

A Message from the Superintendent

Dear North Vancouver School District Community,

It's Education Week at the North Vancouver School District! This annual week-long series of events celebrates public schooling in North Vancouver and honours those who play a role in collectively creating exceptional teaching and learning experiences.

On Monday, at the 25-Year Service Employee Recognition event, we honoured employees who have dedicated their skills, talents, and experience and have served the school district for 25 years.

Yesterday, you would have received a copy of the [2023 Community Report](#) (distributed through the North Shore News). Through story, the annual report provides a snapshot of what makes our schools vibrant learning communities.

Today, at the Trustee Reception, the Board of Education thanked community partners who work with the school district in a variety of ways to enhance the public schooling experience.

As we now pause for Spring Break and spend time with loved ones, I encourage you to reflect and recognize how much we continue to achieve together for the betterment of students, staff, and the wider North Vancouver community. I look forward to connecting with you again after the break.

Respectfully,

Dr. Pius Ryan
Superintendent of Schools
Superintendent@sd44.ca



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Good News from the NVSD

Visit our [Learn, Share & Grow](#) blog and [News & Announcements](#) to read about the good work happening throughout the school district.

For the stories with images that are included below, please click on the caption for a link to the blog post:

- Carson Graham student wins B.C. wrestling title ([North Shore News](#))

- Handsworth Secondary introduces soundproof study pod ([North Shore News](#))
- Capilano student takes action ([NVSD blog post](#))
- Handsworth Secondary students win \$5K grant for local domestic abuse charity ([North Shore News](#))
- Unique music therapy program brings people living with dementia together with students ([Global News](#))
- North Vancouver clothing brand started by high school students ([CityNews](#))
- Argyle Pipers win bronze at World School Cheerleading Championships ([North Shore News](#))
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Announcements

Updates to communicating student learning (report cards)

Communicating student learning is a vital component of the learning process and fundamental to student success. It is an ongoing process that takes place throughout the school year; involves the teacher, student and parent/guardian; and can take a variety of forms. Beginning in the 2023/2024 school year, the way teachers and schools communicate student learning, and the format of traditional report cards, is shifting. Please refer to yesterday's [update to the community](#) to learn more about what is changing.

Upcoming engagement opportunities – Your voice matters

The school district invites members of the NVSD community to share feedback in the areas highlighted below. Information and reminders about how you can provide input will be made available via NVSD communication channels, including the Superintendent's Report. Thank you in advance for taking the time to participate and share your feedback.

2023/2024 Budget Priorities – Submit your feedback by March 10

Each year, the school district undertakes a public consultation process for input on budget priorities that fall under the Operating Budget and align with the school district's strategic goals, vision and values.

In this [video](#), you'll hear from Ella Waite, District Student Leadership Council member, and Jacqui Stewart, Secretary Treasurer, who provide information about the budget and invite you to share your input. Information about the budget development process is also available on our [Budget Priorities: Public Input](#) web page.

Ways for you to share your feedback and until Friday, March 10:

- [Online survey](#).
- Email to budgetcomments@sd44.ca.
- Traditional mail addressed to: Secretary Treasurer, 2121 Lonsdale Avenue, North Vancouver, BC, V7M 2K6.

In addition, you can also share your feedback at our upcoming Standing Committee meeting on Tuesday, March 28 at 7 p.m.

Student Learning Survey

The Student Learning Survey (SLS), administered annually by the Ministry of Education and Child Care, is open to students in Grades 4, 7, 10 and 12, their parents/guardians, and staff and administrators in B.C. public schools. The survey covers a range of topics, providing a comprehensive picture of the educational experience in public schools and valuable insight for addressing current needs and trends.

Parents/guardians are invited to participate in the survey, available in English, French and additional languages, until Saturday, April 29. Information about the survey, including a survey link is available on the [Student Learning Survey](#) web page.

Information

Approved 2023/2024 School Calendar

The Board of Education approved the 2023/2024 School Calendar at the Public Board Meeting held on Tuesday, March 7. The approved School Calendar confirms dates including the first and last day of school for students, Winter and Spring Breaks, Curriculum Implementation Day and Staff Collaboration days for the next school year. These dates remain as indicated in the Proposed School Calendar that was made available for public comment in February.

