



ROYALS NEWS

Upcoming Events Summary

January 21-22.....Handsworth Dance Show (Theatre)

January 23.....School Based Pro D Day

January 26.....Grad Assessments Grade 10 LIT

January 27.....Grad Assessments Grade 12 LIT

January 28.....Last Day to Purchase a YEARBOOK

January 29.....A Night of Shakespeare

February 2.....Grade 8 Course Programming Assembly (tutorial)

February 3.....Grade 9 Course Programming Assembly (tutorial)

February 4.....Grade 10 Course Programming Assembly (tutorial)

February 5.....Grade 11 Course Programming Assembly (tutorial)

February 3.....Dual Credit/Career Programs Info Night (@ Carson)

February 4.....Course Programming Info Night (Parents/Guardians ONLY)

February 5.....Grade 7 into 8 Info Night (Parents/Guardians ONLY)

February 9.....YELL Info Night (@ Sutherland)

February 9.....Juzt Jazz (7:30pm, HSS Theatre)

February 11.....Grade 9 Immunizations

February 12.....Grad Skate (Shipyards)

February 13.....District Pro D Day

February 16.....Family Day (No School)

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Last chance to
order a 2025-26
yearbook:
JAN 28th!

Visit our school website for
up-to-date information on all
things Handsworth!



Click to Subscribe to
HPAC Newsletter!



Twitter@HandsworthHSS



Instagram@handsworthhss

School Information

Daily Announcements/Block Rotation	Daily Announcements - École Handsworth Secondary
Handsworth Calendar	Calendar - École Handsworth Secondary
Reporting Student Attendance	Attendance Procedures - École Handsworth Secondary
Staff Contact Information	Staff Info - École Handsworth Secondary

Safety and Flow in the Parking Lots During Drop Off & Pick Up

Att: All Drivers!

A reminder that our parking lots are designed for one-way traffic movement only.

When travel by car is necessary, we ask parents to **make use of designated drop off areas** located at the front of the building ONLY. **The west parking lot is NOT a pick up zone.**

To ensure flow, please DO NOT STOP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE PARKING LOTS OR ON THE STREET FOR DROP OFF.

If other family members/caregivers are driving, please remind them of our parking lot rules.

As always, we continue to encourage students to walk, bike or transit to school whenever possible.



Attendance Reporting Procedures

Please send your student absences (including late arrivals and/or early dismissals) via EMAIL!!!

You can email us at **handsworth_attendance@sd44.ca**



Please ensure the word "absence" or "attendance" appears in the subject line.

FORMAT when reporting an absence:

- ✓ FIRST NAME of student
- ✓ LAST NAME of student
- ✓ Grade
- ✓ DATE of absence (whole day or state the portion of the day)
- ✓ REASON for absence ("ill", "appointment", "vacation")
- ✓ Your name & relation to the student. (Only emails from parents and legal guardians are accepted.)



YELL Info Night (@ Sutherland)

Monday, February 9, 2026

Location: Sutherland Secondary School Library

Time: 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Parents and students welcome from all NVSD44 schools!



Young Entrepreneurship and Leadership Launchpad

 [YELL Application 2026.pdf](#)

The Young Entrepreneurship and Leadership Launchpad (YELL) provides students with a thorough understanding of how to apply entrepreneurial thinking to future studies, launching a business or entering the workforce post-secondary. Students interested in technology, entrepreneurship and innovation and those curious about how to put their ideas into action will benefit from the skills taught in this course as they prepare for lifelong success.

Why YELL?

- Students earn course credits for Entrepreneurship 12.
- Work with teachers, business and community leaders and a mentor to design a student-led business concept.
- Connect with other business minded students and share ideas.
- Compete in a Venture Challenge to present their ideas to real-world investors and business leaders in the spring.

