



**NORTH VANCOUVER
SCHOOL DISTRICT**
the natural place to learn

Community Report Fall 2008



The new
Sutherland
Secondary
on grand
opening day,
Sept. 11, 2008.

We provide

world-class instruction and a rich diversity of **engaging** programs to **inspire** success for every student and bring communities together to **learn, share** and **grow**.

our vision

www.nvsd44.bc.ca



MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

The beginning of each school year brings into focus possibilities for the future. With the introduction of an over-arching Vision for the North Vancouver School District, we now have a compass by which to set our course and enrich our educational programs and services.

This Vision will help us to continue to progress as a school district in an era of unprecedented change. It provides the clarity we need to go forward with a strength of purpose and a shared awareness of the contribution that is made by public education, and our school district, to a better world.

Our focus on enhancing student learning encompasses literacy, numeracy, social responsibility, safe and caring schools, emergency preparedness, health and physical fitness, early learning initiatives, early school success and information and communication technology.

There are many profound examples throughout the School District of alignment between the Vision and our recent achievements. As always, our greatest successes are realized by our students and we continue to maintain and build upon an outstanding School District.

Our students continue to receive awards and honours for a full range

of academics, fine arts, and athletics at the provincial, national and international level. Their environmental and social responsibility has reached into the international arena through eco-challenges, not-for-profit home-building projects, and climate change awareness programs.

In April, we hosted author and education consultant Damian Cooper to deliver "8 Big Ideas to Improve Learning" as part of our Instructional Institute professional development program. We are currently implementing a number of projects to improve success rates for struggling students and new strategies to support differentiated learning and assessment for learning.

We are excited by the popularity of "Programs of Choice" in our schools. The International Baccalaureate (IB) Program application continues to make good progress at Carson Graham, Balmoral and Capilano Schools. Late French Immersion is being introduced at Grade 6 at Boundary Elementary this school year and Windsor Secondary is proceeding with the implementation of French Immersion in 2009. Opportunities available through learnonline44.com have also greatly expanded in response to increased student demand.

The ongoing engagement of parents and community members in our recent

"School Talk" communications audit is appreciated, as well as the Towards the Future for Schools public consultation process and the 6th Annual Community Forum scheduled for October 16, 2008.

We recognize the positive influence our educators have in encouraging healthy living and are implementing the Ministry of Education's Daily Physical Activity mandate throughout the School District this year.

We are privileged to have co-hosted, with the Tseil-Waututh and the Squamish Nations, an evening of literacy with Chatelaine Gwen Point on October 2nd. In partnership with the B.C. Coalition of School Libraries, we look forward to the honour of a visit from Lieutenant Governor Steven Point on National School Library Day, October 27th, at Carson Graham Secondary. We are, as always, grateful for our strong community relationships that contribute so much to "the natural place to learn."

Sincerely,

John Lewis
Superintendent of Schools
North Vancouver School District

vision

THE NORTH VANCOUVER SCHOOL DISTRICT

We provide world-class instruction and a rich diversity of engaging programs to inspire success for every student and bring communities together to learn, share and grow.

learn
share
grow

action

The Vision of the North Vancouver School District is supported by eight statements that encompass the breadth of our educational and social responsibilities. In this report, we present these eight statements alongside recent examples from the reporting period (April - October, 2008) that demonstrate their value in action throughout our School District.

School District's communications efforts. We thank everyone involved in the research phase of "School Talk" and feel confident that the improvements we make have a strong foundation of community input.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

We thrive on bringing people together through collaboration and responsive partnerships that strengthen communities and contribute to the needs of students and society.

We have been honoured in the past six months by visits from a number of accomplished individuals and we thank our dedicated staff for hosting them in our schools. Stephen Lewis, humanitarian and former special envoy to the UN Secretary-General, spoke at Seycove Secondary: Paralympic gold medalist Brad Bowden visited Fromme Elementary; and Chatelaine Gwen Point all brought unique stories from their life experiences to inspire our students and staff.

The outreach endeavours of our staff and students have created learning experiences both locally and abroad. Food donations, fundraising, blood drives and recycling campaigns were all ways our students gave back to their community in the past six months. Music students entertained the North Shore with choral and Band and Strings concerts, and performances of *Oklahoma!* by Windsor Secondary and *James and the Giant Peach* by Carson Graham Secondary enhanced the North Shore's spring cultural events.

Each year about 5,000 students participate in the Artists for Kids program. In June, the Gallery opened its doors for a two-night display of student artwork created in the after-school art program.

