAL #3: NURTURE an inspiring and healthy work environment.



Parent and staff volunteers make all the difference

BY LESLIE MCGUIRE
VICE PRINCIPAL, CLEVELAND/
LYNNMOUR ELEMENTARY

This year, as Cleveland Elementary School prepared for its annual Terry Fox Run it dawned on me how especially important it is to acknowledge the contributions of parents and staff to this fabulous event, and also to all of the other

events hosted throughout the year. Whether it's the Terry Fox Run, Active and Safe Routes to School events, crossing-guard duty, Bike Week, and the like, parent and staff volunteers make all the difference. Thank you! Our schools are lucky to have volunteers and we appreciate all that you do to support our schools.

New teacher evening

Being the 'newbie' in a large organization can be intimidating and nerve-racking. To support teachers who are new to the North Vancouver School District, the Learning Services department hosted an evening to bring together teachers who have started in our school district over the last two years. Roughly 100 teachers attended! The New Teacher Network event was hosted by the teacher leaders for each Family of Schools and included presentations

by technology helping teachers, Indigenous Education success teachers, French Immersion facilitator, and English Language Learner teachers. Topics ranged from Inclusive Education, to how teacher leaders can support new teachers in their practice, to teaching support resources, and establishing new teacher networks. This initiative also helps to connect staff so that they are welcomed and feel at home as part of the NVSD team.



Mountainside Secondary receives approval for a full seismic upgrade

Students attending Mountainside Secondary will soon have a safer learning environment with provincial government funding of \$23.7 million for seismic upgrades.

"We're taking quick action to let students at this school know they will be safe in the event of an earthquake," said Rob Fleming, Minister of Education. "Mountainside offers a hub of extremely important programs that support flexibility in their education, and this investment supports the community so students can learn and play at their school for years to come."

Seismic upgrade construction work on the school is scheduled to begin in early 2020 and to be completed

in fall 2021. Students will be able to remain in the school while the upgrades are underway.

"We are elated that Mountainside Secondary has received approval for a seismic upgrade. Once this project is complete, all high-risk schools in the North Vancouver School District will be seismically safe," said Christie Sacré, chair, North Vancouver Board of Education. "The North Vancouver Board of Education has always worked hard with the Ministry of Education to ensure that our schools are not only seismically safe, but also are structurally updated to support 21st-century learning. This is the 15th project since 2007 to be seismically upgraded or rebuilt."



GOAL #3: NURTURE an inspiring and healthy work environment.



Walking or rolling to and from school

The North Vancouver School District encourages students to get to and from school in active ways such as walking, cycling and scootering. There are many physical and mental health benefits for students, including improving mood, fostering positive self-esteem, better physical fitness, improved sleep, arriving to school ready to learn, and improved student safety from less vehicle traffic around schools and more connected communities.

The school district, along with the North Vancouver RCMP, ICBC, the City of North Vancouver and the District of North Vancouver, would like to provide families some tips

for planning and practicing your active routes to school:

- PLAN & PRACTICE!** Plan your walk or cycle route in advance, and then practice it. Many schools have walk maps on their school websites.
- LOOK!** Always look left-right-left and shoulder check before crossing.
- LOOK!** Pay attention to where you are going and do not use your phone or device while walking/rolling.
- LISTEN!** Remove your headphones so you can hear approaching traffic.
- BE SEEN!** Wear reflective materials or bright clothes and use lights after dark.
- VISIT!** Visit the Active and Safe Routes to School section on your school website for more walking and rolling tips.

Employee engagement survey

BY SCOTT STANLEY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES, NVSD

The North Vancouver School District recently undertook its second Employee Engagement Survey. The purpose of the survey is to assess how NVSD employees feel about their organization – what do they enjoy about their work and workplace, and what would they like to see improved. We want the NVSD to be the best place to work, learn and grow. To do so, we need to know what makes our school district a great place to work and where we can take steps to enhance our workplace.

