



# SUTHERLAND SECONDARY SCHOOL

## LETTER TO PARENTS

1860 Sutherland Avenue, North Vancouver, BC V7L 4C2 Telephone 604-903-3500 Fax 604-903-3501

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

As our focus on "la dolci fare niente" - "the sweetness of doing nothing" is gradually replaced by the realization of having to get up earlier, organize for class, and complete homework among other things, it is important to reflect on the promise a new school year brings.

For our grade 12 students, the excitement of finally approaching the end of 13 years of schooling; the final push for excellence to open doors to the next chapter of their lives whether it be post-secondary education, work or even travel. For our new grade 8 students, while this can be a time of trepidation, learning to operate in a different school environment and learning to understand their roles and responsibilities as learners has a certain excitement as they adjust to high school and begin to spread their wings. For our existing students in grades 9 to 11, the opportunity to pursue academic and athletic excellence still exists, and perhaps for those who have struggled with their learning, the new school year represents an opportunity to refocus their plan of action for academic success.

Regardless of the grade one is in, September is in a sense a time of re-birth - a time to start over. A time to reflect on the future. A time to recognize how one needs to be adaptable. A time to cultivate or continue to cultivate curiosity and imagination. A time to hone one's critical thinking skills and be collaborative, develop resilience and the ability to self-regulate. All this while maintaining hope, optimism, empathy and global stewardship. Such are just some of the requirements of learners in the 21 Century.

As the new principal of the Sutherland, I too look forward to the excitement of September - the excitement of working with staff, students, and Sutherland's two new vice-principals, Dr. Vince White and Mr. Rob McLeod. As well, I look forward to the excitement of working with the parents of the Sutherland school community to further our broad goals of academic excellence, individual integrity and strong sense of belonging.

As we enter into the new 2013-2014 school year, we are a smaller school. As of this point, we are down approximately 70 students from the previous school year. As a result, as was indicated past June, we have had a commensurate

decrease in the number of teaching staff. The one exception is the return of Ms. Amirchimeh, who is returning to our math department with the retirement of Mrs. Dosanjh this past summer.

Overall, the programs and opportunities for our students remain unchanged. However, there is one item of note regarding student course selection. More grade 11 students than in the past have chosen to take Physics 11 as a science course. This has resulted in fewer sections of other science courses being made available. Should students decide to change their minds at some point during the semester, there will be very little choice or space available for grade 11 students to step into for their science requirement. As in the past, the school timetable is built on student course requests and all staffing has been allocated based of this information.

Counselling staff will be available by appointment only for dealing with course changes for current students. Their initial priority is to provide courses to new students and those with incomplete timetables. For existing students who request course changes, it is expected that students continue to attend their current class until such a time that a change can be made if it is possible.

On behalf of Ms. Julie Anderson, Sutherland's PAC's Chair, I encourage all parents to attend the first PAC meeting on Monday, September 9 at 7pm, in the school library. The work of the PAC is important and requires your support. If you are a parent of a grade 8 student, this is an excellent way to stay informed and to have a voice in the school.

Finally, an important event for Sutherland this fall will be the raising of the Welcoming Pole that many of our students participated in the carving of. This important celebration is planned for some time in early October and we are hoping to involve the whole school as much as possible.

Sincerely,

Ray Bodnaruk

## SCHOOL OPENING PROCEDURES



**Tuesday, September 3, 2013**

Prior to school opening, students should note the name of their homeroom teacher, homeroom number and room location. These will be posted on the front entrance doors as of noon on Friday, August 30<sup>th</sup>. **Homeroom and class rotation will take 90 minutes.** Regular full classes will begin on Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am. During Homeroom period, teachers will collect supplementary fees & forms, hand out timetables & agenda books, and assign lockers.

**GRADE 8's** At 9:00 am, report to the gymnasium at the north end of the school for an opening assembly. Please bring fee payments, completed forms, a pen or pencil, and some notepaper. Following the assembly students will be directed to homerooms. After homeroom, students will follow a short class rotation schedule and then a final homeroom to assign lockers. Grade 8 students will be finished by 11:00 am.

**GRADES 9-12** Report directly to homerooms at 11:00 am. In order to allow adequate time for completion of Grade 8 homerooms, **please do not come earlier.** Bring fee payments, completed forms, a pen or pencil, and some notepaper. After homeroom, students will follow a short class rotation schedule to meet classroom teachers. Grades 9-12 students will be finished by 12:30 pm.

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS** Report for testing at your appointed time. Homeroom in the Theatre will start at 11:00 am followed by a short class rotation. A welcome luncheon will take place at 1:00 in the multi-purpose area.

### FEES



The \$40 student activity fee applied to all students covers the agenda book, lockers, and support for various student activities throughout the year. In addition, there are supplementary course fees for consumable supplies in the elective courses as outlined in the Course Planner book. Enclosed you will find two Student Invoice copies describing fees owed for your child this year, some optional fees, as well as any outstanding fees/credits from previous years. Indicate the fees you are paying at this time, fill in the information at the bottom and return one copy, along with a cheque made payable to **Sutherland School** (post-dated cheques are acceptable), to the

homeroom teacher during the first week of school. Keep one copy of the invoice for your records.

