North Vancouver School District
SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

February 27, 2007

1. District Professional Day – February 23, 2007

On Friday, February 23, 2007, staff, Trustees, and members of the DPAC in North Vancouver School District participated in a District-Wide Professional Development Day. The event, hosted by the North Vancouver Teachers' Association (NVTA) and centered at Carson Graham Secondary School, registered over 800 participants. Alfie Kohn, author and international speaker on human behavior, education and parenting, was the keynote speaker. Mr. Kohn's presentation was well received by the audience. His address was followed by a day-long series of professional development workshops.

Louise Larochelle, the NVTA's Professional Development Chair, and her team of 21 teachers, administrators and support staff, started their organizational task in the spring of 2006. The day's success is due to the contributions of Marilyn Aldworth, Denise Bagshawe, Karen Christoffersen, Leon Cousineau, Paule Desgroseilliers, Colleen Elderton, Shirley Gorrell, Owen Howell, Sandra Kinnon, George Monkman, Wendy Matsubuchi, Pat Nichols, Sandra Singh, Shirley Stearn, Nafi Toure, Beth Triggs, Janis Valli, Linda Watson, Jill Williams, Charlene Wilson, and Lynda Woodhead. In addition to the Pro-D Committee, the staff at Carson Graham provided unlimited support to the event. One of the highlights of the day was the breakfast, snacks, and lunch that were prepared by students and staff in the Carson Graham Chef Training Program.

Our most sincere congratulations and thanks go to Louise and her Pro-D team for a job well done.

2. Science Resource Kits

In response to changes to the Science K-7 Curriculum, the School District initiated a plan of action in 2005 to revise and replace curriculum resource kits that are available on loan to teachers through the Leo Marshall Curriculum Centre. Over the past two years, Gowa Kong, Vice-Principal at Sherwood Elementary School, has worked as Project Leader with a team of 32 teacher-writers, 17 pilot teachers, 4 support staff, and the Science Leadership Team to prepare, pilot, and launch North Vancouver School District's new K-7 Science Resource Kits. The new Kits were launched at in-service presentations in January 2007.

The Science Resource Kits include three topics per grade and six kits per topic. When the project is complete, there will be 24 topics and 144 kits. Each Kit includes an introduction, supplies and materials, resource books, items "to collect ahead of time," curriculum objectives, and a compilation of local, personal, and relevant connections to community resources and websites. It has been a massive undertaking for the staff at LMCC and the Science Leadership Team, but in Gowa's words,

> "Teachers have a renewed interest in teaching science and a curiosity about hands-on, constructivist approaches to science learning. I am very pleased to know that kids are "doing" science rather than reading about science. The more opportunities the students have in elementary years to "play" with science topics, the more opportunities they have to truly understand science concepts and be successful in later high school science programs."

3. Science Fair – Capilano Mall – March 3, 2007

Everyone is invited to attend North Vancouver School District's Science Fair 2007 at Capilano Mall on Saturday, March 3, 2007 at 10:30 a.m. It's a wonderful opportunity to meet our problem solvers and innovators of tomorrow. Students will be showcasing their original science projects. Science World will also be presenting a fun and active Science show.

4. Seycove Hosts BC Gymnastics Championships – March 8 – 10, 2007

Seycove Secondary School is the host site of the BC Secondary School Gymnastics Championships on March 8 through 10, 2007. The Opening Ceremonies will begin with a "March In" at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 8. The Championships will feature two disciplines – Women's and Men's Artistic Gymnastics. Students will compete in floor exercises, high bar, parallel bars, pommel horse, rings, and vault. The public is encouraged to attend. Closing ceremonies will include an Awards Dinner and Dance on Saturday evening at Windsor Secondary School. A schedule of events is posted at http://seycove.ca/frontnotices/final%20schedule%20of%20events.htm

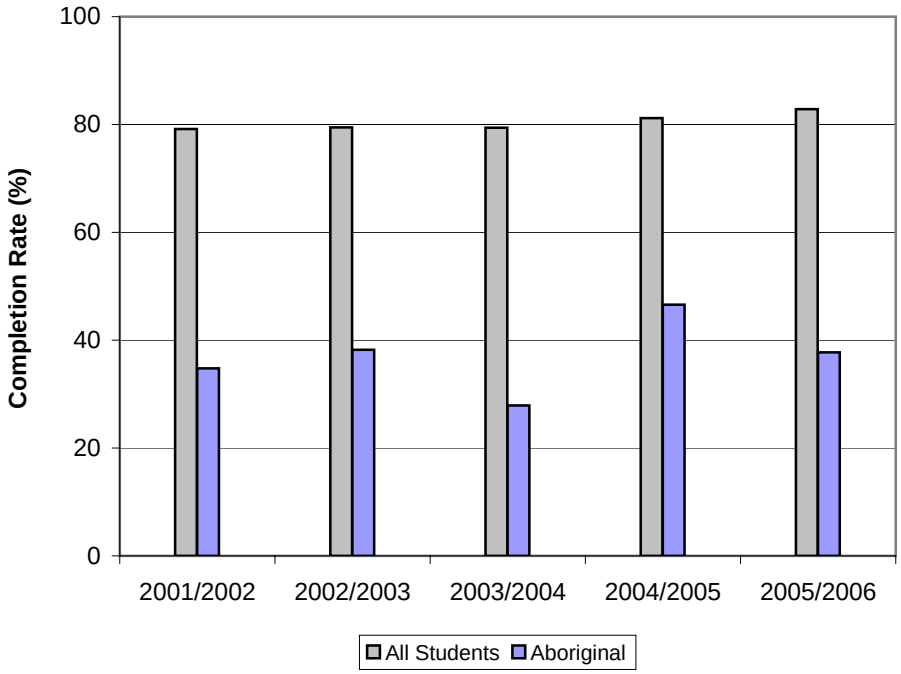
5. Six-Year Dogwood Completion Rate Statistics

The Six-Year Dogwood Completion Rate for 2005/06 for all students in North Vancouver has made steady progress during the past five years and is now at its highest level in the past decade at 83%. The 10-year average Completion Rate is 80.1%. A summary of the Completion Rates is attached.

North Vancouver Student Completion Rates

School District Overview	Completion Rate (%)				
	2001/2002	2002/2003	2003/2004	2004/2005	2005/2006
All Students	79	79	79	81	83
Aboriginal	35	38	28	47	38

Six-Year Dogwood Completion Rate 2001/02 - 2005/06



The Completion Rate calculation includes the percentage of students who graduate within six years from enrolment in Grade 8 and an adjustment for migration in and out of British Columbia.

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The student completion rate for Aboriginal students is subject to fluctuation due to limited enrolment having a significant impact on the rates. Each additional student represents 3.5% By contrast, 13 students represent 1% change in the All Students group.

The 2005/06 completion rate of **38%** for aboriginal students is the second highest level in the past decade. The 10 year average Completion Rate is **29.1%**