

Welcome to the 2009-2010 School Year!

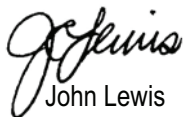
I hope that each of you had the opportunity to enjoy the glorious summer weather and that you had a restful and pleasant break. Summer provides most of us with greater time to play, read, and to be with our family and friends. The summer break is also a time to replenish our energy and enthusiasm in anticipation of the coming school year.

While there are new challenges upon us, we have continually proven ourselves as a strong and resilient school district. We are no stranger to funding issues and have consistently responded to and addressed health and safety concerns for all members of our school community.

The elimination of the Annual Facilities Grant of \$3.1 million by the Provincial Government will have a significant impact on our operations. This loss will require us to amend our current budgets and adjust some of our priorities for this school year. The implications of the loss of this funding will be discussed at the Board of Education's Finance and Facilities Standing Committee Meeting on Tuesday, September 15th at the Leo Marshall Centre. Details will be identified in the coming weeks and will be communicated to our partner groups.

H1N1 pandemic planning is now in process to help ensure that we are all prepared for the expected spread of the H1N1 flu this fall and winter. A detailed plan of action will be developed to outline preventive measures and communications. We encourage everyone to stay informed through our School District website www.nvdsd44.bc.ca with links to the Provincial website at www.gov.bc.ca/h1n1. Additional information is provided on the reverse of this e-Bulletin.

I wish everyone an excellent school year!



John Lewis
Superintendent of Schools

Graduation results!

A total of 1,713 North Vancouver School District students received their Dogwood, School Completion Certificate and/or Adult Graduation Diplomas this past summer. Included in these totals were students from Argyle (283), Carson (267), Handsworth (272), Seycove (134), Sutherland (179), Windsor (148), Continuing Education (338), Youth Learning Centre (20), NV Distributed Learning (71) and Keith Lynn (1). Seycove students topped the Honours list (a "B" average or better) with nearly 63% of their graduates earning Honours standing. We are very proud of our Grads of 2009!

North Vancouver School District resources a HUGE success on the International front:

During this summer, a team of North Vancouver educators and UBC researcher, Dr. Linda Siegel, presented a series of workshops in Brazil to classroom teachers, administrators, and academics. The workshops titled "*First Steps to Literacy*" featured *Our Turn to Talk*, *Firm Foundations* and *Reading 44*. The Portuguese, Spanish and English teachers from all over South America were extremely impressed with our North Vancouver resources!

The highlight for the North Vancouver educators was a trip to *Playpen*, a bilingual school in Sao Paulo where the grade one teachers have been using *Firm Foundations* (with great results) for over two years. The team observed and interacted with the children who are learning English as a second language and using our *Firm Foundations* games with great enthusiasm.



District Principal, Joanne Robertson, and early learning facilitator Gretchen Tolfo will be developing a presentation to share with others regarding this wonderful experience.

**We provide world-class instruction
and a rich diversity of engaging programs
to inspire success for every student
and bring communities together
to learn, share and grow.**





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September 8, 2009

Dear Parents, Students, and Staff:

Subject: H1N1 Flu Virus

The Province of British Columbia is preparing for a possible resurgence of the H1N1 flu virus in the fall and has prepared information materials for parents, students, and school district staff. Links to these documents are available on our School District website, www.nvsd44.bc.ca, [H1N1 Flu Virus – Information](#). I encourage you to take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with this subject matter. These documents include:

- [Protecting your kids from the H1N1 flu virus](#)
- [If you think your child has the H1N1 flu virus](#)
- [Talking to kids about the H1N1 flu virus](#)
- [Q&A for parents about the H1N1 flu virus](#)
- [Helping children cope with H1N1-related stress](#)
- [Helping adults cope with H1N1-related stress](#)
- [Q&A for students around the H1N1 flu virus.](#)

The vast majority of our community members have electronic access to these materials so we have made a decision to not distribute over 130,000 double-sided-print pages to our families. Additionally, if there are any updates or urgent situations, we want you to know how and where to access current H1N1 information. If you do not have access to the website copies, please phone or send a note to your child's school. The school will prepare print copies for you.

Dr. Perry Kendall, the Provincial Medical Health Officer, does not expect that individual school closures or community-wide closures will be useful in controlling the spread and impact of the H1N1 flu virus. If it is necessary to close any schools, the decision will be made by Dr. Kendall and Dr. Brian O'Connor, the North Shore's Medical Health Officer. We would immediately communicate this information to you via phone calls (Synrevoice) and postings on our website.

If you have any health questions or concerns about symptoms of illness, you can phone HealthLink BC at 8-1-1. This service is available 24 hours / 7 days a week.

To safeguard the health of everyone, we will be reviewing proper hand-washing techniques and cough/sneeze etiquette with our students. It is our expectation that parents will reinforce these health practices with their children. If students and/or staff experience symptoms of illness, please do not attend school until you are well. By working together, we can minimize the spread of illness within our schools and the community.

Yours sincerely,

John Lewis
Superintendent of Schools