



SUTHERLAND SECONDARY SCHOOL

1860 Sutherland Avenue, North Vancouver, BC V7L 4C2 Telephone: 604-903-3500



September 29, 2023

Dear Sutherland 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 school theme for this year is appearing in a myriad of tangible ways. Students are finding their sense of **place**, engaging **passionately** in areas of interest, and taking **pride** in being a Sabre. It is clear to me that Sutherland is a caring and inclusive school community where each person's lived experiences and voice are valued and heard. I echo our Superintendent Dr. Pius Ryan's words that *diversity is our strength* and thank families for their ongoing support and enthusiasm in helping create a welcoming school culture for all students.

On Thursday, September 21st, our school community participated in our annual Terry Fox Run. I would like to acknowledge the efforts of PHE teacher Mr. Billy Coupland who has led this event with his senior PHE students for many years now. I'm proud to share that this year we have raised \$1,832.50 so far, with \$1,653.50 raised in classrooms and \$179 online. Congratulations to Ms. Matsubuchi and Ms. Lindahl's period 2 students for winning our classroom fundraising challenge. Families can continue to contribute online on the [Sutherland Terry Fox page](#). The Friday prior, on September 15th, saw Sutherland also support another cancer research initiative as we welcomed the Cops For Cancer tour riders to our school. It was amazing to see Sabres' alumni as officers among the riders. A huge thank you to Vice Principal, Mr. Ruben, for being instrumental in coordinating this tour stop at Sutherland.

September was an opportunity to share information with families on a number of fronts. Thank you to all 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 Retreat Parent Information Night (Mr. Ruben)
- Fall Sport Coaches Meeting (Mr. Madill & Ms. Shidian)
- Grade 12 Parent Information Night (Ms. Dhanji & Mr. Ruben)
- Sutherland PAC Meeting (PAC Chair, Jen Rodger)

It was also wonderful to meet so many parent/guardians during our Sutherland Open House on September 21st. This was a great chance for families to become more familiar with the school and staff. I'd like to thank Vice Principal Ms. Smart for her work in organizing the event, and all the Sutherland teaching and support staff who welcomed our families into the building that evening. If you missed any of these information events, please feel free to connect with the organizers to find out what was missed.

Also shared earlier this month was the announcement that Sutherland will serve as examination site for Advanced Placement (AP) exams in the spring. AP exams give students the opportunity to earn College or University credits even before applying to a post-secondary institution. Students and families wishing to learn more about self-study options or to register for exam writing can find more information on our [school website](#), or the [College Board AP site](#).

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As we look ahead, the move into autumn 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 students to model good personal health practices, like hand washing. If students are feeling unwell, please exercise caution and remain home, and a reminder that we continue to respect the wearing of masks by staff and students as being a personal choice.

Finally, the end of September marks an important collective occasion to pause and acknowledge the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, as well as Orange Shirt Day, which is being observed today. At Sutherland these efforts have been led by Ms. Taillefer, with the support throughout the week of our Teacher-Librarian, Ms. Turner. As seen in the countless orange shirts being worn, Sutherland students are compassionate and empathetic, and I know each of us will find ways to reflect this weekend on actions we can each take, personally and collectively, to move meaningfully 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.

A reminder of some important upcoming dates:

- Friday, September 30th: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
- Monday, October 2nd: Observed Stat for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
- Tuesday, October 3rd: Lock Down Drill @ Sutherland at 11:00am
- Wednesday October 4th – Friday October 6th: Grade 8 Retreat
- Monday, October 9th: Thanksgiving Day
- Tuesday October 10th: Grade 9 Immunizations
- Wednesday, October 11th: Photo Retake Day
- Thursday, October 12: Parent-Teacher Conferences, *details to follow*
- Friday, October 13th: Early Dismissal
- Monday, October 16th: PAC Meeting
- Friday, October 20th: Provincial Professional Day
- Wednesday, October 25th: Staff Collaboration Day – adjusted bell schedule
- Monday, October 30th: Graduation Assessment week: Grade 10s & 12s writing Assessments

Sincerely,

Mark Barrett
Principal
Sutherland Secondary

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