

A Message from the Superintendent

Dear North Vancouver School District Community,

"Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself." - John Dewey.

As I have shared with you, connection—or reconnection—community and curiosity are the overarching themes of this school year. In the midst of a busy January, we find ourselves at the heart of the school year, and with it, we see the 'why' of public schooling.

For students, the public schooling experience creates vibrancy in one's life. Each day, students come prepared to engage with their classmates and to learn within a community of educators and staff who provide opportunities for students to delve deeply into their learning. In supporting students' recognition of education as a life-long process and journey, we are also preparing students to be thoughtful, compassionate and skilled citizens who will contribute positively to their communities and society.

While we focus on the present—the teaching and learning taking place in schools—we are also looking to the future and what we can do together to create the bold and progressive change needed for students and staff to continue to thrive.

Please ensure you provide input in the current and upcoming engagement opportunities highlighted in this issue of the Superintendent's Report and through other communication channels, including district- and school-based notifications.

With your engagement and input, we can ensure we are making the best possible decisions for our school communities, now and for years to come.

Respectfully,

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:

- Queensbury's season of caring and giving ([NVSD blog post](#))
- Coast Salish Gardens Program: Supporting schools to integrate Indigenous plant knowledge ([NVSD blog post](#))
- *Known to Us* – A student exhibition ([NVSD blog post](#))
- Career fair in TV/film, theatre and broadcasting ([NVSD blog post](#))
- Eastview's clothing swap success ([NVSD blog post](#))
- Handsworth auctions old gym floorboards and nets for basketball program ([North Shore News article](#))
- Elementary strings students win 3rd place in national music challenge ([NVSD blog post](#))
- North Van teacher applauds her philanthropic students in moving letter ([North Shore News article](#))
- North Vancouver school collects Christmas gifts for women's shelters ([North Shore News article](#))

Announcements

Upcoming engagement opportunities – Your voice matters

Starting this week, and in the weeks to come, the school district will be inviting members of the NVSD community to share feedback in the areas highlighted below. Information and reminders about how you can provide input will be made available via NVSD communication channels, including this issue of the Superintendent's Report. Thank you in advance for taking the time to participate and share your feedback.

Secondary Schedule Survey

This week, secondary school students, families and staff will have received an email with an invitation to participate in the Secondary Schedule Survey. Feedback received will be used to help the school district plan for the coming school year. The deadline to participate in the survey is Tuesday, January 31, 11:59 p.m.

Student Learning Survey

The Student Learning Survey (SLS), administered annually by the Ministry of Education and Child Care, is open to students in Grades 4, 7, 10 and 12, their parents/guardians, and staff and administrators in B.C. public schools. The survey covers a range of topics, providing a comprehensive picture of the educational experience in B.C. public schools and valuable insight for addressing current needs and trends.

Parents/guardians are invited to participate in the survey, available in English, French and additional languages, until Saturday, April 29. Information about the survey, including a survey link is available on the [Student Learning Survey](#) web page.

Proposed 2023/2024 School Calendar

School district community members will soon be invited to provide input on the proposed calendar for the 2023/2024 school year. Feedback will be collected online from Wednesday, February 1 until Tuesday, February 28, 11:59 p.m.

Budget Priorities 2023/2024

School district community members will soon be invited to provide input on budget priorities that fall under the Operating Budget and align with the school district's strategic goals, vision and values. Feedback can be provided through two [Standing Committee Meetings](#) (Tuesday, February 7 and Tuesday, March 28), and from February 7 to March 10, by email, online survey or traditional mail. For more information about this upcoming engagement opportunity, visit the [Budget Priorities: Public Input](#) web page.

Information

Black Excellence Day

January 13, 2023, marked the second annual Black Excellence Day, a day to stand in solidarity with Black Canadians and collectively honour the rich history, contributions, achievements and joy of Black people.

On January 13, North Vancouver School District schools, along with others throughout the province, participated in an event meant to serve as a learning opportunity and celebration of Black achievements, stories, art, people, joy, love and history. It was hosted by the Ninandotoo Anti-Racism Society and the Burnaby School District.

The NVSD encourages everyone to use Black Excellence Day and Black History Month to build a deeper understanding and appreciation of community members' lived experiences, challenges and achievements, and to celebrate the diversity of our community. For more information and resources, please visit the [Black Excellence Day](#) website.

Reminder: Severe weather information

As winter weather events continue, 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.

Reminder: *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's [Alertable](#) web page.

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 September 2023. If you are interested in hosting an international student, please reach out to our International Education program office at international@sd44.ca. More information about the homestay program is available on the [International Education](#) section of the school district website.

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, 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. A listing of eligible expenses, and answers to common questions, can be found on our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) web page.

NVSD Events

Late French Immersion Information Session & application period – January 23

An information session for Grade 5 students and their families interested in the Late French Immersion program (Grade 6 entry) will be held at École Secondaire Argyle Secondary School on Monday, January 23 from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. [Sign up for the session here.](#)

Applications to the program will be accepted beginning Monday, January 23 through to Friday, March 3. For more information about the program, including how to apply, visit our [Late French Immersion](#) web page.

