

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I would like to begin this issue of the Superintendent's Report by providing you with an update regarding COVID-19.

Mask Wearing

Today, Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry and Honourable Minister of Education Jennifer Whiteside announced an update to the K-12 education health and safety guidelines. Starting Monday, October 4, 2021, **all students in B.C. schools** will be required to wear a mask when inside a school building, including while at their desks. Click [HERE](#) to view the media release.

We welcome the government's efforts to expand health and safety measures for K-12 students. We also acknowledge:

- Students in grade 4-12, staff and other adults (i.e. visitors) are already wearing masks;
- There are allowable exemptions to mask wearing (refer to page 20 of the [Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#)); and
- We may need to allow time for some of our littlest learners to adjust to the change in mask wearing requirements.

We are acutely aware the North Vancouver School District community of students, families and staff is one that cares deeply for one another—their safety, health and well-being—and will work together to ensure this and any potential future changes to health and safety measures in schools are implemented in a supportive and respectful manner.

School Exposures and Preventative Measures

With COVID-19 cases within the community, and schools a reflection of what is happening in the community, we should expect school exposure events to continue. As a gentle reminder, we are asking everyone to be cautious with their social interactions, especially for those who are not fully vaccinated. We also ask both staff and students (the latter with the assistance of parents/guardians) to please continue to complete a



[Daily Health Check](#). If a staff member or a student is feeling ill or you think you may have been exposed to COVID-19, please stay home and follow the directions of a healthcare provider.

We continue to review our communicable disease prevention and exposure control measures in schools, and in light of the recent COVID-19 exposures significantly impacting one of our elementary school communities (Capilano), the North Vancouver School District has asked elementary school administration teams to initiate additional preventative measures including:

- Adjusting class seating plans to make use of all available space.
- Limiting movement between classes, both indoors and outdoors.
- Minimizing/avoiding group work.
- Maintaining staggered recess and lunch periods and/or creating separate play zones, where possible.
- Strictly enforcing the wearing of face masks for those who are required and can wear one (recognizing there are acceptable exceptions to this) and supporting all students (K-12) with wearing a face mask.
- Reinforcing regular handwashing and hand hygiene practices, particularly when entering and leaving a shared location.
- Encouraging students and staff to maximize personal spacing.

With respect to Capilano Elementary, I would like to acknowledge Principal Jeenece Chand and Vice Principal Stephanie Maki for their tremendous leadership through a very challenging time as COVID-19 cases continue to be reported in that community. I also raise my hands in appreciation to the staff and families of Capilano Elementary for their continued support and kindness towards all those impacted by COVID-19.

School Exposure Notifications

Our process for communicating school exposure notifications will continue in accordance with the provincial [Management of Illness and Exposures at Schools protocols](#). We are committed to communicating with you what we are permitted to share. Our health authority, Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH), has assured us it will contact anyone who must self-isolate or self-monitor as a result of a school exposure. Information will be posted on the [VCH COVID-19 school exposure listing](#) web page.

COVID-19 Resources and Information

New and/or updated COVID-19 resources, also available on the [COVID-19](#) section of our website, are now available for your review. I encourage everyone to take the time to read the information provided through these resources:

- [Updated Daily Health Check](#) (PDF). Provided by the Ministry of Education, please note the updated information concerning travel outside of Canada. Translated versions will be made available soon and posted to our website [HERE](#).
- [BCCDC Contact Tracing in Schools](#) (infographic). Provided by the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC), this infographic explains the contact tracing process in schools.
- [BCCDC Contact Tracing in Schools](#) (document). Provided by the BCCDC, this document explains the contact tracing process in schools and the COVID-19 notification process when an individual attended school while infectious.
- [Updated BCCDC K-12 Schools and COVID-19: Parents and Students](#) (web)
- [Updated Vancouver Coastal Health \(VCH\) COVID-19 information for school communities](#) (web)
- [VCH COVID-19 school exposure listing](#) (web)

Thank you for reviewing the information shared here and keeping yourself informed with the ever-changing situation we find ourselves in due to COVID-19. I also thank you all for your commitment to maintaining the behaviours that will keep schools safe and healthy learning environments for students and staff.

With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Pearmain".

Mark Pearmain
Superintendent of Schools

In this Issue

Announcements

- Truth and Reconciliation Week: September 27 – October 1
- Anti-Racism Steering Committee: Upcoming Survey Invitation
- National Principals' Month
- Foster Family Month

Information

- Foundation Skills Assessment
- Be Bear Aware

NVSD Events

- Gordon Smith Gallery of Canadian Art: Beyond the Horizon Exhibition
- Standing Committee Meeting – October 5
- Public Board Meeting – October 19
- Kindergarten Orientation Information – October 20

NVSD Registrations

- AFK After School Art Classes – Registration Open
- 2022/2023 Kindergarten Registration

Announcements

Truth and Reconciliation Week: September 27 – October 1

Truth and Reconciliation Week concludes today. Throughout the week, the school district community honoured our commitment to championing truth, healing and reconciliation and embedding Indigenous ways of knowing in our teaching and learning. Students, educators and community safely came together (e.g., virtual assemblies) to listen to the stories of survivors, raise the Every Child Matters flag (logo designed by Indigenous Support Worker Ann Marchand), and/or sing and drum the Coast Salish Anthem.

As a school district, we hope all Canadians, and especially residents of the North Shore, took the time on September 30, the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, to honour the lives of the children who did not come home, acknowledge and honour the lived experiences of the survivors of the Indian residential school system, and commit to taking a step forward to do better for the current and future generations of children.

