

September 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Subject: Assessment and reporting pilot project

This year, the North Vancouver School District is partaking in a variety of initiatives related to new curriculum assessment and reporting. The goal of these efforts is to support student learning by enriching assessment through meaningful communication between students, parents and teachers. Brooksbank, Capilano, Norgate, Queen Mary and Westview elementary schools are participating in a district-sponsored assessment and reporting pilot project.

The assessment and reporting pilot project aims to enhance student learning through student empowerment and symmetrical dialogue. The participating schools will replace one of the three formal report cards with a three-way conference that will bring together students, parents and teachers to evaluate and reflect on student learning. The conference is a dialogue between the student, parent and teacher. The student is a primary contributor in the discussion, sharing examples of his/her learning, commenting on strengths, and talking about areas he/she feels need improvement or support. Teachers will share insights and observations of the student's progress and parents are welcome to ask questions and learn ways to become actively involved in supporting their child's learning. Students' learning goals will be established during the conference, and, together, students, parents and teachers will identify how students will be supported to achieve their goals.

Prior to the three-way conference students will receive help and time to prepare for the conference. Conferences will be 15 minutes in duration and will focus on student learning with all parties sharing equally. Over the next few weeks, school-based administrators will provide more details about the conferences, which will be held over a period of four days. Feel free to contact your school-based administrators if you have any questions about this assessment and reporting pilot project.

Throughout the school year, students will receive two formal report cards, in addition to the one three-way conference. One of the formal report cards will be the final report card in June 2017. At the end of the pilot project in June 2017, we will be seeking feedback on the project from parents and students.

Additional information about the new BC curriculum and assessment framework can be found here: <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/>

Sincerely,



Chris Atkinson
Assistant Superintendent
North Vancouver School District