Stories of our Time, the April/May AFK exhibit, drew almost 3,000 guests to the gallery to

view an exhibit featuring work by Bill Reid, Robert Davidson, Roy Henry Vickers and other prominent contemporary aboriginal artists.

Work to transform the North Vancouver Outdoor School into a provincial centre of excellence for environmental learning advanced with the recent formation of an advisory committee composed of educators, community partners, and leaders in environmental awareness.

INTEGRATED COMMUNITIES

We build strong, trusting relationships that develop the confidence and sensitivity needed to share ideas and create solutions within our schools, families of schools and school district.

Integrated communities thrive on respect within and between schools. Our innovative "Reading Rounds" program pairs older readers at Carson Graham with Grade 2 classes from Queen Mary and Westview students. "Reading Rounds" is one of a number of buddy programs that build relationships between different age and learning levels and encourages positive impressions of learning and school environments.

Our annual Elementary Track and Field meet is an exciting opportunity for students and staff from across the School District to join together in a spirit of healthy competition. Over 1,000 students and 2,000 parents turned out for the 2008 Elementary Track and Field meet at Swangard Stadium in June. Top-finishers in the 4x100 relays went on to compete in the Lower Mainland-wide Harry Jerome International Track Classic.

Seismic upgrades at Carisbrooke and Canyon Heights Elementary are also on schedule for completion in September of 2009.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

We provide seamless and appropriate information and communication technology to serve all aspects of learning and to support our operations.

The School District continues to be a provincial leader in the design and implementation of educational information technology. Our secondary schools have now implemented the *SynreVoice* system to create a consistent and efficient channel to communicate absences and reminders to families. Our library automation project has now been completed in 19 schools and is on schedule for District-wide completion in August 2010.

FACILITIES

We strive to provide welcoming, safe and sustainable facilities that enhance the learning and teaching environment.

On September 11, 2008, the new Sutherland Secondary was officially opened. The many sustainable, energy-efficient and community-minded features set a new standard for what is possible when form, function and design are integrated into supporting a quality education program. The replacement Highlands Elementary school is well underway for a 2009 completion date. It follows a similar plan and the same commitment to sustainability and community services as the new Westview Elementary.

Seismic upgrades at Carisbrooke and Canyon Heights Elementary are also on schedule for completion in September of 2009.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

It's my pleasure to share with you the newly-minted Vision for the North Vancouver School District. The Vision was developed over the course of a 14-month consultative process that included School District executives, trustees, support staff, administration, parents, teachers and the broader community. In June, the Board of Education approved the Vision, and it now has a place in every school and administrative office throughout the School District.

Our 2,300 employees serve many different roles throughout the School District, but all support the same goals to create the very best educational environment for our students. Our connections to the community are an essential part of our Vision; it frames for us an image of what's possible when we work together. We are proud to share the Vision with you, we hope it helps broaden understanding of the values, beliefs and strengths of this school district, and what we are striving to achieve.

On behalf of the Board of Education, I'm pleased to convey some of the important achievements in the School District during the past six months:

- Receiving the approval of North Vancouver City Council for the redevelopment proposal of the

former Lonsdale school site to accommodate a new Education Services Centre, Artists for Kids Gallery, multi-family housing and an independent living facility for young adults with disabilities, as well as a financial contribution to the heritage preservation of Ridgeway Elementary;

- Partnering with the City of North Vancouver and the North Shore Neighborhood House at the new Westview Elementary to provide much-needed childcare spaces;

- Celebrating the official opening of the newly rebuilt Sutherland Secondary School as a state-of-the-art, dynamic learning environment. The new Artificial Turf Field, built in partnership with the City of North Vancouver, provides for both school and community athletics and is accessible by a new trail network to offer expanded recreational opportunities for the North Shore;

- Promoting environmental stewardship and environmental education throughout the School District and pursuing further funding to create a provincial Environmental Learning Centre at the North Vancouver Outdoor School in Squamish;

- Responding to the needs of students by providing a structured balance to their school work and dedication to extra-curricular sports, art or music through the Peak Performers program;

- Advocating for funding to provide all-day Kindergarten throughout the School District; and

- Considering new proposals for "Programs of Choice" to further expand learning opportunities for our students.

It has been a privilege for me to serve as the Chair of the North Vancouver Board of Education for the past two years. I have had more opportunities than most to witness the dedication of students, staff, trustees and the community to "the natural place to learn" and I can say, with confidence, that we are well-prepared, with our Vision, our professionalism and our commitment to transform the challenges of the future into new opportunities to "learn, share and grow."

Sincerely,

Chris Dorais, Chairperson
North Vancouver Board of Education

INSTRUCTIONAL PRACTICE

We provide meaningful assessment and relevant instruction to support the success of every student and, to ensure this outcome, encourage professional growth for all staff.

