

Superintendent's Report to DPAC

February 15, 2016

Student Services

Early Years Centre Announcement: *The Early Years Branch of the Ministry of Children and Family Development released a Request for Proposals for the establishment of Early Years Centres throughout the province. This opportunity was met with excitement at the Kids New West Committee and a proposal was developed and submitted. The Kids New West Committee (KNW) is a coalition of public and non-profit agencies that serve children and families in New Westminster. The District has been an active member at this community table for many years. The focus of the committee is to work collaboratively to promote and support healthy child development. More information on KNW can be found at www.kidsnewwest.ca.*

It has just been announced that New Westminster has received funding for an Early Years Centre which amounts to \$52,000 for year one with the potential of four additional one year funding renewals. The Early Years Centre will be located at the École Qayqayt Neighbourhood Learning Centre which is an optimal location for families. It is also very aligned with the mandate of the KNW Committee and our Neighbourhood Learning Centres; namely, accessible, responsive and quality early years programming offered through community collaboration and coordination.

Early Learning Centres:

- *Focus on children aged 0 – 6;*
- *Welcome diversity;*
- *Build on what is currently present in the community;*
- *Support program and service integration, collaboration and cooperation;*
- *Recognize that communities should have discretion to determine which activities would be of greatest assistance to families with young children.*

The KNW Early Years Centre Action Team met throughout the summer to develop the proposal, and the team also conducted an “Expression of Interest” process to determine which programs/service providers would be included in the Early Years Centre. Programming in the Early Years Centre will be scheduled for three morning sessions, one afternoon session and one evening session each week. The proposed programs are as follows:

Lower Mainland Purpose Society

Fun, Learning and You (18 months – 5 years)

Parent Education Group (parent of children 0 – 2 years)

Cameray Centre

Family Literacy Circle

Parent Support

New Westminster Family Place and Family Services of Greater Vancouver

Grandparents and Grandchildren Learning Together

Family Services of Greater Vancouver

Family Night

ESL & Cooking for Families with Young Children

The following programs are also proposed:

École Qayqayt Elementary School Parent Advisory Council

Parent Coffee Mornings

Spirit of the Children Society

Bringing Our Families Together (Thursdays from 9:30 -1:30)

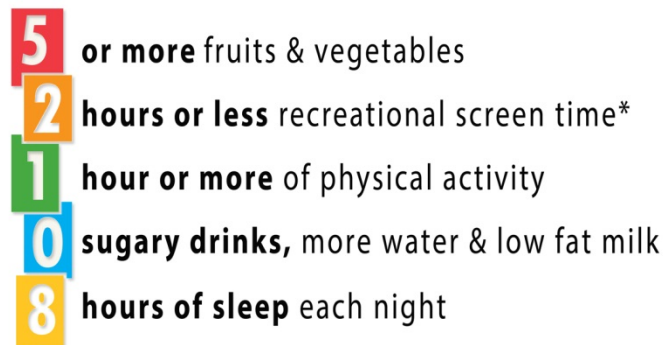
New Westminster Public Library

One afternoon per month of programming for children aged 0-6

This is an exciting opportunity for the children and families of New Westminster!

Parents' Networking Session: The next session will be held on **Wednesday, February 17th** at 7 p.m. in the École Glenbrook Middle School library. The topic is the new redesigned BC curriculum. District Vice-Principal Maryam Naser will present this session. This session will be an excellent opportunity for parents to learn about the changes to the BC Curriculum that will be implemented starting in September 2016.

Parents Night Out is featuring a session on the **5210 Healthy Habits** on **February 24th** from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. at Qayqayt Elementary School. This session will discuss healthy living tips for raising children including nutrition, sleep, screen time and physical activity. Child minding is available. Please register on www.Eventbrite.ca.



*Keep TV/Computer out of the bedroom. No screen time under the age of 2.

Teaching and Learning in Diverse Classrooms: We are asking for feedback on the draft Teaching and Learning in Diverse Classrooms report. Please go to our District website www.sd40.bc.ca and follow the link to the report and feedback survey. Your comments are appreciated.

Digital Technology Policy: At the December 8, 2015 meeting of the Education Policy & Planning Committee, draft Policy No. 406.0/506.0, Digital Technology, was approved for distribution and consultation. This policy has been updated to reflect the introduction and growth of digital technologies which provide our district with new opportunities. The draft policy is out for consultation before final presentation to the Board of Education on Tuesday, February 23rd. To review the draft policy and provide input via the feedback form, please go to <http://district.sd40.bc.ca/sites/default/files/Digital%20Technology%20Consultation.pdf>. Deadline for input is Monday, February 15th.

Human Resources Department

The Human Resources department continues to work closely with the Associate Superintendent and Secretary-Treasurer as we guide the staffing process and support principals and vice-principals in the identification of staffing needs for the 2016/17 school year. As enrolment projections and class organization work is being prepared by the Associate Superintendent's team, HR is identifying our target dates for the posting process.

Superintendent's Office

Visions for Learning: *Work continues on the visioning process developed to inform the New Westminister School District's strategic directions plan. The Board of Education of the New Westminister School District continues to reach out to parents to engage in a process of consultation about the future direction of our school district. To date, the Board of Education Chair and the Superintendent have visited six Parent Advisory Councils to share information on the visioning process, solicit input from the presentation of survey questions (attached) and engage in discussion with various parent groups. Visits are scheduled from now through March at six more sites. As well, the online survey posted on the district website will remain accessible through mid-March so that all of our parents and guardians have the opportunity to provide feedback on their vision for the New Westminister School District. After the close of the survey, district staff will conduct an analysis of the visioning process and provide a summary report on all input received. This information will be utilized to assist the Board of Education in setting a strategic direction for the New Westminister School District.*

*Please visit the district website, www.sd40.bc.ca and follow the homepage link to the **Visions for Learning Survey** or go to www.placespeak.com/sd40visionsforlearning to access the survey.*

Respectfully,

Pat Duncan

Visions for Learning

A Conversation about Learning in our Schools

PAC visits with Board Chair Jonina Campbell and Superintendent of Schools Pat Duncan

AGENDA

1. Who are we and what do we do?
2. Why are we here?
3. What Makes a Great School?
4. Questions for consideration:
 - 1) What was the best learning experience you had in or out of school?
 - 2) What do you believe is the fundamental purpose of school?
 - 3) What knowledge, skills and attitudes do we want our children to learn?
 - 4) What is your vision for your school and for the New Westminster School District?
 - 5) What are some opportunities that you would like to see for students in the New Westminster School District (these would reflect some of your values and goals)?
 - 6) Which opportunities identified above should be a budget priority for the New Westminster School District in the 2016/2017 school year? In what order would you place these priorities?
 - 7) What is the New Westminster School District doing well?

PlaceSpeak 

<https://www.placespeak.com>



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