

In this Issue

A Message of Thanks from the Board of Education

Announcements

- Upcoming Changes to COVID-19 Province-Wide Restrictions
- Engagement Opportunities: Your Voice Matters
 - 2022/2023 Budget Priorities
- Indigenous-Focused Graduation Requirement
- Arts Week
- Climate Action and Sustainability Week

Information

- Approved 2022/2023 School Calendar
- International Travel Requirements and School
- North Shore Rescue's *Survive your Own Adventure* Video
- Student Password Change Initiative
- Supporting Children and Youth Process World Events
- Walking School Bus Pilot

NVSD Events

- Ready, Set, Learn – Begins April 1
- Standing Committee Meeting – April 5
- Public Board Meeting – April 12

NVSD Registrations

- YELL – Applications accepted until March 11
- Business and Gaming Entrepreneurship Lab – Registration open
- Artists for Kids' After School Art – Registration open
- AFKs' Paradise Valley Summer School of Arts - Registration open
- North Vancouver Online Learning (NVOL) – Registration open



Community Initiatives

- Community Dialogues: Emergence, Adaptation and Resilience

Good News Stories from the NVSD

A Message of Thanks from the Board of Education

Each year, the North Vancouver Board of Education takes time to reflect and acknowledge the countless number of people and organizations who contribute to the North Vancouver School District being a great place to learn, share, and grow.

The North Vancouver Board of Education is honoured to share with you a short [video](#)--a thank you--to acknowledge the wonderful support the school district has received this past year from teachers and staff; families and Parent Advisory Councils; education partner groups; Indigenous rights holders, Skwxwú7mesh Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation; provincial and municipal leaders and staff; business owners and external organizations; community members at large; and, of course, students.

The video also complements the annual [Community Report](#), which was distributed via the North Shore News to residents across the North Shore yesterday. The Community Report is yet another way in which we can share and celebrate with our community the progress the North Vancouver School District is making in pursuit of our vision to provide world-class instruction and a rich diversity of engaging programs to inspire success for every student and bring communities together.

We hope you recognize how much the North Vancouver School District community has achieved in providing learning environments where we can all learn, share, grow, and thrive together.

With thanks,

North Vancouver Board of Education

Announcements

Upcoming Changes to COVID-19 Province-Wide Restrictions

As shared by Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry on Thursday, March 10, when K-12 schools return from Spring Break, which for the North Vancouver School District is on Monday, March 28, **masks will no longer be required for students, staff and visitors.**

The decision to wear a mask or face covering is a personal choice for everyone, and one that should be supported and treated with respect.

For more information on additional upcoming changes to province-wide restrictions, click [HERE](#). For information specific to K-12 schools, click [HERE](#).

Engagement Opportunities – Your Voice Matters

2022/2023 Budget Priorities

Each year, the school district undertakes a public consultation process for input on budget priorities. School district stakeholders are invited and encouraged to provide their input on budget priorities that align with and support the school district's vision, values and strategic goals. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Feedback can be provided:

- Online through an anonymous and confidential [survey](#) until March 15, 2022.
- By email to budgetcomments@sd44.ca until March 15, 2022.
- By traditional mail addressed to: Secretary Treasurer, 2121 Lonsdale Avenue, North Vancouver, BC, V7M 2K6. Feedback must be received by March 15, 2022.
- Virtually through Microsoft Teams during the Public Standing Committee meeting scheduled for [April 5, 2022 at 7 p.m.](#)

Thank you for taking the time to share your feedback.

Indigenous-Focused Graduation Requirement

The Ministry of Education, in collaboration with the First Nations Education Steering Committee, recently announced that as part of the Province's commitments to truth, reconciliation, and anti-racism, the Ministry of Education is implementing an Indigenous-focused graduation requirement for all students. This is an important policy decision in the education sector on truth and reconciliation that is inclusive of all students and shows the importance of the work and learning for each student in their future to be an

educated citizen. Implementation of the new requirement is expected to involve a phased-in approach that would come into full effect in the 2023/2024 school year. Read the full media release [HERE](#).

The Ministry of Education has launched an online public engagement process to gather feedback on the proposed model for the new graduation requirement. Click [HERE](#) to access the online engagement opportunity.