The course runs outside of the regular timetable after school for 2.5 hours and is divided into three terms: Business Accelerator, Idea Incubator and a Venture Challenge. **The course runs on Tuesdays, 3:30pm – 6:00pm at Handsworth and on Mondays, 3:30pm – 6:00 pm at Sutherland.**

Students interested in signing up for YELL must complete an external application which will be available online in February. More information, including the application, can be found on the Handsworth website under YELL: www.yellcanada.org

For more information contact:

Sheri Johnson
Handsworth Secondary School
sjohnson@sd44.ca

Grade 8 Financial Literacy Assembly—January 7th

The New Year began with an engaging assembly on Wednesday, January 7, where all Grade 8 students participated in a Financial Literacy presentation during the afternoon.

The session was provided by Paul W. Lermitté, CEO of Legacy Family Office/Assante Financial Management, a senior Financial Planner, and author of Dollars and Sense. Paul encouraged students to think long-term about saving and introduced the concept of “currency” as a framework for planning their financial future. The presentation also focused on developing essential financial skills to help students make informed decisions about money management.



This event was part of a district and school initiative to integrate Financial Literacy into the educational program through Career Education and Planning 8.

Handsworth Hockey Team

Handsworth Hockey would like to thank all students who participated in tryouts on January 7 and 8. We had an outstanding turnout with over 38 players trying out, including both girls and boys from Grades 8 through 12.

It was great to see such strong enthusiasm, effort, and sportsmanship from everyone involved. The level of participation and commitment continues to highlight the positive hockey culture at Handsworth. Thank you to our players and families for their support, and we look forward to an exciting season ahead.



Provincial Assessment—Literacy 10 & 12

Due to the impact of the recent BCGEU strike action on the provincial assessment technical service provider, the Graduation Literacy Assessment Sessions originally scheduled for November 3rd - 4th have been postponed.

The Ministry has confirmed that early admission to post-secondary institutions in BC will not be impacted by the change.

The next available assessment session will begin in January with the schedule below:

- January 26th - Literacy 10 Assessment (Rescheduled from November)
- January 27th - Literacy 12 Assessment (Rescheduled from November)

2026-2027 Course Programming Presentations

Presentations for Parents/Guardians ONLY: February 4th

Due to limited seating, ONLY one parent/guardian is asked to attend. Please *do not bring* children to these presentations.

- ⇒ **Grade 8 into 9** - 5:30pm to 6:30pm (Theatre)
- ⇒ **Grade 9 into 10** - 5:30pm to 6:30pm (Grand Commons)
- ⇒ **Grade 10 into 11** - 7:00pm to 8:00pm (Grand Commons)
- ⇒ **Grade 11 into 12** - 7:00pm to 8:00pm (Theatre)

Course Programming Assemblies for STUDENTS During Tutorial: February 2-5

- ⇒ **Grade 8 into 9**: February 2, 8:30am –9:10am (Theatre)
- ⇒ **Grade 9 into 10**: February 3: 8:30am –9:10am (Theatre)
- ⇒ **Grade 10 into 11**: February 4: 8:30am –9:10am (Theatre)
- ⇒ **Grade 11 into 12**: February 5: 8:30am –9:10am (Theatre)

Course Request sheets will be handed out to students at the end of each assembly.

Please visit the Handsworth website for more information on Course Programming:

[Course Programming & Program Info - École Handsworth Secondary](#)

Link to [2026-27 Course Programming Guide](#)

Upcoming Dance/Theatre Productions



Handsworth Dance Show

Handsworth Dance is proud to present their upcoming winter show "Handsworth Dance is Proudly Canadian!" Come out to cheer on over 130 Handsworth dancers perform to Canadian artists who inspire us. The show features hip hop, jazz, musical theatre and lyrical.

DATE: January 21 & 22—*last night is tonight!!!!*

TIME: 7pm

LOCATION: Handsworth Theatre

TICKETS: \$20 - Available on School Cash Online.

See poster on page 8!

A NIGHT OF SHAKESPEARE

Features the Handsworth Theatre Company GR 10/11

Short scenes and monologues will be performed- this will be a wild comedic and dramatic show.

