



# SUTHERLAND SECONDARY SCHOOL

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



December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023

Dear Sutherland Families,

It is hard to believe December is upon us. I know students and families are excitedly counting down the days until Winter Break, while also focusing on a strong finish to the calendar year. With winter weather here, it's timely to remind families of our District procedures. All North Vancouver Schools will remain open, if at all possible, during winter weather, including snowfalls. Any district-wide closure will be decided by 6:30am and announced through media, placed on the school district website and schools' websites, shared with parent/guardians via [School Messenger](#) (email and/or text) and emailed to staff. For more information, please visit the [Severe Weather Information](#) page.

On November 10th, students and special guests gathered in a school-wide assembly to acknowledge Remembrance Day. I want to thank all those who helped put together such a poignant and powerful ceremony, and to highlight especially veteran guest speaker Ret. Major Ray Wiss, MD. Dr. Wiss' moving personal accounts of his two tours in Afghanistan as a combat medic were incredibly moving for all who had the privilege of hearing him speak. I know his presentation resonated with many staff and students, and gave added gravity to the solemnity of Remembrance weekend. Thank you to Dr. Wiss, and to all Canadian veterans for their service.

The winter athletics season has begun, and Sutherland is proud to support a wide arrays of winter sport offerings, including gymnastics, wrestling, basketball and, newly introduced this year, our alpine team. While some basketball teams have competitive tryouts, many of our other offerings do not, which means there is a place for every student who is keen to wear a Sabres jersey with pride this winter. For more information on all things athletics, please visit our [Sutherland Athletics website](#), or contact one of Sutherland's Athletic Coordinators, Ms. Shidian or Mr. Madill.

Sutherland continues take pride in being a school community where all students can find their place and a sense of belonging. One of the ways we can achieve this is to know and understand times when students are *not* feeling this way. [erase](#) is about building safe and caring school communities. This includes empowering students, families, educators and the community partners who support them to get help with challenges, report concerns to schools, and learn about complex issues facing students. erase started in 2004 through the provincial government's Safe, Caring and Orderly Schools Strategy, and has since evolved. Families are encouraged to review the resources and information found on the erase website with their children, including about online safety, mental health and well-being, substance abuse, bullying, racism, sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) and more. There is also a [reporting tool](#) to get help and support.

Thank you to all families who have made timely payments for school fees via your School Cash Online Accounts. These fees provide for enrichment activities that extend learning opportunities for students beyond the basic educational program. Throughout the year, you may see additional fees added to your

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[sutherland@sd44.ca](mailto:sutherland@sd44.ca) [www.sd44.ca/school/sutherland](http://www.sd44.ca/school/sutherland)



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students' accounts in some circumstances if they have joined a team, club or other activity that requires a fee. Please take time to review your child's account, and if you have any questions about fees, don't hesitate to contact the main office.

In facilities news, the area around Sutherland's campus is set to benefit from the City of North Vancouver's [Street Tree Planting Program](#). Planting will happen on City property, immediately adjacent the school's property line. Street parking may be temporarily restricted during work, however access to the school will be maintained. We are looking forward to having the treescape around Sutherland enhancing over the next few weeks.

Today marks the final performance in a three-day run of the school theatre production *Almost Maine*, a play that explores themes of love, loss, and the dynamic nature of human relationships. I had the opportunity to see the opening show on Wednesday, and it was an outstanding production, made possible by the collaborative efforts of passionate performing arts students and our theatre teacher, Ms. Gruetznner. There are limited tickets available left for today's final show. Congratulations to everyone involved!

Finally, in support of our Santa's Breakfast event being put on by staff and Sabre Council, Sutherland will have an adjusted bell schedule on Friday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>. This is our last day of instruction before school closes for two weeks for Winter break. Students who hope to attend the breakfast should sign up via the QR code posted around the cafeteria beginning next week. There will be a check-in desk as students arrive on December 22<sup>nd</sup> at their appointed time, and a suggested \$2 donation that morning in support of the [Harvest Project](#).

#### Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> Bell Schedule

7:30 – 9:15 Pancake Breakfast  
9:15 – 10:05 Period 2  
10:10 – 11:00 Period 3  
11:05 – 11:55 Period 1  
11:55 – 12:10 Break  
12:10 – 1:00 Period 4  
1:00 Dismissal

As this is likely my last note before the end of the year, I'd like to wish all Sutherland families an enjoyable and restful winter break, surrounded by friends and family.

Sincerely,

Mark Barrett  
Principal  
Sutherland Secondary

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