

February 2009 Volume 3 Issue 6

Contributions: Email us at: newsbytes@northvanpac.org

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North Van Pac: www.nvsd44.bc.ca/AboutUs/NVPAC.aspx

North Vancouver Parent Advisory Council

NVPAC Newsbytes

Message from the Editor

At the January NVPAC General Meeting we had an interesting discussion on the role of Families of Schools as a way to broaden the reach of events along with sharing the costs and load of individual school PAC activities. We heard that by working together families of schools can help provide better continuity for involved parents and students. We all have a need to both share and better schedule fundraising activities, does it make sense for all of North Van to be selling cookies the same week? - Maybe, and if so maybe we could get a better deal. Perhaps your next speaker could be a bigger event by sharing it with more schools. NVPAC has set aside funds to connect families and to help setup and run Family of Schools based events so please take this opportunity to get to know your extended family.

David Whitehead, Newsbytes editor 2008/9

A New Newsbytes and NorthVanPac.org

You may see from this message that we have new email addresses. To simplify communication with NVPAC we now have our own domain name NorthVanPac.org, for the moment we will be keeping our website on the district website and using this new domain primarily for email. Some interesting addresses you may wish to note:

info@northvanpac.org for general inquiries
newsbytes@northvanpac.org for news submissions
newsbytes@northvanpac.org for news submissions
chair@northvanpac.org for chair related things
registrar@northvanpac.org for registry things
treasurer@northvanpac.org for money things

As part of this we are also using a new mailing lists system and a newly rebuilt list. So if you are getting duplicate messages, getting messages at the wrong address, if you want off the list or if you didn't get this message and were supposed to (hands up everyone who isn't here) then please reply to this email and let us know.

Message from the Chair

Please view NVPAC's most recent correspondence to the Minister of Education with respect to calling for a formal review of the FSA's - it is posted on our webpage at <http://www.nvsd44.bc.ca/AboutUs/NVPAC.aspx>

The North Vancouver Board of Education has also recently issued a letter about FSAs to the Ministry - it can be viewed online at <http://www.nvsd44.bc.ca/Trustees/Advocacy.aspx>

We encourage you to attend the Feb3rd E&P meeting (see below) if you are interested in the various perspectives on the FSA process. It should be a very interesting discussion. Thanks for your ongoing involvement in matters that involve all of our children's education. Hope to see some of you there.

Lisa Cartwright, NVPAC Chair lcartwright@northvanpac.org

Upcoming Public Meetings

Next NVPAC General Meeting

- Feb 19, 2009: 7pm - Leo Marshall Curriculum Center

Focusing on one of North Vancouver School District's Vision Statements:

- *Program Diversity* - North Van Schools offer an array of choices for our students, we are hoping to hear about some of the unsung program and course options. Come share your thoughts on the program options and electives that work in your schools.

Previous Meeting Minutes: www.nvsd44.bc.ca/AboutUs/NVPAC/Minutes.aspx
<http://www.nvsd44.bc.ca/Trustees/Advocacy.aspx>

Capital Projects Public Consultation Meetings

The District are holding public consultation meetings with respect to the capital projects at Ridgeway, Carson Graham and Queen Mary Schools
[Consultation Meetings](#)

Carson Graham Replacement Consultation Meeting

Date: Thursday, February 5, 2009

Time: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Location: Sutherland Secondary School, 1860 Sutherland Avenue

Ridgeway and Queen Mary Schools Consultation Meeting

Date: Thursday, February 5, 2009

Time: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Location: Ridgeway Elementary School, 420 East 8th Street

Public Board Meetings

http://www.nvsd44.bc.ca/Trustees/Meetings/2008_2009%20Meetings.aspx

NVSD44 Public Board of Education Meeting

February 24th, 2008: 7pm School Board Office
Agenda items posted on website on the Friday before the meeting

Public question period related to agenda items is available at the beginning and at the end of each Public Board Meeting.