The first survey occurred in 2017, and garnered very high participation. Following the survey, each school and school district corporate department were provided with their own results. Those results have been used as the basis for many initiatives, changes and improvements across the school district. For example, schools have undertaken initiatives such as weekly staff sharing and staff recognition, organizing storage rooms, creating resource plans, greater Principal and Vice Principal visibility, “belonging committees,” social events and celebrations, health and wellness initiatives, and

team building activities. The Human Resources department has initiated a 48-hour response time to staff enquiries, created a Community Hub in the internal staff web portal, are piloting a customer service training module, are revamping the employee recognition program, and are visiting schools to build relationships with staff. The Information and Communications Technology department has redesigned its staff training schedule to better serve staff. Facilities and Maintenance have implemented a new maintenance request system that speeds-up response time and communication with schools. A new online system for Occupational Health and Safety is now live. A district-wide professional development day was organized by Learning Services. The Communications team implemented new protocols for communicating with staff via new departmental updates, reorganized the staff web portal and fixed the search function in the web portal. The Senior Administration have been actively visiting schools to participate, observe, listen to and connect with staff.

To continue with this positive momentum, a second Employee Engagement Survey took place in January-February 2019.

Drums a healing comfort in North Vancouver classrooms

BY MARIA RANTANEN
NORTH SHORE NEWS

First Nations cultural workers would like to see a drum in every classroom in the North Vancouver School District and teachers at Sherwood Park Elementary recently made 30 of them to be used for cultural learning and healing. Drums are already in classrooms at Norgate and Lynn Valley elementary schools, and now they have some for Sherwood Park, explained Gordon Dick who was helping facilitate the drum-making session,

bringing the total to about 150 throughout the district.

“It’s going to strengthen the relationship between Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh and the North Van School District,” said Dick, whose Indigenous name is Tchilaqs7tchila – pronounced “chilixchila” – and means “five surprises.”

Making the drums will build leadership skills and confidence in the students and help them break out of their shell, and empower Indigenous students, Dick said. It’s part of reconciliation, moving forward, he added.



PHOTO NS NEWS MIKE WAKEFIELD

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GOAL #4: DEVELOP and promote innovative and sustainable programs.

Twenty-five years in paradise



BY DENEKA MICHAUD
COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER,
NVSD

The glistening waters of the Cheakamus River and lush vegetation of the surrounding old-growth forest provide the perfect serene environment to explore creativity.

“There is something really meaningful and beautiful about being able to take kids outside to harness their artistic expression,” said Daylen Luchsinger, Education Coordinator, Artists for Kids.

The summer of 2018 marked the 25th year for the Artists for Kids Paradise Valley Summer School of Visual Arts hosted at Cheakamus Centre in Squamish. The program combines the ideal location of the Cheakamus Centre with top-notch artists for a five-day program for eight to 18-year-olds. Students are paired with a professional artist who presents on his or her work throughout the week. The students work with art specialist teachers to make art of their own in response to the presentations from the professional artists. There are also blocks of recreation time where the students go canoeing, hiking or sketch the gorgeous scenery that surrounds them.

Once again this year, the program sold-out with 104 participants.

Athletics programs

BY GERRY KARVELIS, AND LARRY DONOHOE
NORTH SHORE SECONDARY SCHOOLS' ATHLETICS ASSOCIATION (NSSSAA)

A robust offering of athletics programs are available to secondary school students in the North Vancouver School District. The vast selection of options enables students to choose areas of interest to them so that they are supported to succeed. For many students, athletics offer a foundation that spur student achievement, which transcends into all areas of their lives.



NSSSAA offers the following sports for secondary students across the North Shore:



FALL:

-  **Football** (Boys) – Senior & Junior
-  **Soccer** (Boys) – Senior & Junior
-  **Volleyball** (Girls) – Senior, Junior, Juvenile & Bantam
-  **Volleyball** (Boys) – Senior
-  **Rugby** (Boys) – Bantam
-  **Field Hockey** (Girls) – Junior & Senior





-  **Soccer** (Boys) – Senior & Junior
-  **Cross-Country** (Boys & Girls) – Bantam, Juvenile, Junior & Senior
-  **Swimming** (Boys & Girls) – Bantam, Juvenile, Junior & Senior







WINTER:

