

Dear Parents and Guardians,

In the [last issue of the Superintendent's Report](#), I shared with you that the North Vancouver School District had invited its school communities to participate in a new grassroots anti-racism initiative, Black Shirt Day. Our intent in supporting opportunities, whether new, like Black Shirt Day, or established, like Pink Shirt Day and Orange Shirt Day, is to create safe and welcoming spaces for our community to come together and engage in dialogue. Such dialogue is meant to build awareness and greater understanding of all our community members' lived experiences and challenges, strengthen our efforts against racism and for inclusion and diversity, and affirm our desire to continue on our own journey of learning together.

I am pleased to share with you that this new initiative was for the most part, well-received by our community. This initiative also reinforced the fact that there remains important work to do in this area. While I acknowledge and fully anticipate that the work we do now will spark thoughtful conversations, I am also confident that together, we can and we will do what is needed to create a teaching and learning environment where all feel valued, seen and heard.

With [Black History Month](#) in February, I will also use this and subsequent issues to highlight ways in which the North Vancouver School District community is recognizing and honouring the contributions of Black Canadians and Black people from around the world. Click [HERE](#) to read more.

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Announcements

Engagement Opportunities – Add your Voice

We encourage you to participate and share your feedback in the following three areas:

Strategic Planning – Draft Goals

Further to the [invitation](#) you received earlier this week, please take some time to review the draft goals that will shape our 2021-2031 Strategic Plan (goals that were developed based on community input) and help us refine these goals by providing your input.

Click [HERE](#) to participate in the online engagement tool Thoughtexchange; the deadline to participate is February 12, 2021, 11:59 p.m.

Proposed 2021/22 School Calendar

Next week, you will be invited to provide input on the proposed calendar for the 2021/22 school year. Feedback can be provided through Thoughtexchange from Monday, February 1, to Sunday, February 28, 2021.

2021/22 Budget Priorities

Each year, the NVSD undertakes a public consultation process for input on budget priorities. Staff, students, parents/guardians, education partner groups and community members are invited to provide their input. Budget priorities align with and support the school district's strategic goals, vision and values.

There are various ways to provide feedback:

- Virtually through Microsoft Teams. There are two public information and input meetings: [February 2, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.](#) and April 6, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. There will be an option to ask questions and share comments through the *chat* function.
- Email. Feedback can be emailed to budgetcomments@sd44.ca from February 3 to March 12, 2021.
- Online. Provide input using the platform Thoughtexchange from February 3 to March 12, 2021.
- Traditional mail: addressed to - Secretary Treasurer, 2121 Lonsdale Ave, North Vancouver, BC, V7M 2K6. Mailed feedback must be received by March 12, 2021.

Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Thank you for taking the time to share your feedback.

Information

Indigenous Education

The latest edition of the [Indigenous Education Flyer](#) includes information about the Salmon Welcome, including book recommendations and resources, a student profile, and professional development opportunities for staff. These regularly published flyers are posted to the [Indigenous Education](#) section of our website (please scroll to the bottom of the page).

Upcoming Events

Academies – Information Sessions and Application Deadline

A few evening online information sessions* remain for grade 7 to 11 students and their families who are interested in learning more about the following 2021/22 program offerings:

- Volleyball Academy (February 1)
- Field Hockey Academy (February 3)
- Soccer Academy (February 4)

Please visit our [Programs & Services page](#) for more information about these upcoming information sessions.

The deadline to apply to our [Academies](#) is February 21, 2021. To date, we have received over 195 applications!

**Due to COVID-19, we are unable to host the Secondary Enhanced Programs & Academies Evening as an in-person event; therefore, this year, we have hosted online information sessions only.*

Standing Committee Meeting – Tuesday, February 2

The next Board of Education Standing Committee Meeting takes place virtually on Tuesday, February 2 at 7:00 p.m. Budget highlights will be presented related to the development of the 2021/22 Preliminary Budget. Click [HERE](#) for a copy of the agenda and meeting link.

Elementary Band and Strings – Information Session

Grade 3 to 6 students and their families interested in learning about the 2021/22 Band and Strings program are invited to an online information session, which takes place on Wednesday, February 10 at 7:00 p.m. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Public Board Meeting – Tuesday, February 23

The next Board of Education Public Board Meeting takes place on Tuesday, February 23 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be live-streamed and recorded. Visit our [Meetings & Minutes](#) page for information on how you can provide input and to review the agenda and board package (available on the Thursday afternoon preceding the public meeting).

Good News Stories from around the NVSD

Visit our [Learn, Share & Grow Blog](#) and [News & Announcements](#) section of our website regularly to stay informed on the good work that is happening here. *Enjoy!*

- Wool weaving craft embraced by students and staff ([NVSD blog post](#))
- Montroyal Elementary and Black Shirt Day ([NVSD blog post](#))
- Fluke find breathes fresh air into Larson gym ([NVSD blog post](#))
- North Van RCMP superintendent inspires students with personal tale of adversity ([NVSD blog post](#))

With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Pearmain".

Mark Pearmain
Superintendent of Schools