

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The [restrictions](#) imposed by the Provincial Health Officer to significantly reduce COVID-19 transmissions related to social interactions and travel (initially in place for a two-week period for the Fraser Health and Vancouver Coastal Health regions) are in effect province-wide and until December 7, 2020.

As I continue to ask, please, let us all do our part to keep our family, friends and members of our community safe and healthy and also ensure we keep our essential services in operation. We *can* do this by:

- Following the [provincial health orders and guidance](#), and encouraging others to do the same.
- Keeping informed by following credible sources of information, including the [BCCDC](#), [Vancouver Coastal Health](#) and the [NVSD COVID-19 web pages](#).
- Practicing empathy and kindness, and remembering that we truly are all in this together.

At the North Vancouver School District, we will continue to reinforce the health and safety protocols that ensure schools are safe and healthy learning environments. Thank you for your ongoing efforts and support of our reminders about physical distancing, washing hands, staying home when sick and wearing a mask when required. I know this isn't easy, but I also know that together, we will get through this.

As a final note, the bi-weekly Superintendent's Report is scheduled for distribution during business hours; however, to ensure we are providing timely and accurate information as it relates to COVID-19 or other matters that impact public education, the distribution time may be delayed.

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Announcements

Board of Education Chair and Vice Chair Update

In accordance with NVSD Policies [101](#) and [104](#), the annual election of Board Chair and Vice Chair was held at the November 17 Public Board Meeting. We are excited to announce that effective December 1, the Board Chair for the coming year is Trustee George Tsiakos, and the Vice Chair is Trustee Devon Bruce. *Congratulations on your new roles and responsibilities!*

We would also like to thank Christie Sacré, who for the past five years served as Board Chair, and will now assume a Trustee role. While Board Chair, Christie and fellow Trustees initiated and/or supported district staff on a number of projects and initiatives, including: approval of a full replacement of Argyle Secondary and Handsworth Secondary Schools; a district-wide employee satisfaction survey; creation of a Trustee Handbook; unanimous support for [Policy 412: Supporting Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Gender Expression](#); and passing a motion to make the Education Services Centre a single-use plastic bottle-free building. *Thank you Christie for your leadership and valued contributions to the NVSD!*

Temporary Elementary Transition Support Option Update

As announced at the November 17 Public Board Meeting, the Board of Education has approved the extension of the Temporary Elementary Transition Support option until at least Spring Break 2021. Additional details will be shared directly with families of children in this temporary option in the coming weeks. The extension of the option is for elementary students who are currently enrolled in the Temporary Transition Support Option.

Argyle Secondary School – Honouring the Past

We have heard from Argyle Secondary School alumni interested in knowing how we will preserve the history of the “old school.” We are pleased to share that staff and students from our Digital Media Academy are working on a video tour project (documentary), which will be ready for viewing and shared with the community at the end of January 2021.

Information

All-Gender Washrooms at the Education Services Centre

The North Vancouver School District is strongly committed to recognizing and supporting the many ways in which diversity is expressed in our classrooms and throughout our school communities.

The NVSD is also committed to establishing and maintaining a safe and inclusive learning and working environment for all students, employees and their respective families, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity and/or gender expression. For transgender and/or gender non-conforming people, the use of public restrooms labelled for men and women only can come with deep discomfort.

As a step toward ensuring safe and equitable access to restrooms for all, the following new signage has been posted on the main floor at the Education Services Centre:



Indigenous Education Flyer

The latest edition of the [Indigenous Education Flyer](#) includes information and resources on the winter season, the Potlatch and Winter Solstice. These regularly published flyers are posted to the [Indigenous Education](#) section of our website (please scroll to the bottom of the page).

Place-based, Outdoor Learning

In "[The Power of Place](#)," a feature article in the [BCPVPA Principled magazine](#), Conor McMullan, Director of Educational Programs, Cheakamus Centre, writes about the importance of and the NVSD's commitment to outdoor teaching and place-based learning.

Upcoming Events

AFK Winter Holiday Print Sale

[Artists for Kids \(AFK\)](#) is a unique, not-for-profit, self-sustaining art education program operated by the NVSD. In addition to receiving support through the NVSD, AFK relies on donor support to offer a range of artist and educator-led in-school and community programs, as well as scholarships for post-secondary Arts Education and bursaries for community programming, including direct support for its summer camp program.

Coinciding with Giving Tuesday, on December 1, AFK will launch its *Winter Holiday Sale*. For eighteen days, AFK will be offering a 10% discount on all AFK Limited Edition Prints and a 15% discount on curated print sets. If you are looking to start or grow your collection of limited edition prints by some of Canada's most renowned artists, know that proceeds from your purchase will go toward supporting the next generation of artists. Click [HERE](#) to view AFK's print collection.

Board of Education Public Board Meeting – Tuesday, December 8

The next Board of Education public board meeting takes place on Tuesday, December 8 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be live-streamed and recorded. Visit our [Meetings, Motions & Minutes](#) page for information on how you can provide input and to review the agenda and board package (available on the Thursday afternoon preceding the public meeting).

"Class of 2020" Photo Frame Year-End Sale - \$5.00

This holiday season, celebrate your 2020 Grad with an NVSD “Class of 2020” photo frame. Each frame will hold one 5 x 7 photo and is available for purchase for only \$5! For information on how to purchase and collect your photo frame (available in limited quantities), please click [HERE](#).



Good News Stories from around the NVSD

I would like to highlight and share with you some of our good news. Be sure to visit our [Learn, Share & Grow Blog](#) and [News & Announcements](#) sections of our website regularly to stay informed. *Enjoy!*

- Argyle music teacher receives outstanding educator award ([NVSD blog post](#))
- Ross Road students step up for Sage House ([NVSD blog post](#))
- Cute overload in this North Vancouver student’s winning Christmas card design ([North Shore News article](#))
- North Van youth collects items for women’s shelter ([North Shore News announcement](#))

With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Mark Pearmain".

Mark Pearmain
Superintendent of Schools