

A Message from the Superintendent

Dear North Vancouver School District Community,

February is a month where we can feel the chill of lingering winter weather yet catch the first glimpses of spring.

February is also a month where we can feel the deep learning taking place in and outside the classroom throughout the school district.

For deep learning to happen, for students' curiosity to be stoked and sustained, and for staff to feel empowered to meet students' needs, students and staff must feel an equally deep sense of belonging, community, and connection.

At the North Vancouver School District, we conscientiously and consistently strive to create opportunities for students and staff to connect, build community and feel they are where they need to be to learn, share and grow.

Carson Graham Secondary hosted its first school-wide assembly to celebrate Black History Month this month. Coordinated by Teacher Chanel Stanley and Behaviour Support Worker Valerie Jacober, the celebration included Anti-Racism Coalition Vancouver and Carson Graham alumna DJ Orene Askey or DJ O Show. The assembly provided a beautiful and moving educational experience and celebration of Black people and history. You can read more about it in this [North Shore News article](#).

February is also National Inclusive Education Month, a month to highlight inclusive education, thoughtfully consider and share what successful school experiences for every child look like, and continue to create inclusive teaching and learning opportunities for all students. I encourage you to read this [blog post](#) by District Principal, Inclusive Education Janis Mann about the important work happening with the Intellectual Disabilities and Autism Student Sub-Committee and this [blog post](#) by Teacher James Diakuw about the teaching and learning in his music class at Handsworth Secondary.

This month, the school district community will recognize Pink Shirt Day. On Wednesday, February 22, students and staff are invited to wear pink and commit to taking action to create a more kind and inclusive world.





Lastly, there is still time this month for you to share your thoughts on both the proposed 2023/2024 school calendar and budget priorities. Opportunities to hear from you (with details included below) are key to ensuring we collectively make the best decisions for the school district community to continue to come together and thrive.

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:

- An inclusive musical experience for Handsworth students ([NVSD blog post](#))
- Student-centred education and belonging ([NVSD blog post](#))
- High school teacher recalls musical beginnings of Grammy winner Tobias Jesso Jr. (NVSD alumnus; [North Shore News](#))
- Black History 365 ([NVSD blog post](#))
- Black History Month is more than just ticking a box, say North Van schools ([North Shore News](#))
- Cleveland Elementary and the Salmonid Program ([NVSD blog post](#))
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- North Van football player earns trip to prestigious East-West Shrine Bowl (NVSD alumnus; [North Shore News](#))
- North Van teen races her way to cyclo-cross world junior championships ([North Shore News](#))

Announcements

NVOL becomes a Provincial Online Learning School

North Vancouver Online Learning (NVOL) has been selected by the Ministry of Education and Child Care to become a Provincial Online Learning School (POLS). The new online learning model is part of the Ministry's work to improve equity of access to inclusive and effective online learning communities that are culturally relevant for all students in the province.

Commencing September 2023, students across the province will be able to enrol in NVOL courses. NVOL will continue to deliver high-quality online learning programming—in English and French and through a new Learning Management System—to serve the needs of not only students who reside within the school district but also students across the province. [->Read the media release.](#)

Upcoming engagement opportunities – Your voice matters

The school district is 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 the Superintendent's Report. Thank you in advance for taking the time to participate and share your feedback.

Proposed 2023/2024 School Calendar

Throughout the month of February, you are invited to submit your comments and feedback on the Proposed 2023/2024 School Calendar through an [online submission form](#). Information about the development process for annual school calendars and a copy of the proposed school calendar can be found on our [website](#). The opportunity to provide feedback ends on Tuesday, February 28, 11:59 p.m.

2023/2024 Budget Priorities

Each year, the school district undertakes a public consultation process for input on budget priorities that fall under the Operating Budget and align with the school district's strategic goals, vision and values.

In this [video](#), you'll hear from Ella Waite, District Student Leadership Council member, and Jacqui Stewart, Secretary Treasurer, who provide information about the budget and invite you to share your input. Information about the budget development process is also available on our [Budget Priorities: Public Input](#) web page.

