

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

June 28, 2005

**1. Canadian Environmental Award Presented to Outdoor School**

Congratulations to North Vancouver Outdoor School, the recipient of the 2005 Silver Medal Canadian Environmental Award for Environmental Learning. The award was presented by the Honourable Stéphane Dion, Canada's Minister of the Environment, in Toronto on June 6, 2005 to Victor Elderton, Principal of Outdoor School.

The Canadian Environment Awards is a national program that recognizes individuals and groups of Canadians who have made outstanding contributions to the protection, restoration, and preservations of the Canadian environment. The Environmental Learning Awards honour individuals/groups who are taking action to communicate environmental knowledge, raising awareness of how natural ecosystems function or developing pedagogical solutions to environmental issues.

**2. Elementary Track and Field 2005**

The North Vancouver Elementary Schools Track and Field program culminated in the annual Elementary District Track Meet held at Swangard Stadium in Burnaby on Tuesday, June 7, 2005. In excess of 800 students participated during the day's meet, with each child receiving a ribbon for his or her efforts. There were a total of 100 track events and 32 field events for Grades 4 to 7 students.

Individual achievements were many as was the achievement of Queensbury Elementary School who was awarded the Team Spirit Award for 2005. The award is given to the school or schools who demonstrate team spirit, school pride, respectful team presence as spectators and competitors and exemplary behaviour throughout the meet.

Recognition was given to the following individuals: Ian Robertson, Norm Haug and Tony Rader. As retiring members of the North Vancouver Elementary Athletic Association, they were recognized for their service and support of track and field in North Vancouver schools. Further appreciation was extended to the 12 retired teachers who offered their time and expertise in support of the track meet.

The track and field season, zone qualification meets, and the final meet are organized with the support of teachers, administrators, aides, and parents in every school. At the final meet at Swangard, teachers, administrators, aides, parents and retired teachers work together as the 70+ officials who are required to run the meet under the direction of Anne Stevenson and the members of the Track and Field Committee: Gary Albright, Larry Amundsen, Heather Duncan, Mary Ferraby, Pat Fong, Peter Humphries, Cary Hungle, John Irlam, Tracey Todd, and Andrew Wiet.

**3. District Scholarships 2004/05**

Our most sincere congratulations to the 2004/05 District Scholarship winners: Chris Apps, Lauren Bryce, Andrea Del Fabbro, Antonio Filangieri, Amanda George-Thomas, Jeremy Grice, Nicolas Janosy, Robert Jollymore, Tabitha Leo, Adam Lupton, Joseph Milroy, Cari Riesco, Erin Robinson, Carissa Van Niekerk, and Carlin Wilkin. District Scholarships are provided to our School District by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Advanced Education.

Michael Mann is the 2004/05 recipient of the Harris & Company Law 12 Scholarship. Michael, a student at Seycove Secondary School, was selected on the basis of his

community involvement and his academic and athletic standings. Cathy Pearce, his school counsellor, speaks highly of Michael's personal conduct and character.

We wish each of our scholarship winners success with their future post-secondary endeavours.

#### **4. Summer Programs 2005**

Sixteen hundred students have registered for *Summer Programs 2005* and we anticipate reaching the 1700 mark by the end of this week. The increase in registrations has precipitated the move to three school sites to accommodate classes: Cleveland, Balmoral, and Handsworth. Six hundred students are registered in elementary programs, 1,000 in secondary, and an additional 100 in our Short-Term International programs.

Karim Hachlaf, Summer Programs Principal, will be overseeing the three school sites and running the 3-week *Review and Completion Programs* at Balmoral. He will be assisted by Brenda Gilby at Cleveland and Patti Mountain at Handsworth schools.

Approximately 30% of the students have utilized the new online registration system. *Summer Programs 2005* course and registration information is available at [www.conted44.com](http://www.conted44.com).

#### **5. Corporate RecCentre Membership**

North Vancouver School District has attained Corporate status with the North Vancouver Recreation Commission. Our thanks to Valerie Atkinson, Charlene Chuma, Sheryl Conway, Trustee Bruce Crowe, Carson Gibbs, Allison Spencer, and Murray White for jogging, swimming, and pedaling forward to sign up as the founding members of the Corporate Team for our School District. As corporate members, School District employees are now entitled to a 15% discount on memberships and access to a variety of health and wellness services.

