

April 2009 Volume 3 Issue 9

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

North Vancouver Parent Advisory Council

NVPAC Newsbytes

I left the the last NVPAC general meeting pretty daunted by the budget challenges facing North Van Schools but energized by the growing parent engagement with school issues. At the meeting we heard from parent representatives sitting on a variety of School District committees and in particular those sitting on the budget tier committees. As it seems with so many things these days costs are up, revenues are down, and difficult decisions need to be made. The school district is a \$120 million annual operation and it needs to cut about \$3.2 million from its upcoming budget, to put that in context \$3.2 million is equivalent to the annual budget for one of our largest elementary schools. Finding \$3.2 million in cuts is not going to be easy for any of us.

At the meeting we also discussed the board's decision-making processes, which are evolving as this new board develops its personality. We need difficult decisions to be made and given that these will be difficult choices the thinking and processes that leads up to those decisions needs to be made in a thorough and transparent fashion. The budget process is a major exercise with a lot to cover and our parent representatives help us ensure the process is thorough and transparent, so parents can in turn support the decisions that come out of it. The reports at our last NVPAC meeting were daunting, there are a lot of tough decisions to be made but I am also confident that by working together we will be able to ensure the best available outcomes for our students given the circumstances.

David Whitehead
Newsbytes Editor

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Upcoming Public Meetings

Next NVPAC General Meeting

- April 23, 2009: 7pm - location TBD
- Previous Meeting Minutes: www.nvsd44.bc.ca/AboutUs/NVPAC/Minutes.aspx

NVPAC Recruiting Sessions

- Watch for upcoming dates for coffee meetings where we will actively encourage you to participate with NVPAC and let you know about all the great opportunities coming up at our NVPAC AGM. Come to think of it, if you know of a time when you can meet, just give us a call and we'll buy the coffee! Executive and Member at Large positions are up for election for the 2009/2010 school year. *Contact info@northvanpac.org*

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.

Wednesday, April 1, 2009 Balmoral Jr. Secondary School	Public Consultation Meeting - Balmoral Jr. Secondary School-Carson Graham Secondary School Proposed Consolidation / Closure
Thursday, April 2, 2009 Windsor Secondary School	Towards the Future For Schools Meeting East Region
Monday, April 6, 2009 Argyle Secondary School	Towards the Future For Schools Meeting Central Region
Tuesday, April 7, 2009	Finance and Facilities Standing Committee
Wednesday, April 8, 2009 Carson Graham Secondary School	Towards the Future For Schools Meeting West Region
Tuesday, April 14, 2009	Public Board Meeting Ridgeway Annex Presentation
Tuesday, April 28, 2009	Public Board Meeting Balmoral Jr. Secondary Presentation

Upcoming Events

Safe & Caring Schools Audit

Tuesday, April 7th at 2pm, or by other arrangement through School PACs working with their school's Administration.

PAC Chairs/NVPAC reps please encourage parents to get involved in this annual district audit to ensure our schools remain safe for our students.

<http://www.nvsd44.bc.ca/sitecore/content/OtherNews/SafeAndCaring2009Audit.aspx>

This is a great chance to get to know more about the programs and activities taking place at your own school, and your opportunity to give feedback to the school and the District on how you think your school measures up in the key areas of Safe & Caring Schools. Please take a moment to browse the website link above and an hour of your day next Tuesday to participate in the Safe & Caring Schools Audit. *Your Safe & Caring Schools Committee parent representative is Lisa Cartwright lcartwright@northvanpac.org*

Band and Strings Registration

Band and Strings 2009/10 registration runs April 6th-May 8th.