-  **Basketball** (Boys & Girls) – Bantam, Juvenile, Junior & Senior
-  **Wrestling** (Boys & Girls) – Bantam, Juvenile, Junior & Senior
-  **Skiing & Snowboard** (Boys & Girls) – Open Ages
-  **Gymnastics** (Boys & Girls) – Open Ages



SPRING:

-  **Football** (Boys) – Bantam
-  **Rugby** (Boys) – Junior & Senior
-  **Soccer** (Girls) – Junior & Senior
-  **Rugby** (Girls) – Senior

-  **Ultimate** (Boys & Girls) – Junior & Senior Coed
-  **Golf** (Boys & Girls) – Open Ages
-  **Tennis** (Boys & Girls) – Junior & Senior
-  **Badminton** (Boys & Girls) – Junior & Senior Coed
-  **Track & Field** (Boys & Girls) – Bantam, Juvenile, Junior & Senior
-  **Mountain Biking** (Boys & Girls) – Bantam, Juvenile, Junior & Senior



These athletics offerings are made possible by the dedication of coaches and volunteers – thank you.

Athletics are also offered at the elementary school level, with lots of options to choose from. The NVSD elementary track and field program is quite expansive. Every year, all elementary schools from across the school district come together for a large track meet at Swangard Stadium. The event is always a lot of fun for students, parents and staff.



Elementary band and strings

The Elementary Band and Strings program is a unique instrumental music program that is distinct to the North Vancouver School District. The program provides school-based instrumental instruction to students in the intermediate grades (grades

5 - 7 for Band and grades 4 - 7 for Strings). The Elementary Band and Strings program is one of the finest instrumental programs in British Columbia. Children from all schools are welcome and no experience is required.

GOAL #4: DEVELOP and promote innovative and sustainable programs.



PHOTOS NEWS LISA KING

Summer school attracts academic keeners

BY JANE SEYD
NORTH SHORE NEWS

Carson Graham Secondary was a busy place on a Monday morning in July. It was warm in the classrooms during the heat wave. But for the month of July, that's where approximately 1,100 North Vancouver students were spending their mornings. They gave up beach time and the chance to take off for camping trips with friends to sit in class.

Summer school – once regarded as a punitive sentence to be avoided at all costs – is today hugely popular. "We are full to the brim," said Kathleen Barter, principal of summer learning for the NVSD. The vast majority of students at summer school are there because they want to be.

In contrast to the old stereotype of summer school, many students taking summer classes now are academic high achievers. Some are taking extra science classes they want for university admission that they might not otherwise be able to fit into their timetable during the regular school years, said Meghan Burns, one of the vice-principals of summer school in North Vancouver. "Math and science are heavily subscribed," she said. Others want to lighten their course load so they can do better in their remaining classes or lessen their stress levels. Others want an advance preview of the classes they intend to take again during the regular school year.

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Province, community partners support positive mental health in North Vancouver schools

The Government of British Columbia and community partners are supporting a two-year project at Mountainside Secondary School to expand classroom-to-community mental health and addictions connections in the North Vancouver School District. The project, supported by \$225,000 in provincial funding, will build on Mountainside Secondary School's mental health and addictions hub and community partnerships. It will do so by looking at the structural elements of the hub that could extend beyond Mountainside. This allows other schools in the school district similar access to integrated mental health and addictions supports and services.

"The best way to reach young people with mental health and addictions supports is to bring those services to them – to schools, where they spend most of their time," said Judy Darcy, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions. Funding will support a dedicated

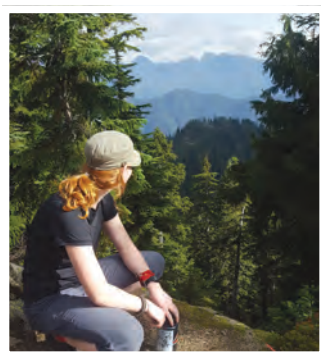


staff member for the project, as well as administration and training resources, and research and data collection. It will help to build and refine a continuum of support for students that extends from the classroom to mental health and addictions supports, and services provided by agencies at the community level.

