

# Superintendent's Report



**To: Parents and Guardians**

**From: Mark Pearmain, Superintendent, North Vancouver School District**

**Have a wonderful and relaxing holiday break!**



The North Vancouver Board of Education and the Senior Leadership Team of the North Vancouver School District wish you and your loved ones a happy holiday break.

## Announcements

### Strategic planning – Add your voice!

The North Vancouver School District is undertaking a comprehensive strategic planning process to review our current strategic goals and to set new goals for the future. Three in-person facilitated sessions have been held so far: a large in-person session with representatives from all schools, partner groups and departments; a session for parents co-hosted with North Vancouver Parent Advisory Council; and a session for students co-hosted with District Student Leadership Council. So far, more than 300 people have provided input, with more than 700 thoughts shared and more than 15,000 ratings of these thoughts!

All students, employees, parents and the general community are encouraged to get involved. All of your voices are paramount to ensuring the outcomes reflect your needs!

How can you get involved?

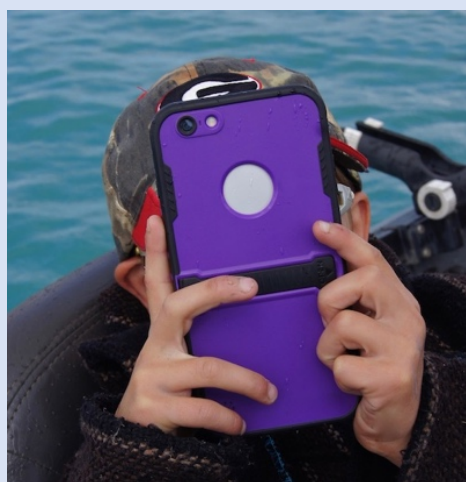
Online: Anyone can provide feedback through the online engagement tool Thoughtexchange. The online engagement will be open from Jan. 9 to Feb. 7, 2020. We will share out the direct link when it opens.

In-person: Everyone is invited to a public open house (drop-in format) on Saturday, January 18, 2020, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Education Services Centre (2121 Lonsdale).

Watch this video to find out more:



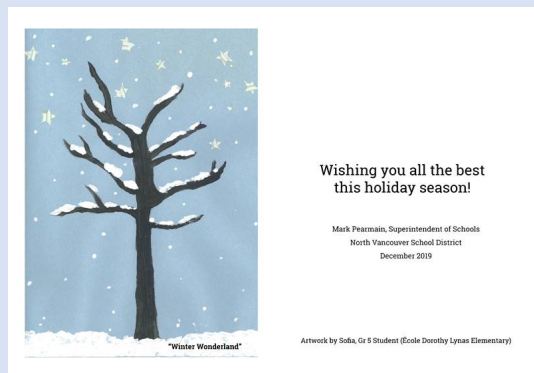
## Online gaming event



Tuesday, January 14, 2020, from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. at the Education Services Centre (2121 Lonsdale, 5th floor).

E-Sports now generates more than \$1 billion in revenue, with viewership of more than 250 million each year! What career opportunities are there in the E-Sports industry? From game development to competition, there are a vast array of careers within the industry. What skills and competencies will our students need to be successful within E-Sports in the future? All parents, students and NVSD staff are welcome to attend.

## Superintendent's holiday card



Each year, a class is selected to provide submissions of student artwork for the Superintendent's Holiday Card Design Contest. This year, Ioana Tatar's Grade 4/5 French Immersion students at École Dorothy Lynas Elementary were selected to create artwork with the theme of "Winter Wonderland." While painting their own winter wonderland, the students explored big ideas in the Arts curriculum. This year's winner is Sofia, whose artwork is featured on the Superintendent's Holiday Card.

## Together to Twenty



Did you know that the North Vancouver School District has a target – set in 2011 – to reduce its energy consumption by 20% by 2020? And...did you know we have almost reached that target! We have reduced our energy consumption by 18.2%! Help us get to 20%.

The Together to 20 campaign asks schools to take part in one of five challenges that will help reduce energy use: Winter Fashion, Lights Out, Energy Education, Winter Shutdown, and Print and Copy Challenge. Ask your school what campaign they are doing.

Want to find out how we got to 18.2% energy reduction, and plans we have to push us to 20% reduction and beyond? Check out this infographic:



## Social Emotional Learning and Mental Health – Information night

Join the North Vancouver School District on January 29, 2020, at 7 p.m. at the Education Services Centre (2121 Lonsdale Ave, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor) for a presentation about the various initiatives taking place to support Social Emotional Learning and Mental Health. The school district has placed Social Emotional Learning and Mental Health as an educational priority for the school district. Find out about the programs, curricular components, and professional learning taking place to support this priority area. Also discover research data related to student mental health that is helping to inform the school district's efforts. This session is proudly co-hosted by the North Vancouver Parent Advisory Council.

## Information

### MyEd BC service interruption

MyEducation BC will be shut down from at 5:00 p.m. on December 20, 2019, until December 30, 2019, at 7:00 am.

### Indigenous Education

Check out this week's Indigenous Education Weekly Flyer by clicking [HERE](#). These flyers are posted several times a month to the school district website [HERE](#) (scroll to the bottom of the page).

## Policy 605: Admission of Students to School

Revisions to *Policy 605: Admission of Students to School* were approved at the December 10, 2019, Public Board Meeting. The Policy and administrative procedures have been updated on the website. The registration website page will be updated shortly.

## Policy 809: Encroachments on Board Property

New *Policy 809: Encroachments on Board Property* was approved at the December 10, 2019, Public Board Meeting. Policy and administrative procedures to address unauthorized encroachments and encumbrances are required so the Board of Education can meet its fiduciary responsibility to accommodate future expansions and improvements of schools.