Registration for the Band and Strings Program for next year will begin soon. Please check with your teacher and/or principal regarding the forms or your school office. Also, the Band & Strings Parents Association is looking for parent liaisons at all schools - if you have an interest in the Band & Strings Program and can share information on behalf of your community, please contact *our parent rep on the District Band and Strings Advisory committee for more information - Leslie Uhlenbruck luhlenbruck@northvanpac.org*

BCCPAC AGM

April 30th -May 3rd, Richmond at the Radisson President Hotel.

http://www.bccpac.bc.ca/index/event_calendar.aspx?cid=85

The BCCPAC annual spring conference and AGM is coming up soon. NVPAC has funding available if parent representatives from any of our schools are interested in attending some or all of the event. There are workshops and speaker sessions starting on Thursday through Sunday, while the AGM is Saturday over to Sunday. If you are interested and able to go to the BCCPAC AGM let us know. Attendance for all or part of the weekend is an option. For more information on BCCPAC activities and the opportunities to participate in this conference, please contact info@northvanpac.org Members of your NVPAC Executive will be attending the Conference/AGM and would happy to coordinate with anyone who wants to attend.

Please note to all PACS regarding VOTING AT THE BCCPAC AGM - your voice as a BCCPAC member is heard through your official vote. You may send a parent delegate from your school or, if this is not an option, you may elect to send your PROXY with someone else attending the conference. NVPAC is willing to carry proxy votes for any North Vancouver school PAC if you are unable to send a delegate. Please see the official PROXY information on the BCCPAC website at the back of the Resolutions Booklet by following the link http://www.bccpac.bc.ca/UserFiles/file/2009_AGM_Spring_Conference/2009ResolutionBooklet-FINA-Revised.pdf Every BCCPAC Member should also have received a full conference package in the mail. If you have any questions about the Resolution Process, Proxy Voting, or anything else about BCCPAC at this time, *please feel free to contact NVPAC info@northvanpac.org*

Burnaby DPAC presents - PARENT COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS CONFERENCE

Saturday, April 4, 8:15 AM - 4:00 PM

Location: TBA

Cost: \$10 for Burnaby, \$25 for out of district

Includes: Lunch, Handouts, Coffee and break refreshments.

To register: Email your name, school and workshops of interest to burnabydpac@yahoo.ca

The day will consist of a number of workshops:

- Unfolding the Mystery - PAC Finances - it all counts
- Mission Possible (Speaking UP for students)
- What Every Parent Should Know About the Internet
- Supporting Your Child's Learning
- Anti-bullying
- Understanding Drug Trends
- PAC 101
- The Constitution and By-laws
- Study Skills for Parents
- Effective Meetings Don't Just Happen
- The Story of Stuff
- Raising Confident Boys (and Girls)
- Teaching Parents How to Teach

Check the website www.burnabydpac.com often for updates and additional details

Windsorfest

May 14th, 5-8pm

Windsor Secondary

Hold the date! The Windsor Family of Schools presents its first open house on May 14th from 5-8pm. This is an open house for Windsor Secondary and a community event with all the feeder schools (Blueridge, Seymour Heights, Lynn timer, 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". Kids of all ages! Come to the Children's Carnival hosted by the Windsor Elementary Feeder Schools (games, food and fun!)

North Shore Safety Council Screening of "WipeOut"

Tuesday, April 14, 7:00-9:00pm

District of North Vancouver Municipal Hall, 355, W. Queens.

The North Shore Safety Council (the "Elmer the Safety Elephant" people!) is pleased to join the District of North Vancouver in a screening of the video documentary "WipeOut", a very important message, especially to the parents of young boys who tend towards risky behaviour in sport. View the trailer or the entire video at <http://wipeout.knowledgenetwork.ca/index.html>

Housing the North Shore

May 27th, 2009 at 7:00 PM and May 28th at 9:30 AM at the Leo Marshall Centre, 810 West 21st Street, North Vancouver.

This public forum titled "Housing the North Shore," aims to engage citizens in planning their own sustainable communities. The event will bring together residents of the North Shore, legislators, municipal officials, as well as representatives of residents' associations, members of the business community, religious leaders, landlords, tenants, and non-profit housing providers for an in-depth discussion of long-term solutions to the current housing crisis

Details of the forthcoming Forum on Affordable Housing, a blog on current housing challenges facing the North Shore, along with a glossary of key terms and information about major stakeholders – these are some of the highlights of the Web site launched by the Forum organizers at <http://housingthenorthshore.ca> .

