



# THE SENTRY

École Secondaire **Sentinel** Secondary School  
1250 Chartwell Drive, West Vancouver, B.C. V7S 2R2  
Principal: Mr. M. Finch, Mrs. K. Grant, Vice-Principal, Ms. R. Rowley, Vice-Principal  
Telephone: 604-981-1130 – Fax: 604-981-1131



August 2013  
Principal's Message ...

Welcome back to school everyone! A special welcome is extended to incoming Grade 8 students, other new students and their parents. I hope this letter finds you and your family in good health and enjoying the long summer days.

The summer has been busy in terms of staff changes. I would like to extend best wishes to Mme. Annie Bouchard-Morrisse, Ms. Pauline Hedberg, Ms. Elizabeth Petrie and Ms. Colleen Thomas in their first September of retirement. I hope they continue to be patrons of our many school events and social activities. I would like to send best wishes to Mr. Craig Chubb, Ms. Jennifer Riske, Mr. Dane Scholefield and Ms. Laura D. Jamieson in their new positions and to Ms. Helen Eng as she takes a year's leave of absence. All the best to Ms. Allison Ogawa as she begins her maternity leave.

Sentinel welcomes Ms. Alysia Francis (*French immersion*), Mr. Alex Brault (*French immersion*), Mr. Lucas Wong (*Modern Languages*), Ms. Teodora Zamfirescu (*Modern Languages*), Mr. Peter Beetlestone (*English*), Mr. Chris Pedersen (*English*) Mrs. Alexia Spencer (*Counselling*) and Ms. Suzie McArthur (*Counselling*). Back from recent leaves are Ms. Rebecca Rowley (*Vice-Principal*), Ms. Andrea Jenks (*PE*) and Ms. Kristina Kildaw (*LRC*).

### **Sentinel has a new school goal:**

*"To create a school community of individuals who are authentically engaged in the development of three key cross-curricular competencies: thinking, personal responsibility and communication."*

We are looking forward to working with our students, staff and parent community as we move forward with the implementation process of this important focus.

Sentinel is excited to be hosting a Blessing Ceremony, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, to recognize and celebrate our relationship with the Squamish Nation and our First Nations community. Special thanks to Xwalactun (OBC) for his wonderful welcoming carving.

With the support of Sentinel PAC we are also embarking on a fundraising campaign that will benefit all our students, in recognition of the school's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Be sure to read our letter to Parents and Alumni outlining the proposal that will support the 3A's; Sentinel Academics, Arts and Athletics.

This year we are asking all parents to access and sign the release forms on-line. These forms, along with a great deal of information regarding upcoming events and school news, can be found on our school website; [www.sd45.bc.ca/sentinel](http://www.sd45.bc.ca/sentinel). As well, our Sentinel App, created by the Sentinel Student App Development Team, can be downloaded to get current updates, newsletters, bulletins, block rotations and more.

Enjoy the remaining days of holiday. I look forward to meeting you and developing a relationship that helps us understand how to best address the needs of your child.

*Mike Finch*  
Principal

**Note:** Homeroom lists for 2013-2014 will be posted alphabetically, by grade, on the windows at the front of the school on the afternoon of Friday, August 30th, 2013.

## **OPENING DAY**

**Tuesday, September 3rd, 2013**

Students attend school during the following times on opening day:

Grade 8: 8:00 a.m. to 11:35  
Grade 9: 8:30 a.m. to 12:05  
Grades 10 and 11: 8:30 a.m. to 11:35  
Grade 12 students are invited to a BBQ at 12:30 p.m.

The following is a detailed schedule:

7:45 a.m. Student Council members are asked to meet in the main foyer to assist new Grade 8 students. The Student Council Co-Presidents need to meet in the theatre at this time.

8:00—8:25 Assembly for Grade 8 students only.  
8:30—9:15 All students in Grades 8—11 report to Homeroom  
9:20—9:31 Day 1—Period 1  
9:36—9:47 Day 1—Period 2  
9:52—10:03 Day 1—Period 3  
10:08—10:19 Day 1—Period 4  
10:19—10:31 RECESS  
10:36—10:47 Day 2—Period 1  
10:52—11:03 Day 2—Period 2  
11:08—11:19 Day 2—Period 3  
11:24—11:35 Day 2—Period 4

PE/Super Achievers must attend rotation on opening day.

