

Superintendent's Report



From Mark Pearmain, Superintendent of Schools, North Vancouver School District

Announcements

Foundation Skills Assessment

The Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) is an annual province-wide assessment of children in grades 4 and 7 in British Columbia. This year, the FSA will be administered between October 1 and October 18, 2018. All students (including French Immersion) in grades 4 and 7 are required to write the FSA. For more information, please [click HERE](#).

Since 2013, a protocol agreement between the BC Teachers' Federation and the BC Public School Employers' Association enables local teachers' unions to distribute specific information about the Foundation Skills Assessment to parents. The protocol outlines parameters to this distribution of information, including that materials distributed to parents by teachers via students shall be in sealed envelopes, clearly identifying that they are union produced and distributed.

To confirm, the Ministry of Education and the North Vancouver School District are supportive of the Foundation Skills Assessment.

Information

Policy 306

At the June 20, 2018 Public Board Meeting, changes to Policy 306: Suspected Child/Youth Abuse were approved by the Board. The revisions to the policy include a parent checklist for reporting suspected abuse and neglect, changes to procedures to improve communication and transparency, and updates to language. Representatives from the Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 389, North Vancouver Administrators, North Vancouver Teachers' Association, North Vancouver School District, North Vancouver Parent Advisory Council, Ministry of Children and Family Development, and the North Vancouver RCMP participated in the review of Policy 306 and we are pleased that the changes have now been

Surplus

The budget for last school year (2017-2018 school year) was developed in the Spring of 2017 and approved by the Board of Education in June 2017. The North Vancouver School District ended the 2017-2018 fiscal year on June 30, 2018 with a net surplus, bringing the accumulated surplus to roughly \$10 million. The surplus generated last school year was a result of revenue being higher and expenses being lower than budgeted. The Board of Education recently approved the utilization of \$6.28 million from the accumulated surplus for purposes related to the school district's six strategic goals. Surplus funds are being reinvested to support student learning in many ways, including: classroom technology needs, staff technology needs, furniture for the new Argyle Secondary, tuition to support Masters and/or Special Education Diplomas for teaching staff, salary and benefits, maintenance vehicles and equipment, and outstanding purchase orders. The Board of Education also approved the retention of \$3.7 million in surplus to address potential fluctuations in funding and one-time costs or unforeseen expenditures.

School visits

Throughout the school year, I have the honour of visiting schools to see the innovative teaching and learning happening every day.

Queen Mary Community Elementary School

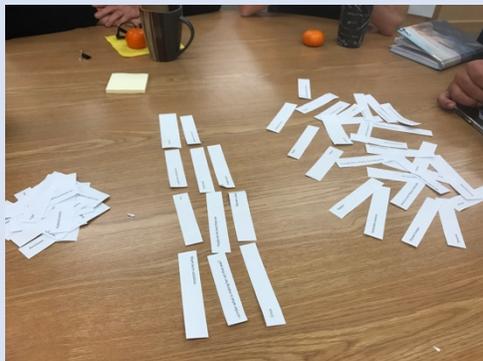


An unassuming grade five student at Queen Mary Elementary steps-up to the car parked outside the school doors, grabs the piece of wood wedged under the car, and yanks down on the wood with all of her might. She lifts the car as another student measures how high the lift was. Students erupt with excited discussion. It was truly remarkable to see this simple machine demo by teachers Garry Cotter and Jonross Fong using a 2 x 6, a car and the strength of their grade five students. It was also amazing to watch how engaged Paul Wright's kindergarten students were learning while discussing being safe on their first outdoor walk as a class. I also had a great visit with Jennifer Aragon's grade seven class and a wonderful meeting with PAC co-chair, Jessica McIlroy. Thank you for having me!

Carson Graham Secondary

The library at Carson Graham will soon be an innovation hub for students and staff. Librarian Michelle Davis is supporting students to create a Lego wall and makerspace that can be used by the entire school. I cannot wait to return to the school later in the year to see this new learning space! I also enjoyed classroom visits with Whitney de Beer, Shannon Van Baalen, Darren Wong, and Mehan Tolliday – just to name a few. I also welcomed a new hire – LST, Joelle Bronson – who spent the past four years in Australia and is very excited to join the North Vancouver School District. Welcome Joelle.

Collaboration days



As a direct result from feedback obtained from the employee engagement survey, staff from the Education Services Centre are visiting schools more often to learn with staff. On Wednesday, September 26th, I had a fantastic time participating in Windsor Secondary's staff collaboration session focusing on the positive versus deficit mindset when working with students. Assistant Superintendent Pius Ryan attended the staff collaboration session at Upper Lynn Elementary and Assistant Superintendent Chris Atkinson attended Sutherland Secondary. Collaboration days are incredibly important for staff to come together to learn, share and grow in order to inspire success for all students.

Happenings

Scholarship Tea

I was honoured to attend the North Vancouver High School Education Foundation Scholarship Tea on Sunday, September 16th. This annual event celebrates the scholarship and bursary recipients from all of our secondary schools. The directors of this foundation are retired educators from our school district who volunteer their time selecting candidates and organizing the tea. Thank you to these dedicated North Vancouver School District alumni for your support of student success.

Indigenous Education events



Thank you to the Indigenous Education team for organizing three events on September 14th with Phyllis Webstad, founder of Orange Shirt Day. Phyllis joined us for a smudging ceremony for staff at the Education Services Centre. Then, at Carson Graham Secondary and later at Norgate Elementary, Phyllis gave a powerful presentation to students and staff at school-wide assemblies.

MLAs meeting



On Tuesday, September 25th, the local MLAs, Board Chairs, Superintendents and Secretary Treasurers from North Vancouver, West Vancouver and Sea-to-Sky met to discuss various topics including demographics, transportation and housing concerns, and provincial bargaining. It was a productive meeting and I look forward to more opportunities to meet.

Photo courtesy of MLA Jane Thornthwaite