For other details about the event, contact Kaleen McNamara, NSHF coordinator, at Kaleen.mcnamara@nscr.bc.ca or 604 985 7138. You can also visit the North Shore Community Resources (Level 2, Capilano Mall).

Meeting Reports

NVPAC Representation on District Committees

NVPAC focuses on ensuring that our Board of Education and the School District follow process and are using an appropriate means of consultation with parents and other recognized educational stakeholders, as well as with the broader community. Our representation at the committee and working group level, as well as our participation in all public processes, are the best ways to ensure that the voices of parents are heard, along with other interested parties.

NVPAC has representatives on many School District committees providing parent perspective on issues that impact North Van schools and we are constantly looking for more parents to help ensure the District meets the needs of parents.

Some of the active district Committees where we have parent representation are:

Communications Committee, Budget Tier Working Groups, Health Advisory Committee, Sustaining Schools Working Committee, Safe & Caring Schools Committee, Policy Review, Emergent Weather Review Committee, Kindergarten Info Planning, Inclusion Committee, School Library Advisory Committee, Band & Strings Advisory, School Planning Council Steering Committee, Capital Planning Committee, French Planning Committee, and others with varying degrees of commitment and content, some ongoing, some short-term. (This is not a complete list.)

We are always recruiting for ongoing committee representation as there are more spots than we have active and involved parents willing and able to fill. If you know anyone that would be even remotely interested in learning about and participating at some level with NVPAC at the district level, we'd love to talk with you.

Please support a full and considerate decision-making process in the North Vancouver School District by participating wherever you can throughout the school system. NVPAC is your direct route to do this....please contact NVPAC at any time to find out what opportunities are available. info@northvanpac.org
<http://www.nvsd44.bc.ca/AboutUs/NVPAC.aspx>

Items of Interest

Prime Minister's Awards for Teaching Excellence - Nomination Deadline April 20th

North Vancouver has had 5 teachers receive this award in 2008,2006, 1994 and two in 1993. Please see the following links to the 2009 Guidelines and Nomination forms for the Prime Minister's Awards for Teaching Excellence and the Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Early Childhood Education.

<http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/pmate-ppmee.nsf/eng/Home>

<http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/pmaece-ppmepe.nsf/eng/Home>

North Shore Multicultural Society seeks Parent Volunteers

The North Shore Multicultural Society is looking for Parent Volunteers to become friends and resource people for immigrant families on the North Shore. We have 29 families with preschool and elementary aged children, who would welcome support. The volunteer activities can be combined with the family's routine. For example, explaining what Hot Dog Day is, welcoming the family to the school, or showing them a park where you take your children. Please contact Virginia Coles at 604-988-2931 or virginiac@nsms.ca for more information.

Handsworth PAC seeks input on grad events

The Handsworth PAC is interested in what other highschools have going on in terms of grad events for the grade 12s, throughout the year, ie. dances, socials, boat cruises, or what-have-you, what seems to work well, or not, and why, and what the incurred costs are of the various events for the students, (and parents). If you can help with this question please respond to Cathy Floe by email at:lightbody13@hotmail.com or to Info@northvanpac.org

Quest University Previews

If you would like to know more about Quest University in Squamish, they are holding their second Preview Event on April 18th to learn more about our academic program, enjoy a lunch in our cafeteria, and get a tour of our spectacular campus. You can register here: http://www.questu.ca/popups/preview_day.php

www.ParentsMatter.ca

The Canadian Association of Family Resource Programs (FRP Canada) has created Parents Matter (www.parentsmatter.ca), a web site for parents and those who work with them. Recognizing that the parent-child relationship is the most powerful influence on child development, the site provides:

- Downloadable resource sheets, in multiple languages, covering a variety of parenting topics
- Well maintained links to sites and materials relevant to parenting issues
- Specific resources for parent educators and family resource practitioners
- Directory of family resource programs supporting families across Canada
- Online inventory of parenting programs

Check out our Why Play? brochures, available at www.welcomehere.ca. These brochures offer information for parents and caregivers about play and child development in multiple age groups. They can be downloaded in 13 languages. Bulk copies of the English and French versions are available for purchase from FRP Canada.

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