



SUTHERLAND SECONDARY SCHOOL

LETTER TO PARENTS

1860 Sutherland Avenue, North Vancouver, BC V7L 4C2 Telephone 604-903-3500 Fax 604-903-3501

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

I would like to welcome everyone back to another academic year at Sutherland! The earlier and earlier sunset reminds all of us that September is fast approaching. A new Grade 8 class will be joining many new students as classes start in approximately one week. Our graduating class of 2011 will be carrying on the outstanding tradition of success we have become accustomed to at Sutherland.

Last year, I mentioned that a number of changes would be the result of budgetary challenges faced by the North Vancouver School District and other districts throughout the Province. One significant change will be in the area of staffing. The following staff members will not be returning to our school in September. Each person contributed greatly to the culture of Sutherland and enriched the lives of our students.

Loveleen Ahluwalia, Jeff Aw-Yong, Lindsay Belfry, David Cadman, Pam Craven, Barbara Crosby, Tristan Crowther, Erin Garcia, Wendy Martin, Dean Moncado, Dhyana Roche, Stephanie Strandt, Sarah Best, Hannah Dohl, Bev Myrtle, Stephanie Norris, and Fred Santos

We have also had a number of retirements. Congratulations to the following for your commitment and dedication to public education.

Bev Cowie, Peter Gorrell, and Heather Lavender

We will be welcoming a few new staff members as well. All of them are experienced staff and bring with them their knowledge and commitment.

Jane Blaiklock – Special Education; Billy Coupland – Physical Education & English; Marice Derrick – Records Clerk; David Gage – Special Education; Susan McKay – Supervision Aide; Jill Nugent – Special Education Assistant; Joselito Reyes – Head Custodian; Roland Schulz – Physics & Jr. Science; Karen Watson – Home Economics; Maureen Whitmell – Secondary Office Assistant

The Administration is still in the process of staffing and there will be a couple of additional teachers hired before the start of the school year. Of particular note will be the hiring of a teacher to take over the Explorer program due to the retirement of Peter Gorrell.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Sara Knapp for her tireless support of the school in her role as PAC Chair for the past number of years. She is very much an advocate for the school within the community and I have appreciated her assistance. Kevin Pike will replace Sara in this role. I would like to thank him for his willingness to take on this responsibility.

Counsellors will be available by appointment only to deal with course changes for our current students. We have a large number of new students who have requested Sutherland and our Counselling Department will be busy ensuring that all of our students have a timetable that allows them to meet their graduation requirements and Post Secondary entrance requirements. An overall reduction in staffing throughout the district means that the ability to adjust schedules or make accommodations for new course requests is severely limited.

One of the small things I appreciate about summer holidays is the opportunity to read. An excellent book that I read this summer and would highly recommend is *Hold on to Your Kids* by Gordon Neufeld and Gabor Maté. It discusses the phenomenon of peer orientation and how vitally important it is to foster the parent and child relationship. The authors' insights are profound and I found them captivating as both a parent and educator.

This will be our only paper version of our school newsletter as we continue to try to reduce our paper usage. Communication from the school is predominately accomplished via the school website, our monthly e-newsletter and social media sites Facebook and Twitter. Please ensure that the office has an up-to-date e-mail address on file so that we may inform you about the school happenings in a timely basis.

See you on September 7th!

John McGowan
Principal

CHANGES TO DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Please notify the Main office at the school regarding any changes to names, addresses, telephone numbers, or emergency contacts. Demographic update sheets are included with this newsletter.



SCHOOL OPENING PROCEDURES

Tuesday, September 7, 2010

GRADE 8's Report to the gymnasium at the north end of the school for an opening assembly at **9:30 am Tuesday, September 7th**. Please bring fee payments, a pen or pencil and some notepaper. Following the assembly students will be directed to homerooms. Prior to school opening, students should note names of their homeroom teachers and homeroom numbers, which will be posted on the front entrance doors.

GRADES 9-12 Report directly to homerooms at 10:30 am. Doors will be open at 10:20 am, but in order to allow adequate time for completion of Grade 8 homerooms, **please do not come earlier**. Homerooms will take approximately **one hour on Tuesday, September 7th**. **Regular full classes** will begin on **Wednesday, September 8th at 8:45 am**.

INFORMATION FOR GRADE 8'S

We would especially like to welcome our new Grade 8 students to Sutherland and would like to reassure them that the office staff, teachers, counsellors and administrators are available to help. Just ask!

Grade 8 students who have errors or problems with their timetable should make an appointment to see their counsellor, Mr. Nielsen. Parents are also encouraged to phone for assistance regarding any concerns for your student.