Resources to support individuals and communities on this personal and collective journey are in abundance. I would like to share some links to support you on this journey:

- [Indigenous Education Flyer](#)
- 'Education the pathway forward': North Shore schools reflect on truth and reconciliation ([North Shore News article](#))

- Students raise Every Child Matters flag at Capilano Elementary ([NVSD blog post](#))
- Truth, healing and reconciliation, by Tsnomot, Brad Baker ([NVSD blog post](#))
- My Indigenous learning journey, by Dr. Pius Ryan ([NVSD blog post](#))

May we all continue to go forward with courage.

Anti-Racism Steering Committee: Upcoming Survey Invitation

In September 2020, the Board of Education recommended and passed a motion “that the Board of Education direct the Superintendent to create a Representative Working Group to explore the prevalence of explicit and implicit racism and micro-aggressions within the North Vancouver School District.” Since then, the school district’s Anti-Racism Steering Committee, co-chaired by students Mabel Nahanee (Tesaxlewet) and Jessica Day, and Superintendent Mark Pearmain, has contracted Bakau Consulting to survey NVSD students, staff and families about your lived experiences within the school district.

On Monday, October 4, you will receive an invitation, including introductory video message by Mabel and Jessica, to complete a confidential, anonymous and voluntary survey. Please take the time to both watch the video and share your experiences and thoughts on opportunity and barriers through survey completion. Your participation will help support the school district’s ongoing commitment to ensuring to a welcoming, safe and inclusive culture for all school district community members.

National Principals’ Month

October is National Principals’ Month. Please join me in acknowledging the principals and vice principals of the North Vancouver School District who every day, work to establish positive, vibrant and healthy learning communities, both within their school and the wider school district community. Whether supporting students and staff to achieve their own academic, personal and/or professional goals; building a strong welcoming and inclusive culture; or ensuring the successful day-to-day operations of a school, the work of school leadership is crucial and appreciated.

Foster Family Month

October is Foster Family Month in British Columbia. This year marks the 31st year of honouring and celebrating the extended family and foster caregivers who provide a safe, caring and loving home to children and youth in the province. Please join me in thanking the many caregivers in our community who have dedicated their time and energy to improving the lives of our more vulnerable children and youth in British Columbia.

Information

Foundation Skills Assessment

The Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) is an annual province-wide assessment of students' academic skills, and provides a snapshot of students' foundational skills in literacy and numeracy. All students in grades 4 and 7 are required by the Ministry of Education to write the FSA. The FSA will be administered at schools between October 4 and October 29, 2021. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Be Bear Aware

According to the North Shore Black Bear Society (NSBBS), fall is the most active time for bears. North Shore residents can expect to see bears on the trails and passing through neighbourhoods, particularly as they search for natural food. Here are a few things we can all do to keep ourselves and bears safe this season:

- Keep garbage and organics in a secure area (garage/shed) until the morning of collection.
- Freeze odorous organics such as meat and fish. Wrap organics in newspaper to help keep carts clean.
- Collect all fruit from trees, collect fallen fruit daily and keep in a secure area.
- Clean your BBQ grill and grease trap after each use.
- Feed pets inside and keep excess food in a secure area.
- Keep garage and lower level doors closed unless you are in the immediate area.
- Keep vehicles locked and free of food and garbage.
- Do not follow a bear you see in the neighbourhood or on a trail for a photograph.

The [NSBBS website](#) is full of information and tips to support North Shore residents responsibly coexist with bears; a link has been added to our [Outdoor Safety](#) web page.

NVSD Events

Gordon Smith Gallery of Canadian Art: Beyond the Horizon Exhibition

This year's fall exhibition, Beyond the Horizon, is an expression that encourages us to consider what is "farther than the possible limit of sight, beyond what we can foresee, know or anticipate." It is both visual – what we see – and conceptual – what we know. The horizon as a metaphor provides us with an opportunity to challenge and evaluate our own ways of knowing. The artists in this exhibition expand conventional uses of materials

and explore modes of making through collaboration with other artists and the land. Click [HERE](#) for more information about this exhibition, now open, including gallery hours.

Standing Committee Meeting - October 5

The next Board of Education Standing Committee Meeting takes place virtually on Tuesday, October 5 at 7 p.m. Visit our [Meetings & Minutes](#) page for information on how you can provide input and to review the complete agenda (available on the Thursday afternoon preceding the public meeting).

Public Board Meeting – October 19

The next Board of Education Public Board Meeting takes place virtually on Tuesday, October 19 at 6:30 p.m. Visit our [Meetings & Minutes](#) page for information on how you can provide input and to review the agenda and board package (available on the Thursday afternoon preceding the public meeting).

Kindergarten Orientation Information – October 20

A kindergarten orientation information presentation for parents/guardians of children who will enter kindergarten in September 2022 will be available online [HERE](#) starting Wednesday, October 20.

NVSD Registrations

AFK After School Art Classes – Registration Open

After School Art for students in grades K-12 is back, with both in-person and virtual classes available. Students will explore new techniques and bring their own imagery and stories to life in drawing, painting, printmaking, ceramics, and more! All classes are taught by B.C. certified art specialist teachers. For more information and to register, visit the [Artists for Kids website](#).

2022/2023 Kindergarten Registration

Registration for students entering kindergarten in September 2022 (children born in 2017) runs from October 25 - December 17. Detailed instructions on the registration process, including forms and documentation required, will be available soon [HERE](#).

The North Vancouver School District is situated upon the unceded traditional territory of the Skwxwú7mesh Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation. We would like to thank the Coast



Salish people and value the opportunity to learn, share and grow on this traditional territory.

Updates from the Superintendent, including the bi-weekly Superintendent's Report, are available [HERE](#).

