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Announcements

Continuity of Learning

As we have [shared with our community](#), the school district has planned and prepared for the ongoing safe operations of our schools and for the continuity of teaching and learning during what has shown itself to be a very fluid situation. We are monitoring the attendance at each school closely and are fully prepared to adapt to any future circumstance that may arise.

In the event a school's administration team, in close consultation with school district leadership, determines a shift to online learning for a particular class is needed, we would work to operationalize that decision so that remote, online learning would begin immediately the next school day and for the remainder of the week.

We are committed to providing those impacted by such a decision with timely communication so that arrangements can be made by all parties. We do appreciate a shift to online learning will cause disruption to personal and family schedules and pose challenges for some. In the event a class needs to move to online learning:

- Students with diverse/exceptional needs or disabilities or students whose parents/guardians work in K-12, healthcare or are first responders, can continue to go to school.
- Laptops, subject to availability, will be loaned out to students.

School administration teams best understand the needs of their community, and families are asked to connect directly with their school principal by email to make arrangements regarding either of the above situations. In addition, if a shift to online learning poses an extreme challenge to you, please also contact your school principal.

Black Excellence Day

"As a lead up to Black History Month, [Black Excellence Day](#) is a day to rejoice Black history and learn about Black stories, Black art and Black people, and a day to stand in solidarity with Black Canadians" ([source](#)).

The Province has proclaimed January 14, 2022, Black Excellence Day. The North Vancouver School District, along with other school districts in the province, has registered the school district for an online event taking place on Black Excellence Day. Hosted by the [Ninandotoo Society](#) and the Burnaby School District, the event is a learning opportunity and celebration of Black achievements, stories, art, people, joy, love and history.

The school district is pleased to support school communities in their teaching and learning in this area, to build a deeper understanding and appreciation of community members' lived experiences and to celebrate the diversity of our community.

Anti-Racism Focus Groups

As part of the North Vancouver School District's commitment to learning from the community's lived experiences to help ensure a welcoming, safe and inclusive culture for all school district community members, parents/guardians are invited to participate in the anti-racism focus groups scheduled to take place via Zoom on Wednesday, January 26 and Thursday, February 3 at 7 p.m.

If you are interested in participating in the focus groups, which are facilitated by Bakau Consulting, please email Consultant Will Shelling at will@bakauconsulting.com, and use the subject line: NVSD Parent/Guardian Focus Group [INSERT PREFERRED DATE]. You will be registered in the focus group if you receive a calendar invite.

Bakau limits the number of focus group participants to facilitate meaningful and authentic dialogue. Once a focus group has been filled, Bakau will keep your information on a waitlist. Should a spot become available, you will be contacted. Please direct any questions about the focus groups to Bakau Consulting at will@bakauconsulting.com. Thank you for your participation.

Upcoming Engagement Opportunities

In the coming weeks, we will be inviting members of the NVSD community to share feedback in the following areas:

- Secondary School Schedule (for secondary school students, families and staff)
- Proposed 2022/2023 School Calendar
- Budget Priorities for 2022/2023



More information about how you can get involved will be made available via NVSD communication channels, including the Superintendent's Report, in the coming weeks. Be sure to participate and provide your input.

Information

Board Policy Updates

At the December 7, 2021, Public Board Meeting, the following policies were revised and/or adopted:

[Policy 710: Accumulated Operating Surplus](#) (revision)

[Policy 711: Financial Planning and Reporting](#) (new)

[Policy 810: Child Care Programs on Board Property](#) (new)

Furthermore, Policy 701: Budgets was repealed as it is replaced by [Policy 711: Financial Planning and Reporting](#).

For more information, please refer to the materials in the [Board Package](#) or the [Minutes](#) from the meeting, which will be posted following the January 18, 2022, Public Board Meeting.

Severe Weather Information

As winter weather events continue, we would like to remind parents and guardians, students and staff about our winter weather procedures and announcements. All NVSD schools will remain OPEN, if at all possible during winter weather, including snowfalls. Any district-wide closure will be decided by 6:30 a.m. and announced through the media, placed on the school district website and schools' websites, shared with parents/guardians via [SchoolMessenger](#) (email and/or text), and emailed to staff. For more information, please visit our [Severe Weather Information](#) web page.

SMS Text Messaging via SchoolMessenger

Parents/guardians who would like to receive SMS text messages when there is an emergency during school or non-school hours (e.g. severe weather or power outage) need to opt in for this service.



Typically, parents/guardians receive a [SchoolMessenger](#) text message on their mobile phone when their child first registers to school and registration is complete (similar to this): "North Vancouver School District 44 messages. Reply Y to confirm, HELP 4 info. Msg & data rates may apply. Msg freq varies. schoolmessenger.com/smsca"

Parents/guardians can also opt in to receive SMS text messages anytime by texting "Y" or "Yes" to 978338. Note: Standard message and data rates may apply.

Homestay Families Needed

Each year, the North Vancouver School District welcomes students from around the world to live and study in our vibrant community. We strive to place secondary school international students with families who live close to school to support each student's integration into the school and wider community.

There are secondary school international students in need of a homestay placement for the school term beginning February 2022. If you are interested in hosting an international student, please reach out to our International Education program office at international@sd44.ca. More information about the homestay program is available [HERE](#).

NVSD Events

Public Board Meeting – January 18

The next Board of Education Public Board Meeting takes place virtually on Tuesday, January 18 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).

