

Superintendent's Report



A Message from the Superintendent

Connection, Community, Curiosity!!

Dear North Vancouver School District Community,

It has been a tremendous school start-up!

To students and families; principals and vice-principals, teachers, educational assistants, office staff, and all staff throughout the school district: thank you for an exceptional school start-up. It is wonderful to see expressions of joy on faces as we reconnect with our school communities.

Fundamentally, education is a human experience that is imbued with the love of students, the love of the educational craft, and the love of each other. Our shared work is to bring out the best in each other and ultimately, continue to build a community that is caring, progressive and diverse.

I am very proud to work alongside you and serve a community that cares so deeply about young people and is committed to building a sense of belonging for all. At the core of our shared work is ensuring students feel a sense of connection and belonging, while gaining the skills they need for their future.

To this end, a primary focus as we move into the school year has been on creating connections. I hope that in this update, you will see the inherent value to this work!

All the best,

Dr. Pius Ryan
Superintendent of Schools
Superintendent@sd44.ca



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Good News from the NVSD

Visit our [Learn, Share & Grow](#) blog and [News & Announcements](#) to read about the good work happening throughout the school district.

This first issue of the Superintendent's Report includes a collection of stories and news published since the end of the school year (for the stories with images, click on the caption for a link to the blog post):

- Squamish Nation Training & Trades Centre hosts "Try a Trade" event ([NVSD blog post](#))
- "Belting it out" with Code Ninjas pilot program ([NVSD blog post](#))

- High school football season kicks off for North Shore teams ([North Shore News article](#))
- Finalists named for 2022 Premier's Awards for Excellence in Education ([Office of the Premier information bulletin](#))
- North Shore athletes bag melange of medals at BC Summer Games ([North Shore News article](#))
- What's being a firefighter like? These girls are about to find out ([North Shore News article](#))
- Pilot art gallery program: a collaborative and inclusive learning experience ([NVSD blog post](#))
- Windsor Secondary student awarded largest Canadian STEM scholarship ([NVSD media release](#))
- Queen Mary awarded 2022 Living City Award ([NVSD blog post](#))
- The 34th Annual Superintendent's Celebration of Learning ([NVSD blog post](#))
- Ridgeway's Jump Club ([NVSD blog post](#))

Announcements

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – September 30

The North Vancouver School District is closed on Friday, September 30, and we encourage all Canadians to take the time that day to honour the lives of Indigenous children who did not come home, acknowledge and honour the lived experiences of the survivors of the Indian residential school system, and commit to taking a step forward to do better for the current and future generations of children.

During Truth and Reconciliation Week, which begins on September 26, the school district community will honour our commitment to championing truth, healing and reconciliation and embedding Indigenous ways of knowing in our teaching and learning. This is work that takes place throughout the year; a few examples are highlighted below:

- [Sherwood Park hosts a community potlatch](#)
- [Ridgeway's Project of Heart](#)
- [Cheakamus Centre receives federal funding to enhance Indigenous cultural experiences](#)

May we all continue to go forward with courage.

Argyle Secondary artificial turf field update

The North Vancouver School District and District of North Vancouver are very pleased to share that construction of the new artificial turf field (ATF) at Argyle Secondary is moving forward, with the new ATF expected to be completed by September 2023. A copy of the [letter shared with the Argyle school community](#) is available for review. *Congratulations Pipers!*

Information

Policy 104: Updates to Public Question/Comment Periods

Community members are welcomed and encouraged to attend public meetings.

The administrative procedures guiding how the public can provide questions and comments during Public Board Meetings have been updated. Please review [how you can participate in a Public Board Meeting](#), by either providing comments on items related to the meeting agenda prior to a Public Board Meeting or obtaining clarification concerning the meeting's proceedings at the end of a Public Board Meeting.

Detailed information regarding the general operating procedures for public meetings is available through the [Policy 104: Board of Education – Meetings Administrative Procedures](#).

Reminder: School district permission forms

Each year, parents/guardians are asked to complete school district permission forms online using our [SchoolCash Online](#) system. Instructions on how to complete the following forms were sent to families via email before the start of the school year:

- Impromptu Walking Field Trip Informed Consent
- Personal Information Consent for School District Publications
- Student Acceptable Use of Technology Agreement

If you haven't already, please complete these forms online. All other permission forms are paper based, and you will have received them directly from your child's school. Should you have any questions about form completion or require assistance, please contact your child's school.

Joining a school PAC

Parent Advisory Councils (PACs) are non-profit independent organizations supporting the efforts of schools throughout the North Vancouver School District. PACs strive to represent the diversity within their communities, and through their ideas and feedback, contribute to the benefit of all students. There are many ways to participate in a school's PAC; learn more by visiting the [PAC & NVPAC](#) web page.

