



# SUTHERLAND SECONDARY SCHOOL

1860 Sutherland Avenue, North Vancouver, BC V7L 4C2 Telephone: 604-903-3500



April 5, 2024

Dear Sutherland Families,

We were pleased to welcome back students this week from Spring Break looking rested and, in some cases, with a suntan. Here at home, longer days and warmer weather mean more opportunities for students to engage in learning activities and extra-curriculars outdoors during and after school.

Warmer weather also means more students are making their way to school in more active ways, including walking, biking, and 'rolling'. In the past year there has been a noticeable increase in the number of students using electric scooters to commute to school. Safe and responsible use of scooters is a great way for students to independently travel. It is important, however, that students and families keep in mind safety restrictions that apply to their use. City bylaws require helmets to be worn when riding scooters, skateboards, or bikes, and in instances where students are not wearing a helmet, they or their parent/guardian may be subject to a \$75 fine. More importantly, keeping the pedestrian areas around the school safe by traveling at a low speed is vital. We are fortunate to share our campus with a daycare, and often have not only teenagers and adults walking the grounds, but also toddlers. Students who are unable to use their scooters in a safe manner may be asked to keep them off property. We appreciate student and family support with keeping our grounds a safe space for everyone.

Community feedback on all aspects of school operation is immensely important. There are many ways for parents and families to be involved in shaping Sutherland. As we do every year, Sutherland is reviewing our [school plan](#), including school goals. I'd like to acknowledge the work that staff, students, and parent representatives are currently undertaking to help craft the next iteration of the school plan. If you have feedback on our plan or would like to contact your stakeholder representative on our school planning committee, please contact Vice Principal, Shannon Smart. One of the other ways Sutherland is currently soliciting for feedback is through the [Ministry of Education Student Learning Survey](#). Parents/Guardians/Caregivers are invited complete the survey anonymously using the *direct* access login. Students in Grades 10 and 12 will be completing the student version of the survey during the week of April 22<sup>nd</sup> in classes.

Later this month, Grades 10 and 12 students will have the opportunity to write their [Provincial Numeracy and Literacy Assessments](#). To help accommodate the writing of these, Sutherland will be running two 'long block' days on Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. Please refer to Shannon Smart's email of

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March 26<sup>th</sup> for more details on the block schedule and details on which students will be completing which assessments and where. A reminder also that our two 'long block' days will be followed immediately by a school-based non-instructional Professional Development Day on Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup>.

This past March 14<sup>th</sup> we were pleased to welcome families to Sutherland for our second Parent-Teacher Learning Conference. That evening event was coupled with our Capstone Market where many of our senior students had the opportunity to share and showcase work they have been engaging in over the course of the school year. Thanks to all the community members who came by also to see what our students had prepared. As our grade 12s look ahead now to completing their capstone, the final presentations will be happening during Period 1 on Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup>. I know that staff are looking forward to seeing the final presentations on that day.

On Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup> Course Verification Reports will also be sent home with grade 8 – 11 students. These forms are to be reviewed by a parent/guardian to ensure we have received accurate course requests for your student(s) for next school year. These forms do not need to be returned and are simply a record of the information already received. In circumstances where changes are needed, parent/guardians may connect with your child's grade counselor.

Finally, springtime brings many exciting extra-curricular athletic opportunities. Rugby, girls' soccer, ultimate frisbee, badminton, golf, mountain biking and track & field make for a very busy spring sports season. With so many teams running during the spring, many of them taking all who are interested, it is an easy way for students be more involved in school life. For more information on teams, please contact Athletic Directors, Salemah Shidian or Christopher Madill.

Wishing all our Sutherland families a wonderful April.

Sincerely,

Mark Barrett  
Principal  
Sutherland Secondary