

NDUB STUDENT PRESS

OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSLETTER OF NWSS

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MESSAGE FROM THE STUDENT PRESS

Welcome to our inaugural issue of the official NWSS student newspaper.

This is an outlet for students to share thoughts about our school community and local events through the medium of written expression. Our aim is to provide detailed and accurate information that truly matters to our student body. NDUB Student Press is a megaphone to acknowledge what's important and why. We encourage you to enjoy the articles, learn, and become more connected to our school community.

2020 WINTER DANCE SHOW IN REVIEW

BY NEVE LA ROSA

Returning to the stage for their annual winter show were NWSS's junior and senior dance classes, with "Oh, The Places We'll Dance" and "Super Mario Bros. World Tour!" Twice a year, these talented dancers put together performances of their amazing student-choreographed routines with the support of teachers and students who work behind the scenes as technical crew. Our school's dance program is just one of the great ways students can start to break out of their shell and feel involved while surrounded by a supportive, welcoming, and, most of all, fun environment. For this feature, I contacted two of the dedicated people who helped bring the show and its concepts to life: Claire Fabian and Alia Homenuke, both twelfth graders here at NDUB. They both shared with me some information about the process that went into creating, in particular, the seniors' show, and its challenges along with its rewards.

Claire was the stage manager for the senior show, along with being in charge of coming up

with concepts and designs for lighting to really bring out the magic in the performances. Lighting is something that our minds often don't directly note when watching a show, but subconsciously we can always feel its impact and how it enhances a performance. On the process of design, Claire says it involves mainly sitting and listening to the tracks and finding moments where a lighting change would be most effective. From there, the concept just comes to her, and she decides colours and effects that she feels accompany the momentum and context of the song. Although tech crew is never under the spotlight themselves, no production would be possible without them and they deserve far more recognition for the energy and passion they also put into shows!

As writer of the script for "Super Mario World Tour," Alia says that the theme for the story was also something that simply hit her. Although her initial idea was "Space Jam," 15 minutes before her first dance show meeting she was inspired for the Super Mario concept upon seeing an Instagram post and the plot was essentially created in under an hour. Evidently, writing an entire script isn't the easiest thing for one person to do under the pressure of a deadline and hoping your peers and teachers will like it.



Alia Homenuke (left) and Sofia Trevina Rangel star as Peach and Daisy. Photograph by Teddy Kadonoff.



Photograph by Teddy Kadonoff.

Some of the challenges Alia mentioned to me were worries that the scenes and voices of characters would seem too repetitive or similar as she was the only one writing it. However, with the help of Ms Alandi, dance teacher and director of the seniors, the two of them added some more diversity in dialogue and characters, and the story was ready to bring to the stage within less than three weeks. Deciding the orders of dances and where they would fit in was the easiest and most enjoyable part for Alia in organizing the show.

Both Claire and Alia say that it is amazing seeing all the creativity and effort that every single person involved puts into the dance production. All of the dancers, crew, and teachers contributed something special and without the joint trust and support between everyone in the show, performers or not, nothing would be possible. Some of the most rewarding things for Claire, Alia, and many others involved is seeing everything paying off and coming to fruition, while watching both the audience and your peers around you having a great time sharing the passion dance brings.

Jam-packed with upbeat, hype performances, and travelling from the jungle to the desert, Rainbow Road to spooky Luigi's Mansion, these students certainly took us on a journey that felt far outside an old theatre. Our thanks go to Ms. Alandi, Ms. Waldner, and all of the inspiring people involved in bringing these incredible dance shows to our community every semester.

Don't forget to check out 2020's spring dance production at Massey Theatre as well! I'll definitely be there!

HYACK COUTURE

BY RAYA OMEGA

Fashion is more than what you wear. It is an attitude, an outlet, and an expression. Your style can tell the world how you feel without words, and here is what the students of NWSS have to say!

