

Dear Parents and Guardians,

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

It's hard to believe another year has passed, and I remain grateful to all of you – students, staff, family and community members – for working together to ensure students and staff benefit from the learning and growth that comes from in-person teaching and learning.

The sense of community and generosity of spirit on display throughout the year is never more evident than during the holiday season. I continue to hear from many of our schools, proudly sharing how their school community has come together to support others in our wider community. Here are just a few examples:

- Recognizing the impact the recent flooding has had on communities and schools, Lynnmour/Xá7elcha Elementary students have written “Cards to send Kindness” to residents in affected areas. The school community wanted flood victims to know they are not alone and that they are cared for.
- Social Justice 12 students from Argyle Secondary collected new toiletries and gently used winter clothing in support of the Harvest Project to help those in need on the North Shore.
- Ross Road Elementary is collecting gift cards for youth ages 11-18 in partnership with North Shore Family Services and the Christmas Bureau. Families are also donating directly to Family Services for the youth-to-youth campaign.
- Students and staff at Handsworth Secondary supported the Christmas Bureau with their “All I want for Christmas: Youth to youth giving campaign!” The Handsworth community provided gifts and gift cards to youth in the community and brought good cheer to families. A total of \$5,695 was donated.

With all the good cheer and merrymaking the holidays bring, I hope we can all take time to relax and recharge—whether that be while reading a good book, playing outdoors or





safely enjoying time reconnecting with family and friends. I wish you all the best this holiday and look forward to welcoming you back in the new year.

Happy Holidays,

Mark Pearmain  
Superintendent of Schools

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## Announcements

### Superintendent's Holiday Card

Featuring student art in the Superintendent's holiday card has become an annual tradition at the North Vancouver School District. This year's holiday card, which captures students' creative expression of resiliency, was created by Mr. Sorba's Grade 6 class at Queen Mary Elementary and supported by [Artists for Kids](#). Read about the innovative and collaborative learning experience [HERE](#).

## Information

### Winter Break

Schools are closed for Winter Break between December 20, 2021 and January 3, 2022. Schools will re-open on Tuesday, January 4. The Education Services Centre (2121 Lonsdale Avenue) will remain open but is closed on Monday, December 27 (in lieu of Christmas); Tuesday, December 28 (in lieu of Boxing Day); and Monday, January 3, 2022 (in lieu of New Year's Day).

### REMINDER: COVID-19 and International Travel Requirements

If you plan to travel over the Winter Break, please take the time to carefully read resources prepared by the Government of Canada, including:

- Temporary border restrictions and measures to address the COVID-19 Omicron variant of concern [HERE](#).
- Requirements for fully vaccinated travelers and unvaccinated or not fully vaccinated children less than 12 years of age [HERE](#). This information is also available in multiple languages via PDF; click [HERE](#) for the English version.

As a reminder, students, staff and other adults who are **not fully vaccinated** and have travelled outside of Canada **cannot** attend school for a minimum 14 days after arrival. Check the Government of Canada resources listed above for information about travel, restrictions, testing and exemptions currently in place.

### Be Prepared: The Grab-and-Go Bag

With the recent extreme weather events, the **Grab-and-Go bag** has become high profile and extremely relevant. If you needed to leave your home immediately, the contents of this mini emergency kit would help keep you comfortable for a few days. Every family

member should have their own, stored in a location that is easily accessible. Use an old backpack, gym bag, or carry-on bag.

Just in time for the holiday season, consider the gift of preparedness by gifting items commonly found in a Grab-and-Go bag. Suggestions include:

- Food (ready to eat) and bottled water
- Small battery-powered (or hand crank) radio
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Small first-aid kit and personal medications
- Pen and notepad
- Phone charger and battery bank
- Emergency blanket and rain poncho
- Whistle
- Light sticks
- Work gloves

Visit [Prepared BC](#) for a full list of recommended Grab-and-Go bag items.

## **Homestay Families Needed**

Each year, the North Vancouver School District welcomes students from around the world to live and study in our vibrant community. We strive to place secondary school international students with families who live close to school to support each student's integration into the school and wider community.

There are secondary school international students in need of a homestay placement for the school term beginning February 2022. If you are interested in hosting an international student, please reach out to our International Education program office at [international@sd44.ca](mailto:international@sd44.ca). More information about the homestay program is available [HERE](#).

## **NVSD Events**

### **AFK Winter Holiday Print Sale ends December 16**

[Artists for Kids \(AFK\)](#) is a unique, not-for-profit, self-sustaining art education program operated by the NVSD. AFK relies on donor support to offer a range of artist- and educator-led 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.