DATE: Thursday, January 29th

TIME: 7pm, Doors @ 6:45pm

LOCATION: Handsworth Theatre

PURCHASE TICKETS: \$10—Available on [School Cash Online](#).

See poster on page 9!

Upcoming Music Performances

Juzt Jazz

Date: February 9th

Time: 7:30pm

Location: Handsworth Theatre



Zone Concert

Date: February 17

Time: 7pm

Location: Handsworth Grand Commons



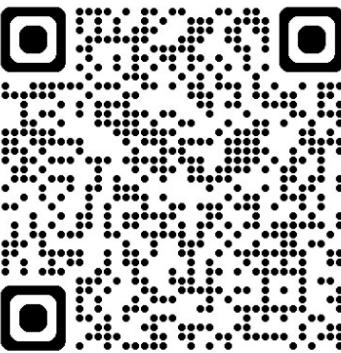


A Night of
Shakespeare

Featuring the Theatre
Company

January 29th at 7:00pm in the
Handsworth Theatre

Tickets are \$10 on School Cash
Online



Handsworth Writing Lab Discusses:

Will AI replace the need to read, write, and think?

From ChatGPT:

Without literacy skills, young people lose agency

If students rely on AI without strong literacy skills:

- They become dependent on systems they don't understand
- Others control the prompts, the framing, and the conclusions
- Their voices sound generic and interchangeable

Developing reading, writing, and thinking skills ensures that young people:

- Own their ideas
- Can challenge authority (including AI)
- Can participate meaningfully in society

This isn't about competing with machines. It's about **remaining intellectually autonomous**.

Writing is thinking made visible

Writing isn't about producing text anymore—it's about **clarifying thought**.

When young people write

- They discover what they actually believe
- They see weaknesses in their reasoning
- They learn to structure ideas logically

AI can draft sentences, but it cannot

- Decide what you mean
- Form a coherent argument on your behalf
- Take responsibility for ideas

In school, work, and civic life, people are still judged on **how clearly they can explain, justify, and defend ideas**—not on whether they can press “generate.”

Handsworth Writing Lab (HWL) is Open!

Progress doesn't happen by magic. Every small step counts.

Bonnes nouvelles! Au mois de février, nous commencerons à offrir du soutien en écriture aux élèves qui suivent les cours de français de base ainsi qu'aux élèves des cours d'immersion française. Restez à l'écoute pour savoir quand ces réviseurs seront disponibles au laboratoire d'écriture de Handsworth.

Good news! In February, we will begin offering writing support to students enrolled in Core French courses as well as students in French Immersion. Stay tuned to find out when these reviewers will be available in the Handsworth Writing Lab.

Is the service being utilized?

YES!

- From Oct. – early December, 40+ editors provided service for 120+ students**

Who should visit the Writing Lab?

Student A	Recommended by their counsellor or teacher. Often a grade 8 or 9 student who wants to ensure they are ready for the demands of writing at the senior level. Comes once each week to improve specific skills.
Student B	Is not satisfied with their progress in subjects that include writing. Comes once each week to improve specific skills.
Student C	Does not understand a literary concept in English and needs another explanation. One or two sessions to ensure understanding.
Student D	Required by their teacher to generate ideas, review, edit, or redo a particular writing assignment. Usually two-three sessions.
Student E	Wants an editor to review their resume or University/college application. Resume: One session Application: Contact Mrs. Lloyd via TEAMS to set up an appointment.

When should they visit?

Tuesday, Wednesday, and/or Thursday at lunch in room 2002.



Boys Club Network

Our Handsworth Boys Club meets once a week on Tuesdays to have lunch, share stories and values, and connect with one another by building lasting friendships along the way. The Boys Club Network is founded on interaction through the principles of HOPE – building Hope, Opportunity, Positive Mentorship, and Education.