HYACK CATWALK



Julia (Gr. 10) and Yvonne (Gr. 10)

"WHAT YOU WEAR IS HOW YOU PRESENT YOURSELF TO THE WORLD, ESPECIALLY TODAY, WHEN HUMAN CONTACTS ARE SO QUICK. FASHION IS INSTANT LANGUAGE."

– MIUCCIA PRADA



Ana (Gr. 10)



Savanah (Gr.10) and Charlize (Gr.10)

"FASHION IS THE ARMOR TO SURVIVE THE REALITY OF EVERYDAY LIFE."

– BILL CUNNINGHAM



Waka (Gr.11), Emma (Gr. 11) and Reina (Gr. 11)



Amy (Gr. 11)



Anika (Gr. 10)

HYACK COUTURE



Aries (Gr. 10) and Chirsten (Gr. 10)



Emily (Gr.10)



Josef (Gr. 9)



Raya (Gr.10)-Hey, that's me!, Chanel (Gr.10), Noorin (Gr. 10)

"IN ORDER TO BE IRREPLACEABLE ONE MUST ALWAYS BE DIFFERENT."
— COCO CHANEL

"ELEGANCE IS NOT STANDING OUT, BUT BEING REMEMBERED."
— GIORGIO ARMANI



Sophie (Gr. 10) and Lauren (Gr. 10)

[Photos taken by Andrei Veliciu]

THE FUTURE OF THE FRENCH IB PROGRAM

BY GRACE HODGES

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Program offers rigorous courses that prompt the students to adapt and grow throughout the process. The program can build tight-knit communities and guide enrolled students to promising post-secondary opportunities. NWSS offers a unique aspect of the IB Program: French IB. This allows students to reap the benefits of both programs; however, the French IB Program came dangerously close to being dissolved. The program thankfully persisted and remains an option for students to pursue in their final two years of high school; however, one must wonder why it was in danger in the first place? More importantly, why was it saved? Why do the students in the program choose to enroll in French IB as opposed to English IB?

When asked for reasoning as to why the program was in danger of being dissolved and how the eventual solution was reached, administration stated, "The French IB Program has not been dissolved. We are still offering pathways for our French Immersion students to join IB in grade 11." In a meeting with Student Voice, students learned that interest just was not high enough. In fact, only four students graduated from the program last year.

So why did anyone care enough to fight for the program? Yvonne Ilaio, a grade 10 student, was furious with the decision. She had "spent weeks frantically planning" out her academic career by researching the HL courses she would need to take for the universities she wanted and by talking to different teachers, IB and AP students from multiple schools. Yvonne says, "French Immersion ultimately changed my life. It enabled me to make a lot of new friends, as well as discover a fascination for languages." She also "enjoyed the fast-paced learning environment [of IB]" as well as its more comprehensive approach to teaching. "It taught me to think beyond my biases and consider others' perspectives."

Amy Vurdela, a grade 9 student, echoes Yvonne's statement. When asked about French Immersion, she comments that "It has been pretty amazing having the opportunity to learn two languages in school" and that "[she is] really enjoying [her] time in pre IB. The teachers are amazing and [she is] learning lots."

So if the benefits of both programs are so high, why are students not completing the French IB program? Natalia Fuentes, a grade 11 student currently enrolled in the program, explains the drawbacks that could lead to a higher dropout rate. She says, "Right now, the IB 12s and the 11s are in the same class, and while I'm grateful, and I've learned a lot from both grades, the experience and demands of IB are so different in each year. There isn't enough time in the school year(s) to give the grade twelves the finishing touches they need, and the foundation the grade elevens want by teaching both grades the same material."

Within the already demanding IB program, why does Natalia choose to tackle the challenge that is French IB? Why put the time in? All three students convey one thing when discussing their futures with the program; it is mentally rewarding and challenging - the perfect fit for a student looking to heighten their knowledge of the French language and thrive alongside like-minded individuals.

In the end, why the French IB program was almost dissolved is not as relevant as it appears to be. Instead, focus on why it was kept. Students like Amy, Yvonne and Natalia have invested their time and effort and are true advocates for its continuation. They have fought for the ability to pursue the opportunities in both programs and have flourished academically. Students like these three deserve the chance to pursue an enriched and varied education that the French IB Program offers. It must remain an option.

