



June 23, 2022

RE: Year end message

Hello families and district staff!

Another school year is coming to a close and what a year it has been! COVID-19 was still very much top of mind back in September and while it continues to linger, we are in a much better place now. Our staff have spent the past 2 years creating safe, caring environments where students were able to continue their learning as we, collectively, faced the uncertainty in the world around us. Our appreciation for their commitment to students is unparalleled. Today, we are pleased that we are living a relatively similar life to pre-pandemic times and we are hoping we don't have to go through "that" again.

Even though COVID-19 dominated the headlines this past school year, we would like to, once again, celebrate the tremendous success we witnessed with our completion rates. Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools (NLPS) recorded its highest graduation rates in the history of the school district. However, we won't be resting on our laurels. Our work is not done until every single student graduates from secondary school.

You've likely noticed that our region is growing dramatically, and we are experiencing significant enrolment growth in the school district which brings with it a significant need for additional classroom space. École Hammond Bay and Dover Bay Secondary are currently under construction with 10 more classrooms at the French Immersion school and two more at the high school.

Our [Long Rang Facilities Plan](#) focuses on safe and caring learning spaces. Seismic upgrades will continue to be our priority, of which, two significant upgrades are presently underway. Cilaire and Pleasant Valley students and staff will be returning to their respective school sites this September to facilities that may look similar, but with the added benefit of being seismically sound. Thank you to the parents, staff and students in those two schools who made significant sacrifices this year as their school was being upgraded.

Last September 30, Canada celebrated the first-ever National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The school district was honoured to have partnered with Snuneymuxw First Nation and the City of Nanaimo for an historic event held at Maffeo Sutton Park. This year, we are making plans, again with Snuneymuxw First Nation and the City of Nanaimo, to acknowledge our history and the path to Reconciliation at an event to be held at the Nanaimo Rotary Bowl.

To all NLPS parents and caregivers, thank you for getting your child to school and trusting them with us. There continues to be many opportunities to provide supports for every unique student and we will continue to find alternative ways to ensure all students receive the best education possible.

We want to wish those district staff retiring all the very best as you enter the next stage of your life. We truly value the time, energy and commitment you've given to the district and the students of Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools.

And finally, to the graduates of the year 2022. You did it! You are the most resilient grad class in the history of grad classes. We wish you all the very best as you now turn your focus to your future - whether it is continuing to post-secondary, finding work, or travelling. Congratulations!

Sincerely,



Charlene McKay
Board Chair



Scott Saywell
Superintendent/CEO