Secondary Enhanced Programs & Academies Night – January 26

Families with students in Grades 7 to 11 are invited to learn more about the various [enhanced programs and academies](#) offered at secondary schools throughout the school district. The event will take place on Thursday, January 26, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at Sutherland Secondary School (1860 Sutherland Avenue). [Sign up to attend here.](#)

Digital Media Academy Open House – February 1

A Digital Media Academy (DMA) information session takes place on Wednesday, February 1 at 7 p.m. at the Argyle Secondary School library. DMA Teachers Murray Bulger and Chris Miller will discuss details about the DMA Full program (Grades 11 and 12), DMA Lite program (Grades 9 and 10), and application requirements. Please visit the [DMA website](#) for more information.

Standing Committee Meeting – February 7

A Board of Education Standing Committee Meeting takes place on Tuesday, February 7 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).

Trades Programs Information Night – February 15

Secondary students and their parents/guardians are invited to learn about various opportunities available to students in Grades 10-12. Representatives from SkilledTradesBC (formerly Industry Training Authority), trades employers in North Vancouver, and school district career program educators will be in attendance. The event will take place on Wednesday, February 15, 6:30 to 8 p.m., at the Education Services Centre (2121 Lonsdale Avenue). [Sign up to attend here.](#)

Public Board Meeting – February 21

A Board of Education Public Board Meeting takes place on Tuesday, February 21 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).

PATHS – Exhibition ends February 23

PATHS examines how paths connect us and the collective stories they hold. The exhibition brings together works from Artists for Kids' permanent collection, including 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

Elementary Band and Strings – Registration open

Elementary Band and Strings is a unique instrumental music program that complements the Ministry of Education and Child Care's Arts Education curriculum and provides school-based instrumental instruction to students in Grades 5 – 7 for Band and Grades 4 – 7 for Strings. Registration for the 2023/2024 school year is open until Tuesday, February 28.

While there is a Late Registration enrolment period (March 10 – September 29), this is subject to program availability and class size at your child's school site and is dependent on sufficient registrations received by February 28. Visit the [Elementary Band and Strings](#) web page for more information, including program fees.

AFK After School Art – Spaces remain

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. Visit the [Artists for Kids](#) website for more information and to register.

AFK Spring Break Camps – Registration open

Students will enjoy a week full of studio art activities including drawing, painting and printmaking taught by an art specialist teacher. Each week will be unique with expert art teachers guiding students to experiment with many art materials and techniques. All materials are provided. Visit the [AFK Day Camps](#) web page for more information and to register.

North Vancouver Online Learning – Online registration open

NVOL provides engaging, accessible and interactive learning experiences for students. Students can enroll any time during the school year and have one calendar year to complete their course. Students can also 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.

Visit the [NVOL website to see our 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.

Kindergarten registration – Ongoing

While registration for 2023/2024 Kindergarten (children born in 2018) priority placement has ended, registration for Kindergarten continues year-round. Registrations will be placed according to space and facilities availability and the date the registration was received.

Parents/legal guardians must book an appointment using our online booking system to register their child in person. Detailed instructions on the registration process, including forms and documentation required, are available on the [Kindergarten Registration](#) web page.

New registration and transfer requests - Begin January 23

Priority placement for new registrations and transfers for Grades 1-12 begins on Monday, January 23 and ends on Friday, March 3 at 4 p.m. Visit the [2023/2024 Registrations and Transfer Requests](#) web page for detailed information.

Academies – Applications accepted starting January 27

Our highly specialized academies are designed to enhance the overall student experience by providing learning environments that concentrate on a focal skill set. Students in Grades 8 to 12 work towards graduation while accelerating their knowledge and skill development in an area of interest that can form a foundation for successful post-graduation pursuits.

The following academies will be offered during the 2023/2024 school year:

AFK Studio Art | Basketball | Business of Gaming and Entrepreneurship | Dance | Digital Media | Digital Media Lite | Field Hockey | Hockey Skills | Robotics | Rowing | Soccer | Volleyball

To note:

- Final academy offerings are subject to sufficient enrolment.
- The application period for academies begins on Friday, January 27 and ends on Monday, February 27.

For more information about our Academies program offerings, please visit our [Academies](#) web page and plan on attending the Secondary Enhanced Programs & Academies Night on Thursday, January 26.

AFK Paradise Valley Summer School of Visual Art – Registration opens February 1

Young artists ages 8-15 will explore their surroundings with artist Charlene Vickers in the beautiful setting of Paradise Valley. This overnight camp combines outdoor studio adventures, in-depth instruction in collage, drawing and painting, as well as daily recreational activities such as canoeing, hiking, archery and campfire singalongs. Students are taught by B.C. certified art specialist teachers and mentored by an acclaimed Canadian artist. Visit [Artists for Kids](#) for more information.

IB Diploma Programme - Upcoming key dates in February

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (DP) is an internationally recognized, rigorous university preparatory two-year program for students in Grades 11 and 12 that leads to a qualification that is widely recognized by the world's leading universities. It is offered at Carson Graham Secondary.

Key Dates:

- **Thursday, February 2:** Information session (in-person) for interested students currently in Grade 10, and their parents/guardians.
- **Friday, February 3:** Deadline to sign up for “DP for a Day.” Prospective students will explore the program firsthand by meeting with IB coordinators, teachers and current DP students. Sign up via email to [Cora Pross](#).
- **Friday, February 17:** Application deadline. Visit the [Application Process](#) for information. Visit the Carson Graham [IB Diploma Programme](#) web page for more information about the program.

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.