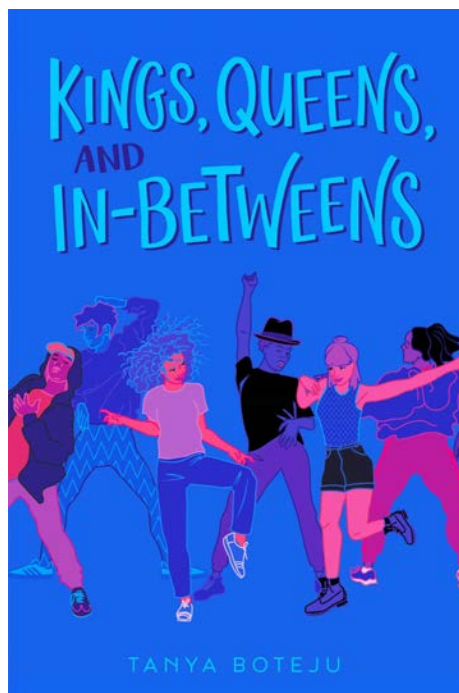
Going through it? Got a question? Looking for advice?
Submit your wonderings anonymously to

Taylor's Two Cents

by students, for students
at tellynym.me/taylorstwocents.

Submit as soon as possible to get your question featured in the next
issue!

NEVE'S RECENT READS



Kings, Queens, and In-Betweens by Tanya Boteju

Kings, Queens, and In-Betweens is Vancouver writer Tanya Boteju's debut book for young adults. It acknowledges how to break through societal norms and expectations of what it means to fit in while trying to find self-expression. Released in 2019, this book tackles the struggles of being queer and navigating both platonic and romantic relationships through the eyes of the protagonist Nima Kumara-Clark who is a biracial Sri Lankan lesbian. The story follows Nima as she works to find her place in the LGBTQ community while she explores the drag scene and simultaneously tries to nurse her heart that has been shattered by her mother's leaving and a painful case of unrequited love.

The novel starts a bit slow and somewhat lacks depth in the style of narration at times, but Boteju makes up for it with fun and

loveable characters such as Deidre and Winnow: two drag artists Nima meets at a show during her town's annual summer festival. The magical and enchanting descriptions certainly draw readers into the story. The vivid accounts allow the reader themselves to experience Nima's adventures. Not all of this story is sparkles and glitter, though. The author delivers heartbreak after heartbreak for Nima, forcing the protagonist to question everything with which she is familiar and to break out of her comfort zone to really find strength from within.

What makes this book truly compelling is the refreshing cast of diverse characters. From drag kings and queens to girls who like girls to those questioning their gender, the characters are realistic and representative of so many of today's teens. The story demonstrates to readers that they are not alone in this confusing world of identity; the plot encourages us to remember that we are valid. **7/10**

NEVE'S LATEST LISTENS

Fine Line by Harry Styles

Solo artist Harry Styles finally released his highly anticipated sophomore album *Fine Line* in December of 2019, giving fans a taste of what his 2020 world tour will entail. It provides both his newer fans and the devotees from his days in One Direction with a much needed musical fix. The album's three most popular singles: "Lights Up," "Watermelon Sugar," and "Adore You" were immediately met with favourable responses from critics and fans, achieving top standings on the Billboard charts. With twelve

tracks in total ranging from pop-rock to folksy sounds -such as "She" and "Cherry"- and infused with some '70s influences, *Fine Line* proves to be a strong return since the release of Styles' first self-titled album in 2017. Without straying too far from his original sound, the new album distinctly shows the confidence he has gained as he experiments with new sounds and styles, taking creative freedom and stepping out of his comfort zone and his boy-band roots. As a mainstream artist, Harry Styles has a certain individuality and character unlike other pop artists and that enhances his rising prominence and puts him ahead of his ex-band members as well. (Who knows, though. This whole article could be biased. I did, after all, buy his concert tickets.) **8/10**



NEW WEST'S HIDDEN GEMS

BY YVONNE ILAO // @THEUNINSPIREDFOODIE

As teenagers, we can all agree that good food is one of the things in which we find joy — yet we are often too busy or too broke for anything other than Timmie's. Whether you're looking for a good hangout spot, or you just want to get out of the house for once, here are 5 of the most underrated restaurants in the New West area.

