

## *Happy Holidays!*

On behalf of the North Vancouver Board of Education and the District's Senior Leadership Team, I would like to wish you and your loved ones a happy and healthy holiday break.

I hope you all can take a moment over the holidays to reflect on where we were in August and where we are today. When you do, you will understand why my gratitude to all of you is beyond words.

Thank you to our families--for your faith in the public education system, in the health and safety measures we have in place, and in us, the North Vancouver School District. Thank you for your commitment to practicing the behaviours that keep our community safe. And thank you for giving us the opportunity to bring a sense of normalcy to all of our lives, but especially, for your children--our students.

To our staff across the school district—you have been exemplary in your efforts to redesign curriculum, build a sense of community, and keep our schools safe learning spaces. Throughout what has been the most challenging of years—personally and professionally—you have continued to educate our students' minds...and hearts.

This holiday season, I have seen, heard and read about the many ways in which students and staff have shown their generosity and care for others in our community. While you will each have an opportunity to read about our wonderful schools' fundraising efforts, whether through our blogs or in the community paper, I wanted to highlight just a few more:

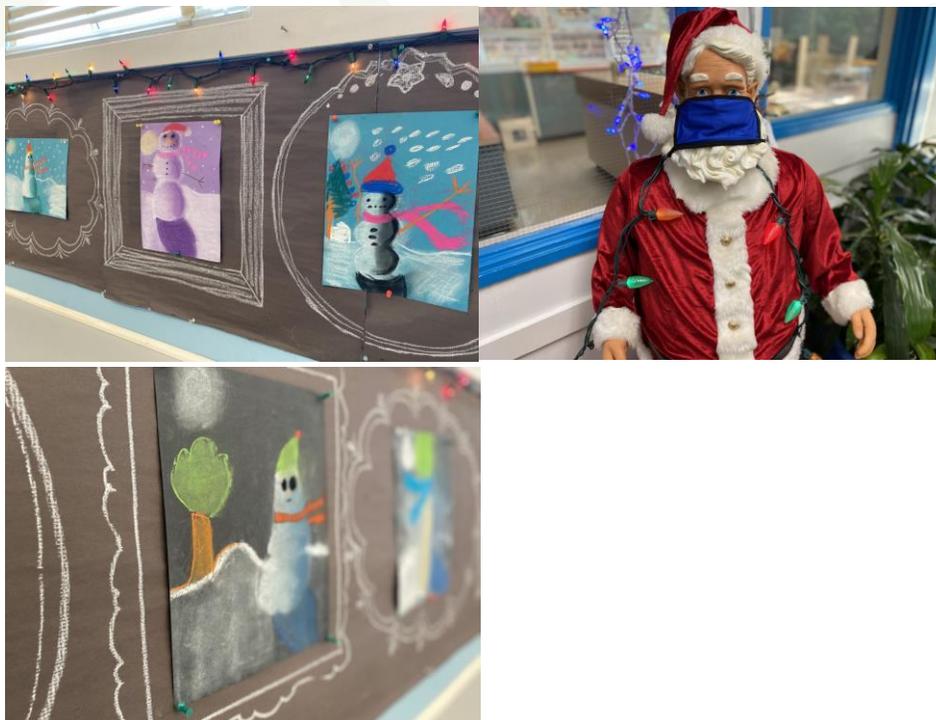
- Grade 7 students from Ridgeway Elementary are bringing holiday cheer to their school community this week during School Spirit Week.
- Kindergarten and Grade 2/3 students from Sherwood Park Elementary collected 383 pairs of socks for youth in need.
- Students at Carisbrooke Elementary are collecting "Soup and Socks" for Covenant House.



- Students at Capilano Elementary created holiday kindness cards to accompany meals delivered to our community's seniors.
- Students at Ross Road Elementary participated in an "All I Want for Christmas" youth-to-youth giving campaign. Students purchased retail gift cards they themselves would have liked to receive, and then gifted them to tweens or teens in need.
- Grade 8 students at Sutherland Secondary gathered and sorted enough bottles and cans to purchase and create gift boxes for children at Canuck Place.
- Students at Handsworth Secondary raised \$6,600+ in cash, gifts and gift cards for the Christmas Bureau.

