



We had a year to be proud of:

See inside:

Student achievement in academics, athletics, career development, and social responsibility...

Local and national recognition for North Vancouver teachers and support staff...

Awards for North Vancouver schools...

www.nvgsd44.bc.ca



We put students first... and we did it by:

- expanding our program for gifted students.
- expanding our summer programs.
- offering *Ready, Set, Learn* events at several of our elementary schools. *Ready, Set, Learn* provides tools and information for parents and caregivers to help three-year-olds develop literacy skills.
- expanding our career education program.
- increasing elementary school librarians.
- expanding our Special Education staff and improving service to students with special needs, including students with autism and autism spectrum disorder.
- launching *Web in the Classroom*, which helps all North Vancouver students do successful Internet research and supports Internet safety.
- expanding our apprenticeship programs, including a new Entry Level Trades Training Automotive program at Carson Graham Secondary School.
- launching *Inspirations 44*, a successful Kindergarten extension program, at three of our elementary schools. It will be offered at a fourth school in the 2005-2006 school year.
- improving our Music programs.
- initiating Early Learning Foundations (ELF) in six of our elementary schools. ELF is a program to provide pre-school children with essential learning skills for school success.
- opening up a brand new elementary school, Lynn Valley School, in September, 2004.

Q: What do you get when you combine 29 elementary schools, 7 secondary schools, 928 classrooms, and over 200 provincial and locally developed educational programs and services?

A: North Vancouver School District, which is nationally recognized for its Band and Strings, Reading 44, Math 44, and its two Kindergarten programs, Firm Foundations 44 and Inspirations 44.

“The North Vancouver Outdoor School, one of the few of its kind in the province, doesn’t offer a typical school format. Instead, the field school offers specialized programming and experiential natural and cultural learning ‘bringing the outdoors, indoors.’”

North Shore News
June 19/05



fascinating facts:

Five North Vancouver staff received **Apple Awards** by the North Shore Association for the Mentally Handicapped, for outstanding service and educational commitment to the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities.

Carson Graham Secondary students were winners in the **Lower Mainland Skills Canada competition** – in Cooking, TV and Video Production, and Website Development. Skills Canada promotes the trades and technical training nationally.

Sutherland Secondary School’s Learning Together program to support teen mothers to complete their high school education has had 11 successful years, with the majority of participants graduating with Dogwood diplomas.

The **North Vancouver Outdoor School** won a silver **Canadian Environmental Award** in the environmental learning category.

We were good stewards of public funds...

We are proud to say that, by effectively managing the 2004-2005 budget, we were able to generate a modest surplus. setting the stage for future spending growth and increased services to students.

Vickie Vinaric
Chairperson, North Vancouver Board of School Trustees

Our 2005-2006 operating budget provides additional funds to spend on students, programs, and facilities. We have targeted that money for school libraries, student literacy and numeracy enhancement, music and arts programs, and career education.

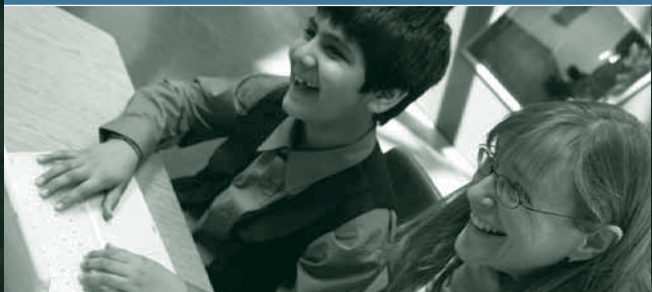
We will also be increasing our staff, the vast majority of whom will be in direct service to students. Twenty-three more teachers will allow for smaller class sizes, and twenty-three new support staff will provide increased assistance for students with special needs.

Q: What do you get when you combine a \$127 million 2004-2005 operating budget, a \$28 million 2004-2005 capital budget, and a budget surplus of \$2.2 million going into the 2005-2006 school year?

A: North Vancouver School District, which at 86.3% tops the province's 60 school districts in devoting the highest percentage of its budget to instruction.



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fascinating facts:

North Vancouver School District received a **Natural Resources Canada award** because of its efforts to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. Creating energy efficient electrical systems throughout the District has realized annual savings of almost \$638,000.

The **Canyon Heights Student Empowerment** group raised \$10,000 – enough funds to provide homes for four Nicaraguan families. Their new goal is to raise funds to build a medical clinic, shower, and toilet at a shelter for 150 homeless children.

Within two weeks of returning from Christmas break, North Vancouver elementary students raised a total of \$103,063.14 to support victims of the tsunami disaster in Southeast Asia and East Africa. Their money went to Oxfam International, UNICEF, and the International Red Cross.

We set priorities...

We are successful as a school district because we plan carefully. Serving a diverse urban population means there are many demands on our resources, and setting priorities is essential.

Our district accountability contract, or performance plan, sets out four key commitments for our district:

- To improve reading proficiency in students
- To improve student success in Mathematics
- To improve the achievement of aboriginal students
- To provide safe and caring school learning environments

To find out how we have kept these commitments, read on!

"I think we have the vision, the intelligence, and the will to make our K-12 program 'as good as it gets,' and then to make it even better."

Larry Johnson
Director of Student & Program Services
North Vancouver School District

Q: What do you get when you combine 18,230 local students, 450 international students, 1,233 ESL students, 7,658 continuing education students, 1,867 summer school students, 1,279 teachers, 260 teachers on call, 99 school administrators, 755 support and management staff, 138 facilities workers, and over 35,000 parents?

