

# Superintendent's Report



**To: Parents/Guardians**

**From: Mark Pearmain, Superintendent, North Vancouver School District**

## Announcements

### Severe Weather Information

As winter weather approaches, we want to remind parents/guardians, students, and staff of the North Vancouver School District's winter weather procedures and announcements. All schools in the North Vancouver School District will remain OPEN, if at all possible during winter weather, including snowfalls. Any district-wide closure will be decided by 6:30 a.m. at the latest and will be announced through the media, placed on the school district website and schools' websites, sent to parents via Sangha, and emailed to staff. For more information, please [click HERE](#).

## Information

### B.C. Training and Education Savings Grant

The B.C. government will contribute \$1,200 to each eligible child (ages 6-9) for a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) to help families plan early for their children's post-secondary education or training programs. For more information, please [click HERE](#).

### CBC Massey Lectures - All Our Relations: Finding the Path Forward

In her 2018 CBC Massey Lectures series, titled *All Our Relations: Finding the Path Forward*, prize-winning journalist Tanya Talaga explores the legacy of cultural genocide against Indigenous peoples. For Talaga, that cultural genocide has led to a forced disconnection from land and language by Indigenous peoples. The need now, she says, is for Indigenous self-determination in social, cultural and political arenas. These are lectures about values for our times, and for all of us. All of the lectures are available [online HERE](#).

### We are on Instagram

Follow the North Vancouver School District on Instagram: [@north\\_van\\_school\\_district](#)

## Artists for Kids nominated for Reader's Choice Awards

Artists for Kids is very honoured to be nominated in the North Shore News Reader's Choice Awards. We want to thank you for participating in our programs, and ask that you please take a few minutes and vote for Artists for Kids in the following categories: Favourite Art Gallery (#32) and Favourite Educational Program For Kids (#36). [Click HERE to vote](#) - voting ends December 4, 2018.

## Facilities Updates

### Mountainside Secondary receives approval for a full seismic upgrade

The provincial government recently announced funding of \$23.7 million for seismic upgrades at Mountainside Secondary school. Construction on the school is scheduled to begin in early 2020 and to be completed in fall 2021. Students will be able to remain in the school while the upgrades are underway. Please [click HERE](#) for more information.

### Ridgeway Elementary modular building occupancy permit extended

The Interim Certificate Occupancy permit from the City of North Vancouver for the modular building at Ridgeway Elementary School has been extended to July 31, 2019. The North Vancouver School District and the City of North Vancouver are now working on next steps with regards to a parking variance that could negate the bylaw requirement to add 14 additional parking stalls at the school.

## Initiatives

### Covenant House Sleep Out

This year, the North Vancouver School District is supporting Covenant House by taking part in *Sleep Out*. This program raises awareness about issues surrounding youth homeless, such as mental health supports, and also raises funds for programs offered at Covenant House. For one night, participants will be sleeping outside on cardboard boxes. Superintendent Mark Pearmain will be sleeping outside downtown for one night in February, secondary schools are encouraged to host their own *Sleep Out* events at their schools, and elementary schools are encouraged to also take part with school events. [Click HERE for more information and to donate.](#)

## Events/Registrations

### Student event – Climate leaders network

Is your child a secondary school student who is passionate about saving the environment? All secondary students are invited to a networking event to connect with student environmental leaders from across the North Vancouver School District. Wednesday, December 5, 2018 at 3:45 p.m. at the Education Services Centre (2121 Lonsdale Ave). Please RSVP: [sustainability@sd44.ca](mailto:sustainability@sd44.ca)

### Parent event – Streamlining Communications

All parents/guardians are invited to join the North Vancouver Parent Advisory Council for an event on Wednesday, November 28, 2018 from 7-9pm at the Education Services Centre (2121 Lonsdale Ave, 5th floor). Over the past several years, the North Vancouver School District has been making efforts to better communicate with parents. This year, large changes have taken place to streamline communications and increase ease and accessibility. Deneka Michaud, Communications Manager with the school district, will explain to parents what has taken place and what is still to come, and will then seek feedback about future improvements. Please join us for an important and lively discussion about enhancing communications between parents and the school district/schools.

### **Artists for Kids – Registration now open for Winter After School Art programs**

Artists for Kids Winter After School Art Programs is open for registration. Classes begin in January. Please [click HERE](#) for more information.