



**NORTH VANCOUVER  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

*the natural place to learn*

[www.nvsd44.bc.ca](http://www.nvsd44.bc.ca)

# Community Report Spring 2008



Amanda  
Tutschek,  
Grade 7,  
Montroyal  
Elementary

17,000 students,

2,300

2,300 teachers, support staff and administrators,

28

28 elementary schools, 7 secondary schools,

2

2 alternate schools & an outdoor education centre

& together creating

“the natural place to learn”



3 source: British Columbia Ministry of Education Graduation Program Optional Examinations: Course and Exam Results Grade 12 (2006/07) North Vancouver: 044

2 The 2006 Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) is a survey of reading literacy conducted by the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA) of students in grade 4. Forty countries participated in the 2006 survey.

1 PISA is administered by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development every three years. In 2006, 15-year-olds in 57 countries and 10 Canadian provinces participated.

# the natural place to learn

*The purpose of North Vancouver Public Schools is to promote academic, social, and personal development for all learners, to honour diversity, encourage equity, and practise democratic governance.*



## MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

It's no wonder we recognize North Vancouver as **"the natural place to learn"**—our schools have a history of incorporating our remarkable environment into a dynamic curriculum.

The North Vancouver School District is part of an education system in British Columbia that consistently performs as one of the finest in the world! The results of the 2006 Programme for International Student Assessment<sup>1</sup> (PISA) on science, mathematics and reading indicate that Grade 10 students in British Columbia were in the top-performing range worldwide, with only Finland scoring significantly better in the science category. In reading, only Finland and Korea were above British Columbia's range, while in mathematics, only five jurisdictions (out of 57 measured) worldwide were above our province's assessment. A second international assessment, Progress in International Reading Literacy Study<sup>2</sup> (PIRLS) underscores our literacy levels, with the 2006 PIRLS results crediting British Columbia's students with one of the highest literacy rates in the world.

That said, our contribution to the province's rankings is certainly a positive one as North Vancouver students perform consistently above the provincial average in all core categories.<sup>3</sup>

One hundred and twenty-two of our 2006/07 Grade 12 graduates were recognized for excellence in achievement in the British Columbia Provincial Scholarship Examinations. Another 81 of our 2006/07 graduates were recognized for excellence in achievement as North Vancouver School District scholarship winners.

Another indicator of excellence is the expertise of our teachers. Many of our teachers have actively engaged in the development of instructional practices within the framework of our school district's Instructional Institute. We are particularly proud to see the North Vancouver School District continue to serve as a provincial leader in curriculum development.

We believe in being transparent and accountable for our decisions, our instruction and our role in the growth and development of young citizens. We strive to develop and implement programs that deliver to the benefit of all, and to each individual student in a way that recognizes their unique abilities, interests and potential. In this report, we are pleased to highlight many of our programs of choice, and specialty programs, all of which contribute to "the natural place to learn."

Sincerely,

**John Lewis**  
Superintendent of Schools  
North Vancouver  
School District #44



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

As a District, our accomplishments, whether they are new buildings or new programs, accelerate choices for students and parents and improve the quality of programs available. Over the past year we have:

- **Launched** the North Vancouver Distributed Learning School to offer select online secondary school courses; and
- **Honoured** Jack Loucks, former Mayor of the City of North Vancouver, by dedicating the library at Westview Elementary in his name.
- **Rebuilt** and opened two schools: Westview Elementary and Sutherland Secondary as exceptional examples of the future of North Vancouver schools;
- **Begun replacement** of Highlands Elementary and planning for the restoration of Ridgeway Elementary;
- **Received** a \$1 million grant from the North Shore Credit Union towards upgrading the facilities at the North Vancouver Outdoor School;
- **Committed** to a future of expanded programs of choice and specialized programs, including the Hockey Academy at Windsor Secondary, a pilot High Performance Program, and an International Baccalaureate (IB) program at Balmoral Junior Secondary and Carson Graham Secondary;
- **Expanded** French Immersion in the school district with its introduction at Windsor Secondary in 2009;

For these successes, and the strength of our core subject areas, the Trustees and I thank all our staff, volunteer parents, and community for your support of the students of the North Vancouver School District. I would also like to sincerely thank our senior administrative team. While the Board of Education Trustees provide direction and leadership in our School District, it is this team and their hard work that provide the necessary leadership to make all our accomplishments possible.

I look forward to seeing you at many of the special events and activities showcased in the District's "Education Week" between March 10 and 14, 2008. In the meantime, I thank you for your continued involvement and support of public education.

Sincerely,

**Chris Dorais**  
Chairperson  
North Vancouver  
Board of Education

# focus on...

## 1 NEW PROGRAM INITIATIVES

We recognize that our students face a myriad of choices for their future directions. We are committed to introducing new educational initiatives to support the success of our diverse student population.

In the years ahead, the North Vancouver School District will be introducing a variety of new programs to provide enriching and varied opportunities for students and to maximize the enrolment capacity of our schools. Current programs of choice range from career training to specialty academics. Many new program proposals are under review through our Sustaining Schools Working Committee.