A: North Vancouver School District, which scored a perfect "10" in its provincial district review, and was acknowledged by the BC Ministry of Education for its "bold plan which involves a five-year commitment to enhance instructional practice." (District Review Report, Ministry of Education 2003-2004)



fascinating facts:

Seycove Peer Counsellors won a **Youth Leadership Award** at the BC Crime Prevention Association Conference in Surrey in September 2004. They were selected by police and community representatives because of their "Purple Hair Day" event in which over 500 students took a stand against bullying by dyeing their hair purple.

North Vancouver teachers were selected to present workshops in Kindergarten Literacy, Secondary Reading, Elementary Reading, and Mathematics at the December 2004 National Staff Development Council Conference at Vancouver Conference & Exhibition Centre.

Hazel Clark, teacher-librarian at **Balmoral Junior Secondary School**, received the Canadian Library Association's 2005 **Teacher Librarian of the Year Award** for her work in promoting student literacy.

We honoured our commitments...

We took action to improve student reading proficiency by...

Refining "Reading 44", our nationally recognized reading program for elementary and secondary students.

Offering "Our Turn to Talk", a new program for oral language development.

With 89% meeting or exceeding expectations, North Vancouver's Grade 4 and Grade 7 students surpass the provincial average in reading comprehension by 9%.

2003/04 Foundation Skills Assessment
BC Ministry of Education

We took action to improve the achievement of aboriginal students by...

Signing an enhancement agreement framework with the Tsleil-Waututh Nation.

Developing an enhancement agreement with the Squamish Nation.

Offering comprehensive programs such as the *Eslha7an Learning Centre*, a collaboration of North Vancouver School District and the Squamish Nation. This program offers academic, life skills, work experience, and cultural programs for First Nations students of all ages, including adults.

Supporting local programs such as the family book club at *So-Sah-Latch Health and Family Centre* for parents and caregivers of preschool children.

With 86% meeting or exceeding expectations in writing, North Vancouver's Grade 7 Aboriginal students exceed the provincial average by 12%. With 85% meeting or exceeding expectations in numeracy, they are 22% above the provincial average.

2003/04 Foundation Skills Assessment
BC Ministry of Education

We took action to improve student success in mathematics by...

Working with School Planning Councils to develop Math strategies for their school plans.

Offering Math in-services and study group activities throughout the district.

With 92% meeting or exceeding expectations in numeracy, North Vancouver's Grade 7 students surpass the provincial average by 9%.

2003/04 Foundation Skills Assessment
BC Ministry of Education

We took action to provide safe and caring learning environments by...

Developing a new secondary counselling program to be launched in the fall of 2005.

Determining ways to involve school Parent Advisory Committees, student councils, and community groups in anti-vandalism activities.

Completing a seismic review of all facilities in the district.

According to the 2004-2005 BC Ministry of Education *Satisfaction Survey*, the vast majority of the North Vancouver's Grade 3-4 students feel safe in our schools.



fascinating facts:

Premier Gordon Campbell invited **Heather Calder**, North Vancouver School District's Early Literacy Specialist, to attend last year's provincial literacy summit.

North Vancouver's **Braemar Elementary School** was one of 60 schools in the province recognized by the Ministry of Education for its efforts to improved student achievement. The school received a \$3000 grant to improve student reading and writing proficiency.

Norgate and Westview schools each received \$2000 from the Vancouver Sun to purchase children's books for their school libraries.

We pulled together as a learning community...

North Vancouver School District's many achievements would not be possible without the joint efforts of our students, parents, teachers, support staff, administrators, trustees, and neighbours.

Here are just two of the many examples of exceptional collaboration in our district:

Our well-attended second annual Community Forum focused on strengthening student success and exploring funding options to ensure sustainable high-quality schooling for our young people. Participants made a number of creative recommendations:

- creating a community of services around schools, including social services, pre-school, recreation, and culture.
- exploring year-round and/or semester-based schooling.
- providing information on our website describing the District's specialty programs and where they are offered.
- involving students in decision-making through surveys and Student Advisory Council involvement.

Students and parents were part of the consultation process in our decision to close Lonsdale Elementary School and to replace Westview Elementary School.

"The hard work, commitment and selfless dedication of the many parents who support and serve on 37 School Planning Councils and on Parent Advisory Councils have directly influenced the evident and enviable record of scholarship and extracurricular participation rates of our students."

Dr. Robin Brayne
Superintendent of Schools
North Vancouver School District



fascinating facts:

The Coho Society of the North Shore presented the North Vancouver School District with an award for our efforts in enhancing and preserving salmon stocks in North Shore streams and rivers. Over 60 of our teachers support salmonid enhancement projects.

North Vancouver students showed their team spirit at the spring provincial championships. **Windsor Secondary** placed first and **Seycove** finished second in Boys' Gymnastics, and Windsor won second place in Girls' Gymnastics. **Handsworth's** Senior AAA Boys' Basketball team and **Carson Graham's** Girls' Wrestling team both captured the third place titles.

Students at North Vancouver's **Montroyal Elementary School** decorated 400 plain brown bags and filled them with food. As a result they received a **Vancouver Food Bank award** for the most outstanding support from an elementary school. They will use their \$500 cash award to support their school's foster child.