AFK's *Winter Holiday Sale*, which ends on December 16, offer a 25% discount on select AFK Limited Edition Prints. 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](#) for more information and to view AFK's print collection.

### **Standing Committee Meeting – January 11**

The next Board of Education Standing Committee Meeting takes place virtually on Tuesday, January 11 at 7 p.m. Visit our [Meetings & Minutes](#) page for information on how you can provide input and to review the complete agenda (available on the Thursday afternoon preceding the public meeting).

### **Public Board Meeting – January 18**

The next Board of Education Public Board Meeting takes place virtually on Tuesday, January 18 at 6:30 p.m. 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).

### **Explore & Create Saturday Art Program**

Children aged 5 to 12 are invited to visit the Gordon Smith Gallery on Saturdays between 1 and 3 p.m. for art activities that are collage and drawing based and inspired by the current exhibition, [Beyond the Horizon](#). Admission is by donation (\$5 suggestion per attendee) and parental/guardian supervision is required. Click [HERE](#) for more information. Note: the Gallery is closed over the Winter Break (December 23, 25 and 30, 2021 and January 1, 2022).

### **Gordon Smith Gallery of Canadian Art: Beyond the Horizon**

This year's fall exhibition, *Beyond the Horizon*, is an expression that encourages us to consider what is "farther than the possible limit of sight, beyond what we can foresee, know or anticipate." It is both visual – what we see – and conceptual – what we know. The horizon as a metaphor provides us with an opportunity to challenge and evaluate our own ways of knowing. The artists in this exhibition expand conventional uses of materials and explore modes of making through collaboration with other artists and the land. Click [HERE](#) for more information, including gallery hours. Note: the Gallery is closed over the Winter Break (December 23, 25 and 30, 2021 and January 1, 2022).

## NVSD Registrations

### 2022/2023 Kindergarten Priority Placement Registration ends

#### December 17

Registration (priority placement) for children entering kindergarten in September 2022 (children born in 2017) is open until December 17, 2021 at 4 p.m. Note: families can still register their child after this date, but they will not be in priority placement.

Parents/legal guardians must book an appointment using our online booking system to register their child *in person* for kindergarten. Detailed instructions on the registration process, including forms and documentation required, are available [HERE](#). An informational kindergarten orientation presentation is available [HERE](#).

### North Vancouver Online Learning (NVOL) – Registration open

NVOL provides students with rigorous, engaging, and interactive learning experiences. Students can choose to engage in their NVOL courses entirely remotely online or in a blended model of online and in-person interactions at our NVOL Centre. In addition, students can choose from a full suite of [courses](#) from grades 8 through 12 in both English and French.

The French Immersion Online Course offerings allow students the opportunity to meet the requirements of their Diplôme de fin d'études secondaires en Colombie-Britannique online through L' École Virtuelle de Vancouver nord. Please see below for a complete list of our French Immersion course offerings.

#### Grade 10:

- Education au choix de carrière et de vie 10
- Français langue seconde - Immersion 10
- Sciences naturelles 10

#### Grade 11:

- Explorations en sciences humaines et sociales 11
- Médias et communication numérique 11

#### Grade 12:

- Français langue seconde - Immersion 12

**Online registration for NVOL is open; click [HERE](#) for more information.**

## Artists for Kids' After School Art – Registration open

Taught by art specialist teachers and assisted by secondary art students, AFK's After School Art classes provide students the opportunity to further their artistic ability and foster positive attitudes towards the visual arts. Registration for winter 2021 classes (virtual and in-person options available) is now open. Visit the [Artists for Kids website](#) for more information and to register.

## Good News Stories from the NVSD

Visit the [Learn, Share & Grow Blog](#) and [News & Announcements](#) section of our website to stay informed on the good work that is happening here. *Enjoy!*

- Cheakamus Grade 4/5 program update ([NVSD blog post](#))
- Westview's Wild Wisdom Global Challenge ([NVSD blog post](#))
- Forging new pathways for Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people ([NVSD announcement](#))
- Carson Graham claims AA football championship in overtime thriller ([North Shore News article](#))
- Walking for Wenjack | #dosomething ([NVSD blog post](#))
- Argyle Pipers senior boys score soccer silver ([North Shore News article](#))
- Carson Graham junior and senior football teams punch tickets to championship game ([North Shore News article](#))
- North Van district principal to take on provincial role in Indigenous education ([North Shore News article](#))

***The North Vancouver School District is situated upon the unceded traditional territory of the Skwxwú7mesh Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation. We would like to thank the Coast Salish people and value the opportunity to learn, share and grow on this traditional territory.***

Missed an issue? Updates from the Superintendent, including the bi-weekly Superintendent's Report, are available [HERE](#).