NVSD44 Education & Programs Meeting

February 3, 2009: 7pm Argyle Secondary

A full agenda is posted on the website at www.nvsg44.bc.ca- see "Trustees/Meetings/2008 2009 (see link above)

The agenda for this meeting will include a discussion of the FSA testing.

This is a Public NVSD standing committee meeting to provide information and to facilitate discussion of education policy and programs;

Trustees and other district staff and committee reps will be in attendance at this meeting which is also open to the public.

A great opportunity to hear the latest District news in this area and to ask questions and to take part in the discussion

Upcoming Events

Boy Smarts: Effective Strategies for Parenting Boys

Tuesday, February 24th, 7-9pm
Windsor Secondary School

www.mentoringboys.com

At this event, sponsored by Dorothy Lynas PAC, Barry Macdonald, author of "Boy Smarts - Mentoring boys for success at school" will discuss the special parenting needs for boys including information on:

- What are the varied needs of boys?
- How can we help boys navigate cultural realities like video game and Facebook?
- How can we talk with boys so they'll listen and listen so they'll talk?
- How can we help our boys to become courageous, caring and ethical men?

Advance Tickets: \$10 per person, \$15 per couple. Available at Dorothy Lynas Elementary
Contact: Cathy Piteaux 604-903-3430

For those unable to attend on the 24th, This event is also being held in Vancouver at Lord Kitchener Elementary
4055 Blenheim St, Vancouver
Wednesday, Feb 18th, 7pm

Lynnmour PAC Team Trivia Night & Silent Auction

Friday, February 20th, 6:30 pm
Lynnmour Elementary

Teams of 8 compete in this fun night of Trivia, bring your co-workers, friends and extended family to this fun event and team up to compete.

Tickets \$10 each or 8 for \$70. Tickets must be purchased by Feb 17.

Fundraising for books for the Lynnmour Elementary Library

For more information and for tickets contact Brenda Barrick by email: stampergb@shaw.ca

Scholarships

BC Innovation Council Scholarships

BCIC encourages students to explore the world of science and technology and to choose to further their education in B.C.'s post-secondary institutions. BCIC offers scholarships to innovative high school students to encourage their enrollment in undergraduate science and technology programs at B.C.'s post-secondary institutions; and it supports entrepreneurship education for science, technology and business undergraduate students.

Scholarships Include:

- BCIC Young Innovator Scholarship
- TRIUMF High School Fellowship
- Science Achievement Award
- BCIC Regional Science Fair Awards

For more information see: <http://www.bcic.ca/students/schools-k-12/scholarships-awards>

Canadian Iranian Foundation Scholarships

Application Deadline: February 28, 2009

www.cif-bc.com/scholarship

CORSA Foundation Scholarships

Application Deadline February 20, 2009

The CORSA Foundation is offering up to five \$1500.00 scholarships to South Asian youth who demonstrate leadership in their school and community.

www.corsafoundation.com

Items of Interest

BCCPAC Governance Audit & Constitution Review - Report

As NVPAC Chair and as a member of the recently convened (but not yet very engaged) BCCPAC Governance Audit Implementation Committee, I attended the first member input session in Parksville on Saturday, January 24th. Having attended this session, it is obvious that there is a fair bit of discussion that needs to happen amongst members to "re-determine" where BCCPAC should be focusing its energies, resources, and voice on behalf of member PACs and DPACs in the province. If you are a parent at a North Vancouver school belonging to BCCPAC (*most (not all) of our local school PACs are members, but please check with Karen Stewart, NVPAC Treasurer kstewart@northpac.org if you need to confirm*), please consider giving your views at one of these Member Input sessions.

