



SUTHERLAND SECONDARY SCHOOL

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



January 12, 2024

Dear Sutherland Families,

A warm welcome back and a Happy New Year to everyone! The start of a new year always brings a refreshed sense of optimism and hope for what's possible and, this year, renewed vitality to our school theme of *pride, passion, place*.

January also marks the beginning of our annual course programming cycle. Families can now view our revised Course Guide posted on our school website. [Our Course Programming page](#) will be updated frequently over the next month, and families are encouraged to check it on an ongoing basis for new information, including dates of parent information meetings for each grade, as well as for our [Enhanced Programs and Academies](#), happening on Thursday, January 18, 6 to 8 p.m., at Carson Graham Secondary.

The end of January will bring Semester 1 to its conclusion. A reminder that regularly scheduled classes for the first semester will end on Friday, January 26th, with Monday, January 29th and Tuesday, January 30th being reserved for [Review & Completion](#). These two days are for students with outstanding assignments or those who have not met the intended learning standards to schedule a *Review & Completion* opportunity with their classroom teachers. Wednesday, January 31st is a non-instructional administrative semester turnaround day, and students will return to class to begin Semester 2 on Thursday, February 1st.

Student schedules for Semester 2 are available to view in [MyEd](#). Instructions for students and guardians to log into MyEd and view their schedule are available on our [school website](#). As we prepare for Semester 2, please have a look around your home for any Sutherland textbooks, novels, or resources. There are many outstanding textbooks from Semester 1 that are needed. Students and families can assist by making efforts to return those items between now and semester end. For classroom materials, teachers are the best point of contact, but items may also be returned to the office as a last resort. For the latter, please include a note identifying who is returning the item and to which teacher/class.

We are excited to share some important grade-wide educational initiatives that are beginning in the coming weeks. Grade 8 & 9 students will be participating in presentations on Sexual Exploitation, Cyber Safety and Consent provided by the [Exploitation Education Institute](#) (EEI). Grade 9 students have also begun work with facilitator [Charles Lartey from HopeU](#) on some targeted and intensive work around Anti-Racism. Grade 10 students will be working with the violence prevention program [Safe Teen](#), while senior students have been the beneficiaries of an ICBC road safety presentation by [Kevin Brooks](#). It is our intent to continue to offer these opportunities at these grade levels in subsequent years so that all students can benefit. Our counseling & admin team are always looking for opportunities to bring educational initiatives like these to grade groups and will continue to do so. More targeted information will be sent to each grade group regarding the educational events planned for them. Parents may also wish to consider joining a January 23rd [community event on Cyber Safety and Exploitation](#) put on by EEI at the Kay Meek Centre as well.

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It has been encouraging to see so many staff and students embracing our school theme and enthusiastically wanting to demonstrate their sense of school pride. A group of staff came together, and with the support of Mr. Nevison's marketing classes, has established [an online school store](#) where all students have the chance now to order school spirit wear. We know our Sabres will wear their gear with pride!

Sutherland's Family of Schools is looking forward to welcoming a new addition in the coming years. The North Vancouver School District is hosting a public information meeting about the new elementary school in the Cloverley neighbourhood, taking place on Wednesday, January 17th, 6:30pm at Ridgeway Elementary (420 East 8th Avenue). This will be an opportunity for community members to learn about the project, and for school district staff and consultants engaged in the project to answer questions. Project updates are available on the [Capital Plan & Projects](#) section of the NVSD website.

As we move towards the conclusion of semester 1, a reminder to students to make timely efforts to ensure their academic standing in all their courses is optimal. One of the best resources available to students is to be arranging to meet with their teachers during AM Tutorial Time. Tutorial Time is instructional time designed to support students with their learning and achievement. Conversely, the break times between classes are not suitable times for students to be attempting to meet with teachers to address academic questions and concerns. The brief reprieves between classes are times during which teachers are typically preparing for their next lesson of the day, while the roughly 40 minutes available first thing in the morning most days is a much greater opportunity for meaningful dialogue.

As we embark on this new year, I am filled with both excitement and gratitude for the opportunities and growth that lie ahead for the Sutherland school community. This year brings the promise of fresh beginnings, renewed focus, and the chance to achieve new heights together. On a personal note, I am delighted to share that during the winter break my own family welcomed a bundle of joy; our new son Rio, who has already brought our family, and especially his brother Asher, immense happiness. To all Sutherland families, I wish each of you a year filled with inspiration, success, and the boundless possibilities that await us.

Wishing everyone a happy new year.

Sincerely,

Mark Barrett
Principal
Sutherland Secondary