These are just a few examples of schools supporting their local community and together, doing amazing things!

Now it is time for all of us to take a collective deep breath, recharge and prepare for 2021. Today, our future is already looking a little bit brighter, and I am excited and very much looking forward to welcoming students and staff back to school on Monday, January 4, 2021.



*Holiday images courtesy of the artistic and creative talent of students and staff from Seymour Heights Elementary.*

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## Announcements

### Holiday Greetings from the new Minister of Education

The Minister of Education, Honourable Minister Jennifer Whiteside, has prepared a [letter of introduction and holidays greetings](#) for parents and guardians.

### Superintendent's Holiday Card

Featuring student art in the Superintendent's holiday card has become an annual tradition at the North Vancouver School District. In years past, a class would be selected to provide submissions of student artwork, and one student's design would be chosen, much like a contest.

This year, we chose a more collaborative approach, with [Artists for Kids](#) lending its support to Mr. Robert Moser's grade 2 students in creating the holiday card for the Superintendent's office. Daylen Luchsinger, District Vice Principal, Arts Education, wrote about the collaborative learning experience [HERE](#).

### Argyle Secondary School – Video Tour

*Surprise!* We are excited to share a [video](#) we have been hard at work preparing so that

you get a sneak peak of the new Argyle Secondary School. Enjoy a glimpse into what awaits our students and staff when they start the New Year in a brand new school.

## **Temporary Elementary Transition Support Option Update**

Further to the update provided in the [November 27 issue](#) of the Superintendent Report, at the December 8, 2020, Public Board Meeting, the Board of Education approved a motion to confirm the extension of the Temporary Elementary Transition Support Option until March 12, 2021. This option will be available to those families currently participating, in the same format and design, as introduced in September 2020.

## **Information**

### **Winter Break**

Schools are closed for Winter Break between December 21, 2020 and January 1, 2021. Schools will re-open on Monday, January 4. The Education Services Centre (2121 Lonsdale Avenue) will remain open but is closed on Friday, December 25; Monday, December 28; and Friday, January 1, 2021 (Statutory Holidays).

### **Policy 310: Concussion Awareness, Prevention and Management**

The Board of Education places a high priority on establishing and maintaining a safe and healthy environment for all students. Through its approval of new [Policy 310: Concussion Awareness, Prevention and Management](#) at the December 8, 2020, Public Board Meeting, the Board acknowledges the need to provide individuals working with students with guidance in the areas of concussion awareness, prevention and management.

The new policy and administrative procedures were created through a sub-committee led by Adam Baumann and Beverly Beckingham, and reviewed through the Policy Review Committee comprised of Trustees Tsiakos and Gerlach, representatives from the secondary and elementary school administrators (NOVA), North Vancouver Teachers' Association (NVTa), Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE Local 389), North Vancouver Parent Advisory Council (NVPAC) and District Student Leadership Council (DSLc).

## **Indigenous Education**

The latest edition of the [Indigenous Education Flyer](#) includes book recommendations and resources on the winter season and professional development opportunities for staff. These regularly published flyers are posted to the [Indigenous Education](#) section of our website (please scroll to the bottom of the page).

## Upcoming Events

### Board of Education Standing Committee Meeting – Tuesday, January 12

The next Board of Education Standing Committee Meeting takes place on Tuesday, January 12 at 7 p.m., and will include presentations and updates from our Inclusive Education and Indigenous Education portfolios. The [agenda](#) will be made available on the Thursday afternoon preceding the public meeting.

### Board of Education Public Board Meeting – Tuesday, January 19

The next Board of Education Public Board Meeting takes place on Tuesday, January 19 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be live-streamed and recorded. Visit our [Meetings & 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).

## 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!*

- North Van student coat drive gets warm reception ([North Shore News article](#))
- Employment lessons start early at Canyon Heights ([NVSD blog post](#))
- Queen Mary Elementary turns 106 ([NVSD blog post](#))
- Braemar students raise funds for 200 holiday dinners ([NVSD blog post](#))
- NVSD community donates toys, cash to local Christmas bureau ([NVSD blog post](#))

With appreciation,

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

Mark Pearmain  
Superintendent of Schools

