

A Message from the Superintendent

Dear North Vancouver School District Community,

Public schooling holds a central place in the shaping of the values and morals of future society. School communities model how our broader community functions. I believe educators have the responsibility to collectively and incrementally transform society, and I find it fitting that with all that is happening around us, locally and globally, October marks both World Teachers' Day (October 5) and National Principals' Month. In addition, the municipal elections that recently took place gave voice to our community and reset the stage for our local democracy.

The North Vancouver School District systems work this year is centred on 'Connection, Community, and Curiosity.' To educate, one cannot be separated from the other. We all need a sense of belonging and connection; in order to thrive, we have to build healthy communities; and education is built from the foundation of individual and collective curiosity. These ideas are as relevant at a classroom level, school level, or community level.

At our recent Curriculum Implementation Day for educators and educational staff, our focus was on Indigenous education and our commitment to truth, healing, and reconciliation, but underlying this work is the question of 'what does it mean to be a Canadian?' In other words, how do we wish to engage with others? What are the values we share? Your personal answer to these questions will vary depending on your lived experience, and I encourage you, as you spend time with your children, extended family members, neighbours, colleagues and community members, to reflect on these important questions.

As we connect with one another, as we develop community bonds, as we inspire children and youth to remain curious about the world around them, we will all continue to develop a deeper understanding and appreciation of one another, our individual and collective histories, and what it means to be a Canadian today. While not perfect, and work remains, it is a wonderful thing to call this country home.

With that, I hope you enjoy this month's Superintendent's Report. It is meant to inform, promote and celebrate the work of the school district. I am excited for what lies ahead. I hope you are too.

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.

For the stories with images that are included below, please click on the caption for a link to the blog post:

- New faces join returning trustees on North Van, West Van school boards ([North Shore News article](#))
- Premier's Awards for Excellence in Education winners, finalists celebrated ([BC Government News Release](#))
- North Vancouver kids cast votes in mock municipal election ([North Shore News article](#))
- SHLF Run returns with in-person event Sunday at Handsworth ([North Shore News article](#))
- Arlene Martin appointed new Assistant Superintendent ([NVSD media release](#))
- Truth and Reconciliation Week with Lynnmour/ᑭᐱ7elcha Elementary ([NVSD blog post](#))
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- New neighbours buzzing about Argyle ([LynnValleyLife blog](#))
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- Young Indigenous artist to present at UBC's upcoming Environmental Festival ([North Shore News article](#))

Announcements

Supporting students and families in the community

Through the [Student and Family Affordability Fund](#) (SFAF), the school district is supporting students and their families who are feeling financially challenged due to the rising costs of living.

To request financial support at any time throughout the 2022-2023 school year for expenses such as:

- School fees
- School/course supplies
- Clothing/footwear
- Basic necessities
- Athletic wear (for school athletics)
- Family food security (groceries)
- PAC hot lunch
- One-day field trips

Please complete the form(s) available on the [Student and Family Affordability Fund](#) web page and submit the form(s) in confidence to either your child's teacher, principal, school counsellor or front office staff.

Should you have any questions or need support completing the form(s), please visit our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) web page or speak with your child's principal.

Grade 8 Retreat at Cheakamus Centre (VIDEO)

Generations of students have visited Cheakamus Centre to connect with nature and share community-building and learning experiences with each other. This year, Grade 8 students from our secondary schools joined student leaders and school staff in a retreat to Cheakamus. This new outdoor initiative is meant to build connections and community and a real sense of belonging as students embark on their secondary school experience. Please watch the [video](#) for a glimpse of this new initiative.

Information

Framework for Enhancing Student Learning

The Ministry of Education and Child Care's Framework for Enhancing Student Learning brings a formalized approach to the planning and reporting expectations for all school districts with a focus on improving student learning and enhancing the intellectual, social and career development of all students in the K-12 public system. It combines accountability with evidence based decision making to support a system wide program of continuous improvement. Learn about the school district's [educational priorities](#) and review the [Enhancing Student Learning Report 2022-2023](#).

Indigenous education

We are pleased to share we have a new [Indigenous Education website](#) available for the school district community. Designed primarily to support staff enhance the classroom experience by embedding Indigenous worldviews, ways of knowing and protocols in their teaching and learning, the website is a resource we can all use to continue on our journey of truth, healing and reconciliation.

Celebrating Halloween safely

Halloween is a time of celebration for many in our community. Each year, we look forward to seeing students enjoy various Halloween activities. Please refer to my annual [Halloween message](#), which provides guidance on how families can help students celebrate Halloween in a fun and safe manner.