"We know that too few students are accessing mental-health supports,

and many of them are waiting until they are 17 or older, when their symptoms worsen," said Katrine Conroy, Minister of Children and Family Development. "This project focuses on preventing mental-health challenges before they begin, and addressing issues that do come up as soon as possible, to make sure all students between the ages of five to 17 can get the help they need and deserve."

New academies – Outdoor Education and Lacrosse



The Outdoor Education Academy is offered for grade 10 students and operates out of Sutherland Secondary School. The program consists of an Outdoor Learning and Environmental Stewardship curriculum as set out by Outward Bound Canada and the North Vancouver School District, and is in compliance with the BC Ministry

of Education Prescribed Learning Outcomes for Physical Education 10, Outdoor Education 10 and 11 and the required curricular competences and standards of English 10 and Socials Studies 10. The academy takes students out of the classroom and into nature. It provides hands-on experiential learning that erodes the traditional boundaries between subject areas and offers interdisciplinary learning in the outdoors. Throughout the school year, students take part in a wide variety of outdoor endeavours that are both day trips and overnight stays.

The Lacrosse Academy is located at Carson Graham Secondary and is open to students in grades 8-12. Offered in partnership with Tewanee Consulting Group, the academy provides skilled and

experienced lacrosse coaches whose aim is to hone the skills required for success at field and box lacrosse, as well as to develop the values, skills, attitudes and knowledge needed to be healthy, active, global citizens. The Lacrosse Academy deepens students' knowledge and connections with Indigenous cultural experiences and explores the successes of lacrosse champions from both the Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.





GOAL #5: PROVIDE leadership in environmental education and sustainability practices.




New schools – healthy, sustainable and accessible environments



BY MARK THOMSON, CAPITAL PROJECT MANAGER, NVSD, AND LUKE SMEATON, MANAGER OF SUSTAINABILITY, ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING, NVSD

The North Vancouver School District has school design principles, developed in consultation with our partner groups in 2016, that guide construction and renovation of schools. The principles are:

-  Maximum flexibility and adaptability for today and the future
-  Healthy, sustainable and accessible environment

-  School Community connections
-  Connections to the wider community
-  Professional support






NVSD's Sustainability Strategy also requires buildings to be developed in a manner that minimizes ecological footprint and anticipates changing environmental, social, and economic conditions.

Responding to these guidelines, and recognizing the critical role that healthy and environmentally conscious schools play in inspiring the leaders of tomorrow, the NVSD has developed both the Argyle Secondary School and Handsworth Secondary School replacement projects with sustainability in mind. An important objective is delivering enhanced learning environments by focusing on key design elements that impact occupant experience: acoustics, thermal comfort, healthy materials, natural lighting, and views to outside. Project teams developed energy conservation strategies for each building by drawing upon several sources: industry best practices, lessons from previous new construction projects, and operational measures implemented over the course of



NVSD's secondary school building performance optimization program.

Common features of both projects include:

-  Adaptable learning spaces with multiple configurations that support 21st century learning.
-  Building heating systems that can utilize either electricity or natural gas as heat sources, providing flexibility to balance energy consumption, utility cost, and greenhouse gas emissions during operation.
-  Displacement ventilation with heat recovery that dramatically improves indoor air quality while conserving energy.
-  Energy efficient LED lighting that significantly reduces ongoing maintenance requirements.
-  Advanced controls to ensure building systems operate only when required.

Integrated design and early stakeholder involvement have been key components of both projects. We thank all those who have provided, and continue to provide, valuable input along the way.

Litterless lunch

As part of the North Vancouver School District's overall waste management efforts, a district-wide "Litterless Lunch" event was held from November 15 - 30, 2018. The campaign built upon the efforts of schools that already have successful programs, also known as "Boomerang Lunches," "Pack it Out Lunches," and "Litter Free Lunches." Throughout this sustainability campaign, students and staff were encouraged to bring lunch items with reduced packaging and then take home any lunch-related waste such as leftover food, recyclable items, and

unavoidable packaging. Thank you to all of the staff, students and parents who participated. The event was a huge success!