Maintaining a robust curriculum requires continuous attention and renewal. We're proud of the growing popularity in other school districts of curriculum materials authored by our professional staff. We are currently building a service delivery model based on best practices in learning assistance and are proceeding with recommendations for Keith Lynn Alternate Secondary School. We're encouraged by the success of our Aboriginal Education Enhancement initiatives in raising the sense of belonging, increased knowledge and respect for First Nations culture.

PROGRAM DIVERSITY

We provide a diverse range of programs that reflect the values and interests of our community.

The list is impressive: French Immersion, employment and skills training, Artists for Kids, Band and Strings, Outdoor School... New integrated programs such as Hockey at Windsor Secondary and Late French Immersion have experienced overwhelming enthusiasm from students and parents.

We're pleased that the International Baccalaureate program now has a firm foothold in Capilano Elementary, Balmoral Jr. Secondary and Carson Graham Secondary.

Digital Media Arts, Artists for Kids Visual Arts, and Peak Performers (for students requiring a timetable that supports demanding extra-curricular involvements) are all in the implementation phase this year. We are establishing study groups to examine the feasibility of new programs of choice proposals for music, Montessori, sports, outdoor recreation and career programs.

SHARING AND CELEBRATING SUCCESS

We proudly honour individual and collective accomplishments that inspire all of us to pursue and achieve success.

In May, the "noteworthy achievements and contributions to the community" of 22 of our students were recognized with Civic Youth Awards from the City of North Vancouver.

Many of our schools celebrated National Aboriginal Day on June 21, 2008 with dedicated assemblies to honour and promote First Nations cultural awareness. In hosting these events, schools drew upon the richness of First Nations culture to inspire their students through mutual recognition and respect. "Native Tongues,"

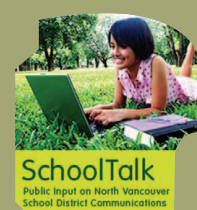
the cover story of the *North Shore Outlook* for June 19th, went on to win a national 2008 CACE Media Award for profiling our schools' celebrations of National Aboriginal Day and in-school programs to bolster indigenous languages.

Content on our website, nvsd44.bc.ca is now regularly updated to deliver stories of student, staff and school successes, awards received, and other significant achievements. Over the spring and summer of 2008, the website announced teaching awards received in our School District from the Premier of British Columbia and the Prime Minister. As well, we announced honours received in art, music, French oratory, science, digital media, social studies and community service that highlight the many recognitions earned by our students and staff at the provincial, national and international level.

COMMUNICATIONS

We build trust, respect and mutual understanding through open, proactive communications that convey the achievements and challenges of the School District.

Work to strengthen our communications advanced in June with the "School Talk" project to gather impressions on our current communications practices through a community survey, interviews and focus groups. From "School Talk," we now have a series of recommendations to prioritize the



NORTH VANCOUVER SCHOOL DISTRICT

snapshot

the natural
place
to learn

- Over 16,800 students enrolled in Kindergarten to Grade 12—9100 elementary and 7700 secondary students
- \$139 million operating budget for 2008/09
- \$17 million capital budget and \$30 million in planned budget for new construction, renovation and improvements
- 2300 employees (full-time and part-time)—1300 educators and 1000 school support staff
- A comprehensive K-12 education program consisting of over 200 provincial and locally developed educational programs and services in the Humanities, Mathematics, Sciences, Physical Education, Fine Arts and Applied Skills
- Early French Immersion, Late French Immersion and Secondary Bilingual Programs
- Nationally recognized local programs, including Band and Strings, Reading 44, Firm Foundations primary program, Inspirations 44 all-day Kindergarten, Math 44, and Early Learning Foundations
- Summer School providing comprehensive programming in remediation, enrichment, fine arts, full-credit senior secondary school courses, and integrated ESL and International Programs
- A variety of specialized support services for students with exceptional learning needs
- Short and long term International Education Programs, attracting over 650 learners from around the world - 300 elementary and 350 secondary students
- Continuing and adult education programs, providing a full complement of high school completion courses, adult basic education classes, academic upgrading classes, short-term international programs, and general interest and community programs
- The Artists for Kids Trust housing a collection of contemporary Canadian art and providing award-winning fine arts enrichment programming and scholarships
- 28 elementary schools
- 3 alternate schools/programs (KLASS, Windsor House Alternate Program and the Youth Learning Centre)
- 7 secondary schools
- A residential outdoor education centre, called the North Vancouver Outdoor School, located near Squamish, BC.

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