North Vancouver School District
SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

March 11, 2008

1. Sutherland Open House

The new Sutherland Secondary School welcomed over 700 community members through its doors on Saturday, March 8, 2008. Sutherland students provided guided tours of the school and classroom exhibits of photography, math, English, drama, food and nutrition, special education, art, accounting, and textiles. Hallways were lined with displays from Sutherland's student clubs and guests had the opportunity to watch the boys' basketball teams practice in the large gym. In the main floor multi-purpose area, members of the school's senior concert band played a variety of music while a digital media slideshow rotated in the backdrop.

The impact on learning and working in poor and aging facilities is difficult to measure. The new Sutherland School has resulted in a very real and noticeable increase in the pride and enthusiasm of the students and staff at Sutherland Secondary School. It reinforces our commitment to enhancing the education, opportunities, and learning environments for all of our students.

2. Sandra Santarossa Receives Premier's Award for Teaching Excellence

Congratulations to Sandra Santarossa, Teacher-Librarian at Cleveland Elementary School, a recipient of the Premier's Award for Teaching Excellence in the field of literacy. This is the first year of the Premier's Awards, and Ms. Santarossa was one of 20 educators in the province to be recognized in one of 10 categories with this honour. The awards were presented at the Legislature in Victoria on March 3, 2008. The Award winners were later presented to Lieutenant Governor Steven Point at Government House.

The Premier recognized Sandra for the many events and initiatives she undertakes at the school to encourage a love of reading. In addition, her collaboration with Avanti Pictures on the film *WordLoveWorldLove* was recognized for connecting students in Canada and Sri Lanka with a powerful message of compassion and understanding.

Principals, teachers, administrators, superintendents, parents, and trustees submitted over 150 nominations for the Premier's Awards. Sandra's nomination was submitted by a parent, Linda Warner, the mother of three children who have learned from Ms. Santarossa at Cleveland Elementary.

Congratulations to Phil Marshall, Principal at Capilano Elementary School, and Lasse Leslie, the School District's Elementary Band and Strings Coordinator. Both Phil and Lasse were recognized as finalists for the Premier's Award in the category of School Leadership.

3. The 2008 North Vancouver Elementary Science Fair

Almost 60 students participated in the 2008 North Vancouver Elementary Science Fair held at Capilano Mall on March 6, 2008. Coordinated by Diane Ehling, Vice-Principal at Queensbury Elementary School, and Susan Johnston, teacher at Fromme Elementary, the participating young exhibitors, along with their friends and families, were rewarded by Science World with a grand finale demonstration of chemical reactions.

This was an excellent opportunity for our students to share their scientific knowledge with the public. From the feedback we received, we know they responded to many questions with polite and articulate responses.

4. Himalayan Night at Argyle Secondary

As a fundraiser for the Buddha Academy situated in Kathmandu, Nepal, student members of Argyle's "Himalayan Connection" club, supported by teacher Brian Sheffield, hosted the fourth annual "Himalayan Evening" at Argyle Secondary on March 7, 2008. The program included a traditional Nepalese dinner and a presentation of Patrick Morrow's *The Magic Mountain* documentary. The Himalayan craft sale and raffle raised $1,500 to support projects at Argyle's sister school in Nepal. Thanks go to the twenty local businesses that supported and contributed items for the raffle.

Approximately 125 people attended the Himalayan Evening; the event was featured in the *North Shore News* and the *Vancouver Courier*.

5. Intermediate Music Festival

The Intermediate Music Festival at Centennial Theatre on March 4 and 5, 2008 featured two full days of performances including presentations from teachers new to the district as well as those who have participated in the past. This is very encouraging as our new teachers represent the future of music in North Vancouver School District. A *North Shore News* photographer attended the Festival and we look forward to coverage in an upcoming issue of the paper.

Festival coordinators Michele Denny, Blueridge School, and Margaret Inglis, Carisbrooke School, deserve special thanks for their hard work in bringing together this musical showcase. The students and teachers who participated in the Festival are a great credit to the caliber of music programs in our elementary schools. Mark your calendars for next year's Festival; it is scheduled for April 7 and 8, 2009 at Centennial Theatre.

6. 2008 Provincial Curling Championships at Argyle Secondary

It's been said, "the curling heroes of tomorrow were created in the classrooms of today." We were honoured to host 64 of British Columbia's curlers at Argyle Secondary for the 2008 Provincial Curling Championships.