**11:35 Dismissal for students in Grades 8, 10 and 11 .**

**11:40—12:05 Assembly for Grade 9 students only.  
Grade 9 students dismissed at 12:05 p.m.**

12:30—1:30 Grade 12 BBQ  
1:30— 1:55 Grade 12 Assembly  
2:00— 2:25 Grade 12 Homeroom

### **SENTINEL'S REGULAR DAILY SCHEDULE** **2013—2014**

8:25	Warning Bell – 1 <sup>st</sup> Period
8:30 – 9:49	1 <sup>st</sup> Period
9:49 – 9:55	Recess #1
9:55	Warning Bell – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Period
10:01 – 11:20	2 <sup>nd</sup> Period
11:20 – 11:27	Recess #2
11:27	Warning Bell – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Period
11:32 – 12:52	3 <sup>rd</sup> Period
12:52 – 1:33	Lunch
1:33	Warning Bell – 4 <sup>th</sup> Period
1:38 – 2:57	4 <sup>th</sup> Period

## **GRADE 8 OPENING DAY**

The first day of school is an exciting time, particularly for Grade 8 students, as they are beginning their high school education. They will begin the day by attending a Grade 8 assembly at 8:00 a.m. Students need to ensure that they have transportation to the school at that time. At the assembly, students will be introduced to the Principal, Mr. Mike Finch, Vice-Principals, Mrs. Kathy Grant and Ms. Rebecca Rowley, the Grade 8 Counsellors and their home-room teacher.

Members of the Student Council will give students a general overview of the school including the various clubs, teams, and activities in which they can participate. Students will be given tips that will enable them to be even more successful in their first year at Sentinel. They will also become familiar with the general expectations and their responsibilities as students of Sentinel Secondary School.

After the assembly, students will be taken by their homeroom teachers to their homeroom class. During homeroom, students will become familiar with school routines. They will also receive their agenda book and locker. Then, students will follow their timetable and meet the teachers for all of their courses. Students will find out what school supplies they need from their teachers. Dismissal will be at 11:35 for Grade 8 students.

### **GRADE 8 WELCOME LUNCH:** **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20th.**

Sentinel's Student Council is sponsoring a Welcome Lunch for Grade 8 students on Friday, September 20th. Students will then participate in some fun team-building activities during the afternoon. This will be a great way for students to get to know each other and to show their Sentinel spirit.

### **BUS TRANSPORTATION**

For school bus information please refer to the school district website: [www.sd45.bc.ca](http://www.sd45.bc.ca)



Wednesday, September 4th, is a full day in session for students. Please be aware that students are expected to be in their classes at 8:30 a.m. promptly – dismissal occurs at 2:57 p.m. There will be full cafeteria service from this day forward.

## ACTIVITY FEES

Activity Fees are necessary to provide a range of goods and services to students. These fees subsidize locks for lockers, day planners, Go Cards, Athletic expenses, uniforms, medals, plaques, certificates awarded at awards ceremonies, Student Council activities, intramural games and prizes as well as postage. Virtually, all students benefit when activity fees are paid.

While there are limitations on the types of fees that schools are permitted to charge, Activity Fees may be charged. The School Act, Section 82(3) indicates that a Board may charge fees for goods and services provided by the Board such as those covered by Activity Fees.

Fee statements, which will include the Student Activity Fee of \$55. will be mailed home October 24th together with the first Interim Report.

**Please note:** West Vancouver School District Policy #9505 allows: *“that fees or partial fees may be waived for students who would not otherwise be able to participate in regular school activities, field studies and special events due to financial hardship”*.

Please contact Mr. Mike Finch, Principal.

## LOCKERS

Students are not to switch lockers or use their own lock. Students are encouraged to make sure that they secure all of their possessions. Parents and students are reminded that neither the school nor the West Vancouver School Board has insurance to cover loss or damage of students' personal property. Grade 12 students are assigned lockers upon request to their homeroom teacher.

## SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

Student pictures will be taken on Monday, September 9th. All students are expected to have their pictures taken for Student Council, GO Cards, the Yearbook, and admission to school dances. There is no cost involved for this student ID picture. However, students wishing to purchase optional colour packages may do so at an additional cost. Photo packages will be distributed during homeroom on September 3rd.

