

Superintendent's Report



Dear Parents and Guardians,

This week, the B.C. government announced a [four-step restart plan](#) to bring people back together safely.

Progressing through the steps will be measured by data, including the number of people (18+) who are vaccinated. I would therefore like to thank everyone who has registered and/or received their first dose of an approved COVID-19 vaccine. I would also like to encourage others to [register and book their vaccine appointment](#).

As a reminder, vaccines are now available for children and youth ages 12 to 17. Vancouver Coastal Health's [COVID-19 Vaccine Update](#) contains important information on how youth can book their vaccine appointment. This update, along with links and resources specific to vaccines, can be found on our recently updated [COVID-19: Information and Resources](#) web page.

With respect to the K-12 public education system, the current health and safety protocols for K-12 in-person instruction at Stage 2 will remain in effect for the remainder of the 2020/2021 school year (i.e. no change). In preparation for the return to classes at Stage 1 in the fall, the COVID-19 education steering committee will work with public health officials to update safety guidelines [Source: [B.C. government news release](#)].

I am encouraged and relieved we all have an opportunity to enjoy a gradual return to those experiences we have missed since the start of the pandemic. To ensure we progress through each step of the restart plan, I encourage you to continue to heed the measures required of all of us at each step, including maintaining physical distancing, wearing masks when required, and staying home when ill.

Thank you for practicing the behaviours that have helped B.C. take a very positive step forward.

-Mark Pearmain



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Anti-Racism Awareness Week

Public education plays a critical role in creating a society where all feel welcome, safe, included, heard and appreciated for the richness their lived experiences bring.

During [Anti-Racism Awareness Week](#) (May 23 to 29, 2021), students, educators and community are encouraged to celebrate and learn about B.C.'s diverse culture, reflect on biases and commit to standing together against all forms of racism and hate. Here are some resources that can help:

- B.C. government anti-racism information campaign: <https://antiracist.gov.bc.ca/>
- B.C. Ministry of Education's erase racism, embrace diversity strategy: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/erase/racism>
- Resilience BC Anti-Racism Network: <https://www.resiliencebc.ca/>

By working together, we can strive to create a just and fair society for all.

May is Asian Heritage Month

Asian Heritage Month is an opportunity for Canadians to learn more about the many achievements and contributions of Canadians of Asian descent who have done so much to contribute to the Canada we share today.

This year's theme, "Recognition, Resilience, and Resolve", embodies the countless sentiments peoples of Asian descent in Canada have experienced and honours their contributions and their diverse stories, which are rooted in resilience and perseverance. It is also a call to action for Canadians to come together to combat all forms of anti-Asian racism and discrimination. [Source: [Government of Canada](#)]

Read about how [Queen Mary Community Elementary](#) and [Handsworth Secondary](#) recognized Asian Heritage Month.

Art from 44 Exhibition Live

The virtual exhibition *Art from 44* showcases work from schools across the NVSD. This display of colour, creativity and learning is available for viewing until the end of the school year. As you view these works of art, look for the expressions of play, connections to place, explorations of emotion and wellness, the honing of craftsmanship, and many rich histories and teachings conveyed. Click [HERE](#) to view this year's exhibition.

Young Artist of the Week returns to the NVSD

Artists for Kids (AFK) and the NVSD have partnered to spotlight excellence in the arts through the Young Artist of the Week program. Starting the week of May 24, students who have been nominated by their schools will be recognized for their work in arts on the AFK and NVSD websites and social media channels. Click [HERE](#) for more information

about the program, including a link to view outstanding young artists for the 2020/2021 school year, and [HERE](#) to read the media release.

Information

Indigenous Education

The Indigenous Education team is pleased to share two recent editions of the Indigenous Education flyer. The [May 17 to May 28 edition](#) includes information and resources on the NVSD Indigenous Education value statement, history of the Skwxwu7mesh, Tsleil-Waututh and Musqueam Nations, Indigenous History Month, National Indigenous Peoples Day and staff profile.

The [June 1 to June 15 edition](#) includes information and resources on Indigenous History Month, National Indigenous Peoples Day, links to videos, virtual events and professional development opportunities, a link to the Indigenous Ally Toolkit and information about Truth and Reconciliation Week (fall 2021).

These regularly published flyers are posted to the [Indigenous Education](#) section of our website (scroll to the bottom of the page).

Homestay Families needed for the 2021/2022 School Year

The North Vancouver School District is a popular study destination for international students. At the secondary-school level, international students value the opportunity to not only receive a quality education but also experience life with a host family and immerse themselves in the Canadian community experience.

If you're interested in welcoming an international student into your home for the 2021/22 school year and learning more about the benefits and responsibilities that come with being a host family, please visit our [International Education Homestay Program page](#) and connect with our International Education Program office at international@sd44.ca.

NVSD Registrations

North Vancouver Online Learning – Registration open until June 18

Students looking for the flexibility that comes with taking a secondary course online can register with North Vancouver Online Learning (NVOL) until Friday, June 18 (registration is

then paused until September 7, 2021). With NVOL, students can complete a course(s) while working at a pace that suits their personal needs.

