

Superintendent's Report



Dear Parents and Guardians,

The weather events of the past week have been devastating for many communities in British Columbia, and our thoughts go out to those who have been affected. These natural disaster events serve as a reminder to all of us how important it is to remain informed and prepared. Within this issue of the Superintendent's Report, we have included information about the public alert system, [Alertable](#), and a resource to support youth and children process natural disaster events.

I would like to thank those of you who have asked how we can support those impacted by the floods. I have reached out to school districts in those communities and offered our support. On a personal level, if you would like to support communities impacted by last week's flooding (e.g. donating funds, supplies or services), we've curated a few resources, with the help of school district colleagues from across the province:

- [Canadian Red Cross](#)
- [United Way's United for BC Flood Response Fund](#)
- [BC Agricultural Council](#)
- [BC Dairy Association](#)
- [BC SPCA](#)

Lastly, we are now in respiratory (flu) season. As a gentle reminder, if you (e.g. student, staff, school visitor) are ill, please do not come to school, but stay home and seek medical advice. As a community, we did a remarkable job last year—completing a daily health check, staying home when ill, practicing good personal hygiene habits such as handwashing—and we need everyone to continue those practices this year. Please continue be thoughtful of those around you.

With appreciation,

Mark Pearmain
Superintendent of Schools



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Board of Education Chair and Vice Chair Update

In accordance with NVSD Policies [101](#) and [104](#) and Section 67(4) of the [School Act](#), the annual election of Board Chair and Vice Chair was held at the November 16, 2021, Public Board Meeting. We are pleased to announce Trustee Kulvir Mann has been acclaimed Board Chair and Trustee Linda Munro Vice Chair. Trustees Mann and Munro will serve in their respective roles for the term commencing December 1, 2021.

We would also like to acknowledge and thank Trustee George Tsiakos who for the past three years served the Board in a leadership capacity—two years as Vice Chair and the past year as Chair—and will now assume a Trustee role. Chair Tsiakos supported the Board and the school district’s senior executive team through the development and launch of the 10-year strategic plan and COVID-19. *Thank you for your service to the North Vancouver School District!*

Argyle School Opening Video

On Wednesday, October 13, 2021, the North Vancouver Board of Education hosted an official school opening for Argyle Secondary, which included the raising of the Kayachtn (welcome figure). We are pleased to share with you a 3-minute highlight [video](#) of the event, and [photos](#).

Information

Supporting Children and Youth during Natural Disaster Events

The Ministry of Education has created a new resource for educators, families and the wider community that includes suggestions and links to further resources to consider in responding to the mental health and well-being needs for those affected by recent events. The document also includes flood-specific resources. This resource is available through our [Social Emotional Learning and Mental Health](#) website.

Alertable Public Alerting System

Residents and visitors to the North Shore are encouraged to sign up for *Alertable*, which is used by [North Shore Emergency Management](#) (NSEM) to send out alerts for emergencies (e.g. severe weather, natural disasters, industrial hazards, transportation accidents or marine spills). Alerts will also be sent if one needs to evacuate, shelter-in-place or if there is an Amber Alert. To sign up, download the free [Alertable app for iOS](#) or [Android smartphones](#). Other options include text, email, phone, website and social media. Choose the solution that’s right for you at nsem.ca/alertable.

School Gatherings, Events and Spectators

Anyone (participant, staff, coach, parent, volunteer, official, spectator, etc.) who attends a school-organized event that takes place on school property (typically after-hours, indoors or outdoors) will be required to complete a daily health check and sign-in process. Signage, which includes a QR code, will direct guests to the designated spectator area.

There will be limited spectators based on seated capacity. Your patience is appreciated as schools operationalize these requirements.

Note: Proof of vaccination is not required for student events and activities in K-12 schools ([source](#)).

Daytime visitors to a school (i.e. for routine school business) will continue to complete a daily health check and sign-in/sign-out at a school's main office.

