

Superintendent's e-bulletin

October 26, 2010



North Vancouver
School District
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During the past two months of the school year, we have sincerely appreciated the significant effort of our entire staff to help address the impact of budget reductions and restructuring.

The development of our Operating Budget last spring required many difficult decisions to address the financial pressures forecast for the next few years. As a result of the constraint measures employed last year and savings realized through reduced energy costs, we were able to achieve a small surplus at the end of the 2009/10 school year.

Through ongoing monitoring and consultation at the school and district levels, we are now proceeding with the allocation of limited additional resources totaling \$200,000 to help address a range of critical needs. While these funds will provide limited relief across the School District, we will continue to monitor the impacts of budget reductions and restructuring. Once our final budget is determined (early December), we may be able to provide limited additional relief to other areas with identified needs.

Thank you for your continued efforts to support our students this fall.

—John Lewis, Superintendent of Schools

Safe and Caring Schools

Recent incidents involving a former staff member and threatening graffiti at Larson Elementary have demonstrated the importance and effectiveness of our School District protocols.

Inter-ministerial protocols related to Child Abuse were effectively implemented in regards to the investigation of a former school district employee. We will be conducting a review and refreshing these protocols to help strengthen their application throughout the School District.

The response to a threat at Larson was implemented in accordance with the Emergency Response Procedures with an emphasis on student safety and clear communication. The Critical Incident Response team was assigned and the incident was managed effectively through the application of existing protocols. Debrief sessions are always held to examine the response provided and to consider any alternate measures. As every situation is unique, it is impossible for the protocols to cover every possibility. However, the framework of the protocols has demonstrated the ability to flexibly respond to a range of situations that may be faced.



Digital Citizens and the Acceptable Use Agreement (AUA)

"How do we use the Internet in productive and useful ways, while ensuring that students are safe and respectful?"

Many parents and teachers are now asking this question. We need to be thoughtful about the ways in which we use technology.

The District has recently revised its Acceptable Use Agreement. All students and their parents are required to sign an AUA prior to using the Internet at school.

Students at Windsor Secondary School are working to bring the AUA to life! These teams of students are reviewing the wording in order to make the AUA more student-friendly, visual and interesting.

With this challenge in mind, the students are creating cartoons about what it means to respect and protect self, others and property. Their goals are to prepare a comic book for the elementary schools that illustrates the qualities of a Digital Citizen and to create something interesting that stirs the student's emotions.

For more information about internet safety and cyber bullying, check out: www.nvsd44.bc.ca/internetsafety.

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.

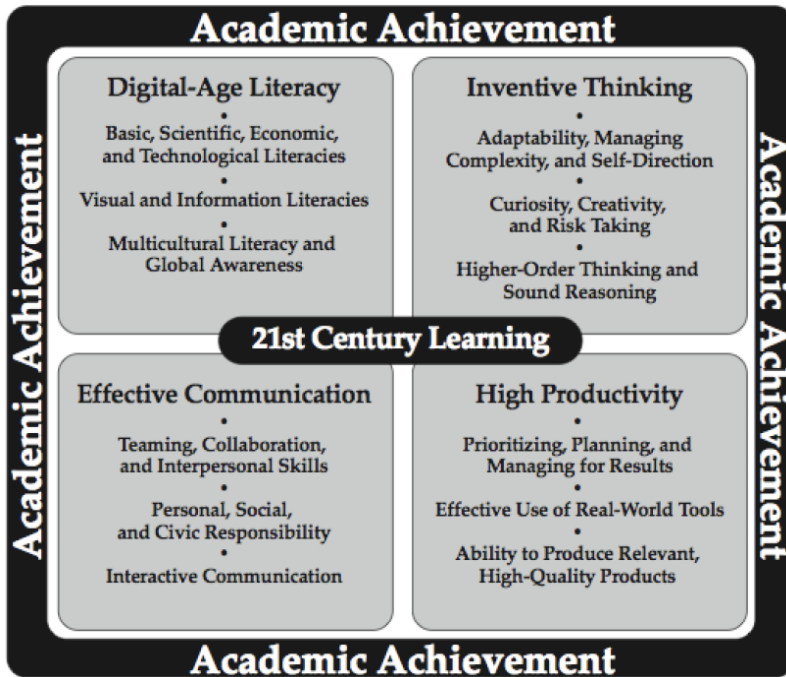
Personalization in the 21st Century

Personalized Learning: *A Vision for the 21st Century...the tailoring of pedagogy, curriculum and learning support to meet the needs and aspirations of individual learners* (Wikipedia, 2010)

The *Education and Programs Standing Committee Meeting* of October 5th featured **Personalized Learning: A Vision for the 21st Century**. This was a stimulating session that highlighted the various perspectives on 21st Century Learning with the identification of current practices within our schools that illustrate the changes that are taking place within our classrooms. In the coming months we will be clearly defining Personalization and 21st Century Learning in North Vancouver schools and classrooms.

Personalized learning is organizing learning and the school environment around individual student learning needs and abilities in ways that support student interests, talents, and skill acquisition. (Alberta Education, 2009)

Perhaps "personalized learning" emphasizes the value of personal relationships in learning, while "differentiated instruction" focuses more on ensuring that instruction is responsive to learning differences, interests, and readiness of individual learners." (Michael Fullan, 2009)



Surplus appropriation for staffing

The \$200,000 identified to address staffing demands has been allocated as follows:

- Approximately \$125,000 to address Secondary staffing pressures through the provision of additional support staff hours (100 hours of SEA time per week) distributed across 5 schools.
- Approximately \$40,000 to address counseling demands in the area of Special Education in relation to audit requirements for Category H and R students. This time allows for some reallocation of staffing to implement the recommendations of the Special Education Audit in support of students and to help prepare for the 2011/12 audit.
- Approximately \$35,000 for Elementary Schools' Transition Support time (100 TOC days total) to provide release time for the Vice Principal and Principal to attend to a multitude of school-based demands including student supervision, the implementation of full-day Kindergarten, and to accommodate changes resulting from the restructuring of student and program services.

We will continue to monitor the impact of the budget restructuring. Should additional funds be available, we will identify priorities for attention.

Community Forum Strategic Planning

November 9, 2010

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Lucas Centre

Everyone is invited!

Links

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

[Elementary School Tours](#)

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Questions?

Please visit our website at www.nvsd44.bc.ca for direct contact information for schools, programs and staff