

May 2009 Volume 3 Issue 10

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

North Vancouver Parent Advisory Council

NVPAC Newsbytes

April was a busy month for North Van School District. Dealing with closures and potential closures at Ridgeway & Ridgeway Annex, Balmoral & Carson Graham and at Plymouth Elementary. Revising the Windsor house relocation plan. And working through the budget process. These decisions have been complex decisions impacting students across the district. And its far from over. The budget situation still calls for more cuts and the district is working hard to find cuts that minimize the impacts on students. More information is available at http://www.nvsd44.bc.ca/sitecore/content/Headlines/Budget2009_2010.aspx

Throughout all this the District and the Board has tried to inform and engage with parents to discuss these difficult decisions. We are fortunate in North Vancouver to have Staff, Teachers, Administrators and Trustees that value parent involvement in our schools, especially during these tough decisions where the philosophy of educational opportunity must be tempered with the tough reality of budget driven tradeoffs. While budgets force decisions to be made it is philosophy that guides the decisions of which options to choose. The respect North Vancouver District has for parent involvement in schools gives us an important role in enabling the Board to make these decisions and we as parents must continue to earn that respect by continuing to work actively for all students.

Thank you to all parents who take the time to participate in the schools. Parent involvement is critical, whether that is at the student level, the school level, the district or all of the above. Please come to our NVPAC AGM to find out how you can get involved at the district level and if that is too much then just please stay informed and stay involved.

David Whitehead
Newsbytes Editor

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Upcoming Public Meetings

NVPAC Annual General Meeting

Thursday May 21nd, 2008 starting at 7:00pm
Leo Marshall Curriculum Centre

The Annual General Meeting will be preceded by NVPAC COMMUNICATIONS SURVEY Report on results – Please make sure your PAC has answered our email survey! *If you haven't received this, please contact info@northvanpac.org right away to request a copy!*

NVPAC's AGM will include year end reports, interim budget approval, and elections for the 2009/10 NVPAC Executive. All executive positions are open and nominations for executive positions may be made from the floor. Please see the "poster" for this meeting on our web page at <http://www.nvsd44.bc.ca/AboutUs/NVPAC.aspx>
Inquiries to NVPAC: info@northvanpac.org

- Previous Meeting Minutes: www.nvsd44.bc.ca/AboutUs/NVPAC/Minutes.aspx

Public Board Meetings

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

Agenda items posted on website on the Friday before the meeting. A public question period related to agenda items is available at the beginning and at the end of each Public Board Meeting.

Tuesday, May 5, 2009 Norgate Community School	Education and Programs Standing Committee
Tuesday, May 26, 2009 Sutherland Secondary School - Theatre	Public Board Meeting
Tuesday, June 2, 2009 Handsworth Secondary School	Education and Programs Standing Committee
Tuesday, June 9, 2009	Public Board Meeting
Tuesday, June 23, 2009	Public Board Meeting

Upcoming Events

Windsorfest

May 14th, 5-8pm

Windsor Secondary

Kids of all ages! are invited to an open house and Children's Carnival hosted by the Windsor Secondary family of schools (Blueridge, Seymour Heights, Lynmour, Plymouth, Dorothy Lynas and Sherwood Park)

Come and see all the amazing programs, sports and elective options that Windsor has to offer! Tour the building and check out featured performances on the "main stage"

Come to the Children's Carnival hosted by The Windsor Elementary Feeder Schools (games, food and fun!)

Admission to the Carnival is \$1 and gets you unlimited access to the events! You also will receive a "Windsor" bracelet! All other activities are free!

Windsor Family of Schools- 7 schools- one family! Come join our family!

North Vancouver Teachers Association - All Candidates Meetings

Thursday, May 7, 7:00-9:00pm

Windsor Secondary School

Meet with provincial election candidates for the North Vancouver - Seymour riding.

Joy of learning conference

Saturday, May 23, 9:30 am-3:00 pm

SFU Harbour Centre , Room 1400, 515 West Hastings

School takes up approximately 13,000 hours of our children's lives yet for many children the experience of school is frustrating, confusing and unsuccessful. It doesn't have to be this way! Don't miss this opportunity to re-ignite the joy of learning in your child by connecting with local experts in alternative approaches to learning. For conference schedule, information about speakers and the Joy of Learning Network

visit www.joyoflearningnetwork.wordpress.com

Meeting Reports

BCCPAC AGM

At the recent BCCPAC AGM, many Resolutions were considered by the Membership of PACs and DPACs from around the province. NVPAC parents Lisa Cartwright and Karen Stewart, as well as Handsworth NVPAC Rep Cathy Floe attended the AGM. Special Resolutions to consider the removal of Director Stephanie Longstaff and President Ron Broda resulted in Director Longstaff retaining her position on the Board, and with Mr Broda resigning on the floor, prior to special resolution #2 being considered. As a result of the elections, 1st Vice President Ann Whiteaker was re-elected and she has assumed the role of Acting President. (I am unsure at this point as to whether the Board will appoint a new 1st VP to fill the vacancy left by her move to President...stay tuned!). Ida Middleton was elected to Treasurer, and Deborah Garrity (of

neighbouring Burnaby DPAC!) was elected as a Director. The results of the other resolutions are posted on the BCCPAC website in summary at the moment, but there will be additional detail in the final minutes of the meeting since some of the resolutions were amended, and others were added from the floor. <http://www.bccpac.bc.ca/resolutions/votingresults2009.aspx> What is very clear after the weekend, is that the Governance Audit Implementation Committee (GAIC) will be very busy over the next while amending and rewriting the BCCPAC Constitution & Bylaws to reflect the new realities of its Members and to clean up issues in the wording that have caused concern and which are highlighted by the Governance Auditors themselves and, additionally, by the Membership and actions of the Board. I am a member of the GAIC and look forward to working with an amazing group of parents from around the province on this project....this may be my light summer reading! We'll keep you posted on events as they develop. Thanks for the support of NVPAC in allowing us to participate in this provincial parent organization...it is a very worthwhile venture, and despite the difficulties encountered lately, it looks like there is renewal ahead. Submitted by Lisa Cartwright lcartwright@northvanpac.org

Items of Interest

NVPAC Communications Survey

NVPAC are conducting a survey to determine how well parent communication channels are working within the district. You should have received an email recently with the questions we need help with to understand how well PAC's in North Vancouver can reach our parent community. Please respond to this survey as it will provide importance guidance at NVPAC on how to improve our communications capabilities, which is critical to our keeping parents engaged with the school district.

Ministry of Education information on Swine Flu

The Ministry of Education has published information Fact Sheets for parents and an *EdInfo* update on the H1N1 (Human Swine Flu) Virus.

This information is posted on the [School District's website](#).

[Talking to Kids About Swine Flu](#)

[Protecting Your Kids From Swine Flu](#)

[If you think Your Child May Have Swine Flu](#)

[H1N1 \(Human Swine Flu\) Virus Update - EdInfo Electronic Digest - May 1, 2009](#)

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

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.

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 .

NVPAC Events Calendar

[North Van PAC Public Events Calendar](#)

If you would like your event added to the calendar please forward it to

Newsbytes@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