

A Message from the Superintendent

Dear North Vancouver School District Community,

Since our return from Spring Break, school communities have been fully engaged in events and initiatives. This buzz of activity will most certainly continue until the end of the school year.

School trips, sports tournaments, musical and theatrical performances, celebrations of culture and community – all are examples of the initiatives taking place that enhance the teaching and learning happening in the classroom and reflect a high level of student and staff engagement.

I encourage you to use the monthly Superintendent's Report and other school district and school-based communications to keep current on initiatives of interest for you to attend. In particular, I would like to highlight two popular community-minded events (with more detail provided in this issue):

- The 54th Cheakamus Centre Open House takes place at Cheakamus Centre on Sunday, May 7.
- The 2nd Outdoor Safety and Emergency Preparedness Open House takes place at Argyle Secondary on Saturday, May 13.

Learning is in action everywhere throughout the school district, and it gives me a great deal of pleasure and joy to share with you a glimpse of that learning through the Good News Stories and various initiatives and programs highlighted below.

Respectfully,

Dr. Pius Ryan
Superintendent of Schools
Superintendent@sd44.ca



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Good News from the NVSD

Visit our [Learn, Share & Grow](#) blog and [News & Announcements](#) to read about the good work happening throughout the school district.

For the stories with images that are included below, please click on the caption for a link to the blog post:

- Capilano celebrates kindness, Black history and Black excellence ([NVSD blog post](#))
- Keeping up with Queen Mary Elementary ([NVSD blog post](#)).
- Kindergarten students get a lesson in fire safety ([NVSD blog post](#))
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Announcements

Changes to student reporting – Online session April 25

North Vancouver Parent Advisory Council (NVPAC) and the school district invite parents/guardians to learn more about upcoming changes to the way student learning is communicated, including the traditional report card, which begin with the 2023-2024 school year.

Information about the 20-30 minute session and Q&A, including a link to join, is available on the [NVPAC](#) website. Please also refer to the [Superintendent's Update](#) from March 8, 2023, for information.

Premier's Awards for Excellence in Education – Nominations accepted until May 5

Do you know a teacher, administrator, principal, vice-principal or support worker who has made a positive impact on students and your school and community? The Premier's Awards for Excellence in Education acknowledges and honours the dedication education professionals provide in helping students succeed. Nominate a deserving candidate today! Nominations are now being accepted until May 5. Visit the [Premier's Awards for Excellence in Education](#) for more information.

Mountainside Secondary School celebration

On Friday, March 31, students and staff of Mountainside Secondary were joined by government officials, rights holders, school district staff, trustees, and education and community partners to celebrate the completion of the seismic upgrade project. Links to [images from the event](#), [North Shore News coverage](#) and [government media release](#) are included for your perusal.

Congratulations to the Mountainside School community!

Information

Student Learning Survey – Open until April 29

The Student Learning Survey (SLS), administered annually by the Ministry of Education and Child Care, is open to students in Grades 4, 7, 10 and 12, their parents/guardians, and staff and administrators in B.C. public schools. The survey covers a range of topics, providing a comprehensive picture of the educational experience in public schools and valuable insight for addressing current needs and trends.

Parents/guardians are encouraged to participate in the [Student Learning Survey](#), available in English, French and additional languages, until Saturday, April 29.

Protect your home from the risk of wildfires

To help protect your home from the risk of wildfires during the hot, dry months of summer, District of North Vancouver Fire & Rescue Services (DNVFRS) is offering residents an in-depth fire safety home assessment through its FireSmart Home Partners program. Anyone who lives in the wildland urban interface—the area where the forest meets the community—can request this free [wildfire home hazard assessment](#) service. While assessing your home, wildfire mitigation specialists will point out areas where you can take steps to reduce the risks of a fire jumping from the forest to your home and surrounding vegetation.

DNVFRS team members will once again be at the Outdoor Safety and Emergency Preparedness Open House on May 13 (see event details below)! Stop by to learn about ways to protect your property from wildfire and check out the equipment used to protect homes in one of the DNVFRS' new Structure Protection Units.

Homestay families needed

Each year, the North Vancouver School District welcomes students from around the world to live and study in our vibrant community. 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.

There are secondary school international students in need of a homestay placement for the school term beginning September 2023. If you are interested in hosting an international student, please reach out to our International Education program office at international@sd44.ca. More information about the homestay program is available on the [International Education](#) section of the school district website.

Supporting students and families in the community

Through the Student and Family Affordability Fund (SFAF), the school district is supporting students and their families who are feeling financially challenged due to the rising costs of living. To request financial support at any time throughout the 2022-2023 school year, please complete the form(s) available on the [Student and Family Affordability Fund](#) web page and submit the form(s) in confidence to either your child's teacher, principal, school counsellor or front office staff. A listing of eligible expenses, and answers to common questions, can be found on our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) web page.

NVSD Events

Endless Summer – Exhibition open

Endless Summer is an exhibition and series of public programs that features the collaborative works of artists Katie Kozak and Lucien Durey, which contemplate lineage, ancestry, queerness, sustainability, and healing within a context of reimagining place-based relations that serve the social and cultural landscape of their shared communities. For information about this exhibition hosted at the Gordon Smith Gallery, visit the [exhibition](#) web page.

All About Consent Information Night – April 25

Facilitated by Tiana Sharifi of the Exploitation Education Institute, this information night guides family members of secondary students through the education students have been receiving on concepts such as how to provide consent, current harmful social media influencers, and relevant legislation. The session takes place on Tuesday, April 25 at 6:30 p.m. at Windsor Secondary. More information is available [HERE](#) (RSVP optional).