COVID-19 and International Travel Requirements

The federal government continues to outline requirements for people travelling internationally, including to the United States and Mexico:

- Students, staff and other adults who are **not fully vaccinated** and have travelled outside of Canada **cannot** attend school until a minimum 14 days after arrival, as part of [federal requirements](#).
- **Fully vaccinated** students, staff and other adults who have travelled outside of Canada may qualify for the [fully vaccinated traveler exemption](#). Individuals qualified as fully vaccinated travelers are exempt from quarantine and from Day-8 testing.
- Specific information is also available on the [COVID-19 requirements for fully vaccinated travelers and unvaccinated children less than 12 years of age](#) web page. This information is also available in multiple languages via a downloadable PDF; click [HERE](#) for the English version.

If you plan on travelling over the Winter Break, please take the time to carefully read these Government of Canada resources.

NVSD Events

AFK Winter Holiday Print Sale begins November 26

[Artists for Kids \(AFK\)](#) is a unique, not-for-profit, self-sustaining art education program operated by the NVSD. AFK relies on donor support to offer a range of artist- and educator-led school and community programs, as well as scholarships for post-secondary Arts Education and bursaries for community programming, including direct support for its summer camp program.

AFK's *Winter Holiday Sale* begins on Friday, November 26 (and ends on December 16) and offer a 25% discount on select AFK Limited Edition Prints. If you are looking to start or grow your collection of limited edition prints by some of Canada's most renowned artists, know that proceeds from your purchase will go toward supporting the next generation of artists. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to view AFK's print collection.

Public Board Meeting – December 7

The next Board of Education Public Board Meeting takes place virtually on Tuesday, December 7 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).

Explore & Create Saturday Art Program

Children aged 5 to 12 are invited to visit the Gordon Smith Gallery on Saturdays between 1 and 3 p.m. for art activities that are collage and drawing based and inspired by the current exhibition, [Beyond the Horizon](#). Admission is by donation (\$5 suggestion per attendee) and parental/guardian supervision is required. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Gordon Smith Gallery of Canadian Art: Beyond the Horizon

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, including gallery hours.

NVSD Registrations

Artists for Kids' After School Art – Registration open

Taught by art specialist teachers and assisted by secondary art students, AFK's After School Art classes provide students the opportunity to further their artistic ability and foster positive attitudes towards the visual arts. Registration for winter 2021 classes (virtual and in-person options available) is now open. Visit the [Artists for Kids website](#) for more information and to register.

2022/2023 Kindergarten Priority Placement Registration ends December 17

Registration (priority placement) for children entering kindergarten in September 2022 (children born in 2017) is open until December 17, 2021. Parents/legal guardians must book an appointment using our online booking system to register their child *in person* for kindergarten. Detailed instructions on the registration process, including forms and documentation required, are available [HERE](#).

An informational kindergarten orientation presentation is available [HERE](#).

Community Initiatives

CNV Climate & Environment Strategy Survey closes November 26

The City of North Vancouver is developing a Climate and Environment Strategy (CES) to eliminate carbon pollution and promote a healthy environment. The CES will be the City's playbook for planning and making decisions that prioritize the climate and environment today and over the next decade. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the strategy and share your feedback via the City's online survey, which closes at 4 p.m., Friday, November 26.

Good News Stories from the NVSD

Visit the [Learn, Share & Grow Blog](#) and [News & Announcements](#) section of our website to stay informed on the good work that is happening here. *Enjoy!*

- Carson Graham Eagles land berth in provincial semifinals at BC Place ([North Shore News article](#))
- Growing local food literacy at Cheakamus ([NVSD blog post](#))
- Lynn Valley pro-d focuses on wellness and outdoor education ([NVSD blog post](#))
- New school board chair acclaimed in North Vancouver ([North Shore News article](#))
- North Shore teams sweep podium at cross-country running provincial championships ([North Shore News article](#))
- Environmental stewardship at Eastview Elementary ([NVSD blog post](#))
- Lynn Valley student wins LGH Foundation Christmas card contest with 'whimsical' design ([North Shore News article](#))
- North Vancouver's Savannah Bauder named Canada West rugby player of the year (NVSD alumna; [North Shore News article](#))



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.

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

