

Superintendent's e-bulletin

December 14, 2009

Happy Holidays!

On behalf of the Executive Committee and the North Vancouver Board of Education, I wish each of you a very happy holiday season. We hope that you will be able to spend quality time with family and friends, that you will enjoy good health, safe travels, and that you will be refreshed for the return to school in 2010!

John Lewis, Superintendent of Schools



North Vancouver
School District
the natural place to learn®

Sarah's Gold Medal of Academic Excellence

Sarah Weicker, a 2009 graduate from Windsor Secondary School, has received a *Gold Medal of Academic Excellence*.



Sarah is one of British Columbia's top five Grade 12 Graduation Program Examinations Scholarship winners for the 2008/09 school year. The Honourable Dr. Margaret MacDiarmid, Minister of Education, commended Sarah for achieving perfect examination scores in Chemistry, Math, and Physics. Sarah is currently enrolled in general sciences at UBC.

Career Education



Eva Ratzburg, District Consultant for Health & Career Education and Work Experience & Apprenticeships, was the Conference Chairperson of the 32nd Annual Provincial Career Education Society's Conference, held in Vancouver on November 25-27, 2009. This year's conference, *Career Development: Preparing for Transition, Change, and Challenge*, featured keynote speakers Dr. Stephen Ibaraki, a world-renowned teacher, writer, and Information Technology professional, and Dr. Karyn Gordon, an acclaimed "Generation Y" expert. Conference delegates explored the challenges of preparing youth to transition into a constantly shifting and changing global economy. North Vancouver won the \$500 CIPS Kelly Gottlieb Scholarship. It will be awarded to one of our deserving students.

Community Connections

Mary Ferguson, BC Hydro School Programs, was a presenter at the CES Provincial Conference. Her presentation on Hydro's Energy Ambassadors Program, focused on the long-standing relationship with North Vancouver School District:

"It is a partnership that we feel very fortunate to have. In particular, we value the opportunity to work with such dedicated educators, Eva Ratzburg and school-based teachers, and Facilities' Jeff Jackson. The mentor role is important to the high school program, and Jeff has always provided great technical knowledge and information to the students and teachers alike. He helps everyone understand energy use in the school district and the role they can play in conserving resources."

"Over the years, Eva has provided support and guidance about career education and student leadership programs, and has always provided sound recommendations about what makes high quality, relevant educational opportunities for the students."

Xwa-lack-tun: Sutherland School Sabres



Xwa-lack-tun's carving at Sutherland

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.

What's a LAN Party?

LAN stands for "Learning at Night." It is a comprehensive framework for professional development and institutional change, building on the work of the Instructional Institute professional development program. LAN is networked professional development that is organic, social and sustainable.

Inspired by Will Richardson's *Blogs, Wikis and Podcasts and Other Powerful Web Tools for Classrooms*, our administrators and teachers are exploring how to maximize the possibilities of the technology currently in their schools and finding ways to create relevant, interactive learning experiences for students. A group of twelve administrators participated in an Admin LAN on December 3rd with a focus on best practices for communicating and learning.

On December 7th, teachers gathered at Argyle Secondary School for the first LAN party of the school year. With support from ICT Mentors Bryan Hughes (TOC), Lesley Edwards (Seycove) and District Administrator Audrey Van Alstyne, participants saw presentations prepared by educators from around the globe. Topics included *Building a Web 2.0 Culture*, *Probing the Possibilities of Paperless Pedagogy*, and *Around the World with Videoconferencing*.



This year LAN parties are going global via *lluminate*, virtual classroom software that is provided free to all BC educators by the Ministry of Education. Announcing the session using *Twitter*, North Vancouver teachers viewed Paul Curtis' presentation, *Building a Web 2.0 Culture*, in real-time alongside educators in places such as Arizona, Maine, and New York. Teachers enjoyed speaking with Paul live. We hope to further explore his ideas of using technology integration coaches to support teachers and students.

LAN provides a forum for learning about new tools and engaging in conversations around their use in classrooms. It is through this dialogue that our students receive much needed instruction on using online social networks respectfully and responsibly. They will see opportunities beyond simple messaging, and discover how to make social networks work for them as they write, collaborate, share, and engage with audiences worldwide. Everyone is invited to join us for our next LAN party, Thursday, January 14th, between 5:00 and 7:00 pm at Sutherland Secondary School. For more information and to register, visit <http://www.nvsg44.bc.ca/innovativelearning>

Links

Ministry of Education: www.gov.bc.ca/bced/

Weather: Environment Canada Vancouver
http://www.weatheroffice.gc.ca/city/pages/bc-74_metric_e.html

Contact

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Questions?

Please visit our website at www.nvsg44.bc.ca for direct contact information for schools, programs and staff

School returns Monday, January 4th

During winter weather conditions, please monitor radio and television announcements for any school closures. All schools in the North Vancouver School District will remain **OPEN**, if at all possible during winter weather, including snowfalls. Any District-wide closure will be decided by 6:30 a.m. at the latest. No announcement will be made saying that schools are open. **Only closures will be announced.**

<http://www.nvsg44.bc.ca/sitecore/content/Headlines/SnowForecast.aspx>

Ridgeway's Heritage Restoration



Excavation of the original foundation wall

Jump!

The BC & Yukon Heart & Stroke Foundation recognizes the significant commitment of students and their families participating in the *Jump Rope for Heart Program* at:

Canyon Heights	Capilano
Westview	Lynnmour
Ridgeway	Carisbrooke

In BC, approximately \$2.2 million was raised toward the vision of "generations free of heart disease and stroke."