North Vancouver School District
SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

October 24, 2006

1. Caries Free Kids

During the 2005/06 school year, public health dental staff checked all kindergarten students' teeth as part of a province-wide survey aimed at assessing the level of oral health in our communities. In North Vancouver, the survey was conducted under the guidance of Vancouver Coastal Health's Joanne Vestvik, Dental Hygienist, and Jane Addison, Manager of Community and Family Health. The dental health survey took place in conjunction with the annual kindergarten hearing screening. Each child's teeth were visually checked using a flashlight. In North Vancouver School District, 1,060 kindergarten students were screened. A total of 927 students had no visible decay of their teeth. The level of dental disease for students in the School District was 12.5%, well below Vancouver Coastal Health's regional average of 22%.

All of the kindergarten students who were surveyed at the following three school sites had perfect results. Our "caries free kids" were 56 students at Carisbrooke, 27 at Montroyal, and 1 student in the Windsor House Program. Congratulations to these students and their families.

In 2006/07, kindergarten students will be surveyed for the second year. The findings from the provincial surveys will assist in the planning and implementation of programs to promote dental health and prevent dental disease in our school-age population. This brief survey does not replace regular check-ups by a family dentist.

2. Award for Excellence in Public Health

The North Vancouver School District has been presented with the British Columbia Provincial Health Officer's *Award for Excellence in Public Health*. The *Award* recognizes the North Vancouver School District's leadership as the first BC school district to endorse 100% healthy food in school vending machines.

In March 2006, North Vancouver School District issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) to replace existing vending machines with healthy food choices. Ryan Vending was the successful proponent with its vending proposal. All of the new vending machines that were installed under contract with Ryan Vending in District schools this past summer already meet or exceed the 2009 *Guidelines for Food and Beverage Sales in B.C. Schools*. The *Guidelines*, written by the Ministries of Education and Health, have established standards for foods and beverages typically sold in BC schools.

There are ten vending machines currently operating under existing contracts between individual schools and vending companies. As these contracts expire, the machines will be replaced with the new vending machines that meet North Vancouver School District's standard of 100% healthy foods.

The School District's RFP for vending machines was written by Karl Fichter, Manager of Procurement Services. Karl's RFP has set a new standard throughout British Columbia.

Vancouver Coastal Health has used the same Request for Proposal for vending machines located within their organization.

3. CSSE Safety Award

At the BC/Yukon Region of the Canadian Society of Safety Engineering's 2006 Safety Forum and Awards Ceremony on October 18, 2006, North Vancouver School District received an *Achievement Recognition Award* in the category of an organization of over 500+ employees. Gord Kinney, Occupational Health and Safety Manager, accepted the award on behalf of the School District.

North Vancouver School District was recognized for its "model achievement" as a leader in schools' emergency preparedness and planning. Our *Emergency Management Guide for North Shore Schools* was noted as a "well-respected" manual. Both the Provincial Emergency Program (PEP) and the Justice Institute have approved the *Emergency Guide*. The CSSE recognized the School District's safety programs and staff training materials that provide drills and evacuation procedures in the event of fires, severe storms, earthquakes, and violent incidents. Special note was made of the District-wide "Drop, Cover, Hold" drill that was implemented in May 2006.

Several people have assisted over the last couple of years in the development of the School District's safety procedures, guides, and training materials. This is an excellent opportunity to note the contributions of Bernadette Woit, Schools Emergency Planning Coordinator from the North Shore Emergency Management Office, and our School District employees—Liz Bell, Ray Bodnaruk, Robin Brayne, Peter Ewens, Karl Fichter, Steve Garland, Gord Kinney, Sandra Kinnon, Mark Lefroy, Ken Neale, Ian Robertson (retired), and Peter Therrien.

4. An Assessment of Merit: WorkSafeBC

On a further safety issue, the North Vancouver School District has received its 2007 WorkSafeBC (WSBC) Assessment Rate, a premium that the School District pays on its assessable payroll. In 2006, the District's injury rate was slightly higher than the industry average and our annual assessment increased. Through improved safe-work practices, the School District has now moved to a merit assessment and our base rate has dropped significantly. This represents an estimated $130,000 in annual savings to the School District. Our compliments to District staff for making safety an important component of their work.

5. Library Automation Project

The School District's Library Automation Team has successfully completed cataloguing at Lynn Valley and Argyle Schools. The cataloguers are completing the collection at Larson School and then will move to Canyon Heights School. Cataloguing of the Teachers' Professional Library (TPL) at LMCC is in progress and will continue with the District's Media collection. The goal is to have both the TPL and Media collections ready for circulation by Christmas 2006. The Library Automation Team is most appreciative of the support that has been provided to them by the District's Teacher-Librarians.