## COURSE CHANGES

Our timetable is built on student requests made in March 2013. Course verification forms were sent home in May 2013. At that time, students were asked to make changes to their course requests. Due to our enrolment, making a course change now will be extremely difficult. The last day for course changes is September 20th.

## STUDENTS WITH OUTSTANDING ITEMS

Students with outstanding textbooks, fines, etc. are encouraged to pay and/or return these texts during the week of August 26th. Please note that it is expected that students will return outstanding textbooks or make arrangements for payment with the Acting Principal by the time textbooks are issued.

## STUDENT MESSAGES

Students are encouraged to check the hallway monitors for information and messages. Parents with emergency messages only for their children are asked to contact the office. Notification of these messages will be posted on the hallway monitors only. **We are unable to call into the classrooms to relay messages.**

## PARKING AT SENTINEL

All students who will be parking on school grounds must register their vehicle(s) with the office. At the time of registration a parking decal will be given to the student. This decal must be displayed to park on school grounds. This year, the fee is \$20.00 for the first decal and \$5.00 for a second vehicle.

**Note:** Vehicle registration fees will go to the Sentinel Scholarship Fund.

**Please Note:** Vehicles parked without a decal, or where there is no designated parking spot (yellow lines) will be towed. The parking spots where numbers have been assigned are strictly staff parking. Visitor parking is as designated in the top parking lot to the right of the stairs leading down to the front of the school. Do not park on the yellow lines directly in front of the entrance doors. Yellow lines indicate fire lanes.



## OFFICE AND LIBRARY HOURS

Starting on September 6th, the school building will be open at 7:00 am each school day; the office will be open from 8:00 am until 4:00 pm. The switchboard opens at 8:00 am and closes at 4:00 pm. Parents wishing to contact members of the teaching staff are requested to please do so by email. Teachers may be contacted via email by using their first initial, last name, and sd45.bc.ca in the email address (ie. jsmith@sd45.bc.ca).

## **TRAFFIC AT SENTINEL SECONDARY SCHOOL**

The Administration is aware of the ongoing traffic problem entering and leaving the school grounds. Mornings between 8:15 and 8:30 am are of particular concern.

The student drop-off area extends all along the front of the school. We ask that you move forward until you find a spot to drop off your child. Please do not drop off your child in the middle of the traffic lane – it is not safe and the traffic comes to a complete stop backing up the traffic even further. Your assistance in complying with this request is appreciated.



**PLEASE** observe the Handicap Parking Zone (HCP). We have several students requiring access to this HCP parking/pick-up area in vans – your assistance in this regard is appreciated

**PLEASE** do not idle the car's engine while waiting for your children.

## **WEATHER CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS**

The West Vancouver School Board will try to keep our schools open on every regular instructional day. Any decision to close schools for the safety of children will be made by the Superintendent.

Parents, students and staff will be informed of the Superintendent's decision via the District Website and our 24-hour information line at 604- 981-1234, Special Announcements. Please contact this information line instead of contacting the school for up-to-date information.

## **SYNERVOICE SYSTEM**

The Synervoice System will primarily be used to let parents know if their child is absent from class. When the teacher marks the student absent, he/she will be unexcused in the computer and the Synervoice System will call or email the parents.

## **EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS**

### **Lates**

Students are expected to arrive at school at least 15 minutes before their first class. Sentinel's philosophy suggests that students give themselves ample time to organize their day and to socialize prior to morning classes. Students who are late to class should proceed directly to their class and check in with their teacher. They do not need to come to the office. Individual teachers will give consequences to

students who are late to class without a valid reason. Should students frequently arrive to their classes late, they will be referred to the administration for consequences and guidance. Parents will also be contacted.

## **Daily Attendance and Student Absence**

Parents are requested to contact the school by phone or send a signed note to the office before 8:25 a.m. on the day of the absence or early dismissal. Students should not miss school for reasons other than illness, medical appointments, or family funerals. Students' absences are an area of concern, as students miss the material taught in class and the important interaction between the teacher and the students.

The student is expected to take the initiative to find out from the teacher or a classmate what work was missed and to make up any such work or assignments. If tests are missed and proper notification of the illness has been given to the office, it is the teacher's option to either provide a make-up test or excuse the student from the test.