Special thanks go to Janet Dunkin, Argyle School, for coordinating this provincial event. Commendations to all our parents, volunteers and students, particularly those at Argyle Secondary, for your commitment to curling and for providing this enriching experience to our guest athletes.

7. Secondary Athletics' Winter Season

Gerry Karvelis, Coordinator of Athletics for the North Shore Secondary Schools' Athletic Association (NSSSAA), has provided a very comprehensive report on North Shore athletics. He reports that North Vancouver School District teams followed up on their extremely successful fall season with an equally successful winter season. Of the 130 teams participating in NSSSAA basketball, gymnastics, wrestling, skiing and snowboarding, 63 of these teams were from our schools. Less that 50 percent of the teams competing were District 44 schools, yet our schools were NSSSAA champions in 19 out of 20 divisions!

In Gymnastics, after winning the North Shore Championships in both the boys' and girls' divisions, Windsor continued their provincial dominance with yet another provincial championship---their fourth in the past five years! Seycove, meanwhile, also had a very successful year finishing 3rd in BC.

In Ski and Snowboarding, Seycove won three of the four NSSSAA banners in the boys' and girls' divisions.

In Wrestling, Balmoral students were the North Shore Champions in the Grades 8-12 Girls' division as well as the Juvenile Boys' division. Argyle defended their North Shore title at the Senior Boys level. Meanwhile, at the BC Championships, Carson Graham's Girls' finished 1st in BC while Balmoral's girls and Carson Graham's boys teams finished in 2nd place. Overall, Carson Graham finished the competition as the BC Champions.

In Basketball, our North Vancouver secondary schools dominated every division. At the Bantam Boys' level, three of the final four teams were District schools. Windsor defeated Sutherland in a very exciting final and then went on to win the V and D Championship. At the Bantam Girls' level, again, three of the top four teams were ours, with Argyle defeating Seycove in both the NSSSAA and V and D Championships. Both schools also attended the Invitational Provincial tournament with Seycove finishing 3rd and Argyle finishing in 10th place.

At the Juvenile Boys' level, Carson Graham defeated Handsworth in the final while Sutherland defeated Argyle in the 3rd place game. Carson Graham finished in 7th place at the Invitational Provincials while Handsworth finished in 10th place. For the Juvenile Girls', three of the top four teams were North Vancouver schools with Argyle defeating Handsworth in the final. Argyle then went on to finish in third place at the Invitational Provincials.

At the Jr. Boys' and Jr. Girls' levels, three of the top four teams were our schools. The boys' NSSSAA final had Carson defeating Handsworth. Carson Graham later advanced to the Invitational Provincials finishing in 9th place. Handsworth's Junior Girls, meanwhile, avenged their boys' loss by defeating Carson Graham in the NSSSAA Championship. The Handsworth girls then finished a very respectable 4th at the Invitational Provincials.

At the Senior Boys' and Girls' "AA" levels, Windsor's boys and girls were Howe Sound Champions. Windsor's Sr. Boys had a fantastic season defeating numerous "top 10" AAA schools throughout the year and finishing 2nd in BC.

At the AAA level, Argyle's Sr. Boys' were NSSSAA league champions while Handsworth defeated Argyle in their extremely exciting "tie-breaker" Howe Sound final in front of a packed gym at Argyle. Handsworth is participating at the AAA Boys' Provincials later this week.

For the AAA girls, Handsworth finished the season as NSSSAA Champions. Most impressive, however, was the fact that all four North Vancouver schools competing also qualified for the provincial championships. Carson Graham finished in 15th place, Argyle finished in 9th place, Sutherland finished in 8th place, while Handsworth had their best ever finish at the girls' provincials—3rd place. Handsworth students received the "Spirit" Award.

Overall, this was an extremely successful season of athletics for North Vancouver schools, and all indicators suggest that this success will continue, and very likely grow, next year.

8. That Healthy and Pampered Feeling

What increases blood flow, improves bad cholesterol, reduces hypertension, lowers blood platelet clotting, lessens athletic fatigue and improves endurance, makes skin smoother and more moist, and boosts memory, attention span, reaction time, and problem-solving skills? Chocolate!

I would like to take this very special opportunity to thank Trustee Ginny Diebolt for improving our health and pampering our souls at the Trustees' Education Week Reception yesterday afternoon, March 10, 2008. Ginny has turned this annual event into a classy chocolate act. Everyone looks forward to the Reception because she makes us feel very special and welcome. Her loving touches are the heart and chocolate soul of this special event. Thank you, Ginny.