Belmont Cafe



Where to find it:

619 Belmont Street
New Westminster, BC

What to order:

- Baked chicken spaghetti in Portuguese sauce (left)
- Malaysian beef curry

Despite living in the shadow of its ever-popular neighbour, Tim Hortons, this quiet but promising cafe has a surprisingly large menu selection. Their culinary repertoire encompasses many Malaysian favourites (most notably their beef curry) as well as

Western classics, including sandwiches and pasta. On top of that, their staff is incredibly kind and will remember your favourite order each time you visit. It's definitely the perfect place to go on a rainy afternoon.

The Hide Out Cafe

Where to find it:

716 Carnarvon St
New Westminster, BC

What to order:

- Mango chicken wrap (right)
- Cinnamon buns
- Tomato basil soup

Located near the law courts on Carnarvon, this 'hide out' offers a variety of dishes that combine homestyle cooking with restaurant quality. Whether you're stopping by for lunch or for a quiet afternoon of study, you'll be sure to enjoy a hot drink while relaxing by the light of a window; in fact, many locals rave about their coffee, particularly the lattes and cappuccinos. Not only that, the casual ambience and spectacular service truly make this place a hidden gem. At the Hide Out, you can't help but feel at home.



IT Char Burger

Where to find it:

800 McBride Blvd #29
New Westminister, BC

What to order:

- Char burger w/ fries (right)
- Spicy BBQ Burger
- Chicken wrap

www.zomato.com/vancouver/it-char-burger-new-westminister



This Korean burger joint's name might sound familiar to former Glenbrook students as they cater for the middle school's lunch program with their most notable dishes being the Penne Pasta and the BLT. Although these fan favourites aren't available outside of the Glenbrook ordering, they have plenty of other equally-drool-worthy dishes from both Korean and Western cuisines. Their legendary Char burger, for example, is served freshly made and seared to perfection while their fries are actual, crisp homemade potato wedges. For only \$12, this combo undoubtedly reigns supreme over other fast-food burgers.

Wild Thyme



Where to find it:

705 12th Street
New Westminister, BC

What to order:

- Any flatbread
- Kafta bowl
- Fattoush salad (left)

(also in the picture: pita w/ 4 dips)

Want some variety in your diet? This modern yet authentic Lebanese eatery will take you on a culinary adventure beyond the ubiquitous donair. With a wide range of traditional Lebanese staples such as kafta, fattoush, and za'atar, you'll be astonished by the simple yet flavourful quality of their food. Their housemade pita, for example, is served warm and filled with air — almost like an enormous edible balloon. Wild Thyme's original representation of Lebanese food culture will ultimately give you a culinary experience like no other.

Victoria Sushi

Where to find it:

15 E Royal Ave #10
New Westminister, BC

What to order:

- Salmon Oshi (right)
- Tobiko Aburi
- Bang Bang salad

www.tripadvisor.ca/LocationPhotoDirectLink-g154936-d8438612-i274010892-Victoria_Sushi-New_Westminister_British_Columbia.html



Compared to the myriad of sushi places in Vancouver, this little-known restaurant in the Queen's Park area stands out above the rest; it is one of the relatively few places in Metro Vancouver that serves Aburi Oshi sushi. This means that, apart from its characteristic box shape, it is flame-seared, giving it a buttery, more tender quality. Now, instead of having to travel all the way to Downtown Vancouver just to spend \$17 on a mere six pieces at the legendary Miku, you can experience this cultural treasure while supporting local businesses.

