

NVPAC

Welcome to DPAC Reps, PAC Chairs, and all Parents September 2007

North Vancouver Parent Advisory Council (NVPAC) is here to help parents participate fully in the public education system. As parents, we can volunteer in our schools, advocate for our children, take an active role in community consultation, serve on working committees to affect policy and programs, and genuinely take part in ensuring that our schools, along with the programs offered, are serving our students in the most effective way.

Local school PACs and District PACs exist by statute under the School Act. Every school is entitled to have a PAC and each district may form a DPAC. We are fortunate in North Vancouver (School District #44) that virtually all of our schools have well-functioning and active parent councils and that our District PAC, NVPAC, also has a well-established and active history in the District. The School Act prescribes that each school can elect a DPAC representative through their PAC and these parents form the base of our network of active and dedicated parent volunteers working to improve and support public education in our School District. In North Vancouver, we are pleased to have the support of our 38 elementary and secondary school PACs through this system of elected representation to the DPAC. Your NVPAC Executive is also made up of parents elected from across North Vancouver, and from a wide variety of backgrounds.

One of our main goals at NVPAC over the past few years has been to improve communications channels with each other as parents through our individual PACs, while at the same time building strong relationships with our various partner groups. These partners include, amongst others, the School District Administration and Trustees of the Board of Education, teachers and support staff, Student Leadership Council, local and provincial government representatives, BCCPAC (the provincial PAC organization), and various outside community partners and groups. We will continue to make this a priority for NVPAC.

At the beginning of this new school year, NVPAC welcomes new and returning DPAC Reps and PAC Chairs to our first General Meeting of the year. In an effort to clarify the role of DPAC reps, to connect parents across the district, and to provide leadership and coordination amongst parents working towards common goals for the benefit of students, NVPAC will endeavour to listen to concerns, issues, and success stories from all parents in our District. In response, we hope to provide opportunities to bring people together on a regular basis to help each other out, learn about the things that work, and to try to avoid the pitfalls that can inevitably cross our paths.

First and foremost, we are all volunteers who are passionate about giving our children, along with the talented people who work with them, the most positive experience possible. The very real challenges of funding issues, organizational structures, bureaucracy, time constraints, and communication can be balanced and, hopefully, overcome, by developing good relationships and being truly prepared to work in a consultative and respectful manner, together with all of the education partners.

At NVPAC, we are looking forward to another interesting and rewarding year, and we welcome all North Vancouver parents with students in the public school system to take an interest in the issues that most affect our children. Please get in touch with your NVPAC Executive as we try to build an agenda that will be relevant to the needs in your own community and effective in addressing issues that affect us across the District.

NVPAC General Meetings are generally held on the second to last Thursday of each month, but check out our schedule, information, and contacts listing on our webpage, accessed through www.nvsd.44.bc.ca and by clicking on "NV Parent Advisory Council".

Sincerely,
Lisa Cartwright, NVPAC Chair 2007/8