

Superintendent's Report



To: NVSD Parents and Guardians

From: Mark Pearmain, Superintendent, North Vancouver School District

Announcements

Superintendent's Update

This is our first *Superintendent's Update* to parents and guardians since February 7th. Going forward, our plan is to return to our regularly scheduled updates, unless more immediate and critical COVID-19 related updates are required.

While what we are going through is not “normal,” we are beginning to focus on returning to some of the school district’s normal operations/business cycles to ensure we are operational for the remainder of this school year and the coming 2020/21 school year. Spring staffing, budget, facility upgrades, and capital planning are all commencing as per regular timelines and will be completed by the September start-up.

I recognize that there are many questions about the end of the coming school year, but we do not have firm answers to share with you at this time. As we engage in contingency planning, we continue to take direction and guidance from the Provincial Health Officer, BC Centre for Disease Control, and the Ministry of Education. The most pressing issue that we are currently working through is how we will safely celebrate our 2020 graduating class of secondary school students. Multiple options are being considered for different scenarios, and we will have more details to share with you in a future update.

Secretary Treasurer Update

The North Vancouver Board of Education and Senior Executive Team is pleased to announce the selection and appointment of Jacqui Stewart to the position of Secretary Treasurer/CFO for the North Vancouver School District, effective June 2020. Jacqui will replace Georgia Allison, who will retire July 2020. Please click [HERE](#) for the full announcement.

Capital Projects/Facilities Update

Argyle Secondary School Rebuild Update

The Argyle Secondary School project continues to work towards a fall opening. The North block is moving along with flooring, final paint, lighting and millwork installation into classrooms.



In the Centre block, the exterior curtainwall glazing is being installed, and drywall installation has also commenced. The East block is now watertight, and interior drywall work has commenced.



Handsworth Secondary Replacement Project Update

The Handsworth Secondary School Replacement project has commenced, with bulk excavation complete and detailed excavation for pad footings in progress. Concrete pouring of the pad footing is imminent.



Mountainside Secondary Seismic Upgrade Update

The Mountainside Secondary Seismic mitigation project continues in multiple zones of the school. In the Academic block, the first two concrete buttresses are ready for the concrete pour. In the 600 level, we are beginning to work with interior finishes. Furthermore, excavation for brace footing has commenced for the gymnasium, as well as new cladding on the exterior of the building.



Information

School Immunization Services Update

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) has made changes to its elementary school-based immunization clinics. At this time, school-based immunization clinics for kindergarten and grade six students are on hold. However, VCH continues to offer immunization clinics to children aged 0 to 5 years, on a 1:1 basis. We will share updates to VCH's school-based immunization clinics as they are made available.

2020/2021 School Calendar Approval

The Board of Education has finalized and approved the 2020/21 School Calendar at the Public Board Meeting held on March 10, 2020. Click [HERE](#) to view or download a copy of the school calendar.

Board of Education Meetings

To respect guidelines and orders around physical distancing and public gatherings provided by the Provincial Health Officer, upcoming public board meetings will continue to be livestreamed and recorded, but the majority of staff and trustees will now participate by teleconference. Partner groups and the public will not be able to attend meetings in person but will have the opportunity to provide input in advance of the meeting. Details around participation will be posted [online](#) along with the corresponding board package the Friday before the next Public Board Meeting, which is scheduled for April 28, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.

Budget Update

Each year, the North Vancouver School District undertakes a public consultation process for input on budget priorities. Budget priorities align with and support the school district's strategic goals, vision and values. While historically, staff, students, education partner groups, and community members are invited to provide their input on budget priorities, this year's April 7th Standing Committee Meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19. As a result, the budget process was changed--submissions from partner groups were collected electronically and their feedback incorporated into the Executive Team's Budget Priorities and Key Themes document that will be presented at the April 28th Public Board Meeting. Furthermore, partner group submissions will be included in the Public Board Meeting package that will be posted [HERE](#) the afternoon of Friday, April 24th.

The North Vancouver Board of Education is mandated and committed to pass the North Vancouver School District Budget by June 2020.

Educational Continuity Plan Website Section Update

While in-class instruction is temporarily suspended, the North Vancouver School District is committed to supporting students and their parents/guardians as they engage in remote learning opportunities. The [Educational Continuity Plan](#) is the North Vancouver School District's approach to maintaining a collective community of learners who receive ongoing support, are presented with learning opportunities to enhance current performance, and possibly, improve grades. The plan includes

specific information for our [Elementary](#), [Secondary](#), [Complex & Vulnerable Learners](#), and [Distributed Learning](#) students.

Technology Support Update

Our Information & Communication Technology department has created a variety of tech guides for our students, parents and guardians. Click [HERE](#) for step-by-step support related to how to use a NVSD student email, password and security management, Microsoft Office 365 home installation, and Teams installation. Please bookmark this site and check back often as additional support and guides will become available.

COVID-19 Resources, Helpful Links, and Updates

Resources, links, and informational updates from the Ministry of Education and the North Vancouver School District concerning COVID-19 will continue to be shared to the North Vancouver School District website [HERE](#). The website will continue to be updated as new information is received.

Indigenous Education

View the latest special edition of the Indigenous Education Weekly Flyer [HERE](#). These regularly published flyers are posted to the District website [HERE](#) (please scroll to the bottom of the page).

Innovative Teaching Practices

In the absence of my regular updates involving school visits, I would like to share with you some of the innovative practices teaching staff and administrators at the North Vancouver School District are using to ensure students feel connected and supported while learning.

Argyle Secondary School. The PE Department at Argyle Secondary School worked together to create this [TP Challenge video](#) to reconnect with each other and their students, and inspire their students to stay active, showcase their learning in new and creative ways, and have fun with weekly challenges.

Artists for Kids. Artist for Kids is providing virtual resources to teachers and their students. These experiences are designed to challenge children to learn through the lens of inquiry and the fine arts. Click [HERE](#) for a collection of arts activity videos.

Carisbrooke Elementary School. Carisbrooke Principal Lisa Upton has created *Carisbrooke Connects for Kids!*, a weekly newsletter that helps keep the Carisbrooke school community connected and encourages students to share updates on what they are doing that is fun, interesting, and demonstrates kindness to others. View current copies of the newsletter [HERE](#).

#NVSDFamily Cares Project. To encourage parents/guardians to continue to engage children in conversations around interconnectedness with one another and the natural world and the importance of supporting each other—family, community, and the environment—the North Vancouver School District, through the support of our Indigenous Education team, continues to offer resources to facilitate such conversations. Click [HERE](#) to access 1) images of artwork* that can be printed, reproduced, personalized (using messages, drawings, and colour), and then shared using the hashtag #nvsdfamily, and 2) the Skwxu7mesh legend, *The Flood*, to read with children.

**Thank you to Tchilaqs7Tchila (Gordon Dick) member of the Tsleil Waututh Nation for the artwork.*