

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you for continuing to follow the health and safety guidance of our public health officials, namely keeping your children home when sick, in order to keep our school communities safe.

As we head into cold and flu season, it becomes even more important that we stay vigilant, make informed choices and practice the behaviours we know will allow our students and staff to continue to learn together.

By now, you may have heard there was a COVID-19 exposure at Seycove Secondary School. Please rest assured that our staff came together quickly to work with Vancouver Coastal Health to ensure the school community was informed, while privacy rights were maintained; contact tracing was conducted; and proper cleaning of the school took place. Should you have questions about what happens in the case of a school exposure, please visit our [Management of Illness and Confirmed Cases FAQ](#).

Now that we are 5+ weeks into the 2020/2021 school year, we would like to hear about your experiences with the NVSD school restart. I hope you will take the time to complete our survey and share your feedback (please see details below).

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Announcements

NVSD Fall 2020 Survey

As in June, with our first COVID-19 Feedback Survey, we have engaged [flex surveys](#) to gather your feedback and understand your experiences with respect to the 2020/2021 school restart.

The survey will be available until 11:59 pm on Sunday, October 25th. To complete the survey, please visit this [link](#). All answers are strictly confidential. Thank you for your participation.

National Principals' Month

October is National Principals' Month. Please join me in acknowledging all North Vancouver School District principals and vice principals who every day, go above and beyond to support students and staff in our school district. Whether managing the day-to-day operations of the school, encouraging the growth and development of students and staff, or building a strong school culture and sense of community for all, the work of our principals and vice principals is crucial, and even more so given the times we find ourselves in. Read the BC Principals' & Vice-Principals Association [statement](#) for more information.

Foster Family Month

October is Foster Family Month in British Columbia, and this year marks the 30th year of Foster Family Month proclamations. Please join me in thanking the many caregivers in our community who provide a safe and caring home for our more vulnerable children and youth in British Columbia.

Information

Indigenous Education

The latest edition of the [Indigenous Education Flyer](#) includes information on the Beaded map of Canada collaboration, Indigenous Speaker Series, Secret Path Week and more. These regularly published flyers are posted to the [Indigenous Education](#) section of our website (please scroll to the bottom of the page).

Celebrating Halloween Safely

Please review a [letter](#) I have prepared which provides guidance on how families can help students celebrate Halloween in a safe and fun manner this year.

Provincial Election - Saturday, October 24th

As a reminder, the provincial election will be held on October 24th, 2020. As with past elections, many 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.

Walk/Roll to School – Staying Safe in the Darker, Wetter Weather

The North Vancouver School District encourages students to get to and from school in [active and safe ways](#). With shorter days and wet weather ahead, we ask that you take the time to review safety tips with your children:

- Be visible by wearing safety reflectors or reflective or bright clothing
- Walk or roll to and from school with a sibling or a buddy
- Cross streets at designated crosswalks
- Be aware of your surroundings
- Do not speak to strangers
- Report anything of concern

Additional safety tips are available on the [RCMP](#) website.

Upcoming Events

Board of Education Public Board Meeting

The next scheduled public Board of Education meeting takes place on Tuesday, October 20th at 6:30 pm. The meeting will be live-streamed and recorded. Visit our [Meetings, Motions & 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).

Kindergarten Information Session

Parents/guardians of children who will enter kindergarten in September 2021 are invited to join us for a virtual Kindergarten Orientation presentation on Wednesday, October 21st, at 7:00 pm. Information about the event, including presentation link, will be available on our [website](#) on October 21st.

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.

Good News Stories from around the NVSD

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!*

- Students mark Terry Fox Day in unique ways ([NVSD blog post](#))
- Orange Shirt Day 2020 in photos ([NVSD blog post](#))

With appreciation,

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

Mark Pearmain
Superintendent of Schools

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](#).