

June 28, 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Subject: *New Food Access Program*

The North Vancouver School District is pleased to inform you that beginning in September 2017 all schools will have a new expanded Food Access Program – available to all students in the school district who are in need of food at any time during the school day. This program will be phased in throughout the 2016/2017 school year and will replace the existing School Meal Program. Until now, four schools in our school district have had a school district funded School Meal Program, also known as the hot lunch program, with the goal to provide a nutritious lunch to students who otherwise would not have one. There is a need, however, to expand the food access program to all schools and to offer food throughout the day as opposed to simply at lunch.

The School District recognizes the value of ensuring students have access to healthy food and is aware that there are students throughout our entire school district who do not have access to regular nutritious food. The new Food Access Program will be available in all 32 schools, offering nutritious snacks whenever students need them. Throughout the upcoming 2016/2017 school year, formal hot lunches will be phased out and replaced with the Food Access Program. There are currently six secondary schools and six elementary schools that already have the new Food Access Program in place. By September 2017 all schools will have the program – any student in any school will have the ability to receive a healthy snack.

The School District respects that this will be a change for the families who are accustomed to the former School Meal Program; however, we are confident that the new expanded food program will ensure all children will have access to consistent, healthy food. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact your Principal or Vice-Principal.

Sincerely,



Mark Pearmain
Incoming Superintendent
North Vancouver School District