



ÉCOLE SECONDAIRE
HANDSWORTH
SECONDARY SCHOOL



September 29, 2022

Dear Handsworth Families,

It is hard to believe we are already through our first month of the school year, but in reflecting on all that has happened over these eventful past four weeks it's easy to see how the time has passed so quickly. Our **new beginning** to the school year has brought with it fresh opportunities for students to find their sense of place, and to make connections with peers and staff.

Our Grade 8 Retreat on September 13th and 14th was an enormous success, and could not have been so were it not for the support of many hands. I'd like to acknowledge especially the efforts of Ms. Jagruti Desai, Ms. Tracey Lloyd and Ms. Toby MacDonald, as well as all of our senior student leaders whose efforts brought this experience to life. It's been wonderful to see so many grade 8s wearing their 'Grad 2027' t-shirts in the days since.

In the same week, we celebrated our first school spirit event; The Buchanan Bowl. It was amazing to see so many members of the school community out to support our student athletes, and I'd like to commend our students for the overwhelmingly positive manner in which they supported the team. As always, thank you to the Carson Graham school community for being such great hosts and for doing much of the heavy lifting in the background to provide this opportunity to our school community to gather as well. Events like these are reminders that although on the field we are rivals, that we all belong to the same NVSD family.

On Friday, September 23rd, our school community participated in our annual Terry Fox Run. I need to acknowledge especially the efforts of Ms. Therese O'Connor who has championed this event for many years now. I'm proud to share that this year we have raised \$4,003.15 so far, with \$2350 online and \$1653.15 collected via in-school donations. This brings our running total since 2016 to \$32,335.25, which also includes BlueShore Financial's matching of up to \$4000 for the years 2018 & 2019. Families are invited to continue [donating online](#) through until February 2023.

September was also an opportunity to share information with families on a number of fronts. Thank you to all of those who facilitated or attended a series of information evenings throughout September in an effort to communicate all that we are doing as a school community to support our students:

- Grade 8 Parent Information Night (Ms. Desai)
- Fall Sport Coaches Meeting (Mr. Gallant)
- French Immersion Program Meeting (Immersion Teachers)
- Grade 12 Parent Information Night (Ms. Schwegler)



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- HPAC Meeting (PAC Co-Chairs Carmen Jensen & Jacquie Griffiths)
- Grade 9 Japan Information Meeting (Mr. Forsyth)

If you missed any of these information evenings, please feel free to connect with the organizers to find out what it was you missed. For many of the meetings, the slide decks presented are now posted to our school website as well.

As we look forward to the end of the month, it is timely to acknowledge the *National Day for Truth and Reconciliation*, as well as Orange Shirt Day which is being observed at Handsworth today, and led by the tireless efforts of Ms. Simone Brodie. As seen in the hundreds of orange shirts being worn, Handsworth students are compassionate and empathic, and I know each of us will find ways to reflect this weekend on actions we can each take, personally and collectively, to move towards reconciliation. We are humbled and grateful as a school community to be able to live, work and play on the unceded territories of the Coast Salish people – the Skwxwú7mesh Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation.

The move into autumn also marks the typical start of cold and flu season. We continue to be especially sensitive to the collective health of our school community and offer a friendly reminder to continue to model [personal practices and health awareness](#). If students are feeling unwell, please continue to exercise caution and remain home, and a reminder that we also continue to respect the wearing of masks by staff and students as being a personal choice.

Finally, a reminder of some important upcoming dates:

- Friday, September 30th: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
- Tuesday, October 4th: Club Day @ Lunch
- Wednesday, October 5th: Curriculum Implementation Day
- Monday, October 10th: Thanksgiving Day
- Friday, October 14th: Grade 9 Careers Assembly, 8:30am in the Theatre
- Monday, October 17th: HPAC Meeting
- Wednesday, October 19th: Parent-Teacher Conferences, *details to follow*
- Friday, October 21st: Provincial Professional Day
- Tuesday, October 25th – Wednesday, October 26th: Prelude Music Concerts
- Monday, October 31st: Graduation Assessment week: All Grade 11s & 12s who have not already completed their Grad Assessments in Grade 10

Sincerely,

Mark Barrett
Principal
Handsworth Secondary