

March 2009 Volume 3 Issue 7

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North Van Pac: [www.nvsd44.bc.ca/AboutUs/NVPAC.aspx](http://www.nvsd44.bc.ca/AboutUs/NVPAC.aspx)

## North Vancouver Parent Advisory Council

### NVPAC Newsbytes

I left the the last NVPAC general meeting pretty excited about the future of my kids in North Van Schools. At the meeting we heard presentations from Montroyal Elementary, Keith Lynn and Windsor House about the "unsung" programs in their schools. Thank you to the parents from these schools for taking the time to share their experiences with us.

Hearing about KLASS and Windsor House really opened my eyes to the variety of opportunities available to students in North Vancouver Schools to ensure they get the support and the options they need, not just in specific enrichment programs but in how they can relate to their peers, their teachers and manage their own education. I loved hearing about the support given to students at KLASS by teachers and fellow students alike. I loved hearing about Windsor House and the how it gives students the opportunity to self-direct and self-manage their education, for students to choose the areas of enrichment they want together. These are great schools and great programs that fill some valuable needs for students in our community.

[Keith Lynn](#)  
[Windsor House](#)

But most exciting to me, was hearing about Montroyal Elementary. They have taken the idea of a Global Learner Program and turned it into a school-wide initiative to connect students to each other and involve the community and parents in elementary education. I hear about students working together across grades, about school plays, concerts and art shows at schools throughout the district and it was great to hear how Montroyal have pulled this together using the themes of the Global Learner Program in a way that gets everyone (students, staff, teachers and parents) involved and keeps them energized. It was great to hear about this wonderful example of the many things that make North Van Schools an invigorating experience for our students.

[Montroyal - Global Learner Program](#)

I know we have more of these exciting programs in the district, please continue to send us your stories of what "unsung" programs make your schools special.

Send in your suggestions and we'll share them here in the Newsbytes  
*David Whitehead, Newsbytes editor 2008/9*

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## **Upcoming Public Meetings**

### **Special NVPAC Meeting re: BCCPAC leadership review**

- March 5th, 7pm - Leo Marshal Curriculum Center
- DPAC Reps and PAC Chairs or their reps are invited to a special information meeting, focusing on BCCPAC issues relating to the Victoria DPAC's call for an extraordinary general meeting to remove Director Broda from the Board of Directors pursuant to Section 5.22 of the BCCPAC Bylaws. Any PACs that are member of BCCPAC that are interested in participating in the call for an extraordinary general meeting are asked to come and get further information on this process and the circumstances that have led to this call. A separate email has been sent to PAC Chairs and DPAC reps with some additional background on this topic. If any PACs are intending to submit a request to BCCPAC calling for the Extraordinary General Meeting, please note that the paperwork needs to be sent by Registered Mail to the BCCPAC office. If desired, NVPAC would be willing to receive these requests from your PAC and send them on your behalf to BCCPAC. Please reply ASAP if you intend to participate in our March 5th NVPAC Executive Meeting on this topic by email to [chair@northvanpac.org](mailto:chair@northvanpac.org)

### **Next NVPAC General Meeting**

- March 26, 2009: 7pm - location TBD
  - Committee Reports: hear from parent representatives to District Committees about the work that is ongoing on at the District level throughout the school system. We are in urgent need of more parent volunteers to take on positions of responsibility working with NVPAC to represent parents at the district level.

Previous Meeting Minutes: [www.nvsd44.bc.ca/AboutUs/NVPAC/Minutes.aspx](http://www.nvsd44.bc.ca/AboutUs/NVPAC/Minutes.aspx)

### **Public Board Meetings**

[http://www.nvsd44.bc.ca/Trustees/Meetings/2008\\_2009%20Meetings.aspx](http://www.nvsd44.bc.ca/Trustees/Meetings/2008_2009%20Meetings.aspx)

#### ***NVSD44 Public Board of Education Meeting***

- March 10th, 7pm - School Board Office

Agenda items posted on website on the Friday before the meeting. A public question period related to agenda items is available at the beginning and at the end of each Public Board Meeting.

## **NVSD44 Finance and Facilities Standing Committee**

- April 7 - School Board Office

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Social Emotional Learning Programs Workshop**

- Mar12, 6:30pm - Carson Graham Secondary School

Social and emotional learning programs significantly improve students' academic performance.

