



SUTHERLAND SECONDARY SCHOOL

1860 Sutherland Avenue, North Vancouver, BC V7L 4C2 Telephone: 604-903-3500



June 14, 2024

Dear Sutherland Families,

June is here, and many of our end-of-year events are taking place, as well as earnest planning for next school year already. I'm pleased to provide some updates today as well as some scheduling items of note to our school community.

June is Pride Month, and our Pride Club has done an outstanding job of marking the occasion and reminding everyone of Sutherland's unwavering commitment to creating a safe and accepting environment for all students. June is also National Indigenous History Month in Canada, and plans are in motion to acknowledge June 21st, National Indigenous Peoples Day. These events and celebrations serve as a time of reflection, education, and growth, and specifically with respect to Indigenous communities, an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to Truth and Reconciliation. This week we were also thrilled to see the re-raising of our refurbished welcome pole to the front of Sutherland. It is looking better than ever!

On Friday, May 10th, the City of North Vancouver announced plans to proceed with the long awaited [Casano-Loutet Overpass](#). I know this is welcome news to our community as it provides a safer link for our students who live east of the highway to walk or bike to and from Sutherland. Completion of this project is slated for early 2026 and we'll be watching closely for updates between then and now.

At our June PAC meeting I was pleased to share many of the successes of the school year with parents, as well as work being done by staff to advance our shared understanding of emerging issues in education. One area of professional focus for staff this year has been on the proliferation of Generative AI applications like Chat GPT. The BC Ministry of Education and Child Care has produced an [Information for Parents and Caregivers document](#) to provide some essential information on what AI in schools may look like and what role parent/guardians can play. Sutherland staff have been exploring the ways in which AI impacts learning in the classroom and have been engaged in some really rich professional development to support better understanding its uses and implications for how we prepare our students for success beyond graduation. I have been impressed with many thoughtful and measured ways staff have worked to incorporate AI into classroom learning, while continuing to be mindful of instilling the importance of critical thinking and academic honesty into Sutherland students.

There has been much to celebrate as the year draws to a close. Our performing arts program punctuated the end of their year with a finale musical concert in our gymnasium on June 6th and this week there was a final theatrical run of the production 'Caught in the Act'. On the athletics front, our sports teams enjoyed much success this spring, but I wanted to highlight especially the performance of grade 11 student, Rory O'Brien, who was crowned the provincial champion in the women's 800m race the BC Championships last weekend in Nanaimo. Well done, Rory! And congratulations to all of our athletes who were recognized during Wednesday's Athletics Recognition Event held at Sutherland.

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The last few weeks of the school year have some important events of note, as well as our typical end-of-year days that are worth reminding families of. The last day of classes on June 21st will have an amended bell schedule and adjusted lunch to facilitate a school-wide BBQ celebration:

9:15 - 10:05 P2
10:05 - 10:15 Break
10:15 - 11:05 P3
11:05 - 11:15 Break
11:15 - 12:05 P1
12:05 - 12:15 Break
12:15 - 1:05 P4
1:05 - 2:15 School-Wide BBQ
2:15 Dismissal

Other upcoming dates of note this month include:

- Friday, June 14th Sutherland Recognition Gala @ ESC
- Monday, June 17th 7:00pm Graduation Ceremony @ Queen Elizabeth Theatre
- Wednesday, June 19th Global Perspectives Program Activation Showcase
- Friday, June 21st National Indigenous Peoples Day / Last Day of Classes
- Saturday, June 22nd 7:00pm Grad Banquet @ Vancouver Marriott Pinnacle Downtown
- Monday, June 24th / Tuesday June 25th [Review and Completion](#) Days
- Wednesday, June 26th Final Report Cards Posted
- Thursday, June 27th Yearbook Distribution at Sutherland
- Friday, June 28th Administrative Day – Schools Closed to Students

For families who children are graduating with us this year, I am looking forward to sharing in the congratulatory celebrations over the next couple weeks, and to wishing our graduates the very best in their next chapter – we are proud of you!

As the school year draws to a close, please continue to reach out if you have any questions or concerns. Wishing all students and staff a safe, healthy, and successful end to the school year.

Sincerely,

Mark Barrett
Principal
Sutherland Secondary