



# HOME OF THE PIPERS



## ÉCOLE ARGYLE SECONDARY SCHOOL COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

September 27, 2024

### Newsletter at a Glance

Principal's Update .....	2
Upcoming School Dates .....	2
School Information .....	2
School Updates & Upcoming Events .....	4
Piper Pride - What's happening around the school? .....	5
Parent Resources .....	6
PAC Updates .....	6

## Principal's Update

It is hard to believe we have already reached the end of September. This month we have welcomed over 500 new Pipers as we return to the linear system and life at school. We have had an action-packed month with school events, including the grade 8 Cheakamus retreat, Truth and Reconciliation Event, Terry Fox Run and more. Fall athletics, music, drama and film projects are back in full swing, and classes have settled into a fall routine.

Please read on for highlights from this month as well as what to expect coming up in October. We will continue to send out monthly newsletters in the last week of each month and important updates in between to share information about upcoming events.

We hope to meet you in the school soon and please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions.



Laura Ames, Principal

Tim Ireland, Vice Principal

Shahrzad Motaghedi, Vice Principal

## Upcoming School Dates

<b>Wednesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	French Immersion Parent Evening 6:30-7:30pm
<b>Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup></b>	Goal Setting Session 1 – Classes start at 8:45am for all students
<b>Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup></b>	Career Fair 8:30-3:00pm
<b>Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup></b>	Hope U Equity Assemblies – Grades 8-12
<b>Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup></b>	Grade 9 Immunizations
<b>Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup></b>	Fall Athletics team photos
<b>Monday, October 14<sup>th</sup></b>	Thanksgiving Day Schools Closed
<b>Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup></b>	PAC Meeting/ AGM - 7:00pm
<b>Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup></b>	Learning Conferences – early dismissal at 1:15pm
<b>Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup></b>	Early Dismissal at 1:15pm
<b>Monday, October 28<sup>th</sup></b>	Literacy 12 Assessments. Normal classes cancelled for grade 12 students.
<b>Monday, October 28-30<sup>th</sup></b>	Grad Photos – see Grad newsletter for booking info

## School Information

<b>Argyle Contact Info</b>	<a href="#">Contact Info &amp; Map - École Argyle Secondary (sd44.ca)</a>
<b>Daily Schedules &amp; Block Rotation</b>	<a href="#">Daily Schedules - École Argyle Secondary (sd44.ca)</a>
<b>Full Year Calendar</b>	<a href="#">Calendars - École Argyle Secondary (sd44.ca)</a>
<b>Reporting Attendance</b>	<a href="#">Attendance - École Argyle Secondary (sd44.ca)</a>
<b>Argyle Policies</b>	<a href="#">School Policies - École Argyle Secondary (sd44.ca)</a>
<b>Daily Announcements</b>	<a href="#">Daily Announcements - École Argyle Secondary (sd44.ca)</a>
<b>Staff Contact Information</b>	<a href="#">Staff Contacts and Links - École Argyle Secondary (sd44.ca)</a>



## School Fees & Startup Forms

A reminder that all families received an email from the NVSD in early September with instructions on completing the 3 online forms through School Cash Online. If you have not yet done so, please fill these out as soon as possible. If you have any questions about these forms, please call our office at 604-903-3300. These forms do not require any payment. [School Cash Online](#) is simply the platform the school district uses to collect this information. See these [instructions](#) on how to create a School Cash Online account.

School and course fees will be added to School Cash Online accounts in early October.

## Student Attendance

To report an absence please email [argyle\\_attendance@sd44.ca](mailto:argyle_attendance@sd44.ca) and include the following information in the BODY of the email: **Full name of student, Date of Absence, Times of absence.**

If a student is marked absent by a teacher you will receive a phone call and an email notifying you of this absence. If you would like to excuse the absence please reply to the email notification and we can make that change. If the student feels they have been marked absent incorrectly the student needs to speak directly to their teacher.

For planned absences in excess of 5 days please have your student drop by the office for an “extended absence” form that needs to be filled out the week before the absence.

## Personal Digital Devices

In keeping with the Ministry of Education’s new policy, Argyle has moved forward with restricted cell phone use for all students. We are thrilled with the commitment our community has made to this new policy as we limit cell phone use in school.

The North Vancouver School District (NVSD) is focused on “devices off, learning on.” The following guidelines are in place and part of Argyle’s Code of Conduct:

*All students in the school community are expected to leave personal digital devices at home, in their bag/backpack, and/or in their locker during instructional time. Allowances may be made by the staff for instructional purposes, digital literacy, appropriate use based on age and developmental stage, accommodations within a student's Individualized Education Plan, accessibility, medical and health needs, and/or equitable support for learning outcomes.*

Across all NVSD secondary schools, access to and use of personal digital devices is not permitted during instructional time. At the teacher's discretion, an exemption may be made when the use of such devices supports a specific curricular objective and is part of instructional planning. If you have any questions, please contact your child’s case manager.