Ways for you to share your feedback and until Friday, March 10:

- [Online survey](#).
- Email to budgetcomments@sd44.ca.
- Traditional mail addressed to: Secretary Treasurer, 2121 Lonsdale Avenue, North Vancouver, BC, V7M 2K6.

In addition, you can also share your feedback at our upcoming Standing Committee meeting on Tuesday, March 28 at 7 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 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.

Information

Emergency lockdown procedure and practice drill

The North Vancouver School District recognizes its collective responsibility in keeping students and staff safe while on school premises. Part of that responsibility includes ensuring school communities are familiar with procedures that keep one another safe during an emergency situation.

A *lockdown* is an emergency procedure designed to protect occupants from external harm or contain the movement of occupants when an intruder, or a restricted weapon, is present in the building. A “lockdown” means people must stay where they are and cannot leave until escorted outside by response personnel. In a school lockdown, only emergency response teams from law enforcement will enter the school.

Each school across the school district, in partnership with the North Vancouver RCMP, will be conducting its own practice lockdown drill, which will include the participation of all students and staff, between February 5 and March 10. Families can expect to receive (or may have already received) additional information about the lockdown drill happening at your child's school directly from the school principal.

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

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.

Robotics Academy Information Night – February 27

Grade 10 – 12 students interested in learning more about the [Robotics Academy](#) are invited to an information night on Monday, February 27 at 7 p.m. at Carson Graham Secondary (Room E201).

Public Board Meeting – March 7

A Board of Education Public Board Meeting takes place on Tuesday, March 7 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).

Standing Committee Meeting – March 28

A Board of Education Standing Committee Meeting takes place on Tuesday, March 28 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).

Ready, Set, Learn – March 30 to May 25

Ready, Set, Learn is an initiative aimed at encouraging and supporting children's early language and literacy skills. Intended for families and their children (ages 3 to 5 years), Ready, Set, Learn is designed to foster positive connections among families, schools and early learning community partners and support children as they prepare for their transition to Kindergarten. Ready, Set, Learn events will be hosted at multiple locations throughout the school district from March 30 to May 25 and are free to attend. Event details will be available on the [Ready, Set, Learn](#) web page soon.

NVSD Registrations

IB Diploma Programme – Apply by February 17

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, and the deadline to apply is Friday, February 17. Visit the Carson Graham [IB Diploma Programme](#) web page for more information about the program.

Academies – Apply by February 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

The application period is open until Monday, February 27. For more information about our Academies program offerings, please visit our [Academies](#) web page.

*Final academy offerings are subject to sufficient enrolment.

Elementary Band and Strings – Register by February 28

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 Summer Day Camps – Registration opens March 1

Students will enjoy a week 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 information.

Late French Immersion – Apply by March 3

Applications to the Late French Immersion program (Grade 6 entry) will be accepted through to Friday, March 3. Visit our [Late French Immersion](#) web page for more information.

New registration and transfer requests – Deadline of March 3

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

AFK After School Art – Registration open for spring classes

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

AFK Paradise Valley Summer School of Visual Art – Registration open

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.

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 for Kindergarten. Information about the registration process, including forms and documentation required, is available on the [Kindergarten Registration](#) web page.

North Vancouver Online Learning – Online registration open

NVOL provides engaging, accessible and interactive learning experiences for students. Students can enrol 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.

Community Initiatives

CNV Youth Awards & Scholarship – Apply by March 13

The City of North Vancouver Civic Youth Awards Program recognizes youth (ages 10 to 24) for noteworthy achievements and contributions to the community. Awards are given in six categories, and the nomination deadline is Monday, March 13. Details are available on the [City's](#) website.

The Youth Centennial Scholarship is awarded to youth who have demonstrated outstanding community service and who are pursuing post-secondary education. The application deadline is Monday, March 13. Details are available on the [City's](#) website.

DNV Annual Youth Awards – Apply by March 13

The District of North Vancouver Youth Awards Program recognizes youth (ages 10 to 24) for their significant achievements and contributions to the community. Awards are given in four categories, and the nomination deadline is Monday, March 13. Details are available on the [District's](#) website.

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.