

Superintendent's Report



To: NVSD Parents and Guardians
From: Mark Pearmain, Superintendent, North Vancouver School District

Announcements

Graduation 2020 Update

Graduation is a rite of passage that carries with it much significance for our students and their family and friends. For obvious reasons, Grad 2020 will be unique, and the North Vancouver School District is committed to providing for our grads and their families a special and memorable experience.

I am pleased to share with you what I have recently communicated with grads and their parents/guardians: we are working with GradsBC and each school's Principal, Vice-Principal and grad ceremony planning committee to create a virtual graduation celebration for each of our secondary schools across the District.

While both heeding the Provincial Health Officer's ban on public gatherings of more than 50 people and maintaining safe physical distancing, we are putting together a plan that will see each student walk across the graduation stage in a cap and gown. This will take place at the NVSD's Education Services Centre in the Gordon Smith Gallery of Canadian Art. A video recording and highlight reel of each virtual grad ceremony will be produced and shared, and grads will be able to watch this at a later date and celebrate with family and friends.

We are excited to honour this year's grad class in this way, and will share updates with you across various channels, so that you too can share in the excitement.

Student Engagement Update

A cornerstone of a vibrant learning community is the connection and engagement of its community of learners: students, teachers, staff, and parents/guardians. Maintaining this connection, and more importantly engagement, with our students is even more significant during this exceptional time of suspension of in-class instruction. For this reason, the NVSD has established a new process to identify and support students who may not be engaging their schools, teachers, or classmates in the same way as they are used to doing, and who may be in need of additional support.

This new process records student engagement, which is not to be confused with student attendance. While attendance is defined as being physically present, engagement during this period of remote learning is defined as two-way communication between a teacher and a student that takes place once per week. Going forward, teachers will record that two-way engagement with each student/family has occurred each week and will share this information with the school Principal. If we do not have a record of student engagement for a particular week, parents/guardians may receive a phone call from either the school Principal or delegate to confirm the safety of the family and to establish if additional supports may be required for the student to successfully participate in the learning opportunities offered.

Information

Teacher Bargaining Update

The BC Teachers' Federation members have voted 98% in favour to ratify a new three-year collective agreement with the BC Public School Employers' Association. The agreement is retroactive to July 1, 2019. Click [HERE](#) to access the BC government's news release.

COVID-19 Resources: Social Emotional Learning and Mental Health

This week marks the annual [CMHA Mental Health Week](#). In addition to resources available on the CMHA site, we would like to share that our NVSD SEL and Mental Health Team has gathered, vetted, and curated resources to

support our community of students, their families and our staff:

- A [comprehensive listing](#) of mental health, food access, and provincial and federal financial support programs.
- A [COVID-19 webpage](#) that includes a robust collection of resources that range from self-care strategies, learning from home, to how to talk COVID-19 with children.

Technology Support Update

Based on anticipated needs and the feedback we receive from students, families and staff, we continue to create and update the technology support guides we have available. Click [HERE](#) to view resources that provide guidelines on video conferencing. Please bookmark this site and check back often, as additional support and guides will become available.

Capital Projects/Facilities Update

Cloverley Elementary - New School Request

The Ministry of Education has responded to the NVSD major capital project request with support to proceed with providing a draft concept plan by December 1, 2020. The drafting of a concept plan is a new preliminary step required before a Project Definition Report (PDR) is supported. The District considers this a positive step in the overall project process that should allow for a more streamlined review process.

Westview Elementary - Universally Accessible Playground Equipment Update

The Ministry of Education has responded to the NVSD Playground Equipment Program request with an approval to proceed to design, tender and construction. The \$125,000 project is to provide Westview Elementary with a new universally accessible playground which is set to be completed by March 31, 2021.

Additional Updates

Band and Strings Registration

Registration remains open for the 2020/21 Elementary Band and Strings program. This unique instrumental music program complements the BC Ministry of Education's Arts Education curriculum. Click [HERE](#) to review program details, including a new FAQ feature, and to register.

Innovative Teaching Practices

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

Blueridge Elementary. Designed to foster a sense of togetherness, grade 6/7 teachers at Blueridge Elementary are [challenging students](#) to document their physical literacy progress through completion of Terry Fox's Marathon of Hope route...virtually. Students and teachers (and families too) will log their kilometres, whether by foot, bike, or wheelchair, on a mapping app, with the collective goal being 6,000 km.

Canyon Heights Elementary. Canyon Heights Elementary librarian Ian Cunliffe, known affectionately as "Mr. C," has garnered much attention for his [mobile book initiative](#). Determined to keep kids reading, he has devised a system to safely bring books directly to the homes of students.

Hearts on Lonsdale. If you've passed by the NVSD Education Services Centre lately, you will have seen the cheerful and vibrant-coloured hearts painted on our windows. Initiated by our staff, [Giving our Rainbow Hearts](#), is a project intended to show our support and deep gratitude for essential service workers in our community.

Sherwood Park Elementary. The Kindergarten teachers at Sherwood Park Elementary worked together to create a [video](#) to welcome incoming Kindergarten students and their families to the school community. Kindergarten marks the start of a magical journey, and this video highlights the many collaborative, hands-on, play-based activities current students have

enjoyed, in nature and in the classroom.

Translation Options

To view this update in a language option of your choice, please review and enable the message translation options available through your email provider. While not exhaustive, we have provided links to popular email providers: [Microsoft Outlook](#) and [Gmail](#).