### **If a student is in the Super Achievers' Programme:**

Any student in the Super Achievers program who misses one or more blocks per week is expected to take the initiative to find out what was covered and to make up the work, including assignments. Teachers are expected to provide necessary information to aid the student when such initiative is shown.

If tests are given during this absence, the student should be given a make-up test or alternate assignment in order to achieve the marks. In all cases, the student is expected to notify the teachers well in advance of the competition.

Please be aware that if any teacher feels that a student on a special programme is not living up to his/her responsibilities regarding school commitment, the counsellor will be notified immediately and the Vice-Principal in charge of the programme will meet with student and notify the parent.

### **Please Note:**

The school calendar for the year which indicates Professional Development Days, holidays and other school activities will be handed out to students during their first homeroom.

### **Unexplained Absences from Class**

Attendance is recorded by teachers in the computer for every period. Initially, truancy of classes will be treated by teachers as a class discipline situation. They will notify parents and levy consequences until the problem becomes chronic. At that time, students will be referred to the appropriate administrator and counsellor for guidance and consequences.

### **Early Dismissal**

A note or a phone call to the office is required by 8:25 a.m. for any early dismissal. Parents are asked to make every effort to schedule doctor, dentist or other appointments when school is not in session.

### **FAMILY VACATIONS**

We request that families do not use school time for family holidays. Absences due to family holidays may negatively affect student achievement. Any work missed is solely the student's responsibility. Teachers are not expected to provide extra classes, make-up tests, or specific work to be completed. It is at the discretion of the teachers that the student may be required to complete missed work and write assigned tests or quizzes.

### **SENTINEL'S COUNSELLING DEPARTMENT**

Sentinel School counsellors are teachers with knowledge of the developmental needs of students as well as an understanding of the pressures encountered while progressing through school. This places the counsellors in a position to:

- a. offer developmental and preventative programmes to students in educational, personal, and vocational areas, and
- b. provide a resource for teachers and parents to help create conditions that facilitate learning.

Since educational, vocational, and personal counselling are interrelated, all counselling is concerned with the whole individual and is, therefore, personal by nature.

The counsellors meet with students as follows:

- Ms. L. Ulinder  
Grades 8—12 (A through G)
- Mr. S. Bruce  
Grades 8—12 (H through O)
- Ms. A. Spencer  
Grades 8—12 (P through Z)
- Ms. S. McArthur  
Grades 8—12 (International Students)

### **B.C. SCHOOL FRUIT AND VEGETABLE NUTRITIONAL PROGRAM**



Our school will continue its participation in the B.C. School Fruit and Vegetable Nutritional Program sponsored by B.C. Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation and ActNowBC.

The school is involved in a province-wide healthy living initiative. One of the goals is to encourage healthy eating by providing fresh B.C. Fruits and Vegetables to the students during classroom time. The students will receive picked, washed, and ready to enjoy produce twice every other week at **no charge!**

Please review the notice included with this newsletter. **To ensure every student's health and safety during this program, please return the consent form only if you do NOT wish your child to participate, or if you need to alert us to certain food allergies.**

### **SCHOOL SUPPLIES**

Although individual teachers have various requirements for their courses which will be communicated to students on the first day of school, the following supplies tend to be used by most students in Grades 8 to 12.

Pens, pencils, erasers, highlighters, fine liners, ruler, scissors, glue stick, coloured felt pens, lined paper and graph paper, "post it", and two binders with Dividers for Day 1 and Day 2.





## **BC FERRIES' STUDENT & SPORT GROUPS CODE OF CONDUCT**

At Sentinel Secondary School, we have high standards for personal conduct, as it involves other people, our community, and our work. Moreover, we view the pursuit of appropriate conduct as a shared responsibility among students, parents, staff and community members. Our Code of Conduct is based on respect and responsibility. For more information regarding our Code of Conduct, please see the Sentinel School website and the student agenda book. These expectations apply to behaviour at school, at school-organized or sponsored events, and while traveling to and from school.

As many of our students travel with BC Ferries throughout the school year, it is important to note the BC Ferries' Student & Sport Groups Code of Conduct. To promote safety and good order, students and sports groups must obey directions given by ship and terminal personnel regarding loading and unloading, safety and emergency procedures and orderly conduct.