Bear awareness

According to the North Shore Black Bear Society (NSBBS), residents can expect to see increased bear activity in the fall as bears enter the hyperphagia stage (excessive eating and drinking) in preparation for winter denning. Help reduce bear activity near your home by adopting the following preventative practices:

- Keep garbage, organics and recycling in a secure location (e.g., secure garage, shed, or enclosure) at all times, unless out for collection.
- Freeze odorous food scraps and add these frozen items to your organics waste on the morning of collection only.
- Regularly wash garbage and organics carts with a water and vinegar solution.
- Feed pets inside and keep excess food in a secure area.
- Keep garage and lower-level doors closed unless you are in the immediate area.
- Keep vehicles locked and free of food and garbage.
- Do not follow a bear you see in the neighbourhood or on a trail for a photograph.

The [NSBBS](#) website houses a collection of resources to support North Shore residents responsibly coexist with bears; a link has been added to our [Outdoor Safety & Emergency Preparedness](#) web page.

NVSD Events

PATHS – Exhibition opens September 24

Artists for Kids (AFK) is pleased to invite you to the opening of the exhibition, *PATHS*, alongside the launch of Charlene Vickers' limited edition print, *Fish in Astral Projection Under Moons*, on Saturday, September 24 from 12 to 4 p.m.

The exhibition examines how paths connect us and the collective stories they hold. *PATHS* brings together works from Artists for Kids' permanent collection, including recent acquisitions from Charlene Vickers, Russna Kaur and Angela George, to explore both real and imagined journeys.

On opening day, Charlene Vickers will offer an artist talk in response to her recent limited-edition print, *Fish in Astral Projection Under Moons*, as well as AFK acquisitions, *Turtle Clan Searchers* and *Thunderbird Woman*. The artist talk will be followed by a tour led by Curator Amelia Epp.

Vickers' limited-edition print, *Fish in Astral Projection Under Moons*, will also be available for purchase. For more information on this exhibition, Artists for Kids or the AFK Print program, please visit the [Artists for Kids](#) website.

Standing Committee Meeting – October 4

The next Board of Education Standing Committee Meeting takes place on Tuesday, October 4 at 7 p.m. Visit our [Public Meetings](#) web page for meeting information, including the meeting agenda, which is posted and available for review on the Thursday afternoon preceding the public meeting.

General Local Election 2022 – October 15

General local elections, which will see residents of the City of North Vancouver and District of



North Vancouver vote for their respective municipality's mayor, councillors and school trustees, will take place on Saturday, October 15. Elections will be conducted by the respective municipalities.

North Vancouver Board of Education trustees will be elected for a four-year term (2022-2026):

- Three (3) City of North Vancouver trustees; and
- Four (4) District of North Vancouver trustees.

For key dates, voting locations and information about the role of the school trustee, visit our [2022 School Trustee Election](#) web page.

Kindergarten Information Session – October 26

An information session for parents/guardians of children who will enter Kindergarten in September 2023 will be held in person on Wednesday, October 26 at Centennial Theatre. Families will gain a deeper understanding of the school district, including what they can expect as their child enters the school system. More information about the session will be posted soon to the [Kindergarten section](#) of our website.

Public Board Meeting – November 15

The next Board of Education Public Board Meeting takes place on Tuesday, November 15 at 6:30 p.m. Visit our [Public Meetings](#) web page for information on attending meetings in person (you may also livestream the meeting) and how you can provide input. The meeting agenda and board package will also be posted to this site and available for review on the Thursday afternoon preceding the public meeting.

NVSD Registrations

After School Art Classes – Registration open

Taught by art specialist teachers and assisted by secondary art students, a variety of Artists for Kids' After School Art classes provides students the opportunity to further their artistic ability and foster positive attitudes towards the visual arts. Visit the [After School Art](#) web page for details and to register.

Elementary Band & Strings – Late registration ends September 29

Late registration for the Elementary Band and Strings program for the 2022/2023 school year ends on Thursday, September 29. Programs will be offered at the following schools:

- **Strings (Grades 4-7)** at Braemar, Canyon Heights, Cleveland, Dorothy Lynas, Highlands, Larson, Montroyal, and Ross Road.
- **Band (Grades 5-7)** at all schools, except Montroyal, Norgate and Larson.



For more information, including program fees, visit our [Elementary Band and Strings](#) web page.

2023/2024 Kindergarten – Registration begins October 31

Registration for priority placement for 2023/2024 Kindergarten (children born in 2018) begins on Monday, October 31, and continues until Friday, December 9. Detailed instructions on the registration process, including forms and documentation required, will be available soon on the [Kindergarten registration](#) web page.

Missed an issue? Updates from the Superintendent, including the monthly Superintendent's Report, are [available for review](#).

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.