This workshop for Parents and Caregivers features Dr. Shelley Hymel, Professor of Educational Psychology at UBC.

Research into the social and emotional development of children and adolescents shows that social and emotional learning programs significantly improve students' academic performance. . . .students have significantly better attendance records; their classroom behavior is more constructive and less often disruptive; they like school more; and they have better grade point averages.

Please attend this workshop to find out more about the benefits of social and emotional learning programs.

Advance registration required, for more information or to register: Call Karen Bishop  
604-903-4622

<http://www.nvsd44.bc.ca/~media/7FE7B96271B146F99F1199573571222C.ashx>

### **"The Boys Inside": An Autism and Asperger's Community Project**

- March 12th, 7pm - Sutherland Secondary School

Six youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) will share their personal stories with audiences following a screening of the film "The Boy Inside"

<http://www.nvsd44.bc.ca/sitecore/content/Headlines/AutismFilm.aspx>

The documentary "The Boy Inside" depicts how Adam's struggle with Asperger's Syndrome is shared by his entire family: his sister, father and mother. Adam's mother refuses to accept a lonely future for her son and constantly searches for solutions. Eventually she realizes that instead of trying to change her son, the solution lies in educating the people around him to be more accepting. The film has received significant attention and won numerous international awards. It was recently adapted by the BC Ministry of Children and Families and the BC Ministry of Education to be shown to high school students.

For reservations for the North Vancouver event contact Stella Crofts by email: [aspires@live.ca](mailto:aspires@live.ca)

## **Band and Strings Information Meeting**

March 30th, 7pm at Boundary School

Band and Strings 2009/10 registration runs April 6th-May 12th. Please pick up the forms at your school office

The Band and Strings Association needs your help! We need one or two reps from each school to attend our March meeting-March 30th 7pm at Boundary School. We are asking each elementary school to send a band or strings parent to this meeting to find out about this amazing program. Support Band and Strings Students!!

## **Argyle's Himalayan Evening**

- March 10th, 6pm - Argyle Secondary School

Enjoy Nepalese and Tibetan Crafts, a home cooked Nepalese Meal, a cup of chai in support our sister school in Kathmandu.

Come hear Kevin Vallely; one of the three Canadians who have just completed the world's fastest self-powered treks to the South Pole talk about his adventures, past, present and future.

Hosted by the Argyle Global Connections Club

Tickets are \$15 adults, \$10 for children. To Reserve Tickets please email Mr. B Sheffield:

[bsheffield@nvsd44.bc.ca](mailto:bsheffield@nvsd44.bc.ca)

<http://www.nvsd44.bc.ca/SchoolSites/Argyle/News/Himalayan%20Night%20at%20Argyle.aspx>

## **Windsorfest**

Hold the date! The Windsor Family of Schools presents its first open house on May 14th from 5-8pm. This is an open house for Windsor Secondary and a community event with all the feeder schools (Blueridge, Seymour Heights, Lynnmour, Plymouth, Dorothy Lynas, and Sherwood Park). Come and see all the amazing programs, sports and elective options that Windsor has to offer! Tour the building and check out featured performances on the "main stage". Kids of all ages! Come to the Children's Carnival hosted by the Windsor Elementary Feeder Schools (games, food and fun!)

## **NVPAC Events Calendar**

[North Van PAC Public Events Calendar](#)

If you would like your event added to the calendar please forward it to [Newsbytes@northvanpac.org](mailto:Newsbytes@northvanpac.org)

## **Meeting Reports**

### **No calendar changes for Vancouver 2010 Olympics**

After extensive consultation, at the Feb. 24th board meeting the Board of Education decided continue with the standard school calendar for 2009/2010 rather than make special arrangements to accomodate the Olympics. [Board of Education decision on the 2009/2010 school calendar](#)

### **NVPAC Representation on District Committes**

NVPAC has representatives on many School District committees providing parent perspective on issues that impact North Van schools and we are constantly looking for more parents to help ensure the District meets the needs of parents.

