

Superintendent's Report



Dear Parents and Guardians,

On Saturday, November 7, Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry and Minister of Health Adrian Dix made a joint [news announcement](#) and issued a [joint statement](#) in response to the recent increase in the transmission of COVID-19 in communities within the Vancouver Coastal Health and Fraser Health regions.

Details of the time-limited orders and guidance, in effect between November 7, 10 p.m. to November 23 at 12 p.m., which focus on significantly reducing social interactions, gatherings and travel, can be found on the [B.C.'s response to COVID-19](#) website.

To reduce the transmission of COVID-19 in our communities and to keep essential services—including our schools—open and in operation, we all must adhere to the new orders and guidance and recommit to staying vigilant in the fight against COVID-19.

As we see COVID-19 increasing in the community, we expect to see more cases in schools. And while we have had COVID-19 exposures events in schools, they are limited. To date, out of 32 schools across our district, we have had ten school exposures: four at the elementary level and six at the secondary level.

As required by our Restart Plan, we have in place strict protocols to minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission in schools, if and when an exposure occurs. We also have in place communication protocols to ensure that we work closely with Vancouver Coastal Health and provide the impacted school community with timely and accurate information.

These protocols include and begin with staying home if feeling ill. We are therefore extremely appreciative of our community—parents/guardians and staff who are proactively using the [daily health check](#). We have observed a real sense of community, care and consideration within our schools to maintain safe and healthy environments, and for this, we thank you.

Thank you to each and every one of you who are making the difficult but necessary



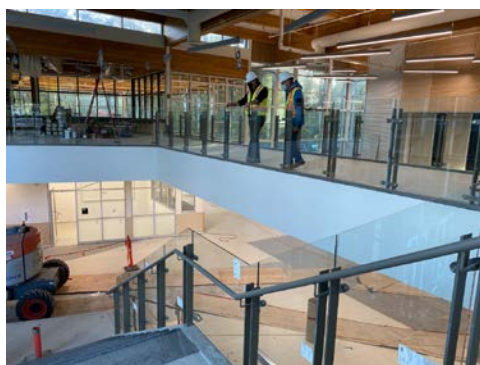
choices in our personal lives to do what is needed to keep our essential services, our communities, and our family, friends and neighbours safe and healthy.

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Announcements

Argyle Secondary School Replacement Project Update



(L to R: front entrance; library circulation desk; Second floor bridge. Click [HERE](#) for more images.)

We are excited to share that we are nearing completion of Phase 1 of the Argyle Secondary School Replacement Project. On January 4, 2021, students and staff will begin the New Year in a brand new school!

Please join me in celebrating this major milestone for Argyle Secondary School students and staff, and larger Lynn Valley community. We look forward to sharing additional news as we approach the school opening and move from Phase 1 to Phase 2, which includes demolition of the existing school to make room for a new artificial turf field (a District of North Vancouver-led project). In the interim, please read Principal Kim Jonat's [letter to the Argyle Secondary School Community](#), which highlights many of the features of the new 1,300-student capacity school.

As a reminder, updates to capital projects are available on our [Capital Projects Updates](#) district web pages.

November is Adoption Awareness Month

November is Adoption Awareness month in British Columbia. Please join me in thanking the many families in our community who have opened their hearts and provided a stable home—filled with love, guidance and support—to children and youth, particularly those children and youth in foster care. For more information about Adoption Awareness Month, please visit the [Adoptive Families Association of BC](#) website.

Expanded French Immersion Online Course Offerings – Registration is Now Open

We are expanding our online course offerings for French Immersion students. As the only school district in BC to offer online French Immersion courses to secondary students through our [North Vancouver Online Learning](#) program, we are pleased to be able to respond to the increased need for more self-paced, flexible online courses that meet students' unique schedules and preferred learning styles.

In September, we implemented *Explorations en sciences humaines et sociales 11* (Social Studies 11). We have just launched *Français langue seconde (FRAL) 10 and 12*. Starting in early 2021, we will be releasing our first Science course in French - *Sciences naturelles 10*.

For more information and to register your child for a course, please visit our [North Vancouver Online Learning](#) website.

Information

Severe Weather Information

As winter weather approaches, we would like to remind parents and guardians, students and staff about the North Vancouver School District's winter weather procedures and announcements.

All schools in the North Vancouver School District will remain OPEN, if at all possible during winter weather, including snowfalls. Any district-wide closure will be decided by 6:30 a.m. and will be announced through the media, placed on the school district website and schools' websites, shared with parents/guardians via SchoolMessenger (email and/or text*), and emailed to staff. For more information, please visit our [Severe Weather Information](#) web page.

*SMS Text Messaging via SchoolMessenger

If parents/guardians would like to receive SMS text messages when there is an emergency during school or non-school hours (e.g. severe weather or power outage), you will need to opt in for this service.

Typically, parents/guardians receive a SchoolMessenger text message on their mobile phone (similar to the one below) when their child first registers to school and registration is complete:

"North Vancouver School District 44 messages. Reply Y to confirm, HELP 4 info. Msg & data rates may apply. Msg freq varies. schoolmessenger.com/smsca"

Parents/guardians can also opt in to receive SMS text messages anytime by texting "Y" or "Yes" to 978338.

Note: Standard message and data rates may apply.

Indigenous Education

The latest edition of the [Indigenous Education Flyer](#) provides the history of National Aboriginal Veterans Day in Canada, and includes a colouring page for students titled *Haw*

k'et máynexw or “We cannot forget.” These regularly published flyers are posted to the [Indigenous Education](#) section of our website (please scroll to the bottom of the page).

School Visits: A Time for Observation, Reflection and Learning

Having the opportunity to visit any one of the NVSD’s 32 schools throughout the school year is a highlight of my work as Superintendent. Being in the field, talking to staff, administrators and students, allows me to observe the awesome work that is happening in our classrooms each and every day. To read more about my recent visits to Mountainside Secondary, Lynn Valley Elementary, Highlands Elementary and Carisbrooke Elementary, please click [HERE](#).

Upcoming Events

Board of Education Public Board Meeting – Tuesday, November 17

The next Board of Education public board meeting takes place on Tuesday, November 17 at 6:30 p.m. 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).

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!*

- North Vancouver schools honour veterans with virtual Remembrance Day ceremonies ([North Shore News article](#))
- Curriculum Implementation Day a special time for NVSD staff ([NVSD blog post](#))
- For the love of literacy ([NVSD blog post](#))
- Carson climate protectors develop smart phone plan ([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](#).

A decorative graphic consisting of several thick, light green, wavy lines that sweep across the lower half of the page.