



# SUTHERLAND NEWSLETTER

Pride. Passion. Place.

February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Dear Sutherland Families,

March is almost upon us, and with it anticipation for Spring Break; a well-earned pause for students, staff, and families alike. With still two weeks left to go, I am happy to provide a few operational, event, and educational updates today to our school community.

Our annual programming cycle of building a timetable that best meets the needs of students is well underway for 2026-27. A reminder that course request forms are due today from all students in grades 8-11 to the main office. **Today is also the final day for students and families to simultaneously indicate their course requests online using the [instructions posted on our course programming page](#).** Thank you to all the parent/guardians who joined our in-person parent programming evenings. Any questions about course programming can be directed to the appropriate grade counsellor.

Teaching staff are looking forward to meeting with parent/guardians at our upcoming Parent-Teacher-Student Learning Conferences. Detailed information about this event was sent out to families on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. A reminder that the first booking window is open now and closes on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. March 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> will be days where Sutherland has an adjusted bell schedule with early dismissals to accommodate parent-teacher conferences.

Whether it be in-person during learning conference, or via electronic means, community feedback on all aspects of school operation is immensely important. As we do each year, Sutherland is reviewing its school plan, including school goals. I'd like to acknowledge the work that staff, students, and parent representatives have done to help craft the latest iteration of the [school plan](#). If you have feedback on our school plan or would like to contact your stakeholder representative on our school planning committee, please feel free to connect. One of the other ways all schools are soliciting for feedback is through the [Ministry of Education Student Learning Survey](#), which is open until May 1<sup>st</sup>. Parents/Guardians are invited complete the survey anonymously by simply entering our District number (44) and selecting Sutherland from the dropdown menu. Students in Grades 10, 11, and 12 will be supported at Sutherland to complete the student version of the survey during the month of April.

This past month has been filled several notable events and activities at Sutherland. Throughout the month of February, Sutherland has been recognizing Black History Month. The morning announcements, classroom projects, Afrobeats Dance Classes, and more, were punctuated on February 25<sup>th</sup> by a visit from Valerie Jerome who shared personal experiences and stories of growing up in North Vancouver. On February 25<sup>th</sup>, which happened to also be Pink Shirt Day, a large group of students also gathered in our gymnasium for a candlelight vigil and moment of silence in honour of the fight for rights and freedoms and to remember victims of hate and oppression. With so much heavy news lately, from both global events and events closer to home, it was an opportunity for students to gather in a supportive atmosphere. Thank you to the staff who supported this, and for Mr. Martin's leadership in organizing.

Students and families are often curious about the work that takes place during collaboration times or professional development. During the February 25<sup>th</sup> Staff Collaboration Day, all Sutherland staff participated in focused time on exploring literacy strategies, which was a continuation of work done during December's Curriculum Implementation Day. Led by our in-school Teacher Leaders, with the support of district personnel, this renewed year-long focus on literacy in classrooms is something we hope to see students benefit from now and into the future.

Finally, on the events front, our arts department is excited to be performing the long-awaited musical production Legally Blonde. The shows run is halfway done, but there's still time to grab tickets for the first week of March – be sure not to miss it! Here's a glance at some other upcoming dates of note:

- March 2<sup>nd</sup> PAC Meeting (Virtual)
- March 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Legally Blonde The Musical Performances
- March 9<sup>th</sup> Exploitation Education Institution Grade Presentations
- March 12<sup>th</sup> ASMA Math Contest
- March 12<sup>th</sup> Parent-Teacher Learning Conferences
- March 12<sup>th</sup> – March 13<sup>th</sup> Adjusted Bell Schedule
- March 13<sup>th</sup> Last Day of Classes Before Spring Break
- March 14<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> Spring Break
- March 30<sup>th</sup> Schools Re-open