You will notice that an optional **Parent Advisory Council donation** is included in your invoice. Please consider including a donation to your fee invoice. Your financial assistance contributes greatly to the programs and initiatives your PAC supports at the school. This year, two directed donations are available – **Technology upgrade** and **Emergency Preparedness Preparation**. Tax Receipts will be issued for donations of \$20 or more.

Any families who will be experiencing financial hardship in paying these fees in September should contact the school regarding their concerns.

### YEARBOOKS



Sutherland's yearbook class will again be helping to produce this year's yearbook. Students have the option of purchasing a yearbook for \$40. This optional fee is included on the September Student Invoice. To help the yearbook staff with their overall planning it is best to order your yearbook early. (Late purchases will depend on their availability). Additional personalized pages can be purchased directly from the Josten's webpage. **Buy your yearbook now!**

### AGENDA BOOKS

All students will receive an Agenda Book the first week of school. These planners are designed to help students keep track of their assignments, deadlines, homework, daily activities, marks, and appointments. Agenda Books can also be an important communication link between the school and home. A quick glance at the planner and how a student uses it is often a very good indicator of success at school.



The Agenda Book contains other very important information. Included are important study guidelines (which are emphasized by subject teachers), a school calendar, school policies and the Code of Conduct. **It is important for all students and parents to read these carefully and become familiar with Sutherland's policies and codes.** Regular and systematic use of the planner is a real key to success, and staff at Sutherland will be working intensively to encourage all students, particularly Grade 8's, to use their planners to improve study habits and achievement. Parents, as well, play a vital role in reinforcing the concepts of time management taught at school.

### LOCKERS

During homeroom period the first week, teachers will hand out assigned locker information. Students are reminded **not to share their lock combination with anyone and not to keep valuables in the locker.** If there is a need to bring a valuable item to school, students should leave it for safekeeping in the main office. A reminder that lockers are school property and may be inspected without the permission of the student. Locks are to be returned at the end of the year; fee for a lock not returned is \$5.00.



Some lockers are available for use during gym classes but these are not very secure. See your gym teacher about the rental of locker space and **do not leave anything of value in those lockers or lying on benches in the change room.** The school is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

## SUPPLIES

Grade eights are often very keen to buy supplies for the school year and the process may be different from their elementary schools. To be prepared for the new school year, include a supply of these basic items:



- 3 ring binders
- 3 hole lined paper
- 3 hole dividers
- several pens and pencils
- an eraser and ruler
- a calculator for math

**Teachers may have specific requirements for their courses, but wait until you get those requests before shopping.**

## FORMS

Included with this newsletter are a number of important forms that need to be returned the first week of school. Extra forms are available on the Sutherland Website.

**PERSONAL INFORMATION CONSENT FORM (new)** – this signed form is required to include your child in the school yearbook, honor roll, composite photos, programs, and newsletters.

**NOTICE TO PARENTS AND SECONDARY STUDENTS: OUTSIDE MEDIA IN SCHOOLS (new)** – this form is to be signed by parent and student. On occasion, outside media is invited into the school for purposes related to school programs, public education and student achievement (ie. Welcome Pole Raising this year) Parents and Students must acknowledge their responsibility for the protection of personal privacy while at school.

**STUDENT VERIFICATION FORM** – this form contains important demographic information that needs to be updated in our computer systems. Please return this signed form even if there are no changes necessary. **Remember to notify the main office regarding any changes to names, addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses, or emergency contacts that occur during the year.**

**STUDENT RELEASE** - You will find enclosed an Student Release Procedures letter and form which will need to be completed and returned as soon as possible. Please read this information carefully with your family.

## TIMETABLE CHANGES

To the best of our ability, Sutherland is committed to providing all students with the courses they desire. When we build the school schedule, we provide class options based on course decisions students made in the spring. However, class size limitations and restrictions in the structure of the timetable may make it impossible to provide every student with all his or her choices.

All requests for course changes will be done in the following priority:

1. **New Students**
2. **Incomplete schedules for all grades**
3. **Timetable conflicts**
4. **Reprogramming of failures**
5. **Requests for changes**



Any student request for changes in course selections will be considered **only** after all other problems have been solved. **Students should not submit any requests for course changes until Monday, September 16th.** In the meantime, students are required to attend and work in all classes listed on their timetable until a counsellor has made an official change and a new timetable has been produced. Changes will be made only if class size permits.

## INFORMATION FOR GRADE 8'S

We would especially like to welcome our new Grade 8 students to Sutherland and would like to reassure them that the office staff, teachers, counsellors and administrators are available to help. Just ask! Parents are also encouraged to phone or email the school for assistance regarding any concerns about their child.

Grade 8 students who have errors or problems with their timetable should make an appointment to see their counsellor, Ms. Matsubuchi.

## ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

Regular and punctual attendance is required by all students. In fact, there is a strong correlation between regular, punctual attendance and success at school.

**Students who arrive between 8:30 and 8:45am should report directly to class and are marked tardy by their teacher. Students arriving after 8:45am are to report to the main office to get a late slip prior to attending class. Students arriving after 8:45am and not reporting to the office are marked absent for the period.**

Teachers keep track of attendance for their classes on a daily basis and the office enters attendance daily. Our computer system tracks attendance for each period and if a student misses a class, an automated message will be sent that day.

We ask parents to please call the school (604-903-3500) the night before or in the morning to leave a message on the voice mail or with the secretaries in the office to let us know about any excused absences. As well as a call to the office, individual teachers may require students to bring a note indicating the reason for absence.

When students need to be excused from school early on a regular school day, they should bring a note to the main office **before** school begins.

## TEXTBOOKS

Textbooks are distributed in most classes and students are responsible for their safekeeping. **At the end of the semester, students will be assessed for any lost or damaged book.**



## SCHOOL PHOTOS

All student photographs will be taken on **Tuesday, September 17**. Student I.D./GO cards will be supplied to each student at no charge. In addition, the photos are used for the school yearbook so it is vital for each student to be present on photo day. The purchase of colour photo packs is optional. Order Online at [www.artonagroup.com](http://www.artonagroup.com) and create your own custom packages. **Orders must be received by 8pm the day before photos are taken.**



**RETAKES** are scheduled for Tuesday, October 15.

## SAFE & CARING SCHOOLS

Several years ago, hazing of our incoming Grade 8's became a concern. While some of our older students view this initial rite as an amusing way to make new students feel part of Sutherland, many new students view it as frightening. In fact, most of the hazing rituals are nothing more than bullying, intimidation and belittling of our incoming Grade 8's who are already feeling quite intimidated by the big, new high school.

It is unacceptable for our new students to be welcomed to high school in this manner. **NO FORM OF HAZING WILL BE TOLERATED AT SUTHERLAND.** Any student who chooses to be involved will be subject to suspension and loss of privileges during the year.

We are asking for parental support to review this policy with your son or daughter and remind them not to get involved in any initiation process at school or in the community.

A number of positive activities are organized in September to welcome Grade 8's. Our Student Leadership Council plans ways to include the new students in our Sutherland community in a positive, welcoming manner.

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL (SLC)

The Student Leadership Council (SLC) would like to welcome all staff and students back to Sutherland Secondary, and we hope you had a fun and exciting summer. Watch for the SLC spirit week (September 23-27) with different dress up days for the students to participate in. More information will be posted. Also, to all Grade 8 Students, your Grade 8 Welcoming event will be on Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup>. Watch for more information about this event.

## BE MINDFUL OF THE NEIGHBOURS!

Sutherland students enjoy an excellent reputation with our neighbours. They have achieved that reputation because the vast majority of students here are polite, respectful and cooperative. In order to maintain that reputation, students are reminded not to gather on the neighbours' property. **Please don't leave any garbage around when walking through the neighbourhood and don't gather on the street.**



## SUTHERLAND IS SMOKE FREE

The North Vancouver School District policy has designated school buildings and property as smoke free areas. Sutherland staff and PAC strongly discourages student smoking.



## EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



Students in all grades, especially Grade 8's, are encouraged to become involved in extra-curricular activities. For information about meetings, practices, etc., students should listen to daily announcements and check the bulletin boards. Fall sports will begin in the first two weeks of school and may include: Girls/Boys Volleyball, Girls Field Hockey, Junior and Senior Boys Soccer, Cross Country and Bantam Boys Rugby.

## ACCIDENTS DO HAPPEN!

Did you know that the School District does not insure expenses for student injuries that happen on school grounds or during school activities? This includes participation in Sutherland School Athletic teams and events. As a parent or guardian, you are responsible for these expenses. However, the School District provides the opportunity for families to voluntarily purchase private accident insurance through the IAP Kids Plus™ Accident Insurance program underwritten by Industrial-Alliance Pacific Life Insurance [www.iapkidsplus.com/apply](http://www.iapkidsplus.com/apply)

## ADMINISTRATOR AND COUNSELLOR RESPONSIBILITIES

GRADE	ADMINISTRATOR	COUNSELLOR
8	Vince White	Wendy Matsubuchi
9	Rob McLeod	Sandy Kirkwood & LT
10	Vince White	Chris Nielsen
11	Rob McLeod	Wendy Matsubuchi
12	Ray Bodnaruk	Chris Nielsen

**SPECIAL THANKS** to parents and community members who volunteer to help coach teams, assist the music and drama departments, work on P.A.C., and much more.



### Find Us On The Internet

All future newsletters will be posted to our website:

[www.sd44.ca/school/Sutherland/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.sd44.ca/school/Sutherland/Pages/default.aspx)

Email: [sutherland@sd44.ca](mailto:sutherland@sd44.ca)

Follow us on twitter (@SutherlandSec) and/or facebook

(<http://www.facebook.com/SutherlandSecondary>)