The following conduct will not be tolerated:

- Fighting, quarrelling, loud disturbances or use of obscene or profane language.
- Tampering with or damaging safety or lifesaving equipment or other equipment or fittings.
- Littering or throwing objects overboard or at others.
- Use or possession of drugs or alcohol.
- Possession of weapons.
- Careless use of open flame.

Remedial action may include any of the following:

- Verbal warning.
- Verbal warning with notification to parent/guardian and school.
- Written warning with copies to parent/guardian and school.

Further action may involve:

- Requiring that a parent/guardian or other responsible adult accompany the student onboard the ferry.
- Withdrawal of travel privileges.

## **TEACHERS AND STAFF COMMUNICATION**

Every teacher and staff member at Sentinel is on email and may be reached by first initial last name example: [jsmith@sd45.bc.ca](mailto:jsmith@sd45.bc.ca)

## **ONLINE FORMS FOR COMPLETION**

**<http://go45.sd45.bc.ca/schools/sentinel/parents/pages/forms.aspx>**

- Student Release and Student Emergency Identification Form.
- Emergency Medical Management at School for Children with Medically Diagnosed Life Threatening Conditions.
- School Directory and Yearbook – do you want your name and telephone number in the School Directory? Do you want your picture in the Yearbook?

## SENTINEL SECONDARY SCHOOL



Dear Parents/Guardians of the Graduates of 2014:

We are looking forward to seeing all of our Grade 12 students on September 3<sup>rd</sup> to start the most exciting and probably the most challenging year of high school. Grade 12 is certainly a special year and we will do everything we can to support you throughout the year in preparing your student for whatever path he/she chooses when they leave the doors of our District's schools.

We know that the graduating class of 2014 has the potential to be outstanding in terms of positive leadership and there will be high expectations placed on them. Although we realize that there is a lot of excitement surrounding the graduating year, we ask that students consider that the choices they make will impact their year and that of others.

Of particular concern are those events, which are not school sponsored. These include car rallies, out-of-country trips, trips to ski resorts, grad pranks, and the Grad Sleepover. The Grad Sleepover is a "tradition" occurring the night before school starts on September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Although these activities take place outside of school hours, they have an effect on the school. We are very concerned for the safety of our young people when they participate in unsupervised activities that may involve the use of drugs and alcohol. As well, damage to property and forested areas reflects badly on the school and hurts our relationships with those whose responsibility it is to manage parks, trails and other public and private spaces. We need the support of all parents in ensuring that these activities will not continue.

If your son or daughter expresses interest in participating in any of these events, please work with them to find an alternate celebration. We, like you, want your children to be as safe as possible in all situations, to get off to the best start, and to have a successful and rewarding year in every respect.

If you have any questions regarding this issue, please do not hesitate to phone us at the numbers below. Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

Jeannette Laursoo  
Principal  
Rockridge Secondary School

Steve Raugh  
Principal  
West Vancouver Secondary

Mike Finch  
Principal  
Sentinel Secondary

**SENTINEL SECONDARY SCHOOL**  
**Annual Calendar 2013—2014**

**Summer Professional Development for All Staff**

August 29      Thursday      **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY**

**Fall Term**

September

2      Monday      **LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY**  
3      Tuesday      **School Opens**  
27      Wednesday      **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY**

October

14      Monday      **THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY**  
22      Friday      **PROVINCIAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY**

November

9      Friday      **DISTRICT WIDE FALL READING BREAK**  
12      Monday      **REMEMBRANCE DAY HOLIDAY**  
23      Friday      **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY**

**December 23rd to January 3rd Winter Vacation**  
**(School opens January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013)**

**Winter Term**

January

6      Monday      School Reopens  
17      Friday      **DISTRICT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY**

February

7      Friday      **DISTRICT WIDE WINTER READING BREAK**  
10      Monday      **FAMILY DAY HOLIDAY**

**March 17th to March 28th Two Week Spring Vacation**  
**(School Reopens March 31st, 2013)**

**Spring Term**

March

31      Monday      School Reopens

April

18      Friday      **GOOD FRIDAY—STATUTORY HOLIDAY**  
21      Monday      **EASTER MONDAY—STATUTORY HOLIDAY**

May

16      Friday      **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY**  
19      Monday      **VICTORIA DAY HOLIDAY**

June

26      Thursday      Final Report Cards Issued  
27      Friday      Administrative Day—Schools Closed