Sincerely,



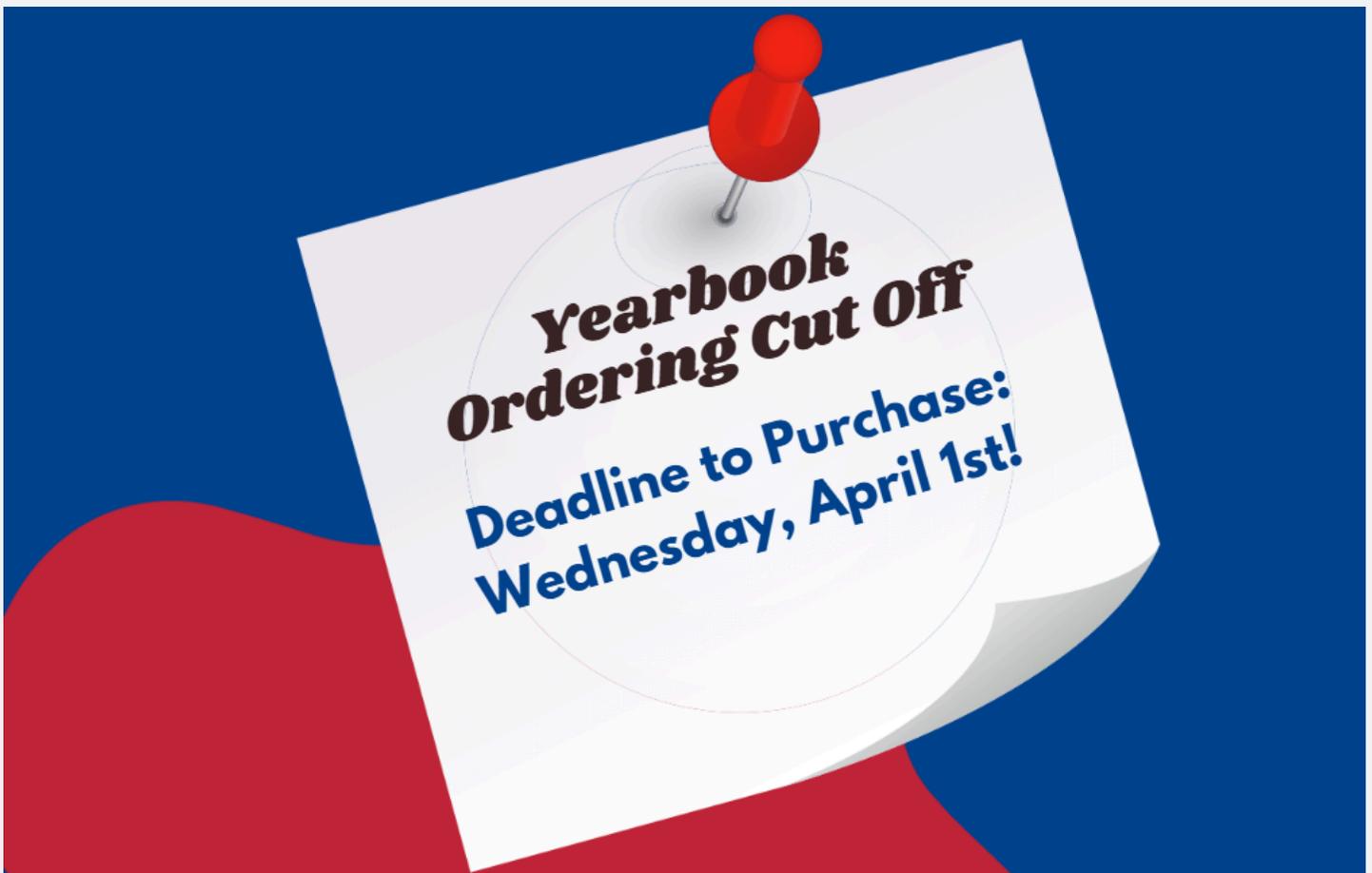
Mark Barrett  
Principal  
Sutherland Secondary

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## Yearbook Ordering Deadline: April 1<sup>st</sup>!

Purchasing a yearbook is optional. They are available in [SchoolCash Online](#). If you have already purchased one, it will appear in your payment history.



# GRADUATION 2026

## Grad 2026 Lawn Sign Sales Open Today!

Show your Sabre pride and celebrate your Sutherland Graduate's achievement with a vibrant lawn sign.

Grab yours before they're gone, there are limited quantities available.

[Place your order today!](#)

Pickup details will be emailed in April.



## Graduation Ceremony and Banquet Dates

Graduation Ceremony: Monday, June 1st, 2026  
@ [The Orpheum Theatre](#)

Graduation Banquet: Saturday, June 20th 2026  
@ [The Pinnacle Hotel Downtown Vancouver](#)

Ticket Sales will be announced in the Spring.

 **Important: The Grade 12 – Class of 2026 in MS Teams is the most reliable source for graduation details. Please ensure that your student checks in regularly for updates!**

# PARENT INFORMATION

## Parent Teacher Meetings – March 12<sup>th</sup>!

The booking window is open now through Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00pm. No appointments will be accepted after this window. Conferences will last 5 minutes each. Booking details were emailed earlier this week and are also listed on our [website](#).

There will be early dismissal at 1:45pm on Thursday March 12<sup>th</sup> and Friday March 13<sup>th</sup> to accommodate these meetings.



**THE RCMP YOUTH  
SUPPORT TEAM WILL  
BE IN ATTENDANCE, WE  
HOPE TO SEE YOU  
THERE!**

## SUTHERLAND PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Next Virtual Meeting:

Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

[Join on MS Teams](#)

## Stay Healthy: Quick Health Reminders

There are lots of bugs are going around! Help prevent illness by:

- Washing hands often with soap and water or sanitizer.
- Coughing/sneezing into your elbow.
- Staying home when sick.