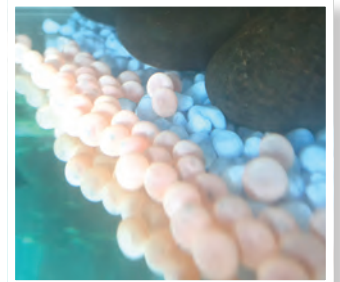


Salmonids at the ESC

**BY LUKE SMEATON
MANAGER OF SUSTAINABILITY,
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL
PLANNING, NVSD**

For decades, students in the NVSD have taken part in the Salmonids in the Classroom program. This program allows students to care for a tank of salmon from eggs to fry, and then to release the salmon into a local salmon stream. This year, the Education Services Centre is also taking part in the salmonids program. One hundred chum salmon eggs from the Seymour Hatchery were gently introduced into the school district's tank. Staff will care for the salmon until late April, when they will be released

into a local stream. To celebrate the salmon coming to the Education Services Centre, a welcome ceremony took place that followed protocol, tradition and worldview of the Squamish People. Dallas Gus, Swalklanexw, welcomed the eggs with song, cedar and stream water.



GOAL #5: PROVIDE leadership in environmental education and sustainability practices.

PAC waste reduction

The Parent Advisory Council at Highlands Elementary School is undertaking efforts to reduce the waste it generates as a PAC. This is an excellent example of how PACs can support waste reduction initiatives at schools. Here are some of their efforts:

- ✎ Stopped using hot lunch vendors that use plastic cups/lids/straws.
- ✎ Asked vendors to send sandwiches in reusable containers instead of paper bags.
- ✎ Worked with a vendor to eliminate plastic sauce containers and instead provide two organic containers that the sauce is distributed from.
- ✎ Encourage students to bring their own cutlery for hot lunch and if

they forget then they can sign-out a set from the kitchen. Stainless steel cutlery sets were offered for sale, and plastic spoons/forks are not handed out.

- ✎ Eliminated the sale of milk on one of the two weekly hot lunch days to lessen milk carton waste.
- ✎ All leftover food items are sent to the North Vancouver Lookout Shelter.
- ✎ The PAC is funding the installation of a reusable water bottle refill station.
- ✎ At all PAC events there is a water jug, people are encouraged to bring water bottles and reusable coffee cups, and they do not purchase food that is packaged in single serve portions.

NVSD elementary school garden competition

To recognize how garden-based education can support our goal of providing leadership in environmental education and sustainability practices, the NVSD held a contest for elementary schools to win a self-watering planter box handcrafted by LifeSpace Gardens. LifeSpace Gardens developed this prototype planter to address some of the challenges commonly experienced with school gardens. Some of the key features include:

- ✎ **SELF-WATERING DESIGN** – The GardenWell system reduces the frequency of watering, meaning less work for schools over summer months.
- ✎ **RAISED CONSTRUCTION** – Improves wheelchair accessibility and allows the planter to be picked up with a pallet jack and relocated if needed.
- ✎ **DURABILITY** – The heavy timber resists vandalism, while the waterproof liner prevents wet

soil from contacting the structure, significantly increasing lifespan compared to traditional raised beds.

- ✎ **CONVENIENT SIZE** – The 6-foot by 3-foot footprint makes it easy for school groups to gather around and also allows students to reach plants in the middle.
 - ✎ **VERTICAL GROWING** – The custom trellis provides vertical support to plants that need it.
- The contest was open to all NVSD elementary schools and the winner of the box was Capilano Elementary – congratulations!



Energy retrofits to Cheakamus Centre cabins

Summer 2018 saw the successful completion of energy efficiency upgrades to Cabin #5 and #6 at Cheakamus Centre. Energy efficiency retrofits include new roofs and foundations, and high-efficiency windows and doors. Additionally, cabins will see enhancements to the exterior cladding, bathrooms, and ventilation systems to improve indoor air quality and occupant comfort. Thank you to the BCIT School of Construction and the Environment, and to all of the project sponsors and supporters, for your dedicated work on this project!