Here are some examples of committees where we have parent representatives actively participating:

- District Budget Tier Working Groups
- Sustaining Schools Working Committee
- Emergency Closures (weather events) Committee
- Kindergarten Information Committee
- Communications Committee
- and many others including Policy Review, Education Week Planning, Safe & Caring Schools, French Planning, School Library Advisory, Healthy Schools Advisory, etc

If you would like to know more about these or any other district committee or working group opportunities, please attend our Thursday, March 26th NVPAC meeting where we will report out on our committee involvement and identify needs for additional parent representation. Or to volunteer please contact: <mailto:chair@northvanpac.org>

## **Scholarships**

### **City of North Vancouver Youth Centennial Scholarship – APPLICATION DEADLINE March 31st**

<http://www.cnv.org/YouthScholarship>

In April 2008, North Vancouver City Council endorsed a new Youth Centennial Scholarship Program in Perpetuity. The program is administered by The North Shore Community Foundation

on behalf of the City. The program provides annual scholarships (\$1,000) to youth who have demonstrated outstanding community service and who are pursuing post-secondary education.

#### Criteria

- Applicant must be in Grade 12 and eligible to graduate (within the year of application) from any secondary school;
- Applicant must have a satisfactory Grade Point Average;
- Applicant must have the intention to pursue secondary education and/or training: Proof of full-time registration in a post-secondary institution or training school will be required before any money is disbursed to the student's credit at the school;
- Applicant, who is not a resident of the City of North Vancouver, must demonstrate outstanding community service in the City of North Vancouver (more than 30 hours);
- Applicant, who is a resident of the City of North Vancouver, must demonstrate outstanding community service in the City of North Vancouver or elsewhere (more than 30 hours);
- Financial need is a relevant factor;
- Individual achievement(s) will be taken into consideration including, but not limited to, arts/athletics/academics and overcoming adversity; and
- The successful applicant must provide proof of full-time registration within the second year after the awarding of the scholarship.

#### **BC Innovation Council Scholarships**

BCIC encourages students to explore the world of science and technology and to choose to further their education in B.C.'s post-secondary institutions. BCIC offers scholarships to innovative high school students to encourage their enrollment in undergraduate science and technology programs at B.C.'s post-secondary institutions; and it supports entrepreneurship education for science, technology and business undergraduate students.

#### Scholarships Include:

- BCIC Young Innovator Scholarship
- TRIUMF High School Fellowship
- Science Achievement Award
- BCIC Regional Science Fair Awards

For more information see: <http://www.bcic.ca/students/schools-k-12/scholarships-awards>

## **Items of Interest**

### **PMC-Sierra Science Fair Fun Run**

BCIC is working with the Science Fair Foundation to support and promote the PMC Science Fair Fun Run that raises money to support science fair students in the province.

<http://www.sciencefairs.ca/funrun/>

### **Reminders from previous issues**

#### ***NVPAC Speakers Grants***

NVPAC has approved 10 Parent Education Grants for PACS for 2008/9. These grants are \$150 each and can be used to help pay for the cost of providing useful and relevant information to your school community.

Your school PAC chair or Treasurer must apply to NVPAC for the grants with details of when and what you would like to spend the money on. Once your PAC has been approved to receive the grant, simply send in a copy of your final costs for the event or purchase and we will send you a cheque for \$150.

You may apply in advance for events that are scheduled later in the year, but your event or purchase must take place before the end of June 2009.

Grants will be awarded on a first come – first served basis throughout the year until the \$1,500 Grant Fund is fully committed.

Please send the details to NVPAC Treasurer Karen Stewart by email at [treasurer@northvanpac.org](mailto:treasurer@northvanpac.org) or fax to 604-983-0357.

#### ***NVPAC Family of Schools Grants***

NVPAC has instituted Family of Schools Grants. These grants are \$200 each and can be used to help pay for the cost of an event planned to promote community between each secondary school and their feeder elementary schools.

If your school has an idea that you think falls within the parameters of this grant, please send the details to NVPAC Treasurer Karen Stewart by email at [treasurer@northvanpac.org](mailto:treasurer@northvanpac.org) .

#### ***Email List and PAC communication Problems***

To unsubscribe from this list or otherwise update your contact info with NVPAC please reply to this email at [Newsbytes@northvanpac.org](mailto:Newsbytes@northvanpac.org) or send an email to [registrar@northvanpac.org](mailto:registrar@northvanpac.org)