

September 10, 2021

Dear staff, students, parents and caregivers,

What a first week back this has been! There was a buzz in the air as we travelled between schools ... kids eager to see friends, students immediately able to lean on the supports our schools offer, and staff collaborating across departments and across the district. It was a beautiful reminder of what will happen as we get to shift more focus to the learning and lessons of the year ahead.

As we reflect on the coming school year, it's also a great opportunity to consider the foundation this year will be built on: the remarkable school year of 2020-21. Not only did we navigate the most challenging health crisis most of us have ever seen, but we did so while continuing to deliver on our commitments to students, staff and families. From opening our new high school, to advancing our commitments around racism, diversity and inclusion; from the big milestones in our efforts to improve our Inclusive Education practices, to the staff who shone for their commitment, passion and innovation. We achieved a lot of amazing things, while we supported the learning, social-emotional and other needs of our students, staff and community.

We encourage you take a few minutes to review the historic year in our annual “Good things are happening: 2020-21 in review” report: <https://newwestschools.ca/good-things-are-happening-2020-21-in-review/>

The feature highlights what we know: good things are not only possible, they are happening here in New Westminister. It's the collective commitment and hard work of the staff, students and community that is driving this work. And that's what I'm so proud to be part of.

We're not done. More is happening all the time.

Interested in what that looks like? There are easy ways to stay on top of these types of stories and the most up-to-date info:

- For the most immediate news, follow us on Twitter at: <https://twitter.com/newwestschools>
- For up-to-date info and interesting stories, follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/newwestschools>
- For the most in-depth information, check out our website: <https://newwestschools.ca/>
 - That link includes our new Tech Hub for Parents: <https://newwestschools.ca/resources/tech-hub-for-parents/>
 - And our new Parent Guide to Inclusive Education: <https://newwestschools.ca/parent-guide-to-inclusive-education/introduction/>

Thanks for being part of this journey as we work together to create safe, welcoming and exciting opportunities for growth and learning.

To the year ahead,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Hachlaf', is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

Karim Hachlaf
Superintendent of Schools / CEO

