

# Superintendent's Report



To: **Parents/Guardians**

From: **Mark Pearmain, Superintendent, North Vancouver School District**

## Announcements


### Communicating student learning (reporting)

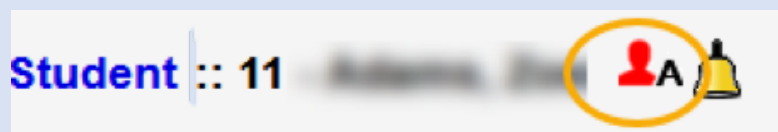
We are continually striving to provide parents with timely and meaningful information about reporting and assessment. The Reporting and Assessment (Communicating Student Learning) webpage has been updated with this year's Reporting Dates, new information about K-9 and Gr 10-12 report cards, and instructions on how to access the Parent Portal. Please visit the webpage [HERE](#).

### MyEducation BC Parent Portal – Viewing student's attendance

The 'Recent Activity' Widget on the MyEducation BC Parent Portal home page is temporarily disabled.



In the meantime, to view your child's daily attendance, please go to the *Family* top tab, select student name, then go to the *Daily Attendance* side tab. To view a secondary student's class attendance for the day, please go to the *Family* top tab, select student name, then click the  icon on the top next to the student name.



### Foundation Skills Assessment – September/October 2019 (grade 4 and 7)

The Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) is an annual province-wide assessment of British Columbia students' academic skills, and provides a snapshot of students' foundational skills in reading, writing, numeracy and self-reflection. All students in grades 4 and 7 in British Columbia, including French Immersion students, are required by the Ministry of Education to write the FSA. The FSA will be administered at schools between September 30 and October 18, 2019. The reading and numeracy

sections consist of online multiple choice and written response questions. Please click [HERE](#) for further details.

### **Global School Climate Strikes**

Global School Climate Strikes are taking place today (September 20) and September 27, 2019, in downtown Vancouver. The North Vancouver School District is committed to sustainability and actively embeds sustainability initiatives within all areas of the organization, including student learning. We have a strong Sustainability Strategy and have goals targeted at sustainability within our 10-Year Strategic Plan and 3-Year Operating Plan. We cannot excuse students from school to attend an event without proper supervision. However, some teachers may choose to follow our fieldtrip processes to attend the Global School Climate Strikes. As per regular school procedures, parents may also excuse their children from class for any reason they deem appropriate, including to attend these events. School will be in session on both September 20 and September 27, 2019.

## **Information**

### **3-Year Operation Plan**

The 2019-2021 North Vancouver School District 3-Year Operating Plan offers tangible objectives for staff within the school district's six strategic goals. Please click [HERE](#) to access the plan.

### **Privacy program**

Over the past year, the North Vancouver School District has revamped its privacy program. Internal processes, resources and training have been enhanced. Protecting student, family and staff private information is essential and the school district's updated privacy program reflects the ever-changing technological world we live in. Stringent practices are in place that enable technologies to be used to support student learning, while ensuring privacy is always protected. We would like to thank the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner, Ministry of Education, Focused Education Resources (formally ERAC), BC School Trustees Association, and Dawn Lake, privacy professional, for helping our school district to renew our privacy program.

### **Professional development and collaboration days**

Staff in the North Vancouver School District are phenomenal. The effort, dedication and care placed into supporting student success is inspiring. Every year, professional development and collaboration days are built into the [school district calendar](#). These days are essential to the continued growth of North Vancouver School District employees. Employees need the time to focus on areas where they want to learn and grow in their professional practice and they need to be able to connect with colleagues to share best practice and learn from one-another. There is deep employee learning that takes place on professional development days and collaboration days. This learning is then applied directly to supports for students. For further insight into the importance of professional development and collaboration days, please click [HERE](#).

## Benefits of joining a school PAC

Did you know all parents and guardians of registered students are able to participate in a school's Parent Advisory Council (PAC)? Parents' voices are a tremendous value, as they can offer ideas and feedback to enhance the school community. PACs strive to represent the diversity within their communities and contribute to the benefit of all students. There are a wide variety of ways that parents can get involved to support their children's schools. There is strong evidence that increased parent involvement in the school results in increased student achievement, accomplishment, satisfaction, and bonding. Additional information about the benefits of PACs and how parents can get involved, is available [HERE](#).

## Facilities Updates

### Ridgeway Elementary pick-up and drop-off zone – Potential pilot

The City of North Vancouver is looking at ways to improve safety within the Ridgeway School zone for both the school community and neighbouring residents. This includes investigating a potential pilot program of short-term restrictions on vehicles entering the Ridgeway pick-up and drop-off zones. The City will be engaging with the school and surrounding community to explore issues and identify near-and long-term solutions. City staff will reach out to the community to share next steps and more information.

### Argyle replacement project

Want to see how the Argyle build is coming along? Check out [THIS](#) cool photo time lapse.

### Mountainside seismic upgrade

The Mountainside Secondary Seismic Upgrade Project has begun. Construction work started July 17, 2019, and will continue until August 31, 2021. This work will involve the following tasks:

- Seismic remediation of Mountainside Secondary
- Exterior buttresses, concrete work and site grading of Mountainside Secondary

Click [HERE](#) for further information about the project.

## School visits

### Lynnmour Elementary School

I had a wonderful visit with the staff and students at Lynnmour Elementary. The new self-regulation room designed and implemented by Penny Gill is outstanding. I checked out the 'grass' in Kristine Conway's class, the flexible seating in Jodie Schafer's class, and a math game in Monique Zander's room. I was in awe as students used a coding exercise to compose music in Joey Turco's class. I also visited Paul Best's class. Karen Keys really put me through the ringer; she made me try (let me emphasize *try*) to do the Git Up Challenge with her students. The school's PAC president, Roxanna Smallwood, also took the time to sit down with me.



## Ridgeway Elementary School

Diana Morris invited me to sit in on a powerful lesson she was teaching about names and identity. Through story, she demonstrated the importance of cultural understanding and honouring diversity. Sara Mazzei's class was working on the writing process through a 'paragraph of the week' project. I also visited with Cathy Corbett, and showed up just in time for snack in Jennifer Corcoran and Samantha Way's classes. Thank you for the warm reception!



## Game Ready and the Washington Foundation



I want to thank the Game Ready and the Washington Foundation for supporting many of our schools through incredible physical fitness and social emotional programming. Check out [THIS](#) blog post by Regan Rankin to learn about the impact of this support.