Professional development (pro-d) dates have **not** yet been confirmed; dates on the current calendar documents are placeholder (i.e., example) dates at this time.

- Three (3) district-wide pro-d dates are selected by the North Vancouver Teachers' Association (NVTa). These dates will be confirmed in May, with a final school district-wide calendar published at that time.
- Two (2) school-based dates are selected by school staff committees at each school. These dates will be shared by schools with their local school communities before the end of May.

For more information, please visit the [District Calendar](#) web page.

Secondary school schedule update

Earlier this year, the school district engaged in a comprehensive process regarding the secondary school schedule, which involved surveying secondary students, their families, and staff, and consulting with school administration and staff. From this process of engagement, the North Vancouver School District will adopt the following secondary school timetable for the 2023/2024 school year:

- **Semester:** Argyle, Handsworth, Seycove, Sutherland, Windsor
- **Linear:** Carson Graham
- **No change:** Mountainside

A copy of the [letter sent to secondary students, staff and families](#) is available for your review. Thank you to students, staff and families who participated in the online survey. We received over 3,900 responses!

Be bear aware

The North Shore is home to black bears, who are emerging from their dens at this time of year. They can be seen on trails, roads, in neighbourhoods, and even on the beach, at any time of day. It is essential to give them plenty of space and avoid attracting them to your home with food. Learn more about how to responsibly coexist with these valued members of our community by connecting with the [North Shore Black Bear Society](#). Don't forget to visit the North Shore Black Bear Society booth at the Outdoor Safety & Emergency Preparedness Open House on Saturday, May 13 (event details in the NVSD Events section below).

Recreating in the outdoors safely

When heading outdoors to explore our North Shore mountains, [North Shore Rescue](#) (NSR) would like to remind you to leave a trip plan and take the essentials:

- Always let someone you trust know where you're going and when you plan to be back.
- Take essential items that will help prevent emergencies from occurring and help you survive an emergency. Refer to NSR's [What to Bring](#) web page for a listing of items.

North Shore Rescue will once again be participating in the Outdoor Safety & Emergency Preparedness House on Saturday, May 13, and looks forward to meeting you and answering your questions (event details in the NVSD Events section below).

Website translation feature

As part of our ongoing commitment to meet the communication needs of the school district community, we are pleased to share the Google language translation feature has been added to all school district and school websites (*sites with an sd44.ca domain*). The language selection box is located at the bottom of each web page (to the right of the social media icons).

Homestay families needed

Each year, the North Vancouver School District welcomes students from around the world to live and study in our vibrant community. We strive to place secondary school international students with families who live close to school to support each student's integration into the school and wider community.

There are secondary school international students in need of a homestay placement for the school term beginning September 2023. If you are interested in hosting an international student, please reach out to our International Education program office at international@sd44.ca. More information about the homestay program is available on the [International Education](#) section of the school district website.

Supporting students and families in the community

Through the Student and Family Affordability Fund (SFAF), the school district is supporting students and their families who are feeling financially challenged due to the rising costs of living. To request financial support at any time throughout the 2022-2023 school year, please complete the form(s) available on the [Student and Family Affordability Fund](#) web page and submit the form(s) in confidence to either your child's teacher, principal, school counsellor or front office staff. A listing of eligible expenses, and answers to common questions, can be found on our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) web page.

NVSD Events

Standing Committee Meeting – March 28

A Board of Education Standing Committee Meeting takes place on Tuesday, March 28 at 7 p.m. Visit our [Public Meetings](#) web page for information on how you can participate and to review the meeting agenda (the latter is posted on the Thursday afternoon preceding the public meeting).

Ready, Set, Learn – March 30 to May 25

Ready, Set, Learn is an initiative aimed at encouraging and supporting children's early language and literacy skills. Intended for families and their children (ages 3 to 5 years), Ready, Set, Learn is designed to foster positive connections among families, schools and early learning community partners and support children as they prepare for Kindergarten. Ready, Set, Learn events will be hosted at multiple locations throughout the school district from March 30 to May 25 and are free to attend. Event details are available on the [Ready, Set, Learn](#) web page.

