

Superintendent's Report



To: NVSD Parents/Guardians

From: Mark Pearmain, Superintendent, North Vancouver School District

Announcements

PROPOSED 2020/21 School Calendar: Public Comment – Jan 22nd – Feb 21st

The Board of Education invites your feedback on the PROPOSED calendar for the 2020/21 school year. Information about the development process for annual school calendars and a copy of the PROPOSED 2020/21 School Calendar can be found on our school district website [HERE](#). Feedback can be provided through the online engagement tool Thoughtexchange, which can be accessed [HERE](#). The opportunity to provide your comment and feedback begins Wednesday, January 22, 2020 and ends Friday, February 21, 2020.

A summary of feedback received through the Thoughtexchange tool will be shared with the Board of Education at their Public Board Meeting scheduled for March 10, 2020. The Board will finalize and approve a 2020/21 School Calendar at the March meeting to meet the March 31st deadline for submission of the calendar to the Ministry of Education.

IB approved for Norgate

At the public meeting of the North Vancouver Board of Education on Tuesday, January 21, 2020, the Board unanimously voted in favour of transitioning Norgate Community Elementary School to an International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme school. In September 2020, Norgate Community Elementary School will begin to implement the IB PYP curriculum and program requirements. The 2020/21 school year will be a transition year, with formal accreditation occurring the following school year. The North Vancouver School District has been providing IB programs since 2007, and will now be able to offer the full continuum of IB programming for Norgate students from Kindergarten through to Grade 12.

Thank you to the Norgate community for your support over the past few months as the school district has explored the possibility of bringing IB to Norgate Community Elementary School. The community's response in favour of this change has been overwhelmingly positive.

Strategic planning – Add your voice!

Click [HERE](#) to take part now.

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. 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! Feedback can be provided through the online engagement tool Thoughtexchange. Click [HERE](#) to take part now. The online engagement will be open until Feb. 7, 2020.

Budget input

Each year, the North Vancouver School District undertakes a public consultation process for input on budget priorities. Staff, students, parents, education partner groups, and community members are invited to provide their input on budget priorities. Budget priorities align with and support the school district's strategic goals, vision and values.

There are various ways to provide feedback:

- In-person: at the Board Standing Committee Meetings on February 4 and April 7, 2020, at 7 p.m. at the Education Services Centre (2121 Lonsdale Ave, 5th floor).
- Email: from February 3 to March 13, 2020 (budgetcomments@sd44.ca)
- Online: from February 18 to March 13, 2020 through Thoughtexchange (the link will be provided when it opens).
- Traditional mail: addressed to - Secretary Treasurer, 2121 Lonsdale Ave, North Vancouver, BC, V7M 2K6.

Click [HERE](#) for further information.

Information

New SEL/Mental Health website

The North Vancouver School District is committed to a continuum of Social Emotional Learning (SEL) integral to student well-being and development. The continuum includes creating a Sense of Belonging for students, teaching of Social Emotional Skills, Mental Health Literacy, and an Integrated Service Approach to Mental Health. To support our employees, students and parents with this work, a new website has been created. Check out the new website [HERE](#).

Safe and Caring Schools website section update

The [Safe and Caring Schools website section](#) has been updated with the Ministry of Education's Provincial Guidelines: *Maintaining School Safety – A Guide for School and Police Personnel in BC*. In addition, the NVSD developed guidelines for conducting police interviews in schools. Should parents have any questions or concerns about these resources, they should contact Brad Baker, District Principal, Safe and Caring Schools.

Gordon Smith passing

On Saturday, January 18, 2020, at the age of 100, Gordon Smith passed away. Smith was a significant supporter of the North Vancouver School District through our Artists for Kids program. He donated many pieces of his art to us and volunteered a significant amount of time supporting young artists. The art gallery located at our central office on Lonsdale is a result of Smith; it is named the *Gordon Smith Gallery of Canadian Art*. Our vast collection of Canadian art invites students to

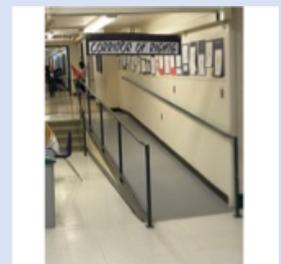
consider their identity and their culture as a Canadian. Smith's deep belief in art education has touched the lives of so many young Canadians. Smith's generosity through his art, and his commitment and support over three decades, has allowed our Artists for Kids program to grow from an idea into a world-class program, that offers all students an opportunity to grow and contribute.

Smith was born in 1919 in England and moved to Winnipeg with his family in 1933. He came to Vancouver in 1940. He did his art education at the Vancouver School of Art, then taught at the school for a decade. Smith joined the Faculty of Education at UBC and taught art until his retirement in 1982. The last 30 years of his artistic career have been his most prolific. As a master of colour, he explored the BC landscape in a fresh, expressive and aggressive style that is unparalleled by other artists. Smith was awarded the Order of Canada for his significant contribution to Canadian culture in 1996. His works are held internationally in the collection of the National Gallery of Canada, the Vancouver Art Gallery, the Museum of Modern Art in New York, and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, England, among others. He is represented by the Equinox Gallery in Vancouver, BC.

