

A Message from the Superintendent

Dear North Vancouver School District Community,

Earlier this month, many of our school communities welcomed community and district staff to partake in Remembrance Day ceremonies. Attending Carson Graham's ceremony, where students, staff and administrators gathered together in the gymnasium, I was struck by the sense of connection, community and curiosity reverberating around the room. For many schools, it was the first time in three years all students were together.

Each ceremony highlighted the fostering of excellence in artistic talent, with students lending their learnings about war and sacrifice in many forms, including music, dance, poetry, spoken word, and visual arts.

Each school community is unique, and by consequence, so is each Remembrance Day ceremony. However, the thread that ties is a shared acknowledgement of the courage and sacrifice made by those who served and continue to serve their country. We have few ceremonies that bind us as Canadians. Remembrance Day and National Indigenous Veterans Day, which honour veterans, past and present, are genuine community experiences.

What also binds us as a community is the generosity of spirit and care we show towards one another. This is something demonstrated throughout the year, but particularly so in the weeks leading up to Winter Break. With all that is happening in the world, it is ever more important that we foster communities of care. I look forward to hearing more about how each school community supports others in North Vancouver and sharing those stories with you in the upcoming issue of the Superintendent's Report.

Respectfully,

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



In this November Issue

Good News from the NVSD

Announcements

- North Vancouver School District welcomes new Board of Education
- North Vancouver School District wins Bravo! Award

Information

- BC Training and Education Savings Grant
- MyEducation BC: new log in option for parents/guardians, secondary students
- Reminder: Severe weather information
- Reminder: SMS text messaging via SchoolMessenger
- *Alertable* public alerting system
- Reminder: Supporting students and families in the community

NVSD Events

- Standing Committee Meeting - November 22
- Keeping Kids Safe: Cybersafety and Sexual Exploitation Education – November 23
- AFK Winter Holiday print sale returns – December 1 to 15
- Public Board Meeting - December 6
- Digital Media Youth Expo - December 10
- *PATHS* - Exhibition open

NVSD Registrations

- 2023/2024 Kindergarten - Registration open
- North Vancouver Online Learning - Registration open
- AFK Winter After School Art classes - Registration open

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:

- Handsworth girls win field hockey and cross-country provincial titles ([North Shore News article](#))

- Artful doors welcome all to Cheakamus ([NVSD blog post](#))
- North Vancouver student meets Justin Trudeau while playing politician for the day ([North Shore News article](#))
- Take our Kids to Work Day ([NVSD blog post](#))
- Photos: North Van first responders take their kids to work ([North Shore News article](#))
- Remembrance Day: Students across the North Shore honour those who served ([North Shore News](#))
- High school students impress with thoughtful actions ([Letter to the North Shore News](#))
- Argyle students recreate Ghostbusters adventures on screen ([North Shore News article](#))
- 'Affordability' funding helps families with cost-of-living pressures ([North Shore News article](#))
- North Vancouver school given traditional, Tsleil-Waututh name ([North Shore News article](#))
- North Vancouver fire training hopes to interest youth in firefighting ([Global News article](#))

Announcements

North Vancouver School District welcomes new Board of Education

On November 15, 2022, newly elected and re-elected members of the North Vancouver Board of Education were sworn in as trustees. Joined by the school district's senior executive team and staff, Skwxwú7mesh Nation Elder Aaron Williams, City of North Vancouver Mayor Linda Buchanan, District of North Vancouver Mayor Mike Little, local dignitaries, representatives from education partner groups, and friends and family, trustees took the oaths of office and allegiance under the direction of Judge James Sutherland.

The seven trustees serving the North Vancouver School District for the 2022-2026 term are:

- Daniel Anderson (City of North Vancouver)
- Lailani Tumaneng (City of North Vancouver)
- Antje Wilson (City of North Vancouver)
- Cyndi Gerlach (District of North Vancouver)
- Kulvir Mann (District of North Vancouver)
- Linda Munro (District of North Vancouver)
- George Tsiakos (District of North Vancouver)

Following the ceremony, a public board meeting was held, where Trustee Kulvir Mann was elected Board Chair and Trustee Linda Munro was elected Board Vice Chair.