NVOL's comprehensive course offerings include the following new courses for French Immersion students:

- Sciences naturelles 10
- Français langue seconde - Immersion - FRAL 10
- Français langue seconde - Immersion - FRAL 12
- Coming September 2021 : Français langue seconde - Immersion - FRAL 11 and Médias et communication numérique 11

Many NVOL teachers will be available in July to provide students with academic and tech support, and exam supervision. While teachers will not be available in August, online learning courses will remain open to students who wish to continue working on assignments. For information about course offerings and to register, visit [North Vancouver Online Learning](#).

Summer Learning - Registration closes June 24 (noon)

Summer Learning provides an engaging learning environment where students can challenge themselves academically and fulfill their personal learning goals. This year, Summer Learning will maximize in-person instructional time in its complete suite of course offerings:

- [Full Credit Academic Courses](#)
- [7/8 Transition](#)
- [English Language Learning \(ELL\)](#)
- [Numeracy and Literacy Foundations](#)
- [Eslha7an](#)

Registration is open until June 24 (at noon) to all students within and beyond the North Vancouver School District; visit [Summer Learning](#) for more information.

AFK Summer Art Intensives – Registration open

This summer, students in the Artists for Kids (AFK) Summer Art Intensives will explore drawing, painting, printmaking and sculpture in the acclaimed Gordon Smith Gallery. Guided by a BC certified art specialist teacher, students will be encouraged to develop a body of work throughout the week that can be added to their personal portfolio.

Spaces remain for the Senior Summer Art Intensive (ages 15-18), which will run July 5 - 9. Visit Artists for Kids' [Spring & Summer Day Camps](#) for more information and to register.

Upcoming NVSD Events

School Trustee By-election 2021 General Voting Day - May 29

Composed of seven elected trustees, the North Vancouver Board of Education is responsible for making the major policy decisions governing all aspects of education within the School District as mandated in the School Act.

A by-election for one District of North Vancouver school trustee, whose term will run for the remainder of the four-year term ending November 2022, will take place this month. General voting takes place on Saturday, May 29 at these [locations](#).

For more information, visit our [School Trustee By-election 2021 page](#) or the [District of North Vancouver By-election 2021 page](#).

Standing Committee Meeting - June 8

The next Board of Education Standing Committee Meeting takes place virtually on Tuesday, June 8 at 7:00 p.m. Visit our [Meetings & Minutes](#) page for information on how you can provide input and to review the complete agenda (available on the Thursday afternoon preceding the public meeting).

Public Board Meeting - June 22

The next Board of Education Public Board Meeting takes place virtually on Tuesday, June 22 at 6:30 p.m. 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).

Community Initiatives

2021 Census

The 2021 Census is underway, and Canadians are being asked to do their part to help plan for a better future for all Canadians. Census data helps governments at all levels plan for schools, transportation, community centres, libraries and recreational activities. Data from the 2021 Census will also help to evaluate the impact of the pandemic and to better plan for the future. Complete your census questionnaire at www.census.gc.ca

using the access code you received in the mail. If you need assistance, or would like to have a paper (or alternate format) questionnaire, call the Census Help Line at 1-855-340-2021.

Mayors' Food Bank Challenge – Ends May 31

For the month of May, the mayors of the cities of Vancouver, Burnaby, North Vancouver, New Westminster, and the mayor of the District of North Vancouver are challenging their communities to help the Greater Vancouver Food Bank feed people in need and to reach the fundraising goal of \$500,000 across all five municipalities. Donations can be made online to your city's fundraising page or by dropping new food donations at your local library, community centre or City Hall. For more information, visit the [Mayors' Food Bank Challenge](#).

Note: [Harvest Project](#) will receive a portion of all online donations to the District of North Vancouver (25%) and City of North Vancouver (10%) fundraising pages.

Spring Go by Bike Week - May 31 to June 6

Be part of a week-long behavioural change campaign and help make Metro Vancouver a happier, healthier place to live, work and play. HUB Cycling's Go by Bike Week event will be packed with daily prizes, webinars, livestream Q&As and more.

Your logged bike trips will help HUB Cycling work with local leaders to improve cycling conditions in Metro Vancouver. Go to btww.ca to learn more, register solo or as a team (with your co-workers, household, family or friends) and log trips.

Lynn Valley LOVE: Community Healing Project

The Lynn Valley LOVE project is a community art initiative that aims to support the community as it continues to heal in the wake of the tragic incident on March 27, 2021. Find out how the calming and healing effects of stitching by hand can help uplift spirits and bring light to a place where a dark event occurred. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to participate.

Good News Stories from around the NVSD

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

- North Shore students show off their marketing skills by designing ads for local biz ([North Shore News article](#))

- North Van teen raises more than \$5,000 while shooting for a cure for diabetes ([North Shore News article](#))
- Ready, Set, Leap into Learning! ([NVSD blog post](#))
- The show must go on ([NVSD blog post](#))
- CUPE 389 celebrates May Day with hot lunches for seniors ([CUPEBC blog post](#))
- North Van school's Welcome Figure recognized with heritage award ([North Shore News article](#))
- A creative lesson in sustainability and upcycling ([NVSD blog post](#))

With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Pearmain".

Mark Pearmain
Superintendent of Schools