A GENDA BOOKS



All students will receive an Agenda Book the first week of school. These planners are designed to help students keep track of their assignments, deadlines, homework, daily activities, marks, and appointments. Agenda Books can also be an important communication link between the school and home. A quick glance at the planner and how a student uses it is often a very good indicator of success at school.

The Agenda Book contains other very important information. Included are important study guidelines, which are emphasized by subject teachers, a school calendar, school policies and the Code of Conduct. ***It is important for all students and parents to read these carefully and become familiar with Sutherland's policies and codes.*** Regular and systematic use of the planner is a real key to success, and staff at Sutherland will be working intensively to encourage all students, particularly Grade 8's, to use their planners to improve study habits and achievement. Parents, as well, play a vital role in reinforcing the concepts of time management taught at school.

ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

Regular and punctual attendance is required by all students. In fact, there is a strong correlation between regular, punctual attendance and success at school.

Students who arrive between 8:45 and 9:15 are marked tardy by their teacher. Students arriving after 9:15 report to the main office to get a late slip prior to attending class. Students arriving late and not reporting to the office are marked absent for the period.

Teachers keep track of attendance for their classes on a daily basis and the office enters attendance daily. Our computer system tracks attendance for each period and if a student misses a class, an automated message will be sent that day.

We ask parents to please call the school (604-903-3500) the night before or in the morning to leave a message on the voice mail or with the secretaries in the office to let us know about any excused absences. As well as a call to the office, individual teachers may require students to bring a note indicating the reason for absence.

When students need to be excused from school early on a regular school day, they should bring a note to the main office **before** school begins.

PHOTO RELEASE PERMISSION REQUEST

Please read carefully the attached form authorizing the disclosure of students' personal information, including yearbook and composite photos, programs, newsletters, or in the news media. **This form must be completed and returned** for each student in September.

EMERGENCY STUDENT RELEASE PROCEDURES

You will find enclosed a new Emergency Student Release Procedures letter and form which will need to be completed and returned as soon as possible. Please read this information carefully with your family.

TEXTBOOKS are distributed in most classes and students are responsible for their safekeeping. **At the end of the semester, students will be assessed for any lost or damaged book.** Remember, textbooks are expensive, often over \$70, so look after them!



YEARBOOK



After their very successful 2009-2010 production, Sutherland's Yearbook class will again help produce this year's yearbook.

We suggest that you order yours at the earliest, lowest price. **The initial price is \$40** but the price will rise as the year passes. The yearbook will cost **\$45 after September 30, until December 31, when it will then increase to \$50. (Late purchases will depend on their availability.)** Buying early not only saves you money, but it helps the yearbook staff with their overall planning. **Buy your yearbook now!**

LOCKERS



During Tuesday's homeroom period, teachers will collect supplementary fees and assign lockers. Students are reminded **not to share their lock combination with anyone and not to keep valuables in their locker.** If there is a need to bring a valuable item to school, students should leave it for safekeeping in the main office.

Some lockers are available for use during gym classes but these are not very secure. See your gym teacher about the rental of locker space and **do not leave anything of value in those lockers or lying in the change room.**

BE MINDFUL OF THE NEIGHBOURS!



Sutherland students enjoy an excellent reputation with our neighbours. They have achieved that reputation because the vast majority

of students here are polite, respectful and cooperative. In order to maintain that reputation, students are reminded not to gather on the neighbours' property. ***Please don't leave any garbage around when walking through the neighbourhood and don't gather on the street.***

SUTHERLAND IS SMOKE FREE



The North Vancouver School District policy has designated school buildings and property as smoke free areas. As Sutherland staff and PAC strongly discourages student smoking, no students will be permitted to smoke anywhere within a two-block radius of the school.

SAFE & CARING SCHOOLS

Several years ago hazing of our incoming Grade 8's became a concern. While some of our older students view this initial rite as an amusing way to make new students feel part of Sutherland, many new students view it as frightening. In fact, most of the hazing rituals are nothing more than bullying, intimidation and belittling of our incoming Grade 8's who are already feeling quite intimidated by the big, new high school.

It is unacceptable for our new students to be welcomed to high school in this manner. **NO FORM OF HAZING WILL BE TOLERATED AT SUTHERLAND.** Any student who chooses to be involved will be subject to suspension and loss of privileges during the year.

We are asking for parental support to review this policy with your son or daughter and remind them at home not to get involved in any initiation process at school or in the community.

A number of positive activities are organized in September to welcome Grade 8's. A group of older student leaders work to plan ways to include the new students in our Sutherland community in a positive, welcoming manner.