Gordon Smith was truly a remarkable man, a brilliant artist and educator, who inspired us to shine. We are privileged to continue his legacy with Artists for Kids.

School visits

Capilano Elementary School



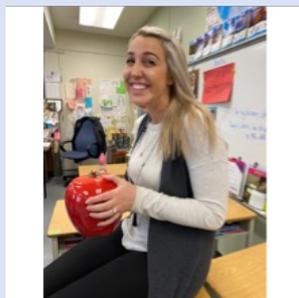
I kicked-off my visit by spending some time with PAC Co-Chair, Niki, and Vice Chair, Kathryn. Then I visited Ashley Pulice's kindergarten class where the students were doing a variety of play-based learning activities. Then I popped into Fiona Stroh's grade 7 class where they were doing a music appreciation lesson connecting the meaning of music to other issues and cultures. In Kelsey Mulvihill's kindergarten class students were in circle expressing their feelings, and then they honoured a student's birthday with a song. In grade 5, Paul Kostamo, Tara Pringle and Laura Eastwood's students were learning about government structures by undertaking an election process – complete with myself as Prime Minister and Principal Beveridge and Vice Principal Chand as Premiers. I briefly visited with Heidi Wightman, an Education Assistant who was hard at work. I popped into Heidi Waterman's grade 1 class where students were doing a literacy activity. Belinda Harnden's grade 6 class was planning a vacation trip – including budgeting. Danica Marining's grade 3s were researching and creating guessing books about animals. Grade 4 students in Kaira Pena's class were doing math. Karen Todd's grade 4 students were exploring local animals and the connection to Indigenous teachings. Celebrations and traditions was the topic for grade 1s in Jennifer Burns' class.

Artists for Kids



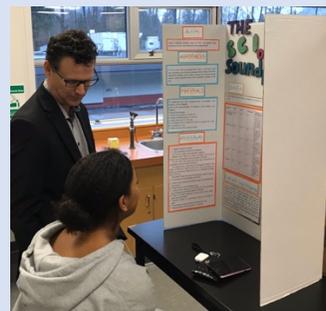
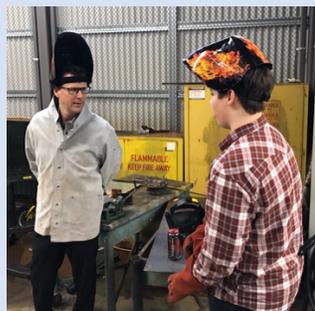
Grade 7 students from Dorothy Lynas Elementary worked with Artists for Kids' Daylen Luchsinger in the Gordon Smith Gallery and the Bill Reid Studio. They created some awesome drawings. I was lucky enough to also partake in creating my own art. Our art was focused on dwelling, space and dimension.

Ross Road Elementary School



My visit started by spending time with PAC chair, Linda Munro. Then I checked-out Laurel Booker's grade 2/3 class – they were doing their morning message and number problems. I joined Calie Lovegrove's grade 5 class for their weekly class meeting where I was interviewed quite extensively and had a lively discussion about snowball throwing and whether or not it is appropriate at school. I saw in-action preparation for the school musical – The Aristocrats led by music teacher Suzanne Morgan. Angelee Bulsara's grade 6/7 students wrote letters to me as part of their weekly reflections. Some of them read me their letters and I answered their questions. Students were quite interested in what goes into the decision to call a snow day.

Sutherland Secondary



From welding, to law, ceramics, and science fair, the students at Sutherland enjoyed talking about and demonstrating what they have been working on this semester. I had the pleasure of spending time with Mark Fortin learning about welding by having it modelled by industrious grade 12 students.

It was a pleasure to be taught the ropes of welding by Quinn B. I also experienced the grade 8 science Fair in Amy Bratberg's class where I learned that plants grow better to classical music vs rock! I touched into Veis Dokhani's art class, which was working on their ceramic project. I was impressed with the creativity and artistic talent on display. My day ended with a visit to Jeff Bruchesi's class where I experienced "TedTalks" on various topics: Genetics, Domestic Violence law, etc. I was impressed with the level of discourse amongst the students on very heavy topics.

Vancouver Coastal Health updates

Coronavirus (named 2019-nCoV)

Vancouver Coastal Health would like to advise North Vancouver School District that the risk to the general public, including school-age children, is very low. Medical Health Officers continue to monitor the situation closely, and will provide further advice and information as it becomes available. At this time, reports indicate that, similar to influenza, this virus is spread when a sick person coughs or sneezes. Most of the reported cases are only showing mild symptoms and are well enough to stay home. As with influenza, elderly people and those with underlying health conditions are more likely to develop severe disease and require hospitalization. In the meantime, people are reminded to follow proper hygiene etiquette during the cold and flu season. This includes proper hand-washing with soap and water, covering your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, and staying home when you are sick.

North Vancouver Urgent & Primary Care Centre (UPCC)

The [North Vancouver Urgent & Primary Care Centre \(UPCC\)](#) now offers x-ray services on-site. Located at suite 210 (east elevator), 221 West Esplanade in North Vancouver, the UPCC is open 365 days a year, Monday to Saturday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.