

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we head into a long weekend, one that includes Lunar New Year, Valentine's Day and Family Day, I would like to ask that we all remember to celebrate these important traditions safely, while continuing to heed the public health orders and guidance designed to keep one another safe.

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## Announcements

### Extraordinary Learning in Extraordinary Times (Video)

We are pleased to share with you the first [video](#) in our “Extraordinary Learning in Extraordinary Times” video series.

In this video, you'll hear from Dr. Pius Ryan, Assistant Superintendent, who introduces the series. Then, we give you a glimpse into the learning that is taking place in Paul Wright's Kindergarten class at Queen Mary Community Elementary. We hope you enjoy this window into the learning that is taking place across the North Vancouver School District!



## Engagement Opportunities – Add your Voice

We are a school district that wants to hear from you! We encourage you to participate and share your feedback in the following FOUR areas:

### Strategic Planning – Draft Goals (Deadline: tomorrow!)

Please 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

Information about the development process for the annual school calendar and a copy of the proposed 2021/22 school calendar can be found on our [District Calendar](#) web page.

Click [HERE](#) to participate in the online engagement tool Thoughtexchange and provide your input on the proposed 2021/22 school calendar. **The deadline to participate is Sunday, February 28, 2021.**

### 2021/22 Budget Priorities

Each year, the NVSD undertakes a public consultation process for input on budget priorities. Budget priorities align with and support the school district's strategic goals, vision and values. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Provide feedback:

- Virtually through Microsoft Teams at the public information and input meeting on April 6, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. There will be an option to ask questions and share comments through the *chat* function.
- Via email to [budgetcomments@sd44.ca](mailto:budgetcomments@sd44.ca) by March 12, 2021.
- Using the platform [Thoughtexchange](#) until March 12, 2021, 11:59 p.m.
- Through traditional mail addressed to - Secretary Treasurer, 2121 Lonsdale Ave, North Vancouver, BC, V7M 2K6. Mailed feedback must be received by March 12, 2021.

## Secondary School Survey

Secondary school students, families and staff will soon be invited to participate in a survey to share their thoughts about their experiences during the 2020/21 school year, specifically around the secondary school schedule. Please check your inbox for a link to participate.

*Thank you for taking the time to share your feedback.*

## Information

### Black History Month

The North Vancouver School District community continues to recognize and honour the contributions of Black Canadians and Black people from around the world during [Black History Month](#). For this issue, I have included a [blog post](#) where a staff member shares her childhood memories of her neighbour and friend John Braithwaite. I would also like to share with you an initiative by the North Vancouver Parent Advisory Council and the learning taking place at École Handsworth Secondary School. Click [HERE](#) to read more.

### Indigenous Education

The latest edition of the [Indigenous Education Flyer](#) includes information about the ribbon skirt, 2021 Caldecott Medal Winner (book), resources on water and salmon, 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 Session, Video and Application Deadline

**Field Hockey Academy Information Session.** An online information session for grade 7 to 11 students and their families interested in learning about our Field Hockey Academy will take place on Tuesday, February 16 at 6:30 p.m. Click [HERE](#) for a link to the session and for more information about the academy.



**Robotics Academy.** The North Shore News recently interviewed teacher Rob Olson about our new Robotics Academy\*, which is open to students in grades 10-12 across the NVSD. Click [HERE](#) to read the article and [HERE](#) to learn more about the academy.

*\*This academy will be offered for the 2021/22 school year subject to sufficient enrolment and final Board of Education approval.*

**Dance Academy Video.** We are pleased to share our new Dance Academy [video](#) with you. Hear from students and instructors who share the many benefits of joining the academy.

**Deadline to Apply.** The deadline to apply to our [Academies](#) is February 21, 2021. To date, we have received over 350 applications!

## 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!*

- North Van students grill Trudeau on racism and reconciliation ([North Shore News article](#))
- White Spot delivers inclusive student work experience ([NVSD blog post](#))
- Students get sweet lesson from Cheakamus chef ([NVSD blog post](#))

With appreciation,

Mark Pearmain  
Superintendent of Schools