Standing Committee Meeting – May 2

A Board of Education Standing Committee Meeting takes place on Tuesday, May 2 at 7 p.m. Visit our [Public Meetings](#) web page for information on how you can participate and to review the meeting agenda (the latter is posted on the Thursday afternoon preceding the public meeting).

Cheakamus Centre Open House – May 7

The 54th annual Cheakamus Centre Open House takes place on Sunday, May 7, from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Join Cheakamus Centre staff for a fun, family day of nature exploration and discovery. Make bannock at the Coast Salish longhouse; feed the chickens, pet the goats, talk to the pigs; canoe on the pond; visit the salmon hatchery, and take a guided tour of the forest. More information is available on the [Open House](#) web page. If you are interested in volunteering at the event, please email volunteers@cheakamuscentre.ca. Note: Cash only for concession and no pets on site please.

Outdoor Safety & Emergency Preparedness Open House – May 13

The school district is pleased to host the 2nd Outdoor Safety & Emergency Preparedness Open House on Saturday, May 13, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Argyle Secondary.

This family-friendly community event will showcase the expertise of local emergency management bodies and first responders and aims to build your awareness and resilience around outdoor safety and emergency preparedness. The event consists of an outdoor trade show and information sessions hosted by participating organizations. Speak with local experts and get up close to emergency vehicles and equipment used in real-life rescues.

This FREE event also includes a complimentary bike valet service and food truck options where you can purchase food and refreshments. Visit the [event website](#) for more information.

Public Board Meeting – May 23

A Board of Education Public Board Meeting takes place on Tuesday, May 23 at 6:30 p.m. Visit our [Public Meetings](#) web page for information on how you can participate and to review the meeting agenda and board package (the latter is posted on the Thursday afternoon preceding the public meeting).

Ready, Set, Learn – Events running until May 24

Ready, Set, Learn is an initiative aimed at encouraging and supporting children's early language and literacy skills. Intended for families and their children (ages 3 to 5 years), Ready, Set, Learn is designed to foster positive connections among families, schools and early learning community partners and support children as they prepare for Kindergarten. Ready, Set, Learn events are taking place at multiple locations throughout the school district until May 24 and are free to attend. Review event details at [Ready, Set, Learn](#).

NVSD Registrations

Summer Learning - Registration opens May 1

[North Vancouver Summer Learning](#) provides a platform for students to explore and extend learning opportunities while fulfilling their educational requirements through a variety of opportunities in the month of July.

The Summer Learning 2023 course offerings provide students opportunities to further their learning and/or earn credits toward graduation:

- [Full Credit Academic Courses](#) (including a variety of options to meet the [Indigenous-focused graduation requirement](#) - NEW this year)
- [7/8 Transition](#)
- [English Language Learning](#) (ELL)

- [Eslha7an](#) Secondary Review & Completion
- [Numeracy 8/9 Foundations](#)
- [Literacy 8/9 Foundations](#)

Registration is open to students within and beyond the NVSD. [Registration](#) opens on Monday, May 1 at 8:30 a.m. for NVSD students (and on Tuesday, May 9 for everyone else). Registration closes on Friday, June 23 at 12 noon.

AFK After School Art - Registration open

Taught by art specialist teachers and assisted by secondary art students, After School Art classes provide students the opportunity to further their artistic ability and foster positive attitudes towards the visual arts. Visit Artists for Kids' [After School Art](#) for information and to register.

AFK Summer Day Camps – Registration open

Students will enjoy a week of studio art activities including drawing, painting and printmaking taught by an art specialist teacher. Each week will be unique with expert art teachers guiding students to experiment with many art materials and techniques. All materials are provided. Visit Artists for Kids' [Spring & Summer Day Camps](#) for information and to register.

AFK Woodworking & Engineering Camp – Registration open

Students will be introduced to the magic and value of woodworking and engineering in this hands-on, dynamic summer camp. Over four days, students will learn safe work habits while building cool projects, participating in engineering challenges, and having fun. Their day will be split evenly between the two disciplines, and students will enjoy a mix of skill-building and interactive activities. Visit Artists for Kids' [Spring & Summer Day Camps](#) for information and to register.

Elementary Band and Strings – Late Registration period open

Elementary Band and Strings is a unique instrumental music program that complements the Ministry of Education and Child Care's Arts Education curriculum and provides school-based instrumental instruction to students in Grades 5 – 7 for Band and Grades 4 – 7 for Strings. Visit [Elementary Band and Strings](#) for information, including program fees.

North Vancouver Online Learning – Online registration open

NVOL provides engaging, accessible and interactive learning experiences for students. Students can enrol any time during the school year and have one calendar year to complete their course. Students can also choose to engage in their NVOL courses entirely remotely online or in a blended model of online and in-person interactions at our NVOL Centre.


Visit [NVOL to see our full suite of courses](#) from Grades 8 through 12 in both English and French. The French Immersion online course offerings allow students the opportunity to meet the

requirements of their Diplôme de fin d'études secondaires en Colombie-Britannique online through L' École Virtuelle de Vancouver nord.

Reminder: NVOL is now a Provincial Online Learning School. [>>Read more](#)

Missed an issue? Updates from the Superintendent, including the monthly Superintendent's Report, are [available for review](#).

The North Vancouver School District is situated upon the unceded traditional territory of the Skwxwú7mesh Nation and Tseil-Waututh Nation. We would like to thank the Coast Salish people and value the opportunity to learn, share and grow on this traditional territory.

A large, light green decorative graphic consisting of several overlapping, curved lines that sweep across the lower half of the page, resembling a stylized wave or a leaf.