The sustainability goals of the cabin renovation project are:

- ✎ To make cabins more energy efficient

- ✎ To lower energy costs
- ✎ To reduce maintenance requirements
- ✎ To create a healthier, more pleasant interior environment for occupants
- ✎ To reduce environmental footprint

Plans are well underway for renovations to the remaining four cabins in 2019. We are actively fundraising and seeking sponsors for renovations to the remaining cabins, slated for spring construction.

Please visit the Cheakamus Centre website for more information: www.cheakamuscentre.ca/donate/cabin-reno-2018

Pen and marker recycling

North Vancouver School District is now collecting used writing instruments for recycling. After a successful pilot in four elementary schools, we are now placing special receptacles made from repurposed floor wax buckets at our remaining sites. When the buckets are full, NVSD facilities staff collect the used writing instruments and deposit them at Staples for recycling through the TerraCycle program. From there the writing instruments are separated by material composition, then cleaned, shredded, and made into new recycled products.



GOAL #6: STRENGTHEN and expand reciprocal community relations.

NVSD students combat cancer

Every year, students in the North Vancouver School District undertake efforts to support various non-profit organizations that are working to end cancer. Here are just a few examples of some of this year's efforts:

COVE CLIFF ELEMENTARY

Cove Cliff raised \$3,279.35 for the Cops for Cancer campaign this year.

BROOKSBANK ELEMENTARY

Students at Brooksbank Elementary recently raised \$700 to support Cops for Cancer and the Terry Fox Foundation. In addition to the amount the school raised, students and brothers Aidan and Ryan Reid undertook their own initiative and raised almost \$3,000 to make wigs for kids who are undergoing cancer treatment or have other illnesses. The brothers cut and donated their hair.



HANDSWORTH SECONDARY

Terry Fox Runs are incredibly popular school events that demonstrate the social mindedness and passion students have for helping others. This year, students at Handsworth Secondary stepped-up their efforts. A group of roughly 10 students lead a variety of promotional and fundraising events. The school also partnered with BlueShore Financial, that offered to match fundraising dollars. With BlueShore Financial's matching opportunity, they raised \$6659.60 for cancer research.

Seycove students help CNIB

BY PETRA WILLEMSE
TEACHER, SEYCOVE SECONDARY

On November 24, 2018, a group of Performance Learning Program (PLP) students from across grade levels gave up hours of their weekend to head to the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) as part of the Phone It Forward campaign. This campaign asks people to donate used smartphones to people with sight loss, as smartphones have become a vital tool to help those with low vision to complete tasks that would have been highly challenging before.

The learners worked with the vision coordinators at CNIB and Apple Canada representatives to assist in training the trainers who will be giving the donated smartphones to those with low vision. It was a



great experience for our students as they learned much more about the assistive technology that is available in the devices they use every day. We were all inspired to see how someone with low vision uses a tool we take for granted to do things like navigate unfamiliar streets with GPS, read photos of loved ones to 'see' their faces, and prevent accidents by doing things like reading prescription labels.

Westview Elementary wins literacy lottery

BY MARIA SPITALE-LEISK
NORTH SHORE NEWS

Westview Elementary has won the literacy lottery. The school recently received a \$2,500 Indigo e-gift card for being B.C.'s grand prize winner in a national Adopt a School contest put on by Indigo's Love of Reading Foundation, plus they received an additional 433 books (valued at roughly \$10 each) via online donations through the contest website and from donations received at Indigo Park Royal.

"This was a huge boost to our library," said Westview Elementary librarian Gretchen Tolfo.

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PHOTO: NS NEWS CINDY GOODMAN

Indigo's online fundraising platform allowed people to support a local school, like Westview Elementary, during the national 'Tell a Story, Give a Story' contest. Supporters submitted stories about literacy to gain additional funds for their school of choice. In addition, fans could "heart" their favourite story. The top five most "hearted" stories from five different schools in each province were entered into a random draw to win an additional \$2,500 Indigo e-gift card. Westview Elementary was the lucky winner in B.C., and the staff and students couldn't be more thrilled with the news.



