



SUTHERLAND SECONDARY SCHOOL

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



May 10, 2024

Dear Sutherland Families,

Springtime is here and as we look towards the final six weeks of classes, I know sunnier weather and the promise of summer vacation just on the horizon is an exciting prospect for students – especially for our grade 12s who are on the precipice of finishing their K-12 journey.

Students and families will have recently noticed a significant piece of artwork and cultural importance missing from the front of our school. The refurbishment of our school Welcome Pole is being undertaken by its original carver, Mr. Ray Natraoro, and is appropriately happening in the season of renewal. We are very much looking forward to undertaking this process in collaboration with Ray's team and including students, and to seeing the Welcome Pole returned to the front of the school as soon as possible.

This week and next, [Advanced Placement \(AP\) examinations](#) are being written by students for post-secondary credit. Sutherland is proud to serve as a testing site not only for our students, but for students across the lower mainland and beyond. As a result, we will have some student guests in the building during this time who are here to write exams. Good luck to all our students who have spent significant time preparing for these exams.

Graduation season is upcoming, and we are excited to celebrate this milestone in the lives of our graduates and their families. Tickets for the Graduation Banquet, being held on June 22nd at the Marriott Pinnacle (Downtown), can be purchased through grade 12 students' School Cash Online accounts. Separately, tickets also available via [School Cash Online](#) for our Graduation Ceremony, being held on Monday, June 17th at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre. A reminder that ticket sales for both events end on Wednesday, May 15th. Graduates and their families who have questions about either of these events, can contact Grade 12 Counsellor, Ms. Dhanji, for more information. Finally, on Thursday June 13th, graduates will be receiving their gowns, complimentary 1-day grad bus passes, and rehearsing for the ceremony to help provide additional clarity on the ceremonial routine and procession.

On Wednesday, June 19th, our Global Perspectives Program, in collaboration with the City of North Vancouver, will be putting on an 'Activation Showcase'. One of the major aims of this event is to encourage active local transportation. Students and families should be aware that a portion of Sutherland Avenue will be closed for the event on this day, and the street spaced used for exhibitions. We hope that students

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every day, but especially on this day, will consider alternative forms of transportation to and from school that do not include the use of a vehicle, if possible. We also look forward to welcoming the community to the event to see the many outstanding exhibits our GPP students have been working on.

Today marks the final show of our performing arts department spring production of Rodgers & Hammerstein's [Cinderella](#). Congratulations to all our performers and stage support students, and to Ms. Gruetzner, Mr. Bevis, and Ms. Boyarski on another remarkable production. I know many parents and guardians were so impressed with the production that they returned to see it more than once! If you have not yet had the opportunity, there may be some tickets still available for tonight's final performance.

Sutherland is fortunate to benefit from many supportive community partnerships. Vancouver Coastal Health, each year, provides outstanding educational opportunities for families in support of navigating complex youth issues. The next [Let's Talk Shop](#) event, titled *Building Capacity in Parents and Youth* is designed to address issues like peer pressure, mental health, drugs, and more. It is scheduled for 6pm on Wednesday, May 29th at Sutherland and I encourage parents and guardians to consider registering to attend via the link provided.

As always, the other great way for parents and guardians to be closely involved in all things Sutherland is through our Parent Advisory Council. The Sutherland PAC is currently looking for a new volunteer treasurer, and their next meeting, which was postponed by one week, is happening on Monday, May 13th online. The PAC's next school fundraiser is a mini-donut sale happening on Wednesday May 15th, from 2:30pm to 4:00pm. You'll find them out front of the school offering donuts at \$8 per bag – we hope you will consider supporting! For more information on PAC, please contact sutherlandpac@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Mark Barrett
Principal
Sutherland Secondary