#### **6. Farewell to the 2004/05 School Year**

The traditional ceremonies of June - graduation, awards, and farewells - have almost concluded. Final exams are over, backpacks overflowing with the year's work arrive home, and the anticipation of a carefree summer is evident in every classroom. Another eventful and successful school year draws to a close

I would like to use the opportunity of a year-end message to thank so many people for their contribution to the creation and fostering of exemplary learning environments and the provision of specialized educational programs and services to our learners.

Working to support our learning environments and the efforts of our students in Kindergarten to Grade 12 programs throughout 2004/05 were 1,279 teachers, 260 Teachers On Call, 99 school administrators, 755 support and management staff, and 137 casual workers - a total of 2530 people in the service of the 18,230 students of North Vancouver.

North Vancouver parents continue to expect much of their schools and in return, continue to give a lot. Our parent volunteers are centre stage and number in the thousands. The contributions our parents make to schools and classrooms, to student success, and to the relevance of programs and services in our schools are enormous and inestimable. The hard work, commitment and selfless dedication of the many parents who support and serve on *37 School Planning Councils* and on *Parent Advisory Councils* have directly influenced the evident and enviable record of scholarship and extra curricular participation rates of our students.

Our skilled and resourceful classroom teachers have consistently created exceptional and challenging learning environments in the 928 classrooms throughout the School District. Our teams of specialist teachers - ESL, Special Education, and Program Support - have contributed highly valued extra learning supports for students and timely and much appreciated consultative assistance and in-service to classroom teachers. The 138 valued employees in our facilities department have gone above and beyond to provide the mechanical and physical upgrades and daily care to keep our schools safe and pleasant places to learn and work.

Our support staff in our 38 schools and 10 District locations possesses an unprecedented range of special skills and needed knowledge to support students' learning and provide administrative assistance. A significant number of our support staff in our schools and in the district office have worked extra long hours through a very challenging changeover in management information systems - payroll, human resources, purchasing - and a full implementation of new and provincially mandated financial accounting and reporting requirements. Our 15 member IT staff continues to build, maintain, and improve our classroom networks and has nearly completed the implementation of the School District's ambitious *Computer Sustainability Plan*, which puts technology into the able hands of all teachers.

The year has been rewarding and very busy for us all. There have been many memorable accomplishments by students (e.g., Academic Achievement, Athletics, Peer Counseling, Career Development, Technology, Social Responsibility, and Tsunami Relief); and striking advances in the development of new and improved educational programs and services to students (e.g., ESL, Kindergarten, Language Development, Early Learning, Aboriginal Education, Autism, Information Technology, Counseling, Mathematics, and Apprenticeships). The larger community acknowledged exemplary efforts of employees during 2004/05 through well-deserved awards of service recognition (e.g. Teacher-Librarianship, Reduction of Energy Consumption and Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Environmental Stewardship, Food Banks, Special Education, and Salmonid Enhancement).

Through the allocation of its resources, the School District affirmed its mission to put learners at the center of its activities. For the second year in a row, the North Vancouver School District spent the highest proportion of its operating budget on instruction (86.3%) compared to any of the other 60 school districts in British Columbia. The operating budget for 2005/06 approved by the Board in May improved service levels to students, programs, and schools by \$2.917 million. The 2005/06 operating budget increased teacher-staffing levels by 23 and support staff levels by 23. The service improvement levels include a \$1.29 million increase in school services; a \$.898 million increase in student and program services; a \$.529 million increase in the operation of facilities; and \$.200 million to enhance administrative and clerical support. These allocations target School District needs and priorities including school libraries and quality learning resources, class size, numeracy/literacy, career education, music and arts programs, and improved services to support students with special learning needs.

Supported by the efforts and imagination of its employees, the encouragement and confidence from parents, and the advocacy of the School Board, the School District will, I believe, continue in 2005/06 to strive to meet expectations, embrace opportunities and face challenges with energy and enthusiasm.

Now that sunnier skies are upon us, may each of you enjoy a well-deserved rest, and find the opportunity to spend more time with family and friends.

Thank you and best wishes.