



ÉCOLE SECONDAIRE  
**HANDSWORTH**  
SECONDARY SCHOOL



June 26, 2020

Dear Handsworth Families:

As we officially wrap up the 2019/20 school year, I would like to extend a heartfelt **Handsworth Thanks** to the entire school community for all the support this year. As I look back at the school year there are so many reasons to be grateful. I have been impressed by the commitment of **all** the Handsworth staff and students – collectively, we have persevered during extremely tricky times and have demonstrated patience, flexibility, and a commitment to excellence.

The theme we focused on at Handsworth this year was "**Wellness and Resiliency**". There were many activities throughout the year that supported the school theme and I am extremely proud of the work that was done by staff and students both inside and outside of the classroom. I am proud of our staff as they have done well creating a safe space for learning, inspiring creativity and engaging in conversations and activities that helped our students be better global citizens.

We have a number of anticipated staff changes for the upcoming school year and I will share details in our fall newsletter as we are still in the process of filling vacancies. For now, I would like to congratulate Mr. Randy Storey on a successful teaching and coaching career and wish him well as he embarks on retirement - Randy has spent the last 19 years supporting the Handsworth community and we are extremely grateful for his contributions.

It truly is a privilege to be a member of the Handsworth family - I wish all of you an amazing start to the summer. I look forward to connecting with all our returning families and welcoming all of the new families to the amazing Handsworth school community in the fall. I will leave you with an **extra-curricular athletics update from the NVSD**:

*Competitive athletics are a valuable part of our schools' extracurricular programming and an important complement to our focus on physical literacy.*

*All North Vancouver secondary schools are members of BC School Sports (BCSS). In March, and in response to COVID-19, BCSS\* banned all interschool and intraschool sport activities and advised that schools should not initiate even small-group activities. BCSS has recently extended this directive into the summer months and has shared that decisions on a return to play would likely be forthcoming in late August or early September.*

*It is important to note that community sports are not part of the same regulatory structure that schools are. Community sports have been provided guidelines through the government's agency, ViaSport, on how to resume limited activities. These guidelines, while a helpful reference point for schools, do not enable a return to play for schools at this time.*

*As a school community, we remain committed to extracurricular athletics and look forward to providing an update to our community as soon as new information becomes available. As always, our actions are guided first and foremost with a high regard for the health and safety of our students, staff and community volunteers. We appreciate your patience and support as we navigate the challenges COVID-19 presents to extra-curricular athletics.*

*\*More information on BC School Sport's COVID-19 response is available [here](#).*

Stay well,

Rupri Samra-Gynane, Principal

***The Handsworth Community develops empowered, innovative, and compassionate learners who serve and lead with curiosity and integrity.***