



SUTHERLAND SECONDARY SCHOOL

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



October 1st, 2024

Dear Sutherland Families,

As we reach the end of our first month of the school year, it's remarkable to reflect on all that has taken place in just four short weeks. Our school theme of **Pride. Passion. Place.** is coming to life in many meaningful ways. Students are discovering their sense of belonging, engaging passionately in areas of interest, and taking pride in being part of the Sabre community. Our *clubs day* on Sept 26 was a huge success where many students were able to join new groups of like-minded peers. It is evident that Sutherland is a caring and inclusive school community where each person's experiences and voice are valued and heard. This week, we'll see one of the best examples of our theme in action during our Grade 8 Retreat at the Cheakamus Centre.

September was an opportunity to share information with families on several fronts. Thank you to all those who facilitated or attended a series of information evenings throughout September in an effort to communicate all that we are doing as a school community to support our students:

- Fall Sport Coaches Meeting (Mr. Madill & Ms. Shidian)
- Grade 12 Parent Information Night (Ms. Dhanji & Ms. Smart)
- Sutherland PAC Meeting (PAC Chair, Jen Rodger)

It was also wonderful to meet so many parent/guardians during our Grade 8 Sutherland Open House on September 19th. This was a great chance for families to become more familiar with the school and staff. I'd like to thank Vice Principal Ms. Pross for her work in organizing the event, and all the Sutherland teaching and support staff who welcomed our families into the building that evening. If you missed any of these information events, please feel free to connect with the organizers to find out what was missed.

Sutherland will once again be serving as examination site for Advanced Placement (AP) exams, including SATs, in the spring. AP exams give students the opportunity to earn College or University credits even before applying to a post-secondary institution. Students and families wishing to learn more about self-study options or to register for exam writing can find more information on our [school website](#), or the [College Board AP site](#).

As we look ahead, the move into autumn marks the typical start of cold and flu season. We continue to be especially sensitive to the collective health of our school community and offer a friendly reminder to students to model good personal health practices, like hand washing. If students are feeling unwell, please exercise caution and remain home, and a reminder that we continue to respect the wearing of masks by staff and students as being a personal choice.

An increasing number of students have been using electric scooters to commute to school. Safe and responsible use of scooters is a great way for students, over the age of 16, to independently travel. It is important, however, that students and families keep in mind safety restrictions that apply to their use. We have, unfortunately, had a few instances of serious student injuries occurring while using e-scooters. City bylaws require helmets to be worn when riding scooters, skateboards, or bikes, and in instances where students are not wearing a helmet, they or their parent/guardian may be subject to a \$75 fine. More importantly, keeping the pedestrian areas around the

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school safe by traveling at a low speed is vital. We are fortunate to share our campus with a daycare, and often have not only teenagers and adults walking the grounds, but also toddlers. It's also important that students and parent/caregivers are familiar with the local and [provincial rules that govern their use](#), including the minimum age of 16 to operate one. Students who are unable to use their scooters in a safe manner may be asked to keep them off property. We appreciate everyone's support with keeping our grounds a safe space for everyone.

Semester 1 course fees will be added to students' [School Cash Online](#) accounts by the end of the week. [School fees](#) allow for classroom enrichments such as materials, supplies, or equipment for the use of the student in that course, and timely remittance of those fees is appreciated. Any families with questions or concerns about school fees can contact their child's grade administrator.

Finally, the end of September marks an important collective occasion to pause and acknowledge the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, as well as Orange Shirt Day, which was observed on Friday. At Sutherland these efforts have been led by Ms. Kwong. As seen in the countless orange shirts being worn, Sutherland students are clearly compassionate and empathetic. The welcome pole at the front of Sutherland, which was featured recently in a [School District blog post](#), is a testament to the inclusiveness of our school community. We are humbled and grateful as a school community to be able to live, work and play on the unceded territories of the Coast Salish people – the Skwxwú7mesh Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation.

A reminder of some important upcoming dates:

- Wednesday October 2nd – Friday October 4th: Grade 8 Retreat
- Saturday, October 5th: World Teacher's Day
- Thursday, October 10th: Terry Fox Run
- Friday, October 11th: Photo Retake Day
- Monday, October 14th: Thanksgiving Day
- Thursday, October 17th: Parent-Teacher Conferences, *details to follow*
- Friday, October 18th: Early Dismissal
- Friday, October 25th: Provincial Professional Day
- Monday, October 28th: PAC Meeting
- Wednesday, October 30th: Staff Collaboration Day – adjusted bell schedule
- Monday, November 4th & Tuesday, November 5th: Grade 10s & 12s writing Grad Assessments

Sincerely,

Mark Barrett
Principal
Sutherland Secondary