## Facilities Updates

### Handsworth Replacement Project update

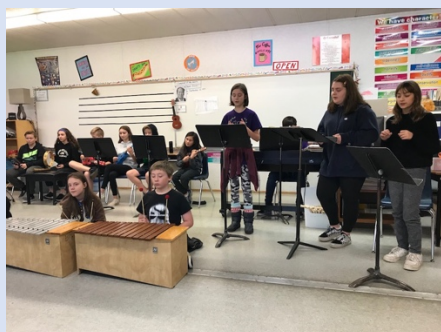
The North Vancouver School District was hoping to tender the project in early November; however, due to challenges with escalating construction costs, the initial provincial funding commitment for the replacement school did not cover the total cost of the project. To address this funding gap, the North Vancouver School District worked closely with the Ministry of Education to secure additional funding for the replacement project. The project has now been posted on BC Bid for the tendering phase. Once NVSD has confirmed a prime contractor, we will be able to update the community with a project schedule and anticipated completion date.

### Long Range Facilities Plan – Thank you for providing feedback

Thank you for providing feedback into the planning process for the North Vancouver School District's Long Range Facilities Plan. From November 4 to 15, 2019, we asked the community to provide input via Thoughtexchange. Overall, 244 people participated with 262 thoughts shared and 5,275 thought ratings. The results will now be placed into a report for consideration by the Capital Planning Committee in the Spring. The Long Range Facilities Plan will then be presented to the Board at the end of the school year. In the meantime, the Thoughtexchange results can be viewed [HERE](#).

## School Visits

### Seymour Heights Elementary

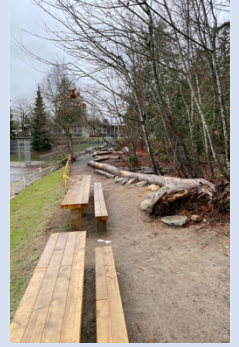


I started off the morning meeting with members of the school PAC, Tara and Kelly. Then, I toured the school before spending recess with staff in the staffroom. Kindergarten students were all engaged in storytelling, using small, loose items to create their stories – it was a lot of fun to see the creativity and hear how articulate



these young learners are. In music, I was blown away by the work of Matthew Barrie and his students. They played and sang "Scars to Your Beautiful" so powerfully. It was beautiful.

## Brooksbank Elementary



First, I met with the two incoming PAC Chairs, Tanya and Lisa. Then, I visited the library and checked-out guided reading. While walking in the hallway I asked a student how he was doing and he responded with a smile and, "Life is a wonder." It was also really nice to see Principal Spencer Kelly's mom, who was at the school to volunteer. Johneen Harris' grade seven class was working on positive communication skills. I spent some time with staff in the staffroom before visiting the cozy self-regulation room. The new outdoor learning space is really something! It has a lectern made from a log stump and rows of log seating for when teachers would like to lead an outdoor class, and also has various breakout areas for different learning model set-ups. Congratulations to the PAC for this fantastic outdoor learning area.

## Blueridge Elementary



My morning started by visiting with Jennifer, PAC chair. We then visited music where students were preparing for their pirate-themed holiday concert. I was also able to see co-teaching and flexible seating in action. In one pod of the school, the classes were all mixed-up and learning collaboratively. Several students explained their Social Studies projects to me, which were about populations on each continent of the world. After spending some time with staff in the staffroom, intermediate students in Kevin Davis' class showed me math and science models they built. Finally, I visited the primary wing of the school, and a grade four class.

## Eastview Elementary

I arrived just in time for a highly competitive staff versus student basketball game. Then I had a visit and lunch with the amazing EA team, witnessing their passion for their jobs and kids. I visited with Ms. Wood's class and enjoyed a choir performance. I also met with PAC chair, Beth. My visit capped-off with some holiday homework provided by Vice Principal Nicky Mey... I am responsible for taking care of Darth Tater for the next 2.5 weeks.



## Krow's TRANSformation



The North Vancouver School District was honoured to have been able to host a viewing of the documentary film Krow's TRANSformation. Roughly 200 employees, students and parents came out to see the film at the Cineplex theatres at Park and Tilford. The North Vancouver filmmaker, Gina Lazarowich, along with subjects of the film – Kas Baker, Emily Seal, Nancy Van Neste-Baker and Michael Baker – attended the film screening and answered questions following the film. It was a fantastic event.

## Carson Graham SleepOut



On Thursday, December 5, 2019, 87 students and 7 staff from the Carson Graham Secondary Community Initiatives and Leadership Program slept outside on cardboard boxes to raise awareness of and funds for youth homelessness. Students took part in a homeless panel - valuable discussion and activities addressing youth homelessness. Myself, along with Trustee Kulvir Mann and MLA Bowinn Ma joined the students and staff. It was a cold, wet night – but it was worth it... \$13,440 was raised to support youth at Covenant House Vancouver, which was tripled by two anonymous families to raise a total of \$40,320! This is the second year Carson has taken this challenge on. Well done Carson Graham!

## Cheakamus Centre 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary time capsule



This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Cheakamus Centre. It is an amazing accomplishment that the North Vancouver School District has been offering place-based, environmental and Indigenous education for all of our students for the last five decades! On Friday, December 6, 2019, more than 100 students gathered to witness the burial of a time capsule that will be opened in 50 years from now in 2069. For further information about this meaningful event, read [THIS article](#) by the Squamish Chief newspaper.

## Cove Cliff choir performs at Education Services Centre



Choir teacher, Valerie Crocker, along with pianist, Laurie Smith, and students from Cove Cliff Elementary came to perform at the Education Services Centre. Staff really enjoyed hearing classic and new holiday music – thank you!