As we kick off the new year, we were thrilled to welcome guest speaker and Handsworth alumnus Dr. Keyvan Hadad on January 10th. Dr. Hadad spoke from the heart about his journey at Handsworth, sharing what it was like to grow up as an Iranian newcomer and the effort it took to build lasting friendships. He reminded the boys that challenges can become opportunities when we stay open and connected. Dr. Hadad also highlighted the risks of excessive gaming, explaining how it can lead to isolation and negative behaviors. His powerful message encouraged students to invest in real-world connections, embrace balance, and make choices that set them up for success—both now and in the future.



Grad 2026 Information

Grad Skate

Grad Skate is Thursday, February 12, 2026 from 8:30-9:30 pm at The Shipyards Ice Rink. Free for grads, although skate rentals are \$5 each.

Students, please RSVP via the Grad Council Instagram page



Location:

Skipyards Skating Plaza

125 Victory Ship Way

North Vancouver, BC V7L 0B2

Questions? Please contact Grad Sponsor Ms. Carabetta, scarabetta@sd44.ca

Deadline to submit a Grad PDA for the Yearbook will be Friday, February 27th

COST: \$42 with only 48 spots available for purchase

Purchase today via your [School Cash Online](#)

Scholarships - Don't Miss Out!

Attention grade 12 parents and students!

The Handsworth Scholarship Application form is now available.

The deadline is Monday, February 16 at 11:59 pm. Students must submit an application to be considered for awards that Handsworth administers. Grade 12 students can see the Scholarship Info channel of their CLC Team for more information about the application and to access the form.

Please visit the [Handsworth website](#) for the latest information on upcoming scholarships.

Questions???

Contact: Ms. Robyn Renwick, Scholarship Coordinator

email: rrenwick@sd44.ca

Did You Know: Completing 30 hours Community Work is a Graduation Requirement?

Hey Grads, have you handed in your 30 Hours Community Connections Paperwork?

In order to graduate, students need to complete 30 hours of volunteer or paid work. The required forms can be found in the **Counselling Office** or from their **CLC12 Teachers**.

Don't wait to get these filled out: **Forms due February 27, 2026!**

GRADS: YEARBOOK INFORMATION

PLEASE READ THIS CAREFULLY!

The information here is non-negotiable and all deadlines must be met – no exceptions.

Late submissions for anything will not be included.

1. GRAD WRITE-UPS and BABY PICTURES are optional.
2. You only get a GRAD WRITE-UP in the Yearbook if you have had a proper GRAD PHOTO in a gown taken at Artona.
3. If you do not get a proper Grad Photo with a gown, your Go-Card Picture will be used with no Grad Write-Up.
4. GRAD WRITE-UPS and BABY PICTURES for the Yearbook are due **Wednesday, February 4th, 2026**. No late submissions will be included. To submit your WRITE-UP and BABY PICTURE, use the QR code or link available in the CLC 12 Teams under the “Grad Yearbook 2025-2026” channel. No submissions to teacher email or yearbook staff will be accepted.
5. GRAD WRITE-UPS can be a maximum of 300 characters including spaces, punctuation, letters, and numbers (NOTE – that is 300 characters, NOT 300 words). **Your write-up CANNOT have any abbreviations, initials, slang, social media handles/hashtags, timestamp TV episodes/movies, lyrics from explicit songs, bullying, innuendos, negative comments about the school or anything that is inappropriate for a school publication.**
6. **You will not be contacted for a second opportunity to re-write your submission, should your write-up be rejected.** If you include anything that is considered inappropriate for a school publication, you do not get to have a GRAD WRITE-UP. It will simply not be included, and you will not be notified.
7. **You have one submission** – you cannot submit a GRAD WRITE-UP and then change or resubmit it – this causes too much chaos and unnecessary work for the yearbook team.
8. Edit your GRAD WRITE-UP and have several people proof-read it! It will be in print forever!
9. BABY PICTURE must be submitted as a high-resolution jpeg. If you are scanning a picture, make sure that you crop it and submit it in the proper orientation.
10. PLEASE get your GRAD PHOTO taken between **December 13th-16th, 2025** during the times set aside for Handsworth Graduates. These dates are published in the school calendar. If you need a retake, this must be done by January 30th, 2026 and you will pay an additional sitting fee.
11. SHARE THIS INFO WITH ALL OF YOUR FRIENDS!! Too many late submissions did not get included last year.
12. There are 2 sections to the Grad section of the yearbook – make sure you read this carefully so that you know where you will be placed in the book.

