

Superintendent's Report



To: Parents/Guardians

From: Mark Pearmain, Superintendent, North Vancouver School District

Announcements

Parents website section

The North Vancouver School District has consolidated information relevant to parents into one location on our website. The [Parents](#) tab is located in the very top right corner of the school district website and all school websites (on a mobile device it is located under *Utility Links* at the bottom of the website homepage). Several new pages were added to the Parents website section over the summer, including a new [Technology systems](#) section that outlines the various technologies that the school district uses to execute business functions and to communicate with parents, and a new [PAC & School funded projects](#) section that outlines useful school district guidelines for PAC projects.

SchoolMessenger – App is ready!

The SchoolMessenger communication app for parents is ready! This app allows parents to receive information from their child's school and the school district directly on their mobile phones. It also allows parents to select their own notification and message preferences. Parents with more than one child will see messages for all of their children within the one app, but separated by child. The app is also available on a desktop computer for those who would like to have all of their messages in one place, but do not want to receive their messages on a mobile device. Please click [HERE](#) for instructions on how to set-up both the app and desktop version of SchoolMessenger. Please note: you do not need to set-up the app or desktop version unless you would like to; all parents will still receive emails and emergency/attendance notifications regardless of having the SchoolMessenger app.

Walk/Roll to school

WHY WALK OR ROLL TO SCHOOL?



Students are encouraged to walk or roll to and from school. There are many benefits of walking/rolling to school, including: better mental and physical health, increased student safety, enhanced community connections, and less traffic congestion (please click on the image to the left for further information). If walking/rolling is not feasible, consider carpooling, public transit or drive-to-five. Families are encouraged to determine their own ways to get to/from school other than in single family vehicles. By

doing so, we also support those who cannot walk/roll – including our students with special needs and students with injuries – by allowing those parents access to drive and park.

New catchments now in effect

From March to May 2019, the North Vancouver School District undertook two catchment reviews to determine the feasibility of changing catchment areas to balance enrolment between schools (Capilano Elementary/Norgate Community Elementary and Eastview Elementary/Lynn Valley Elementary). After receiving community feedback and analyzing suggestions and concerns, both proposed catchment changes are now in effect. All registrations that occur from September 1, 2019, onward are now within the revised catchment areas. Please click [HERE](#) for the updated school district catchment areas map.

Information

School Board Trustees – School liaison assignments

Trustees of the North Vancouver Board of Education are assigned as liaisons to Families of Schools. Liaison trustees support specific schools to ensure each school is represented at the Board level. This year, trustees have new school liaison assignments, as follows:

- Trustee Christie Sacré, Board Chair
Liaison schools: Seycove Family of Schools (Cove Cliff, Dorothy Lynas, Sherwood Park)
- Trustee George Tsiakos, Board Vice Chair
Liaison schools: Handsworth Family of Schools (Canyon Heights, Cleveland, Highlands, Montroyal)
- Trustee Devon Bruce
Liaison schools: Mountainside Secondary, NV Distributed Learning (Braemar, Capilano, Carisbrooke, Norgate)

- Trustee Cyndi Gerlach
Liaison schools: Argyle Family of Schools (Boundary, Lynn Valley, Ross Road, Upper Lynn)
- Trustee Megan Higgins
Liaison schools: Windsor Family of Schools (Blueridge, Lynnmour, Seymour Heights)
- Trustee Kulvir Mann
Liaison schools: Carson Family of Schools (Larson, Queen Mary, Westview)
- Trustee Mary Tasi Baker
Liaison schools: Sutherland Family of Schools (Brooksbank, Eastview, Queensbury, Ridgeway)

Public Board Meetings – Time Change

Starting in September 2019, all Public Board Meetings of the North Vancouver School District Board of Education will begin at 6:30 p.m. (Public Board Meetings previously started at 7 p.m.) All parents are welcome to attend the meetings. If you are unable to attend but would like to watch online, all Public Board Meetings are livestreamed on the school district website (beginning at 6:30 p.m.). Each meeting video is also archived online and can be watched at a later date.

Policy 214: Student Choice – Animal Dissection in the Classroom

At the June 18, 2019, Public Board Meeting, new [*Policy 214: Student Choice – Animal Dissection in the Classroom*](#) was approved by the Board of Education. In 2018, Sutherland students, under the guidance of their teacher mentor and student government supervisor, presented the idea of a student choice policy to the Board of Education at a Public Board Meeting. I am pleased to announce the implementation of this policy for the 2019/20 school year. As per Policy 214, students will have alternate approaches to dissection, which should be discussed at the beginning of the course.

Policy 304: Anaphylaxis

At the June 18, 2019, Public Board Meeting, revised [*Policy 304: Anaphylaxis*](#) was approved by the Board of Education. The policy and administrative procedures have been updated and a new Anaphylaxis Emergency Form has been developed with Vancouver Coastal Health.

Kids Plus no longer available

Kids Plus optional student accident insurance is no longer available. If you would like to purchase additional accident insurance for your child, please do so through your insurance company (home/auto).

Back to school message from the BC Minister of Education

Please click [HERE](#) to read a back to school letter to parents from Rob Fleming, Minister of Education.