Severe weather information

As winter weather approaches, we would like to issue a reminder about our winter weather procedures. All NVSD schools will remain OPEN during winter weather, including snowfalls, if possible. Any school district-wide closure will be decided by 6:30 a.m. (at the latest) and announced through media and school district and school websites, shared with parents/guardians via [SchoolMessenger](#) (email and/or text message), and shared with staff via email. For more information, please visit our [Winter Weather](#) web page.

SMS text messaging via SchoolMessenger

Parents/guardians who would like to receive SMS text messages when there is an emergency during school or non-school hours (e.g., severe weather or power outage) need to opt in for this service.

Typically, parents/guardians receive a [SchoolMessenger](#) text message on their mobile phone when their child first registers to school and registration is complete (similar to this message): *"North Vancouver School District 44 messages. Reply Y to confirm, HELP 4 info. Msg & data rates may apply. Msg freq varies. schoolmessenger.com/smsca"*

Parents/guardians can also opt in to receive SMS text messages anytime by texting "Y" or "Yes" to 978338. Note: Standard message and data rates may apply.

Staying safe in the darker, wetter weather

The school district encourages students to get to and from school in safe and active ways. With shorter days and wet weather ahead, we ask that you take the time to review these safety tips with your children:

- Be seen by wearing reflective materials or bright clothes and using lights after dark and in poor weather.
- Cross streets only at intersections or marked crosswalks.
- Make eye contact with drivers, ensure drivers have stopped their vehicle before crossing, and keep looking for approaching vehicles while crossing.
- Walk or roll to and from school with a sibling or a buddy.
- Be aware of your surroundings, do not speak to strangers, and report anything of concern.

Additional information and resources to support safe and active travel are available on our [Safe and Active Travel](#) web page.

Outdoor safety – Be prepared

With the cooler fall weather and shorter days, North Shore Rescue and BC AdventureSmart are reminding outdoor enthusiasts to prepare accordingly, no matter the outdoor activity:

- Make a plan and leave a copy of the plan with someone you trust. Include when they should expect you back.
- Know before you go. Know the terrain and understand the conditions and weather patterns.
- Bring navigation tools (e.g., map and compass, cell phone with a GPS mapping app and offline maps, or a handheld GPS), a whistle, a basic first-aid kit, and a headlamp (your phone's light does not count).
- Wear or carry suitable clothing (e.g., puffy jacket, rain shell, toque, gloves) and dress in layers. Wear proper footwear (e.g., hiking boots and traction such as microspikes).
- Be aware of cellular and satellite coverage in the area, as it may be limited to highway corridors or impacted by physical obstacles which can block the signal.
- Know your limits to avoid injury, getting lost/disoriented, and exceeding your abilities.
- If you need help, call 911 ASAP – there is no charge for rescue.

Both North Shore Rescue and BC AdventureSmart have an abundance of safety tips, resources and videos available to ensure we all get outside and get home safely. Links to both organizations can be found from our [Outdoor Safety & Emergency Preparedness](#) web page.

NVSD Events

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 7 p.m. 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. Representatives of school programs and community resources will also be available. Additional information about the session can be found on the [Kindergarten](#) section of our website.

Public Board Meeting – November 15

A Board of Education Public Board Meeting takes on Tuesday, November 15 at 7:30 p.m. Visit our [Public Meetings](#) web page for information on how you can participate and to review the meeting agenda and board package (the latter are posted on the Thursday afternoon preceding the public meeting).

Standing Committee Meeting – November 22

A Board of Education Standing Committee Meeting takes place on Tuesday, November 22 at 7 p.m. Visit our [Public Meetings](#) web page for information on how you can participate and to review the meeting agenda (the latter is posted on the Thursday afternoon preceding the public meeting).

PATHS – Exhibition open

This year's fall exhibition, *PATHS*, 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. For information about this exhibition hosted at the Gordon Smith Gallery, visit the [exhibition](#) web page.

NVSD Registrations

North Vancouver Online Learning – Registration open

NVOL provides engaging and interactive learning experiences for students and adult learners. Students can choose from a full suite of [courses](#) from Grades 8 through 12 in both English and French.

Students can choose to engage in their NVOL courses entirely remotely online or in a blended model of online and in-person learning at the NVOL Centre. The flexibility NVOL offers allows students to take additional courses or adjust their schedules to meet the demands of their busy lives.

After School Art classes – en français and more!

This fall, AFK is offering an after school art class in French, Éducation Artistique, which is suitable for French Immersion students in Grades 4 to 7. Along with this class, several other classes are being offered, including Painting with Wool, Digital Art and Masterful Mixed Media. Taught by art specialist teachers and assisted by secondary art students, classes provide 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.

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, are available on the [Kindergarten registration](#) web page.

Advanced Placement Exams – Register by November 1

Handsworth is offering a wide range of AP exams for self-study students in May 2023. The deadline to register and remit payment is Tuesday, November 1. Visit the [Advanced Placement](#) web page for more information.

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.

