



SUTHERLAND SECONDARY SCHOOL

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



October 25th, 2024

Dear Sutherland Families,

The shift to fall has been newsworthy, and I hope this month's letter finds everyone in our school community safe and well. The flooding of the past week is a good reminder for us all to be prepared for extreme weather events. With darker days and rainy weather, it is also timely to remind drivers to take extra caution entering and exiting the school, and to stay within the posted speed limits in school zones. Halloween next Thursday will bring children of all ages into the streets to trick-or-treat, and we want to ensure that all students arrive home safely from an evening of fun with friends and family.

Halloween is sometimes celebrated by families using fireworks in a responsible manner within the borders of the District of North Vancouver. A reminder that in the City of North Vancouver, where Sutherland is situated, that the use of both [firecrackers and fireworks is prohibited](#) under City Bylaw 7677. Fireworks are not permitted on school property, and we appreciate the community's assistance in encouraging responsible behaviour on an evening that has, unfortunately, in some years been marred by litter, vandalism, and even injury. Sutherland is fortunate to have amazing facilities, both inside and outside of the building, and we want to keep them in wonderful condition for many years to come. Halloween is also a day when students are free to participate in festive activities, including wearing costumes. A reminder, however, that weapons of any kind, including replica weapons, are not permitted on school property and should not be a part of any costume. Thanks in advance for everyone's consideration of this.

On October 15th we were pleased to welcome friends from Hayato School in Yokohama, Japan. The Hayato students were buddied up with a Sutherland host and accompanied them to morning classes to experience Canadian school life. In the afternoon, the Hayato students prepared a Japanese cultural fair in the small gymnasium for classes to visit. Thank you to our teaching and support staff for accommodating the visit and making such a memorable experience for our guests. Cross-cultural and international experiences like this are incredibly rewarding for both the visiting students, as well as the host schools. I know our Music Program students, who are traveling to Japan in April, are extremely excited to experience a new culture and to form new friendships with their hosts in Japan. And we are delighted as a school to form new bonds with schools in Japan and to help fulfil the promise of North Vancouver [sister-city relationship with Chiba](#).

Sutherland will, once again, be serving as examination site for Advanced Placement (AP) exams in the spring. AP exams give students the opportunity to earn College or University credits even before applying to a post-secondary institution. Although the exams are not written until spring, **registration for the exams closes on November 1st**. 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](#).

For the 2024-25 school year, the Ministry of Education and Child Care has refreshed the [Expect Respect and a Safe Education \(erase\) website](#). The new website features a streamlined design with improved access

1860 Sutherland Ave, North Vancouver BC Canada V7L 4C2 Phone: 604-903-3500
sutherland@sd44.ca www.sd44.ca/school/sutherland



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to information and resources for students, families and staff. It is also where you will find the *Report It* tool where school safety concerns can be reported anonymously. If students or families have concerns they would like to share, I encourage you to consider contacting your grade administrator or counselor first, but understand that in some circumstances it may be preferable to use the anonymous online reporting tool.

Thank you to everyone who attended our Parent-Teacher Learning Conferences on October 17th. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect with staff and reflect on our students' learning and achievements through the first six weeks of semester 1. Our teaching staff have been working exceptionally hard to support learning in the classroom, both in regularly scheduled classes and during daily tutorial times. Most full-time teachers are available each morning for tutorial time between 8:30am and 9:12am, and by appointment on some Mondays. Part-Time teachers have been asked to communicate individually with their classes any nuances in their tutorial time support being offered. One topic raised in a few of the conferences was family travel plans on the horizon and how that may impact student learning and attendance. Please note that teachers are typically not able to provide individualized student support because of family arranged travel plans. Whenever possible, we ask families to consider traveling during our scheduled holiday breaks, so as not to adversely impact student learning.

As we look ahead to November, a reminder to families that on Monday November 4th and Tuesday November 5th Sutherland will be having an extended block schedule to help accommodate the writing of [Literacy and Numeracy Assessments](#) for our Grade 10 students. These specialized longer blocks also provide an opportunity for many classes to engage in activities that may otherwise be more difficult to run in a typical 70-minute class.

Monday, Nov. 4, 2024

8:30-9:11 – Tutorial
9:15-11:45 - Period 1
11:45-12:30 – Lunch
12:30-3:00 - Period 2

Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2024

8:30-9:11 - Tutorial
9:15-11:45 - Period 3
11:45-12:30 - Lunch
12:30-3:00 - Period 4

With *pride* in our accomplishments, *passion* for learning, and a strong sense of *place*, the Sutherland school community continues to be a place where students grow and thrive.

Sincerely,

Mark Barrett
Principal
Sutherland Secondary