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## Announcements

### Cheakamus Centre Open House – May 1

The 53<sup>rd</sup> annual Cheakamus Centre Open House takes place on Sunday, May 1, from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Join Cheakamus Centre staff for a fun, family day of nature exploration and discovery, including visiting the Coast Salish longhouse, salmon hatchery, farm animals, forest trails and more. Click [HERE](#) for more information, and if you are interested in volunteering at the event, please email [volunteers@cheakamuscentre.ca](mailto:volunteers@cheakamuscentre.ca).

### Outdoor Safety & Emergency Preparedness Open House – May 7

The North Vancouver School District is proud to host the inaugural Outdoor Safety & Emergency Preparedness Open House on Saturday May 7, 2022, 11 am to 2 pm, at École Secondaire Argyle Secondary School.

This family-friendly community event will showcase the expertise of local emergency management bodies and first responders and aims to build awareness and resiliency around outdoor safety and emergency preparedness.

The event consists of an outdoor trade show and select smaller group information sessions/workshops hosted by participating organizations. Those in attendance will speak with local experts and get up close to emergency vehicles and equipment used in real-life rescues.

This FREE event also includes a complimentary bike valet service and a variety of food truck options where you can purchase refreshments.

#### Participating organizations include:

- North Shore Rescue
- North Vancouver RCMP
- District of North Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services
- North Vancouver City Fire Department
- North Shore Emergency Management
- BC ShakeOut
- BC AdventureSmart
- North Shore Black Bear Society
- Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue
- Lifesaving Society
- Metro Rangers (Metro Parks and Environment)

For more information, check out the event website [HERE](#). Check back often for updates and to register for sessions/workshops!

## Information

### COVID-19 K-12 Health & Safety Measures + International Travel

As a reminder, updates have been made to the [Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#) (see the first page for highlights). While the guidelines state that mask wearing is now a personal choice for students, staff and visitors, this is **not** the case for those who have travelled internationally.

Staff, students and their families who travelled outside of Canada during spring break must adhere to [Federal Travel to Canada Requirements](#). Specific to mask wearing, upon re-entry to Canada, adults and children aged 5 and older must wear a mask in indoor and outdoor public spaces, including K-12 schools, for the first 14 days after entry.

More information regarding international travel requirements is available through this [BC Ministry of Education bulletin](#), issued on March 28, 2022.

### 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. Given students and staff play an important role in keeping our organization safe from cybercrime, the school district has recently initiated a mandatory password change initiative for staff. For students, the initiative will begin in April.

Beginning on April 12, all secondary students will be prompted to change their passwords. On April 20, secondary students who have not changed their password since April 12 **and** all elementary student account passwords will be reset to a new school district standard. For secondary students, there will be a process in place for regular password resets going forward. For elementary students, the updated password will be valid for the duration of their time as elementary students (unless students choose to change their passwords).

Families of elementary students can expect to receive more information directly from the school district regarding their child's new password. Should students (or their parents/guardians) have questions about their new password or require assistance, they should contact their teacher or school office staff. Information, including instructions and

support documents, is available on the Technology section of the Parent Portal under [Student District Login Frequently Asked Questions](#).

## **Water Testing Results**

Since 2016, the North Vancouver School District has been proactively testing drinking water consumption points for lead levels at all enrolling schools with analysis provided by ALS Laboratories.

All schools have been tested in accordance with Ministry of Education guidelines and test results have been shared with Vancouver Coastal Health. All test results for lead in water have shown full compliance with Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality at all enrolling schools.

Please click [HERE](#) for details of this year's water testing results and the measures the North Vancouver School District has taken and continues to take to ensure ongoing access to lead-free drinking water in our schools.

## **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 September 2022. If you are interested in hosting an international student, please reach out to our International Education program office at [international@sd44.ca](mailto:international@sd44.ca). More information about the homestay program is available [HERE](#).

## **Be Bear Aware**

The North Shore is bear country and black bears are now emerging from their dens. You can expect to see them at any time of day and anywhere--on trails, crossing roads, passing through neighbourhoods, and even on the beach! Remember to give bears lots of space and make sure you are not inviting them to your home with food. Learn more about responsibly sharing the landscape with these valued members of our community through the [North Shore Black Bear Society](#).

## 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.

### 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.

### 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. There will be an opportunity to ask questions and share comments regarding the [2022/2023 budget priorities](#). In addition, NVSD partner groups will have the opportunity to present their top budget priorities framed within the context of the [2021-2031 Strategic Plan](#). 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).

## **Climate Action and Sustainability Week**

As first shared in the [March 10, 2022, Superintendent's Report](#), 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. The week is meant to provide participants with a variety of activities and opportunities that provide climate action education and champion sustainability, including the Take Action Art Contest:

*Young aspiring artists, ages 5-18, are invited to create a 2-D or 3-D art piece that illustrates this year's theme, "Taking Action for the Environment." Using any medium or combination of media, students will create innovative and creative pieces that inspire others to take action. Prizes will be awarded for three divisions: primary, intermediate and secondary. Submissions are due Tuesday, April 5.*

For information on the art contest or any of the other events taking place, please visit the [Climate Action and Sustainability Week](#) website.

## **NVSD Registrations**

### **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, visit the [Business of Gaming](#) web page or email [academies@sd44.ca](mailto: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 open. Visit [Artists for Kids](#) 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 [Artists for Kids](#) for more information and to register.

## **North Vancouver Online Learning (NVOL) – Registration open**

NVOL provides students with 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.**

## **Good News Stories from the NVSD**

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

- Trio of Whistler skiers qualify for Ski Cross Junior World Championships (NVSD alumna; [Pique News Magazine article](#))
- Students participate in Festival du film ([NVSD blog post](#))
- Windsor Garden Club fundraises for Ukraine ([NVSD blog post](#))
- Cheakamus outreach program update ([NVSD blog post](#))
- Sparking inclusion – Seaspan builds custom welding bench for local secondary school ([Seaspan blog post](#))
- New temporary superintendent to take over at North Van school district ([North Shore News article](#))

With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sylvia Russell".

Sylvia Russell  
Acting Superintendent of Schools  
[Superintendent@sd44.ca](mailto:Superintendent@sd44.ca)

*Missed an issue? Updates from the Superintendent, including the bi-weekly Superintendent's Report, are available [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.***