

# Superintendent's Report



Dear Parents and Guardians,

It has been two weeks since Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation shared the devastating and tragic news that the remains of 215 Indigenous children were located in an unmarked grave at the site of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School.

These past two weeks have been difficult for all of us, but particularly for Indigenous students, educators and staff of the NVSD, Indigenous members of the North Vancouver community and Indigenous peoples throughout Canada and beyond.

As we continue to process the news, a process which is different for each of us, we are grateful to the members of the NVSD Indigenous Education team, and especially at this time, for their ongoing teachings and guidance and for inviting members of the school district family to participate in ceremony to honour the 215 children, including drum circles and healing circles.

It is heartening to see [students and staff of their school communities come together](#) and wear orange shirts to honour the children, to listen and to learn, and to take what they have learned home for further discussions with family. No matter the age, dialogue and understanding around the history of Canada's treatment of Indigenous peoples is happening, and we are encouraged by this.

As a reminder, resources are available to support conversations among students, staff and families at home. Resources have been curated by the [NVSD Indigenous Education team](#) and the [Arts Education team](#). In addition, the school district's [Social Emotional Learning and Mental Health website](#) includes resources to support children, youth and families process stressful events.

I would also like to acknowledge this week's tragic and senseless violent incident in London, Ontario, which led to the death of four members of a family of five, one child in hospital recovering, and a community and nation reeling from what police believe was a targeted attack on a Muslim family. There is no place for hate and discrimination in our



society—none--and our hearts go out to the victims, their families and friends and the wider Muslim Canadian community.

At the North Vancouver School District, we strongly believe it is through education that we can create a society made up of thoughtful, compassionate citizens who collectively work to create a healthy and inclusive society for all. I therefore encourage everyone to continue to listen, understand and learn about the stories and lived experiences of all Canadians, for the betterment of all, but especially for children and youth.

-Mark Pearmain

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## Announcements

### New School Trustee

The North Vancouver Board of Education is pleased to announce Linda Munro has joined the Board as a newly elected school trustee.

“We are excited to have Linda join the Board of Education as school trustee as we value her commitment to public education,” said Board Chair George Tsiakos. “We look forward to drawing on her strengths and experiences as we collaboratively work on policy decisions governing all aspects of education within the school district. We also look forward to working with her as we champion our new strategic plan to support student success and bring communities together to learn, share, and grow.”

Linda was affirmed as school trustee on June 8, 2021. The term runs for the remainder of the four-year term ending November 2022.

### Pride Month

At the North Vancouver School District, we believe all schools should be inclusive places where students feel safe, accepted, respected and welcome. We are committed to ensuring students see themselves reflected in their school community and feel empowered to be the best version of themselves.

Pride Month is in June and commemorates the Stonewall Riots that occurred in June 1969. The catalyst for early Pride celebrations was the need for equal rights to be extended to all LGBTQ2S+ people. This call for a world without discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression is the reason we continue to celebrate Pride today.

In December 2019, the school district’s Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Core Team designed a rainbow sticker to be displayed in classrooms and schools. The rainbow sticker is a symbol used to signify a commitment to providing safe and supportive spaces for students, staff, families, community members and visitors.

The rainbow colours represent the LGBTQ+ community; the pink, blue and white colours represent the transgender community; and the brown and black colours represent two-spirited, Indigenous and people of colour in the LGBTQ2S+ community.



## Indigenous History Month

June is Indigenous History Month, where we recognize and celebrate the rich and diverse histories, voices and cultures of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples in Canada [Source: [Government of Canada](#)]. The current issue of the [Indigenous Education flyer](#) contains information and resources on Indigenous History Month and National Indigenous Peoples Day (June 21), including links to videos and virtual events.

## AFK Collector's Program Returns

Artists for Kids (AFK) is pleased to relaunch and rename its print purchase loyalty program: the [AFK Collector's Program](#). This program offers customers the ability to receive significant discounts on a unique collection of Canadian fine arts prints.

For information on AFK's limited edition print program, including viewing prints by artist, please click [HERE](#). *Thank you for your continued support of students, educators and artists in our community!*

## Information

### Young Artist of the Week

Artists for Kids (AFK) and the NVSD have partnered to spotlight excellence in the arts through the Young Artist of the Week program. The following ten young artists were nominated by their schools. Learn more about them by clicking on each link:

[Fraser](#) | [Arvin](#) | [Alexandra](#) | [Andrew](#) | [Alexa](#) | [Tiantian](#) | [Aengus](#) | [Elsa](#) | [Nathan](#) | [Anika](#)

*Congratulations students!* For more information about the program, click [HERE](#).

## **VCH School Immunization Program Update**

Due to COVID-19 and the need to reallocate resources, Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) had placed on hold its school-based immunization program. We have now been informed that VCH *may* begin to contact secondary schools to try to schedule a regular school immunization clinic (grade 9 and catch-up) before the end of the school year. In the fall, VCH will begin planning for the regular school immunization clinics (grade 6, grade 9 and catch-up) for the 2021/22 school year. More information will be shared when it is made available to the school district.

Should families wish to have their child(ren) immunized sooner than when the school clinic becomes available, they should consult with their medical health professional. Regarding COVID-19 vaccines for youth (age 12-17), VCH expects these to continue through the existing community clinics over the summer.

## **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](mailto:international@sd44.ca).

## **NVSD Registrations**

### **North Vancouver Online Learning – Register by 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.

Spaces remain in the following:

- [Full Credit Academic Courses](#), including Career Life Education 10 and Physical and Health Education 10
- [Numeracy and Literacy Foundations](#)
- [Eslha7an](#)

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

### **AFK Summer Art Intensives – Spaces remain**

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.

Registration is open for the Senior Summer Art Intensive (ages 15-18): July 5 - 9. Visit Artists for Kids' [Spring & Summer Day Camps](#) for more information and to register.

## **Upcoming NVSD Events**

### **Public Board Meeting - Tuesday, 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).

## 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 Vancouver School District students create *Gotcha* film ([NVSD media release](#))
- North Van student launches campaign to say thanks to her school's custodians ([North Shore News article](#))
- Emergency Preparedness Contest Winner: Boundary Elementary ([NVSD blog](#))
- Playing through: University-bound lineman ready to finally get back on the gridiron ([North Shore News article](#))
- Student curators reveal 'Ecology of Art' in new show at Gordon Smith Gallery ([Emily Carr University blog post](#))
- North Van students swap postcards with sister school in Japan ([North Shore News article](#))

With appreciation,

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

Mark Pearmain  
Superintendent of Schools