Arts Week

The school district will be hosting Arts Week from April 4-8, to celebrate the Arts from K-12, and to offer a connection to our community and to each other. Arts Week will feature student performances, alongside conversations with educators and artists, within each of the Arts' disciplines. Arts Week has traditionally been an in-person event for students and staff. This year, with the move to an online format, access to performances and conversations will be via secure links hosted on the school district website, allowing for students and staff to celebrate what the Arts look like in all forms, from all schools and from our community. More information will be provided in the coming weeks.

Climate Action and Sustainability Week

From April 11 – 14, students and staff from across the school district will be taking part in the NVSD's first annual Climate Action and Sustainability Week.

In partnership with Ocean Wise and other community organizations, the school district is excited to offer students and staff a variety of learning activities, opportunities and resources that provide climate action education and champion sustainability. Events include:

- Monday, April 11: Virtual Kickoff Event.
- Tuesday, April 12: Take Action Art Contest
- Wednesday, April 13: BeAware Fair
- Thursday, April 14: Shoreline and Community Cleanup

We look forward to sharing with the community highlights from the week.

Information

Approved 2022/2023 School Calendar

The Board of Education approved the 2022/2023 School Calendar at the Public Board

Meeting held on Tuesday, March 8. The Approved School Calendar confirms the start/end, holiday dates, Curriculum Implementation Day and Staff Collaboration dates for the next school year. These dates remain as indicated in the Proposed School Calendar that was made available for public comment in February.

Pro D dates have **not** yet been confirmed; dates on the current calendar documents are "placeholder" or "example" dates at this time. North Vancouver Teachers' Association/NVTA (3) and school-based Staff Committee (2) selection of the 2022/2023 Pro D dates will be confirmed in May, and a final calendar will be published then. For more information on the 2022/2023 School Calendar, please visit the [District Calendar](#) web page.

International Travel Requirements and School

Vancouver Coastal Health's Rapid Response Team (RRT) has updated its International Travel and School resource to reflect changes to the Federal Government's [Travel Health Notice](#).

The RRT's [International Travel and School](#) info sheet provides the following clarity for travel and return to school: *Children under 12 years old, travelling with fully vaccinated adults, will continue to be exempt from quarantine, without any prescribed conditions limiting their activities. This means, for example, they no longer need to wait 14 days before attending school, camp or daycare.*

The school district's [COVID-19: Information and Resources](#) web page has been updated to reflect this update.

North Shore Rescue's *Survive your Own Adventure* Video

With Spring Break next week, bringing with it opportunities to explore our beautiful outdoors, the NVSD would like to remind you North Shore Rescue has created a [Survive Your Own Adventure](#) online, interactive video, designed to educate people about making good choices while enjoying the outdoors.

Please take some time with your family to go through the different scenarios and learn how you can make the time you spend exploring the North Shore's many trails, safe, enjoyable and memorable. The video is also available on our [Outdoor Safety](#) web page.

Student Password Change Initiative

The regular resetting of passwords is standard industry practice and one way to ensure the integrity and security of not only student and staff personal information but also North Vancouver School District technology systems.

The school district has recently initiated a mandatory password change initiative for staff. For students, the initiative will begin in April. For now, we wanted to bring this initiative to your attention. More information, including instructions and support documents, will be made available to families in the next issue of the Superintendent's Report, which will be issued the week of March 28.

Supporting Children and Youth Process World Events

Jeremy Church, District Principal, Safe and Healthy Schools, recently spoke with the North Shore News and shared practical suggestions on how families could talk to their children about difficult topics, including how to process world events. Click [HERE](#) to read the full article.

As a reminder, resources to help children, teens and families respond to stressful events, along with many others, are always available through our [Social Emotional Learning and Mental Health](#) website.

Walking School Bus Pilot

Congratulations to Larson, Queen Mary Community, Queensbury, Ridgeway, and Westview Elementary schools for piloting the Walking School Bus program this school year. This new initiative, led by TransLink, the City of North Vancouver, City of Vancouver and the Dedicated Action for School Health (DASH), brings groups of students from the same school together to walk under the supervision of designated leaders. Groups walk along predetermined routes each school day with planned stops to pick up or drop off students, like a conventional school bus would.

Click [HERE](#) to read more about the Walking School Bus program. Families or school administrators who would like to get involved with the program should reach out to DASH by emailing info@dashbc.ca.