Climate Action and Sustainability Week – April 11 to 14

During Climate Action and Sustainability Week (April 11 – 14), students and staff across the school district will come together and participate in a series of events that are meant to inspire, educate and empower all to make a positive impact and create a more resilient and sustainable

community:

- Tuesday, April 11. *Climate Action Heroes* celebrates and honours climate advocates in the community.
- Wednesday, April 12. Hosted at Windsor Secondary, the *BeAware Fair* offers an opportunity to learn from environmental advocacy organizations.
- Thursday, April 13. *Climate-Conscious Cuisine* explores the connection between food and climate change.
- Friday, April 14. *Community Cleanup Day* is the largest community cleanup on the North Shore.

New this year is the *Build Your City Minecraft Challenge*, where students will be challenged to design and reinvent the North Shore community.

Information about the week is available on the [Climate Action and Sustainability Week](#) website. Highlights from the week will be included in a future issue of the Superintendent's Report.

Public Board Meeting – April 18

A Board of Education Public Board Meeting takes place on Tuesday, April 18 at 6:30 p.m. Visit our [Public Meetings](#) web page for information on how you can participate and to review the meeting agenda and board package (the latter is posted on the Thursday afternoon preceding the public meeting).

Outdoor Safety & Emergency Preparedness Open House – May 13

Save the date! The school district is pleased to once again host the Outdoor Safety & Emergency Preparedness Open House on Saturday, May 13, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Argyle Secondary.

This free community-minded event coincides with the last day of the national [Emergency Preparedness Week](#) and is meant to:

- Promote the health, safety, and well-being of students, families, and the wider North Vancouver community.
- Build awareness and resiliency of the North Vancouver community around outdoor safety and emergency preparedness.
- Showcase the expertise of local emergency management bodies and first responders.

The event consists of an outdoor trade show and information sessions. Plan on speaking with and learning from experts and getting up close to emergency vehicles and equipment used in real-life rescues. More information will be available soon.

NVSD Registrations

Elementary Band and Strings – Late Registration begins March 10

Elementary Band and Strings is a unique instrumental music program that complements the Ministry of Education and Child Care's Arts Education curriculum and provides school-based instrumental instruction to students in Grades 5 – 7 for Band and Grades 4 – 7 for Strings. Late Registration for Elementary Band and Strings for the 2023/2024 school year begins on Friday, March 10. Visit the [Elementary Band and Strings](#) web page for more information, including program fees.

AFK After School Art – Registration open for spring classes

Taught by art specialist teachers and assisted by secondary art students, After School Art classes provide students the opportunity to further their artistic ability and foster positive attitudes towards the visual arts. Visit [Artists for Kids](#) for more information.

AFK Summer Day Camps – Registration open

Students will enjoy a week of studio art activities including drawing, painting and printmaking taught by an art specialist teacher. Each week will be unique with expert art teachers guiding students to experiment with many art materials and techniques. All materials are provided. Visit the [AFK Day Camps](#) web page for information

North Vancouver Online Learning – Online registration open

NVOL provides engaging, accessible and interactive learning experiences for students. Students can enrol any time during the school year and have one calendar year to complete their course. Students can also choose to engage in their NVOL courses entirely remotely online or in a blended model of online and in-person interactions at our NVOL Centre.

Visit the [NVOL website to see our full suite of courses](#) from Grades 8 through 12 in both English and French. The French Immersion online course offerings allow students the opportunity to meet the requirements of their Diplôme de fin d'études secondaires en Colombie-Britannique online through L' École Virtuelle de Vancouver nord.

Missed an issue? Updates from the Superintendent, including the monthly Superintendent's Report, are [available for review](#).

The North Vancouver School District is situated upon the unceded traditional territory of the Skwxwú7mesh Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation. We would like to thank the Coast Salish people and value the opportunity to learn, share and grow on this traditional territory.