Late French Immersion Information Session – January 19

An information session for Grade 5 students and their families interested in registering in the Late French Immersion program (Grade 6 entry) will be available [HERE](#) starting Wednesday, January 19. The session will be pre-recorded and available to watch at your convenience. For more information about the program, visit our [Late French Immersion](#) page.

Digital Media Youth Expo – January 29

Attend this year's [Digital Media Youth Expo](#), hosted by the NVSD's Digital Media Academy (DMA), and learn about the many educational and employment opportunities available in

the digital media industry. Students, families, teachers and community members meet virtually with representatives from many Lower Mainland post-secondary schools, local and global organizations, industry experts and studios involved in all aspects of digital media. In attendance this year are representatives in visual effects, animation, film, sound, photography, web design, and game design, along with a host of other realms. DMA students will also be available to showcase what they are working on, learning about, and inspired by, and answer questions about the DMA.

Standing Committee Meeting – February 8

The next Board of Education Standing Committee Meeting takes place virtually on Tuesday, February 8 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).

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

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.” 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

Elementary Band and Strings Program – Registration open

This program is open to students in Grades 5 – 7 for Band and Grades 4 – 7 for Strings. Registration for the 2022/2023 school year runs from January 10 – March 4, 2022. While there is a Late Registration enrolment period, this is subject to program availability and class size at a student’s school site, and is dependent on sufficient registrations received by March 4. More information, including program fees, is available [HERE](#).

Academies – Information Sessions and Application Period

The following Academies, open to secondary students, will be offered during the 2022/2023 school year. Please visit the Academy page for program-specific information, including a link to the online information session.

- [Volleyball](#) (Information session: January 18 at 7 p.m.)
- New! [Rowing](#) (Information session: January 19, 6:30 p.m.)
- [Robotics](#) (Information session: January 19 at 7 p.m.)
- [Soccer](#) (Information session: January 19 at 6 p.m. AND January 25 at 5 p.m.)
- [Dance](#) (Information session: January 20 at 6 p.m.)
- [Hockey Skills](#) (Information session: January 20 at 7 p.m.)
- [AFK Studio Art](#) (Information session: January 24 at 7 p.m.)
- [Digital Media](#) (Information session: January 25 at 7 p.m.)
- [Digital Media Lite](#) (Information session: January 25 at 7 p.m.)
- [Field Hockey](#) (Information session: January 26 at 7 p.m.)
- [Basketball](#) (Information session: January 26 at 7 p.m.)

[Applications](#) will be accepted between January 19 to February 21, 2022.

Performance Learning Program Information Session – January 27

The Performance Learning Program (PLP) is an enhanced secondary program for students entering Grades 8 to 12. With a focus on deeper learning, students master core academic content, think critically to solve complex problems, work collaboratively, communicate effectively, and develop academic and growth mindsets. An information session takes place on Thursday, January 27 at 7 p.m. Click [HERE](#) for more information (the information session link will be provided on this page).

IB Diploma Programme – Upcoming Key Dates

The [International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme \(DP\)](#) is an internationally recognized, rigorous university preparatory two-year program for students in Grades 11 and 12 that leads to a qualification that is widely recognized by the world's leading universities. It is offered at Carson Graham Secondary.

Key Dates:

- **February 15: online information session.** The meeting link will be posted on the [Diploma Programme](#) web page in January.

- **February 16-17: “DP for a Day.”** Prospective students in grade 10 can explore the program firsthand and meet IB coordinators, the current cohort and teachers. Register via email to [Cora Pross](#).
- **February 18: Application deadline.** Students submit a comprehensive application package, along with their grade 10 report card. Click here for additional [application information](#).

North Vancouver Online Learning (NVOL) – Registration open

NVOL provides students with rigorous, engaging, and interactive learning experiences. Students can choose to engage in their NVOL courses entirely remotely online or in a blended model of online and in-person interactions at our NVOL Centre. In addition, students can choose from a full suite of [courses](#) from Grades 8 through 12 in both English and French.

The French Immersion Online Course offerings allow students the opportunity to meet the requirements of their Diplôme de fin d'études secondaires en Colombie-Britannique online through L' École Virtuelle de Vancouver nord. Click [HERE](#) for a complete list of our French Immersion course offerings.

Online registration for NVOL is open; click [HERE](#) for more information.

AFK's After School Art – Registration open + NEW class

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 is now open (virtual and in-person options available), including for the **new Drawing & Painting Magic class**. Visit the [Artists for Kids](#) website for more information and to register. While you're there, be sure to check out the [artwork](#) created by students in the Fall 2021 After School Art Program.

Community Initiatives

Shape the City of North Vancouver's Mobility Strategy

The City of North Vancouver is developing a Mobility Strategy with a vision of creating healthy streets that work for everyone. The new strategy will be the playbook for planning and making decisions about city streets and how residents and visitors get around for the next decade. As it works towards a final version for City Council to consider later this

spring, you're invited to provide input on the Draft Mobility Strategy. Click [HERE](#) for more information; the deadline to participate is February 6 at 4 p.m.

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!*

- Something Awesome at Seymour Heights ([NVSD blog post](#))
- North Vancouver dancer kicking up her heels at Moulin Rouge in Paris (NVSD alumna; [North Shore News article](#))
- Here are the winners of the 2021 Canadian Music Class Challenge ([CBC article](#))
- Students in North Van to start classes in new Handsworth school in February ([North Shore News article](#))
- Lend a hand and 'take a seat' by buying a seat at Handsworth's new performing arts space ([North Shore News article](#))
- Proposed North Van gaming academy could level up next year ([North Shore News article](#))
- Windsor's holiday-themed reusable gift bags ([NVSD blog post](#))

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](#).