Interconnected Nature project receives 2nd year of funding

Cheakamus Centre recently received a \$25,000 contribution from the RBC Future Launch program to allow for Indigenous youth to explore, build, and share Indigenous cultural practices in an environmental education setting. The Interconnected Nature pilot project was launched in July 2018. It is an intensive 4-week training program for Indigenous youth, designed to enhance their traditional knowledge and to develop their instructional skills so they can teach others. It grew out of

Skw'unc-was, Cheakamus Centre's long-running Skw'uncwú7mesh (Squamish) cultural immersive program where students learn from Indigenous interpreters the traditional ways of life and historical practices of the Coast Salish people of the Skw'uncwú7mesh Valley.

"We were very pleased with the success of our program last summer, and are thrilled to receive a second year of funding," says Dr. Sarah Bainbridge, senior development officer, Cheakamus Foundation.

GOAL #6: STRENGTHEN and expand reciprocal community relations.

Covenant House sleep out

This year, the North Vancouver School District is supporting Covenant House by taking part in Sleep Out. This program raises awareness about issues surrounding youth homelessness and also raises funds for programs offered at Covenant House. For one night, participants will be sleeping outside on cardboard boxes. Superintendent Mark Pearmain slept outside downtown for one night in February, some secondary schools hosted their own Sleep Out events at their schools, and elementary schools were also encouraged to take part with school events. For every \$4,000 the school district raises, we fund one-year of mental health supports for one youth. Let's support as many youth as possible!

For more information and to donate please visit: www.covenanthousebc.org/nvسد/



Squamish Nation and NVSD sign milestone education protocol agreement



BY DENEKA MICHAUD
COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER,
NVSD

Standing in a circle, the sound of the Hu-hup chillh slúlum 'Welcome' song quiets the crowd. The significance of the day flows from the drums and wafts over those in attendance. Tears flow. Stories are told. Laughs are shared.

"I can't help but feel a little emotional," said Kristen Rivers, a Squamish Nation Councillor, as she starts to cry.

Squamish Nation members, North Vancouver School District staff, Board of Education trustees, local politicians, and community members gathered on January 17, 2019 to witness the signing of a milestone agreement between the North Vancouver School District and Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish)

Nation. The Protocol Agreement for Communication and Collaboration solidifies a partnership between the North Vancouver School District and Squamish Nation. This significant agreement commits to an equal partnership in the education of the 259 Squamish Nation students currently enrolled in the North Vancouver School District, as well as future generations of Squamish Nation children and youth.

"The task of investing in Indigenous education is comprised of much more than government funding; it must be forged in substantive and meaningful discussions and decision-making. And that is the intent of this protocol agreement," said Orene Askew, Squamish Nation Councillor and spokesperson. "We are pleased to formalize this relationship with our partners at the North Vancouver School District, and look forward to using this

document to guide our work and decision-making moving forward."

The new agreement contains provisions to establish and maintain a substantive and meaningful relationship that is cooperative and collaborative. It will entail Squamish Nation involvement in educational decisions such as the inclusion of Squamish Nation language, culture, and history in the curriculum and courses offered to all students in the North Vancouver School District. It also encompasses elements that ensure Squamish Nation partnership in the educational services tailored for Squamish Nation students.

"I've been working for the North Vancouver School District for 26 years, and this agreement was a dream my mother had even before I was employed here. Over the decades, I have seen the great strides made in Indigenous Education and in supporting our students with Indigenous ancestry. This protocol agreement is a huge leap forward because it places the school district and Squamish Nation as equal partners in educating Squamish Nation children. I am so proud, and emotional, as a Squamish Nation member myself to see us reach this milestone. It is a huge step towards reconciliation," said Brad Baker, District Principal of Indigenous Education and a Squamish Nation member.

The NVSD hopes to have a similar agreement with Tsleil-Waututh Nation.

Downie Wenjack Legacy Schools Project

The NVSD is very honoured to have five schools selected to be part of the Downie Wenjack Legacy Schools Project. The five schools are École Windsor Secondary, Norgate-Xwemélch'stn, Ns7e'yxnitm la Tel:wet Westview, Carisbrooke

Elementary and École Sherwood Park Elementary. The project provides opportunity for schools to lead the movement in awareness of the history and impact of the Residential School System on Indigenous Peoples.





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