Thanks for helping keep our school healthy!



# CANDLELIGHT VIGIL

## Pink Shirt Day Candlelight Vigil

On Pink Shirt Day, Wednesday, February 25, students gathered for a candlelight vigil at lunch to reflect on the ongoing global struggle for human rights and to honour those who have worked—and continue to work—for fairness, dignity, and freedom.

The event offered a quiet space for students to come together, light a candle, and show solidarity around the social justice issues that matter to them. Thank you to all the Sabres who participated and helped create such a warm and meaningful moment of connection. Your presence made a difference.



VISIT OUR  
WEBSITE

# PHOTOGRAPHY

## 2026 NVSD Photography Excellence Awards

This year, the North Vancouver School District launched its inaugural Secondary Photography Contest. Sutherland is proud to have not one, not two, but three students being recognized for their photography excellence. Congratulations to Grade 9 Parshan M, Grade 11 Silas M., and Grade 12 Kai M. for their winning entries under the theme "What makes your school great?". A special acknowledgement also of Ms. Smyth whose encouragement helped Sutherland be represented so well in this contest. Congratulations Sabres!



*From Grade 9 student Parshan M. This photograph might seem different to how each person decides to view it. For some it just might seem a leaf on the ground of the Sutherland Secondary forest. For others it just might represent how some people might be a bit different than other people. And that is how I view this photo. Being different doesn't necessarily mean being worst, it means you have the courage to put yourself out there and show your true colors, and in my opinion that's what makes my school great, the people who show their true self are the reason my school is great.*



Grade 11 student Silas M. showing daily life at Sutherland



Grade 12 student Kai M. showcasing our Sabre pride.

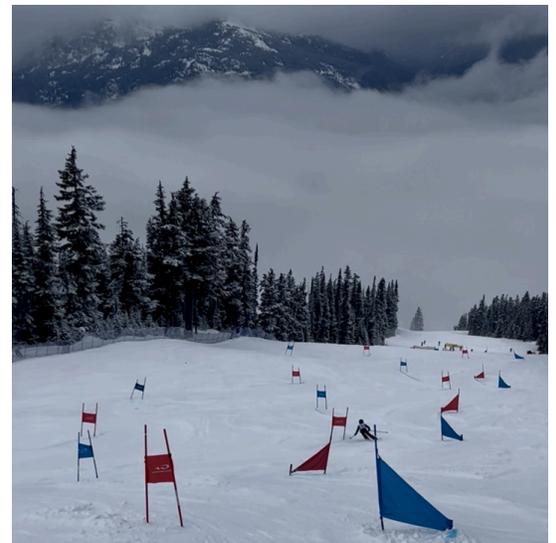


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# ALPINE CLUB

## Sabre Alpine Team

The Sutherland Alpine Ski & Snowboard Team has enjoyed a fantastic season on the slopes! Students participated in multiple Race League days at Whistler Blackcomb, competing in both Novice and Experienced race programs. From recreational skiers and first-time racers bravely entering the start gate, to seasoned Gr.12 athletes pushing for their personal bests, our student athletes demonstrated skill and teamwork. The team also trained under the lights during an evening session at Mount Seymour, building confidence and connection closer to home. Beyond the race course, a Recreational 'Schools on Snow' day at Whistler Blackcomb in February allowed all students to give skiing and snowboarding a try. It was a great season sharing in the joy and adventure of time spent together in the mountains! A big Sabre thank you to Ms. Inch for leading the team!



# SUTHERLAND ATHLETICS

## Track and Field Volunteers Needed

The Track and Field team is looking for anyone with experience with throws (shot put, javelin, and discus). Please reach out to our Athletics Directors, [Carly Paracholski](#) if you have experience and are interested in helping out!

## Gymnastics Championships

BC Gymnastics Championships wrapped up yesterday afternoon. Our level 2 gymnasts were lead by Maielle M. who received a special judges award for her powerful tumbling!

With 49 schools taking part, Sutherland's young team combined to finish 5th in the province, with the boys placing 2nd out of 11 teams and our girls placing 8th out of 47.

Congratulations Sabres on a great season!

A Sabre thank you to Mr. Mitruk for your unwavering dedication and support for gymnastics at Sutherland!



## Change Room and Athletic Lockers are Available!



We still have plenty of change room and large athletic lockers available for students. Not many students took advantage of them in Semester 1, and we'd love to see these spaces used more during semester 2!

Students can stop by the office, or scan a QR code to sign up!

We also have availability of general lockers in the hallways for students who would like a break from carrying their books and bags!

