



ÉCOLE SECONDAIRE
HANDSWORTH
SECONDARY SCHOOL



November 7, 2023

To our Handsworth Community,

I'm writing to provide an update on the field situation at Handsworth. As part of the new school build, we planned a grass lawn as an interim measure until funding and community agreements allow for an Artificial Turf Field (ATF). Unfortunately, there have been issues with the seeding and landscaping, so the area remains fenced off. While we don't have a specific opening date yet, once the deficiencies are addressed, our students will benefit as we will have an outdoor learning and leisure space, teaching area for Physical and Health Education classes, and practice space for athletic teams.

To address student needs during this time, we've taken the following steps:

1. We've obtained permits for using Eldon Park during the school day for Physical and Health Education classes.
2. We're working with the North Vancouver Recreation and Culture for priority access to the William Griffin Turf for afterschool team practices and games.
3. Maintenance at Mountainside Secondary will improve safety and playability for football and rugby programs.
4. Work is ongoing to address landscaping deficiencies at Handsworth.
5. We continue to advocate for the ATF's construction with the District of North Vancouver.

We understand the challenges, including the additional travel time for families and students, and appreciate your support as we navigate these field issues. Despite the hurdles, our Handsworth Royals continue to excel in athletics, and we're working to ensure practice space for the spring season. We appreciate the advocacy from our Handsworth Community and HPAC, along with the North Vancouver School District, in keeping this project moving ahead, prioritizing student access and safety along the way.

As more information is available, including timelines, I look forward to sharing that information with you. Thank you for your understanding and patience.

Sincerely,

Cary Hungle
Principal