

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It's somewhat hard to believe that we are well into the fall season, and in a little over a week, we celebrate Thanksgiving. While I acknowledge that traditional celebrations and gatherings will need to look a little different this year, the act of giving thanks, while always important, takes on even greater meaning.

I would therefore like to start this update by sharing my deep gratitude. Thank you for your patience and trust in your school district, as we worked to safely re-open schools and welcome back our students and staff. Thank you for following the advice from our public health officials and making choices and modifying behaviours so that we keep our school community and the broader community—our neighbours, seniors and elders—safe.

As we enter the holiday season, let's continue to be kind, stay calm and remember that we really are in this together.

In this Issue

- World Teachers' Day
- Curriculum Implementation Day
- Orange Shirt Day
- Report: Impact of School Closures on Learning, Child and Family Well-Being During the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Indigenous Education
- North Vancouver Online Learning
- The Great BC Shakeout
- Provincial Election Update
- Standing Committee Meeting: Capital Projects Update
- Event: When Stress Comes Home
- TransLink Webinar: Where We've Been & Where We're Going
- Good News Stories from Around the NVSD



Announcements

World Teachers' Day

Continuing with the theme of gratitude and thanks, I would like to share that today, Monday, October 5th, is [World Teachers' Day](#). This annual global event celebrates teachers, the teaching profession and the important role educators play in society, including the contributions they make to a strong global community.

This year's theme, "Teachers: Leading in crisis, reimagining the future," captures the spirit of what educators and staff throughout our district have demonstrated since the start of the pandemic.

Thanks to the resilience, adaptability, flexibility and innovation of our teachers and all staff across the system, we have in place learning environments where students feel safe, supported and welcome. Whether in the classroom or online, our educators and staff encourage students to engage with their learning and connect with their peers, and in doing so, help our students reimagine a better future for all.

Please [join me](#) in celebrating staff throughout our district.

Recent Initiatives across the NVSD

Curriculum Implementation Day

Curriculum Implementation Day, an annual professional development and district-wide event, took place on Friday, October 2nd. Staff from across our school community came together--safely, and in most cases, virtually--to exchange ideas, perspectives and best practices.

I was both honoured to open the day and inspired by the countless examples of our staff excitedly engaging in dialogue, collaborating and supporting each other. The day ended with a renewed feeling of optimism and confidence in our collective efforts to provide our students with exceptional learning experiences and to continue to learn, share and grow together.

Orange Shirt Day

[Orange Shirt Day](#) is recognized nationally and annually on September 30th. To recognize residential school history in Canada, and to honour residential school survivors, their families and communities, North Vancouver School District staff and students were invited to wear orange to school on September 30th.

We are in the process of compiling the many ways schools throughout the district marked the day. In the interim, please click [HERE](#) to read a North Shore News article featuring Brad Baker, District Principal, Indigenous Education.

Information

(Report) Impact of School Closures on Learning, Child and Family Well-Being During the COVID-19 Pandemic

As COVID-19 is likely to be a fact of life for the foreseeable future, a need to understand the risks and benefits of keeping schools closed was identified. This document [co-developed by the BC Centre for Disease Control and BC Children's Hospital] reviews relevant evidence, recommends return to school and suggests strategies for ensuring that risks to children and society are minimized, while benefits are captured.

As the scientific literature and BC data on the COVID-19 pandemic grows, our understanding of the consequences of school closures and pandemic measures on the health of children and families in BC will continue to evolve.

I encourage you to take the time to read the information shared in this [document](#), from which the excerpt above was taken (p. 5).

Indigenous Education

View the latest edition of the Indigenous Education Weekly Flyer [HERE](#) These regularly published flyers are posted to the District website [HERE](#) (please scroll to the bottom of the page).

North Vancouver Online Learning

North Vancouver Online Learning (NVOL; formerly the North Vancouver Distributed Learning School) has a new look. For more information about our NVOL program,

including new course offerings for the fall, please click [HERE](#) for a message from the program director, Dr. Joanne Robertson.

The Great BC Shakeout – Thursday, October 15th

The annual [Great British Columbia ShakeOut](#), the world's largest earthquake drill and DROP, COVER and HOLD ON together event, will take place across our schools on Thursday, October 15th at 10:15 a.m.

Provincial Election Update – Saturday, October 24th

The provincial election will be held on October 24th, 2020. As with past elections, it is anticipated most NVSD school sites, including the Education Services Centre, will be used as voting sites on election day. No NVSD schools will be used for advance voting, with the exception of the Education Services Centre.

Elections BC is working with the Office of the Provincial Health Officer and Ministry of Education to ensure voting takes place safely and schools remain safe and healthy learning environments for our students and staff. This means:

- At no point will any election activity take place when school is in session.
- Elections BC will ensure sanitation of voting and related spaces before and after voting.
- On election day, areas will be cordoned off and monitored by Elections BC officials to ensure the public flows in and out of voting space only.
- In all cases, Elections BC will be using gymnasiums, and where possible, the public will enter and exit gymnasiums via the exterior door only.
- No school equipment will be used. Elections BC will be providing all required tables and chairs.
- While a washroom will be designated for use by Elections BC staff, no public washrooms will be available on site.

Upcoming Events

Capital Projects Update – Tuesday, October 6th

Join us on Tuesday, October 6th, at 7:00 pm, for a virtual presentation during the Board of Education's Finance and Facilities Standing Committee Meeting. An update on the Argyle Secondary and Handsworth Secondary school replacement projects and Mountainside Secondary's seismic upgrade project will be shared. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

When Stress Comes Home- Thursday, October 15th

Families are invited to join Emma Carlson, MA, in a discussion around how to help youth manage the stress and anxiety associated with schooling at home, transitioning back to in-school learning, and strategies for success.

Presented by [Foundry North Shore](#), this event is intended for families with children in grades six and up. For more information and to register, please click [HERE](#).

TransLink Webinar – Where we've been & where we're going, together.

On Thursday, October 22nd, from 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm, TransLink is hosting a public transportation themed webinar for students, families and staff of the North Vancouver School District. A representative from TransLink will share how TransLink is adapting to changes due to COVID-19 and how this impacts you. For more information, including link to attend, please click [HERE](#).

Good News Stories from around the NVSD

We've had a busy few months at the North Vancouver School District. I would like to highlight and share with you some of our good news. Be sure to visit our [Learn, Share & Grow Blog](#) and [News & Announcements](#) sections of our website regularly to stay informed. *Enjoy!*

>>Superintendent Visit: Larson Elementary School ([NVSD blog](#))

>>'Heart of Cleveland' embraced by students ([NVSD blog](#))

>>Student's solo marathon raises \$11K for LGH Foundation ([NVSD blog](#))

>>North Vancouver Grade 12 student running entire Knee Knacker route for charity ([North Shore News article](#))

Translation Options

To view this update in a language option of your choice, please review and enable the message translation options available through your email provider. While not exhaustive, we have provided links to popular email providers: [Microsoft Outlook](#) and [Gmail](#).