**If you need to contact your child during the day, please call (604) 903-3300 and a school staff member will deliver a message to them.**

## School Updates & Upcoming Events

### Hope U Anti-Racism Workshops

At Argyle, we are committed to creating a learning environment that values diversity, equity and inclusion. In support of this [school goal](#), this fall we are happy to partner with North shore-based [Hope U](#) to deliver school-wide assemblies and workshops focused on anti-racism and equity.

All students will participate in grade-wide assemblies on Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup> and follow-up workshops will be taking place in English classes throughout October and November. The purpose of these workshops is to create a safe space for students to learn and talk about: racism, bias, privilege, cultural appropriation, and microaggressions and our collective role in creating change through unity.

We are excited to bring this important work to Argyle and continue this learning in classes throughout the year. We thank the Argyle PAC for partnering with us financially to make these learning opportunities possible for all students. You can learn more about Hope U through [this video](#).

### Learning Conferences

Argyle's Learning conferences (parent teacher interviews) are fast approaching on Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. Parents/ guardians will receive an email next week with instructions on how to set up an account to book appointments between 2:30-4:30pm and 6:00-8:00pm. Teachers will be available for five minute interview times per student.

### Goal Setting

This year, we are continuing our school-wide goal setting workshops throughout the year. The first workshop will take place on **Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup>**. Goal setting is a new requirement for all students in the BC 2023 Reporting Order. At Argyle, we coach students throughout the year to set goals, monitor their progress, re-assess their goals and hopefully see tangible results. To support this, we will have an alternate bell schedule on Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup> which involves shortening flex time:

**8:30am – Flex Time**

**8:45am – Period 3 starts**

**9:55am – Period 3 ends – goal-setting workshop**

**10:20am – Break & regular daily schedule resumes**

The next goal-setting sessions will take place on: January 24<sup>th</sup> and April 4<sup>th</sup> with the same bell schedule.



## Breakfast Program

We are now offering a breakfast program for students during flex time 8:30-9:00am. Students can access bagels and fresh fruit daily in the Choices room 183. If your family needs more support for groceries at home, please contact your child's grade administrator.

## Piper Pride - What's happening around the school?

### Cheakamus Retreat

On Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup> our grade 8 students spent the day at the Cheakamus Centre participating in community-building activities supported by 21 staff and our grade 11 leadership students.



### Terry Fox Run

1500 Pipers took to the Lynn Valley streets on Wednesday, September 25<sup>th</sup> to participate in the annual Terry Fox Run. The rain didn't dampen spirits on our 2km route.

Thank you to the Lynn Valley Lions who once again put on a school-wide BBQ after the run.

### Truth and Reconciliation

Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup> is the national day for Truth and Reconciliation. We marked this event at Argyle with a full school assembly on Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup>. During the September 20<sup>th</sup> Pro-D day, staff learned the Coast Salish Anthem.

### Athletics Updates

Fall sports are in full swing with soccer, football, cross country, swimming, field hockey, and volleyball teams practicing and competing. For more information about fall athletics, check out our website [here](#).



## Parent Resources

[BC Ministry of Education and Childcare](#) – provides information about Personal Digital Device restrictions in schools and resources for parents/ guardians

[erase=expect respect](#) – BC Ministry of Education and Childcare student and parent/ guardian resources to support safe schools.



As part this ongoing *erase* strategy, **Safer Schools Together** is offering complimentary student and family sessions for the upcoming school year. Family sessions on “Establishing Safe, caring and respectful Digital Communities” can be found [here](#). These sessions are recommended for Parents/Caregivers/Grandparents and youth aged 10 and up.

**The Anxious Generation** by Jonathan Haidt (book and [website](#)) – describes research linking smartphone use and mental health challenges in teenagers. Haidt offers strategies for parents and educators to limit cell phone use among teens.

## PAC Updates

**Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup> – PAC Meeting and AGM – 7:00pm Argyle Library**

Election for new executive, including chair and secretary. Please [contact the Argyle PAC](#) if you would like more information about these positions.

**Argyle Music Association Samosa Fundraiser**  
September 23rd to October 13th, 2024. Pickup will be on Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at Argyle from 3:30pm to 5pm. All proceeds go to students' personal travel accounts or General AMA funds.

If you have any questions, visit the [AMA website](#) or email [fundraising.ama@gmail.com](mailto:fundraising.ama@gmail.com). Thank you again for your continued support.