SCHOOL PHOTOS

All student photographs will be taken on **Tuesday, September 21st.** Student

I.D. cards/ GO cards will be supplied to each student at no charge. In addition, the photos are used for the school yearbook so it is vital for each student to be present on photo day. The purchase of colour photo packs is optional. **Please note, cheques should be made out to the photography company, Artona.**

RETAKES are scheduled for **Thursday, October 21st.**

SUPPLIES



Grade 8's are often very keen to buy supplies for the school year and the process may be a different one from their elementary schools. To be prepared for the new year, include a supply of these basic items:

- 3 ring binders
- 3 hole lined paper
- 3 hole dividers
- several pens and pencils
- an eraser and ruler
- a calculator for math

Teachers may have specific requirements for their courses, but wait until you get those requests before shopping.

TIMETABLE CHANGES

To the best of our ability, Sutherland is committed to providing all students with the courses they desire. When we build the school schedule, we provide class options based on course decisions students made in the spring. However, class size limitations and restrictions in the structure of the timetable may make it impossible to provide every student with all his or her choices.

All requests for course changes will be done in the following priority:

1. New students
2. Incomplete schedules for all grades
3. Timetable conflicts
4. Reprogramming of failures
5. Requests for changes



Any student request for changes in course selections will be considered **only** after all other problems have been solved. **Students should not submit any requests for course changes until Monday, September 13th.** In the meantime, students are required to attend and work in all classes listed on their timetable until a counsellor has made an official change and a new timetable has been produced. Changes will be made only if class size permits.

SynerVoice CALLBACK



Sutherland has implemented a computerized student absence reporting system that automatically telephones student homes to notify parents/guardians of unverified student absences from classes that day. It remains important for parents to phone the school prior to, or the day of, the absence to make the school aware of excused absences, at 604-903-3500.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



Students in all grades, especially Grade 8's, are encouraged to become involved in extra-curricular activities. For information about meetings, practices, etc., students should listen to daily announcements and check the bulletin boards. Fall sports will begin in the first two weeks of school and may include: Girls' Volleyball, Girls' Field Hockey, Junior and Senior Boys' Soccer, Cross Country and Bantam Boys' Rugby.



SPECIAL THANKS to parents and community members who volunteered to help coach teams, make phone calls, distribute grad gowns, and work on P.A.C.

FEES



Enclosed, you will find **two** Student Invoice copies describing fees owed for your child this year (as well as any outstanding fees/credits from previous years). Please fill in the information at the bottom and return one copy, along with a cheque made out to Sutherland School, to the homeroom teacher during the first week of school. Keep one copy of the invoice for your records.

In addition to the standard **\$40.00 student activity fee and \$35.00 grad fee for grade 12's**, there are course fees for consumable supplies in the elective courses as outlined in the Course Selection Booklet.

You will notice that an optional **Parent Advisory Council donation** is included in your invoice. Please consider including a donation of \$5, \$10, or \$20 to your fee invoice. Your financial assistance contributes greatly to the programs and initiatives your PAC supports at the school.

Any families who will be experiencing financial hardship in paying these fees in September should contact the school regarding their concerns.

For a detailed list of fees, go to the website: nvsd44.bc.ca/Schoolsites/Sutherland.aspx

COURSE FEES

Listed below are the fees for specific elective courses that have been approved by the School Board.

Art 8	5.00
Visual Arts 10: General	10.00
Photography 11/12	45.00
Digital Media Development 11, 12	10.00
Studio Arts 11, 12 Drawing & Painting	15.00
Studio Arts 11, 12 Printmaking & Graphic Des.	15.00
Art Foundations 11, 12	15.00
Tourism 11	70.00
Home Economics 8	30.00
Textile Studies 10, 11, 12	25.00
Textile Arts & Crafts 10, 11, 12	25.00
Home Economics 10: Foods	25.00
Foods Studies 11/12	30.00
Peer Counselling 12	70.00
Music (Jazz, Concert Bands & Choir)	20.00
PE 8, 9	10.00
PE 10	15.00
PE 11, 12	30.00
PE Conditioning 11, 12	15.00
Social Studies Explore	90.00
Technology Education 8	15.00
Technology Education 10: Woodwork	20.00
Carpentry & Joinery 11, 12	20.00
Technology Education 10: Art Metal	18.00
Art Metal 11, 12	20.00
Technology Education 10: Electronics	20.00
Electronics 11, 12	20.00
Drafting & Design 10	10.00
Drafting & Design 11, 12	15.00