Alternatively, if your PAC has not joined BCCPAC, you can still attend to give your input on why your parent group may have chosen NOT to join BCCPAC. This review is all about making BCCPAC more relevant to the current and future needs of the BC parent community through our PACs and DPACs. Lower Mainland sessions are on (1) Saturday, February 7: Fraser Valley, Chilliwack (Abbotsford) from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at [The Falls Resort](#); and (2) at the BCCPAC AGM/Spring Conference on Thursday, April 30th, in Richmond. For full details of this process and other locations around the province, please go to http://www.bccpac.bc.ca/index/governance_audit/purposeschedule.aspx For more information, you may contact BCCPAC directly or feel free to email me for the view from NVPAC's vantage point.... lcartwright@northvanpac.org

Alcohol and Drug Education Service

The Alcohol and Drug Education Service have launched a new Web 2.0 website www.adcs.bc.ca to provide parenting information to "help keep your kids drug free" and enable healthy conversation with parents and professionals dealing with these issues

Phonological Awareness to Phonics

Friday, February 20th, 2009
The REACH O-G Learning Center
9:30am – 3:00pm

This workshop is focused on providing information to educators of 4 - 8 year olds, pre-school and day care providers, and parents who would like to support their children with early literacy skills.

Research has shown that carefully planned instruction of phonological awareness skills has a significant impact on the development of children's reading and spelling achievement and the early identification of struggling learners. This workshop will focus on explicitly teaching the following skills using a multisensory structured language (MSL) approach:

- Phonological awareness skills
- Beginning phonics
- Blending of sounds

For more information go to: www.reachlearningcenter.com

Trust Parenting Speaker Series

www.trustparenting.com

FEBRUARY 10TH - WHY TOTS RESIST

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm, LYNN VALLEY Main Library Community Room

SPEAKER – Colleen Drobot, (Registered Family Therapist/Parent Consultant)

Hearing "no" from our children can be difficult, even for the most loving and dedicated parent. When we are busy, in a hurry, or stressed it is hard to deal with a child who won't take our lead or direction no matter what we do. Using the approach of developmental psychologist Dr. Gordon Neufeld, Colleen Drobot will discuss the natural instincts of children

to say "no" or to defy others, how this instinct is meant to protect them, and what we can do to gain the cooperation of our young children.

(TWEENS) FEBRUARY 11TH- LANGUAGE OF VIRTUES

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm, LYNN VALLEY Main Library Community Room

SPEAKER - Kathy Flood - Facilitator of Virtues Project

Language shapes character: The way we speak, and the words we use, have great power to discourage or to inspire. The language of virtues helps us to replace shaming and blaming with personal responsibility and respect. It is a frame of reference for bringing out the best in children and ourselves.

Reminders from previous issues

"Your Issues" NVPAC meetings

NVPAC exec are planning to meet informally with individual or families of schools meetings to discuss the needs of individual PACs with respect to NVPAC support and school district plans and communication. Look for some communication from us as we start to set up these meetings, or please just send us an invite. We'd love to talk to your school(s) to see what we can do to help you get the information and support you need.

NVPAC Speakers Grants

NVPAC has approved 10 Parent Education Grants for PACS for 2008/9. These grants are \$150 each and can be used to help pay for the cost of providing useful and relevant information to your school community.

Your school PAC chair or Treasurer must apply to NVPAC for the grants with details of when and what you would like to spend the money on. Once your PAC has been approved to receive the grant, simply send in a copy of your final costs for the event or purchase and we will send you a cheque for \$150.

You may apply in advance for events that are scheduled later in the year, but your event or purchase must take place before the end of June 2009.

Grants will be awarded on a first come – first served basis throughout the year until the \$1,500 Grant Fund is fully committed.

Please send the details to NVPAC Treasurer Karen Stewart by email at treasurer@northvanpac.org or fax to 604-983-0357.

NVPAC Family of Schools Grants

At the request of our members, NVPAC has instituted Family of Schools Grants. These grants are \$200 each and can be used to help pay for the cost of an event planned to promote community between each secondary school and their feeder elementary schools.

Two secondary schools have already requested grants, one for a speaker who presented to the Family of Schools and one for a winter fair which will involve all the schools in that FOS. If your school has an idea that you think falls within the parameters of this grant, please send the details to NVPAC Treasurer Karen Stewart by email at treasurer@northvanpac.org .

Email List and PAC communication Problems

To unsubscribe from this list or otherwise update your contact info with NVPAC please reply to this email at Newsbytes@northvanpac.org or send an email to registrar@northvanpac.org