

Superintendent's e-bulletin

November 17, 2009



North Vancouver
School District
the natural place to learn®

I'm pleased to share with you updates, news and achievements from the North Vancouver School District. Please enjoy and circulate!

— John Lewis, Superintendent of Schools

Communications Awards



The Canadian Association of Communicators in Education has recognized the North Vancouver School District's community and media relations with **three BRAVO!** awards.

The NVSD Spring 2009 Community Report received an award of merit for being "easy-to-read and appealing" in conveying the School District's Vision and recent achievements. In the category of media-writing, the North Shore Outlook's "Squamish Words" series received an award of distinction for its "informative and well-written" approach to bringing the Squamish language to life through stories shared with students. In the category of media photography, the image "Penny Rich" took home an award of excellence—the highest award given by CACE's Bravo program. This compelling cover photograph depicts a student at Queensbury Elementary counting pennies for a school penny drive and drew readers' attention to the story of our schools' efforts to raise funds for Pennies for Peace.

Rezoning Approval

We are delighted to report that at the City of North Vancouver's public hearing on November 16, 2009, Council approved the rezoning amendments to allow the School District to proceed with the [Education Services Centre and Artists for Kids Gallery on Lonsdale](#).

Council's vote to approve the zoning amendments paves the way forward for the construction of residential and special needs housing, the Education Services Centre and Artists for Kids Gallery, improvements to Ray Sargent Park and significant funding for the heritage restorations of Ridgeway and Queen Mary Elementary schools. We are proud that we have been able to facilitate the 'HYAD Project' (Housing for Young Adults with Disabilities) by donating the land (valued at more than \$2 million) for their building.

H1N1 Update

Students aged 5 to 18 can now receive the free vaccine. Please check the [Flu Clinic Locator](#).

During the last week, there has been a noticeable decline in student illness in our schools. Everyone's diligence in responding to the H1N1 challenge has been greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Bill MacDonald: Excellence in Art Education

Special congratulations go to Bill MacDonald, Managing Director of the Artists For Kids Program. The British Columbia Art Teachers' Association presented an *Excellence in Art Education* award to Bill MacDonald at its October 2009 Conference at UBC. In recognition of Bill's outstanding contribution to art education, the BCATA created a special award category for him, *District Art Teacher of the Year*. Bill was the recipient of the National Art Education Association's award for British Columbia in 1987.



Dr. Bill Zuk, University of Victoria, and Bill MacDonald, BCATA's District Art Teacher of the Year

Special Acknowledgement to ArtStarts in Schools: In partnership with the BC Arts Council and the Vancouver Foundation, the Artists in Education partners have allocated \$6000 to North Vancouver School District to fund professional arts activities in our schools during the 2009/10 school year.

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.

Windsor Artificial Turf Field

Federal, provincial, and municipal leaders gathered on Tuesday, November 10, 2009 to jointly announce an impressive new \$3.2 million project for Windsor Secondary school and the surrounding community. Through the leadership of the District of North Vancouver, Windsor will become the newest location on the North Shore to have an artificial turf field and surrounding track. This project, valued at over \$3.3 million, has been made possible thanks to an almost \$2.2 million grant funded jointly by the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia, a \$1.2 million donation from Canexus. The land dedicated by the School District to make this project possible is valued at more than \$3 million.

North Vancouver Board of Education Chairperson Susan Skinner noted that the project "will fill a long-standing gap in Windsor's physical recreation facilities and community recreational needs. We look forward to working with our partners and the community to ensure the project's design includes their involvement."

"Better recreation options will, over time, lead to a healthier, fitter society," said Andrew Saxton, MP, North Vancouver. "This is an excellent initiative and I commend the District of North Vancouver and the North Vancouver School District for their leadership."



In back: Councillor Mike Little, District of North Vancouver. In front, L>R: Trustee Barry Forward; Jane Thomthwaite, MLA, North Vancouver-Seymour; Councillor Doug MacKay Dunn; Board Chairperson Susan Skinner; Andrew Saxton, MP, North Vancouver; Trustee Linda Buchanan; Mayor Richard Walton; Trustee Holly Back.

Pacific Foundation for Environmental Learning

The [Pacific Foundation for Environmental Learning](http://www.pacificfoundationforlearning.ca) was created in January 2009 to support the ongoing success and viability of the Outdoor School. The Foundation is a registered charity.

Links

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

North Vancouver Outdoor School:
http://www.nvsvd44.bc.ca/programs/outdoor_school.aspx

Contact

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Questions?

Please visit our website at www.nvsvd44.bc.ca for direct contact information for schools, programs and staff

Green Hub

The Outdoor School was the host venue for the Squamish Chamber of Commerce Luncheon on November 10, 2009. Joan McIntyre, MLA for West Vancouver-Sea to Sky, and a special friend of the Outdoor School, was the guest speaker. The Chamber event featured a 100-Mile Menu created by Outdoor School Chef Jason Nadeau, and attracted a full-house of local business people from across the corridor. With the North Shore Credit Union Environmental Learning Centre soon to break ground, the Outdoor School is well-positioned to become the "green" hub for community connections and dialogue in the region.



Larry Murray, Outdoor School Advisory Committee, and Joan McIntyre, MLA, West Vancouver-Sea to Sky, under the "living roof"

Education Services Centre

