

Superintendent's Report



To: Parents/Guardians

From: Mark Pearmain, Superintendent, North Vancouver School District

Announcements

Halloween Safety Tips

Halloween is a wonderful time of celebration for our community and families. We enjoy it when students dress up for Halloween, but we do ask for your cooperation to help keep Halloween safe and fun for everyone. We celebrate diversity and inclusion in the North Vancouver School District and expect that students be respectful when selecting costumes. There are also important safety considerations that students and parents need to be aware of. Please click [HERE](#) for details.

Litterless Lunch 2019

Our 2019 school district-wide Litterless Lunch campaign is on now and runs until October 25. This year our campaign ties in with Waste Reduction Week in Canada, so let's show the rest of Canada how we do things in North Vancouver schools. Please consider providing lunches that do not include any waste (aside from organic food waste).

Facilities Updates

Argyle Secondary School: Replacement Update

Construction continues on the new replacement school with a completion date of September 2020. Concrete pouring of the second floor of the East Wing has commenced and installation of the Glulam beams is in process.

Handsworth Secondary School: Replacement Update

At this point, 95 per cent costing for the project is complete. The next major milestone is the public tender phase (November 2019-January 2020). Then, construction should commence in January 2020. Target occupancy of the new building is September 2021, with demolition of the existing school and construction of the new field in late 2021/early 2022.

Mountainside Secondary School: Seismic Upgrade

Seismic mitigation work commenced in July 2019 with demolition in Phase 1 of the project complete. We are currently beginning soil work in preparation for the external support structures to be constructed.

School visits

Windsor Secondary



My morning started with a visit to see Lisa, Anna and Archie – three staff members who were hard at work supporting a student with complex needs. I then caught up with Nancy Deminger and learned of her deep love of Shakespeare. “Bring on year 45” was the tagline when I met with Jack Lewis – he has been a teacher for 44 years; 39 of which have been in the North Vancouver School District at Windsor Secondary! I was then able to sneak in some math with Andrew Shobridge. Matt Burnett then welcomed me to catch a glimpse of art class. Students were making their own clothes in Toni Lazarova’s textiles class. Shawn Myers was incorporating technology into his classes with tech tubs. I then saw Jim Schumann’s PE class working on their physical literacy and heard about the intergenerational choir from Adam Kozak. Finally, Fia, Angela and Joanne showed me their great work supporting students with complex needs.

Sherwood Park Elementary



The new self-regulation room at Sherwood Park is really something. Two students allowed me to observe as they used the room. It was really special to see how the room calmed one student down, and increased the other student’s energy levels. Both students were engaged and benefited from the design of the new space. Thank you to Steph Helm (Learning Support Teacher), Troy Chapman (Education Assistant) and Sarah Slen (Occupational Therapist) for showing me the power of this room in action. I then spent time in Mallory MacMillan’s class, where the calm and purposeful classroom design was really impactful. Henry Schooner, Indigenous Support Worker, was doing a drum lesson, which was followed by a lesson taught by Cory Howie, Occupational Therapist, about self-regulation in the classroom. I then did some math games with students in David Mathieson’s class. I finished my visit in Mahshid Sabetghadam’s class, where her French Immersion students presented to me their practical inventions; from the “everything” sweater, to a chopstick aid, to music playing hats – the students’ creativity, entrepreneurship and ability to explain their inventions in both English and French were impressive.

Staff Collaboration Visit – Lynn Valley Elementary

I was pleased to join the staff at Lynn Valley Elementary as they delved into the Second Step program. This program is geared at supporting the Social Emotional Learning and Mental Health of all students.