*Sutherland Secondary School*

Presents

# LEGALLY BLONDE

*The Musical™*



## February 25-27 & March 4-6

Doors Open @ 6:45pm | Show Begins @ 7:00pm

Tickets can also be purchased in person at lunch by the theatre and at the box office on the nights of the show as well as by QR code.

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Music and Lyrics by Laurence O'Keefe  
and Nell Benjamin

Book by Heather Hach

Based on the novel by Amanda Brown  
And the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer motion picture

Original Production by Hal Luftig, Fox Theatricals, Dori Berinstein, James L. Nederlander, Independent Presenters Network, Roy Furman, Amanda Lipitz, Broadway Asia, Barbara Whitman, FWPM Group, Ruth Hendel, Cheryl Wiesenfeld, Hal Goldberg, David Binder, James D. Stern, Douglas L. Meyer, Stewart F. Lane, Bonnie Comley, Robert G. Bartner, Michael A. Jenkins, Albert Noccioolino and Warren Trepp; Produced in association with MGM Onstage, Darcie Denkert and Dean Stolber

*Legally Blonde JR.* is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized materials are supplied by

Music Theatre International, New York, NY

(212) 541-4684 mtishows.com



# MORE HIGHLIGHTS

## Black History Month at Sutherland

In recognition of Black History Month, Ms. Shidian's PHE 10 students selected and researched several Canadian Black athletes to showcase their achievements to the Sutherland community. Featured athletes included track stars Valerie and Harry Jerome, both of whom attended Sutherland Secondary.



## Celebrating Literacy Week

We had a great Literacy Week at Sutherland filled with opportunities to celebrate reading. Students enjoyed a visit from the North Vancouver City Library, who shared resources and helped students sign up for library cards during short presentations throughout the week – an especially helpful opportunity for newcomers to Sutherland. Classes were also encouraged to incorporate independent reading, and many students explored new books through themed lists, reading challenges, and even a fun Book Speed Dating activity. Please check out the Sutherland Library [website](#) to learn more.

## ASMA Math Contest Winner

The results are in for the 4<sup>th</sup> round of the ASMA contest. Ty F. came in first place! The next ASMA contest will be held on Thursday, March 12 in B202. Please contact [Ms. Johns](#) for more details.

# DISTRICT MESSAGES

## 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](mailto:international@sd44.ca). More information about the homestay program is available on the [International Education](#) section of the school district website.



North Vancouver  
**School District**  
the natural place to learn®

## Student Learning Survey 2025/2026

The Provincial Student Learning Survey is unique in its scope, size and usefulness to schools. It gathers information from parents/guardians/caregivers, teachers, and students on topics related to school environment, safety, and achievement. The information is used for planning in individual schools and provides a district and provincial perspective.

In early spring of 2026, the Student Learning Survey will be administered to students in grades 10, 11 & 12, their parents/guardians/caregivers, and all school staff. We encourage parents/guardians/caregivers to participate in this survey, as the results are important in identifying and celebrating current strengths, as well as determining where the school needs to focus improvement. The surveys contain standard questions for the Province – in addition, questions from the school and/or district that focus on local conditions or issues may be included.

The survey can be completed electronically and can be accessed on the Internet at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/support/student-learning-survey>. Any computer or mobile device with an Internet connection can be used, and access to the e-survey is simple and secure. The survey can be accessed through the link and by clicking on Take the Survey. On the login page, click on the Parents icon, and then select the school district and school name where your child attends school. Provincial, District and School Reports for previous years can be viewed at the same site under the Results section.

The e-survey site will be open until May 1, 2026.

If you have any questions, please contact the school at [dluchsinger@sd44.ca](mailto:dluchsinger@sd44.ca).



Ministry of  
Education and  
Child Care

# DATES & REMINDERS

## Upcoming Dates

- Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup> – Course Programming Due – MyEd & Paper Forms!
- Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> – Sutherland PAC Meeting
- Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> – Last day to Book Parent Teacher Meetings
- Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> – Grade 8 S2W1 Ends
- Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> – Grade 8 S2W2 Begins
- Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> – Friday March 6<sup>th</sup> – Legally Blond The Musical
- Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup> – Exploitation Education Institute Assemblies
- Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup> – ASMA Math Contest
- Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup> – Parent Teacher Learning Conferences – Early Dismissal
- Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> – Last Day of Classes Before Spring Break – Early Dismissal
- Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> – Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup> – Spring Break
- Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup> – Schools Reopen After Spring Break
- Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup> – Euclid Math Contest
- Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup> – Fryer/Galois/Hypatia Math Contests
- Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup> – Yearbook Ordering Deadline
- Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> – Good Friday (Schools Closed)
- Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup> – Easter Monday (Schools Closed)



**SUBSCRIBE**

**NOW**