The Board plays an essential governance role in setting the direction of the school district, and I look forward to working with trustees during their four-year term to support success for all students. Together, we will work toward our vision through the six aspirational goals of our 10-year strategic plan. *Congratulations and welcome to the North Vancouver School District!*

North Vancouver School District wins Bravo! Award

On October 24, 2022, the North Vancouver School District won an Award of Distinction during the 2022 BRAVO! Awards Gala hosted by the Canadian Association of Communicators in Education (CACE).

“We are thrilled and honoured to receive this recognition from the Canadian Association of Communicators in Education,” said Communications Manager Lisa Dalla Vecchia. “Our communications team is responsible for providing strategic communications and public relations support for all our schools and the various district departments to ensure stakeholders and education partners remain informed of important initiatives, events and news regarding the North Vancouver School District.” [>>Read the full media release.](#)

Information

BC Training and Education Savings Grant

If you have a child in Kindergarten through Grade 4, your child may be eligible for a \$1,200 BC Training and Education Savings Grant for their post-secondary education. Please review this [bulletin](#) for more information.

MyEducation BC: new log in option for parents/guardians, secondary students

Parents/guardians and secondary school students now have the option to log in to their MyEducation BC accounts using their BC Services Card. Visit the NVSD parent portal to find:

- [BC Services Card Authentication - Parent User Guide](#)
- [MyEducation BC Parent Tips & Resources](#)

Those who do not wish to sign in with their BC Services Card can continue to use their username and password to log on to MyEducation BC.

Reminder: 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.

Reminder: 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 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.

Alertable public alerting system

Residents and visitors to the North Shore are encouraged to sign up for *Alertable*, which is used by North Shore Emergency Management (NSEM) to send out alerts for emergencies (e.g., severe weather, natural disasters, industrial hazards, transportation accidents or marine spills). Alerts will also be sent if one needs to evacuate, shelter-in-place or if there is an Amber Alert. For more information and to sign up, visit nsem.ca/alertable.

Reminder: 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 including:

- School fees (e.g., fees for school sports and other school activities)
- School/course supplies:
 - Basic school supplies that may otherwise be purchased by families and students, such as pens, paper, etc.
 - Additional supplies for shop, culinary and craft classes, workbooks, camps, one-day field trips, cultural events, student society meetings including those related to equity, diversity, and inclusion, and instrument and equipment fees.
- Clothing/footwear required for school sports or other school activities
- 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.

NVSD Events

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).

Keeping Kids Safe: Cybersafety and Sexual Exploitation Education – November 23

The school district and North Vancouver RCMP Youth Intervention Unit invite families* of students in Grades 9 and 10 to attend an online 90-minute session on Wednesday, November 23, starting at 6:30 p.m. This online session follows a well-attended in-person session held on Thursday, November 17 and complements presentations being delivered across the school district to students in Grades 9 and 10. Families will learn about digital consent, healthy boundaries, grooming warning signs, and exploitation trends happening through games, activities and multimedia (i.e., social media).

For more information and to RSVP for the online session, visit the [school district's](#) website.

*While these sessions are targeted to families of students in Grades 9 and 10, they are open to all parents/guardians.

AFK Winter Holiday print sale returns – December 1 to 15

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.

This winter sale, which runs from December 1 to 15, offers a 10% discount on all [AFK limited edition prints](#) (not to be used with other promotions). 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 kids, educators and artists!

Public Board Meeting – December 6

A Board of Education Public Board Meeting takes place on Tuesday, December 6 at 6:30 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 is posted on the Thursday afternoon preceding the public meeting).

Digital Media Youth Expo – December 10

Hosted by the school district's Digital Media Academy (DMA) at Argyle Secondary on Saturday, December 10 from 12 noon to 3 p.m., this annual free event is open to students, families and staff and is an opportunity to learn about the educational and employment opportunities available in digital media.

Representatives from a variety of Lower Mainland post-secondary schools, local and global organizations, industry experts, and studios involved in all aspects of digital media (e.g., visual effects, animation, film, sound design, photography, web design, game design, virtual reality etc.) will be in attendance. More information is available on the [Digital Media Youth Expo](#) website.

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

2023/2024 Kindergarten – Registration open

Register for priority placement for 2023/2024 Kindergarten (children born in 2018) before Friday, December 9. Detailed instructions on the registration process, including forms and documentation required, are available on the [Kindergarten registration](#) web page.

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.

AFK Winter After School Art classes - Registration open

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



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 Tseil-Waututh Nation. We would like to thank the Coast Salish people and value the opportunity to learn, share and grow on this traditional territory.