## 2 ABORIGINAL ENHANCEMENT AGREEMENT

In June 2006, the NVSD, representatives of the Squamish and Tseil-Waututh Nations and Non-Affiliated First Nations signed a historic agreement—

- 1 To improve academic achievement of aboriginal students
- 2 To improve school completion and Dogwood Graduation rates for aboriginal students
- 3 To improve aboriginal students' sense of belonging in the public school system by honoring and supporting the history, traditions and culture of those first nations communities whose traditional territories are served by the North Vancouver School District.

Since signing the "Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement," activities have flourished throughout the District and almost every school has established a goal to promote First Nations cultural awareness. A "Celebration of the Family" event on November 8, 2007 sponsored by the Aboriginal Advisory Council partnering with the two nations and hosted by the Squamish Nation was attended by over 400 guests.

The carving program at Carson Graham Secondary continues to thrive. Under the direction of master carver Darren Yelton, Carson Graham students carved the Welcome Figure that now stands outside the new Westview School. This year, four cedar logs from the 2007 winter storm that ravaged Vancouver's Stanley Park will be carved into four distinct totems, including a welcome figure to be returned to Stanley Park. (Learn more at [www.carsongraham.com](http://www.carsongraham.com)).

Our efforts to improve First Nations academic achievement are well underway. Twelve First Nations support workers work with students and collaborate

with school principals on curriculum development and First Nations programs of choice.

In less than two years, we have seen greatly improved attendance amongst aboriginal youth. We hope that this, alongside their growing sense of belonging, influences improved retention and graduation rates for these students.

We're also pleased to present, from **March 11-14, 2008**, a collection of First Nations student art on display at the Leo Marshall Curriculum Centre.



All smiles at Outdoor School

## 3 THE NORTH VANCOUVER OUTDOOR SCHOOL

Part of North Shore history since 1969, the North Vancouver Outdoor School offers students a chance to participate in experiential outdoor environmental education in Brackendale, BC. Many of today's young participants are "second generation"—their parents were among the first students through the program.

Designed to foster lifelong environmental stewardship and community leadership, this award-winning program provides hands-on environmental education programming as well as natural and cultural history programs for students of all ages, including the many community groups that use the facility for their own conferences, seminars and workshops.

This year, the Outdoor School will begin down the path to a significant enhancement: design is underway for the North Shore

Credit Union Environmental Learning Centre to support and prepare students for their role in creating an environmentally sustainable future.

## 4 LITERACY

The North Vancouver School District is recognized throughout the province as a leader in the development of instructional programs, resources and initiatives aimed at improving the literacy rates of students.

Our **Firm Foundations** program, to develop early literacy skills and reading readiness in our youngest learners, is now widely used in Kindergarten classrooms across the school district.

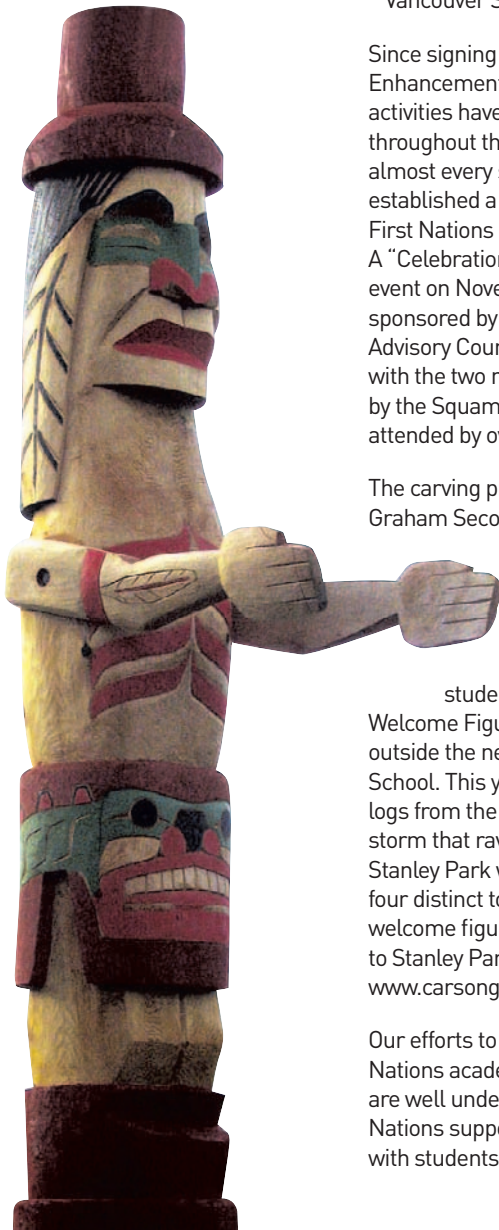
This past fall, we published a new oral language resource called **Our Turn to Talk**. This program is aimed at providing ideas and activities to early primary and ESL teachers.

The **Reading 44** program has been widely used throughout the school district and our province for nearly a decade. **Reading 44** provides teachers with a framework for a balanced reading program and offers them ideas and activities for the instruction of twelve key reading strategies.





In September 2007, we launched our new **Writing 44** document for intermediate students. **Primary Writing 44** and **Secondary Writing 44** are currently being piloted for publication in the fall of 2008.