NVSD Events

Ready, Set, Learn – Begins April 1

Ready, Set, Learn is an initiative aimed at encouraging and supporting children's early language and literacy skills. Intended for families and their 3-to 5-year-old children, Ready, Set, Learn events support preschool-aged children prepare for their eventual transition to Kindergarten and help foster positive connections among families, schools and early learning community partners.

Ready, Set, Learn events are free to attend. Events begin April 1 and run until May 13. Visit our [Ready, Set, Learn](#) web page for more information, including a full event listing.

Standing Committee Meeting – April 5

The next Board of Education Standing Committee Meeting takes place *in person* on Tuesday, April 5 at 7 p.m. Visit our [Meetings & Minutes](#) page for information on COVID-19 procedures for attending meetings in person, how you can provide input, and to review the complete agenda (available on the Thursday afternoon preceding the public meeting).

Public Board Meeting – April 12

The next Board of Education Public Board Meeting takes place *in person* on Tuesday, April 12 at 6:30 p.m. Visit our [Meetings & Minutes](#) page for information on COVID-19 procedures for attending meetings in person, how you can provide input, and to review the complete agenda (available on the Thursday afternoon preceding the public meeting).

NVSD Registrations

YELL – Applications accepted until March 11

The [Young Entrepreneurship and Leadership Launchpad \(YELL\)](#) provides Grade 11 and 12 students with a thorough understanding of how to apply entrepreneurial thinking to future studies, launching a business or entering the workforce. Students earn course credits toward graduation while working with teachers, business and community leaders and a mentor to design a student-led business concept. YELL is offered at Sutherland Secondary School and Handsworth Secondary School. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Business and Gaming Entrepreneurship Lab – Registration open

While space is limited, there is still time for secondary students to enrol in the school district's newest Academy, which will be offered to students in Grades 10-12 in the 2022/2023 school year.

The Business and Gaming Entrepreneurship Lab (Academy) will introduce students to the dynamic, global esports and gaming industry, which continues to attract new audiences and develop innovative new business models. Through a combination of in-class and experiential learning activities, students gain and learn how to apply their newly acquired foundational business knowledge to the esports and gaming industry. Coursework includes marketing, analytics, tournament and league management, special event management, accounting and communications. For more information, please visit the [Business of Gaming](#) web page or email academies@sd44.ca.

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 spring 2022 classes is now open. Visit the Artists for Kids' [website](#) for more information and to register.

AFKs' Paradise Valley Summer School of Arts - Registration open

Young artists ages 8-14 will explore their surroundings with artist Annie Canto in the beautiful setting of Paradise Valley. This overnight camp combines outdoor studio adventures, in-depth instruction in collage, drawing and painting, as well as daily recreational activities such as canoeing, hiking, archery and campfire singalongs. Students are taught by B.C. certified art specialist teachers and mentored by an acclaimed Canadian artist. Visit the Artists for Kids' [website](#) for more information and to register.

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.

Community Initiatives

Community Dialogues: Emergence, Adaptation and Resilience

NewToBC is hosting a series of community dialogues, which are opportunities for libraries, newcomers, settlement service providers and other community stakeholders to explore issues related to newcomer integration and service provision. Dialogue sessions will support and contribute to each community's local planning and immigration integration initiatives.

Attendees will:

- Increase understanding and capacity to respond to the evolving needs and challenges of newcomers.
- Explore best practices for accessing and sharing information about services.
- Share strategies to reach and connect to newcomers.
- Network with others to share what's worked, what's changed, and where to go from here.

Sessions began in February and continue through to March 25. For more information, click [HERE](#); register to attend a session [HERE](#).

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!*

- Windsor's Garden Club: Greening the world one plant at a time ([NVSD blog post](#))
- North Shore students explore career opportunities with the RCMP ([NVSD blog post](#))
- North Vancouver School District recognizes 25-year employees ([NVSD media release](#))
- North Vancouver's Cameron Alexander wins World Cup downhill gold (NVSD alumnus; [North Shore News article](#))

- Walking school bus program ramping up in North Vancouver ([North Shore News article](#))
- Argyle Pipers win Grade 9 girls provincial basketball title ([North Shore News article](#))
- Carson Graham celebrates Black History Month with gallery walk ([North Shore News article](#))
- Brooksbank Elementary tends to Gerry's Garden ([NVSD blog post](#))

With appreciation,

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

Mark Pearmain
Superintendent of Schools

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](#).