There will be no exceptions made for students in terms of where they are placed in the yearbook. You will be placed based on what you submit. Please contact Ms. Kennedy for clarification.

A. If you have had a proper GRAD PHOTO in a gown, you will be included alphabetically like this:



If NO WRITE-UP is received, yearbook staff will provide a message that will appear instead.

B. If you have NOT had a proper GRAD PHOTO in a gown, you will be included alphabetically like this with your Go-Card Picture (after those in the previous section).



Att: Grad 2026 Parents & Guardians

Are you a parent of a student graduating in June 2026? Please fill out [this Google Form](#) so the parent grad committee can contact you about events, volunteer opportunities, etc.

The Grad Parent Committee can be reached at grad26handsworthparent@gmail.com.

Dual Credit and Career Programs

Information Night

Carson Graham Secondary School - February 3rd - 6-7:30pm

This popular information night invites students and their families to explore the various dual credit and career exploration opportunities available to students in grade 10-12. Parents and students of grade 9-11 are strongly encouraged to attend if student has an interest in the skilled trades, culinary, health care and early childhood education.

Event Format:

- 6:00–6:20 – Exhibitor table walk-through
- 6:25–7:05 – Presentations: BCIT, VCC, Langara and NVSD Co-Op and WEX program
- 7:05–7:30 – Return to exhibitor tables for additional information

Exhibitor tables to showcase programs and resources.

Key insights for students and families about the strengths of dual credit programming and tips for success.



NEW!! NVSD Culinary Program



Langara
Early Childhood Education Assistant Certificate



Train in Trades



Medical Laboratory Assistant **vcc**



vcc **Health Care Assistant**



Co-Op Program



Work Experience



2026/27 Academies – Application Period Open

The application period for academies is open **January 15 to February 28, 2026**.

The following academies will be offered during the 2026/27 school year: Artists for Kids Studio Art, Basketball, Dance, Digital Media, Digital Media Lite, Field Hockey, Hockey Skills, Rowing, Soccer and Volleyball.

Please visit the [Academies webpage](#) for further information and application

Homestay Families Needed

Each year, the North Vancouver School District welcomes students from around the world to live and study in our vibrant community in the International Program. 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.

We have secondary school international students in need of a homestay placement for the school terms beginning September 2026, and February 2027. If you are interested in hosting an international student, please reach out to the 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.

Next PAC Meeting:

Monday, February 23, 2026 @ 7pm—Handsworth Library

Check out the [HPAC page on the Handsworth website](#) for HPAC information, Agenda and Meeting Minutes.

- Follow us on Facebook (search Handsworth PAC) and Instagram.(@handsworthpac) and make sure to subscribe to the new [HPAC newsletter!](#)

Handsworth Royals Hot Lunches—OPEN!

Order your Royals Hot Lunches: <https://munchalunch.com/schools/Handsworth>.



Ordering will stay open for the remainder of the school year.

Monies raised go towards buying items for all our sports activities – and the PAC has been able to fund such items such as football helmets, transportation to offsite games and practises, new uniforms, nets, balls, and so much more! Our Handsworth athletes have performed incredibly well last year and with your support we can continue this momentum!

Place your Royals Hot Lunch: <https://munchalunch.com/schools/Handsworth> providing lunch is easier than ever!

Parents/guardians are encouraged to subscribe to HPAC communication through Mailchimp. This will enable you to be in the know of goals, priorities and volunteer opportunities in our school community.

**Click to Subscribe to
HPAC Newsletter!**