As part of the BC Ministry of Education's **Read Now BC** initiative, the North Vancouver School District Literacy Committee is currently developing, in consultation with community organizations, a District Literacy Plan.

The North Vancouver School District is also a key stakeholder in the North Shore Community Literacy Plan Task Group. This Task Group is planning a regional vision that will span literacy programs from early childhood to adulthood.





march 2008						A sampling of NVSD events in Education Week. For more activities, please visit your school's website or <a href="http://www.nvsd44.bc.ca">www.nvsd44.bc.ca</a>		1					
2	3		5		7	8	Sutherland Secondary Open House 1-3pm						
	9	Trustee Reception Artists for Kids Gallery LMCC*	10	NVSD First Nations Student Art Display March 11-14 LMCC*	11	12	Artists for Kids Launch of print by Kenojuak Artists for Kids Gallery, LMCC*						
13	14	15	spring break			16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
Easter Sunday	St. Patrick's Day	Easter Monday	spring break			23	24	25	26	27	28	29	Good Friday
30	31	Schools Reopen								*LMCC The Leo Marshall Curriculum Centre is located at 810 West 21st St., North Vancouver			

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## 5 A NEW TRAINING PROGRAM OF CHOICE

For Grade 12 students who've chosen a career in cosmetology, a new career training program will be available in the NVSD beginning in September of 2008. In addition to the programs already offered in the District (Automotive Service Technician and Culinary Arts), we will now have a satellite campus for Vancouver Community College's Hair Design program. Students in both Hair Design and Automotive Technician programs receive dual credit—earning both a post secondary training certificate and a high school diploma upon completing their 10 months of study.

For more information, go to the NVSD website, [www.nvsd44.bc.ca](http://www.nvsd44.bc.ca) » Programs » Career and Industry Training Programs.



North Vancouver elementary school honour band students wait for their turn to play with the VSO at Centennial Theatre.

## 6 BAND AND STRINGS

Nine years ago, the North Vancouver School District's Band and Strings program formed a partnership with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra (VSO) to enhance the learning experiences of our music students. As part of this mentoring program, Honour Band and Strings students have the opportunity to rehearse and perform with the VSO. We're proud to continue this long-standing mentorship, as the only school district in the province to have such a partnership with our venerable symphony. This year, our high school honour band will perform with the VSO in a

concert scheduled for **April 30, 2008** at Centennial Theatre.

A second musical tradition in our district is the annual North Vancouver Elementary Band and Strings Festival. This year's Festival will be held at the Lucas Centre on **April 10 and 11**.

## 7 FRENCH IMMERSION

French Immersion continues to be a popular program of choice in the North Vancouver School District. There are currently over 2000 students enrolled in the program K-12. Interest in Early (Kindergarten or Grade 1) and Late (Grade 6) French Immersion remains strong and plans are currently underway for the expansion of both programs in order to improve access for students.

The School District plans to expand the Late French Immersion program in September 2008. Currently, there is one Late French Immersion program offered at Ecole Braemar Elementary School. Sufficient enrolment of students in the 2008-09 school year will enable the introduction of the program at Boundary Elementary School and at an elementary school in the Windsor and Seycove families of schools.

The School District will also establish a new French Immersion program at Windsor Secondary beginning in 2009.



Balmoral Junior Secondary's Open House on January 26, 2008.

## 8 INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

On December 11, 2007, Balmoral Junior Secondary received official designation from the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) as an IB Candidate School for the Middle Years Programme. Following

this coveted designation, Balmoral staff have received full access to all the curricular support, materials and resources needed to introduce the program. As a result, teachers can now collaborate with colleagues around the world as they introduce this challenging comprehensive program dedicated to developing responsible, globally minded students.

Meanwhile, Carson Graham Secondary is pursuing the first stage of application for the IB **Diploma Programme**. Carson Graham's successful completion of this rigorous application process with the IBO should see the first group of students begin the **Diploma Programme** in September 2009.

This spring, we hope to announce two sites where the IB **Primary Years Programme** will be implemented, enabling us to offer the full complement of IB programs to students on the North Shore.

## ABOUT THE ART

This community report features several watercolour paintings by primary students enrolled in our Artists for Kids ([www.artists4kids.com](http://www.artists4kids.com)) after school program. The paintings developed from an exploration of lines, sizes and shapes. Students then studied colour theory, chose a primary palette and experimented with variations in colour. The young contributing artists in this report are: Sam Hoar (Larson Elementary); Emma Telford (Dorothy Lynas Elementary); Oliver Kodet (Carisbrooke Elementary); and Oliver Somers (Cleveland Elementary).



"Sam" by Sam Hoar, Grade 2, Larson Elementary

The North Vancouver School District Community Report is produced twice a year by the NVSD #44 with special thanks to: Marcia Garriss; Bryn Roberts; Bill MacDonald; Sandy Shaw; Victor Elderton; Mark LeFroy; Chris Hsiang; Renee Hsiang; Joanne Robertson; Brenda Krause; Yolande Martine, Glenda Robertson and Audrey Van Alstyne. © March 5, 2008