MUSICAL MAGIC

BY NATALIA FUENTES

I walked into my A-Block on that first day of school in September without really knowing what I expected. I thought that it would be a class like any other where you might remember most of the people's names and maybe stay friends with a select few. But entering into that particular classroom was different; I remember the energy of the room being infectious. I saw some friends, familiar faces, and some people I didn't even know attended this school (in my defence, NDub is pretty big). As I walked in that first day, I had no idea what this program would come to mean to me in the following months.

While NWSS has been around since boomers were kids, the Musical Theatre Program (School's Out Productions) has been running since 2008, with its first production being *Annie*. Now, 12 years later, the program, taught by Ms. Monteleone, Ms. Waldner and Ms. Proznick, is pleased to present Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*, the classic tale of kindness, courage, and true love. I'm sure you've seen the posters around the school. Maybe you've swiped past "COME SEE BEAUTY AND THE BEAST" on someone's story. And even if you haven't, you should definitely come and experience the result of dedicated collaboration, months of hard work, and hundreds of hours of rehearsal play out on stage.

One poster, or even one performance for that matter, can't actually depict the amount of skill, dedication, and love that goes into bringing a show to life. For every performance in a musical theatre production, there are dozens of cast, crew, and orchestra members pouring their hearts and souls into their crafts.

The talented cast members have the chance to sing, dance, and act their way into their audience members' hearts. Teilani Rasmussen, who is playing Belle in the musical, has "several responsibilities like memorizing [her] abundance of lines and writing down the choreography and the blocking for each number" in which she is involved. Josh Eusebio, in the role of the Beast, says, "We all spend hours each day working to learn choreography, music, and to develop a deeper understanding of characters and plot." He adds, "Every individual involved in the program, whether it be a student or teacher, has to always put their best work forward for our musicals to be as great as they are."

The cast experience involves working with about 50 other members to memorize numerous songs, dance routines, and stage blocking; although those are only the surface level responsibilities as another necessity is "showing up ready to learn both mentally and physically," says Mark Zavorotny. Mark is a member of the ensemble and has worked, alongside everyone else, to create a backstory for each character so that intents are obvious. Everybody exhibits dedication, support and engagement.

Behind every cast member singing their heart out onstage, there are crew members ensuring that their performance is to be one for the ages. The crew makes certain that everything going on backstage is just as seamless. The responsibilities of the crew involve making and sourcing props, painting sets, and essentially making sure that every aspect of



the show runs smoothly. For Jamie Slade-Kerr, one of the members of the leadership crew, their responsibilities include sourcing, making, and repairing props when necessary. They “also have to be able to wrangle cast members when the time comes.” The crew also works with industry professionals to learn more about lighting, sound, and scene changes. The very talented group of 15 leadership and running crew members meets every Wednesday after school (in addition to the twice a week program Z Blocks) from 3:30-5:30 to attend Massey Theatre Tech Club in order to practice their craft and be able to do something they enjoy!

The orchestra is an integral cog in the machine, tasked with bringing the musical aspects to life. Whether it’s a gut-wrenching ballad or intense underscore, they are what makes a musical, well, a musical! This group of skilled musicians prepares for the performance every Wednesday after school led by the dauntless Mr Clements. Playing Broadway-worthy pieces, the orchestra is emphasizing every emotion portrayed on the stage. A great deal of practice goes into every piece and the fact that the band plays throughout the entire show is an impressive feat.

The hair and makeup Z-Block class also works on the show, making sure that the cast plays their roles in the most convincing ways they can. Taught by Ms Cave, they handle all the aspects of the hair and makeup for all the cast members and ensure that the actors look their best for the show. During the week of the run, they finally execute their creations on the cast members and add the finishing touches that truly bring the characters to life. These different teams are all essential for the show to make it to the stage, and with their different skill sets, ensure that the show is unforgettable in all of its aspects.

The road to making a show isn’t necessarily smooth; but it is, without a doubt, rewarding. Putting on a show, especially a show of this magnitude, gives way to unexpected experiences. “In a high school with as large a student body as ours, it’s really easy to feel lonely and insignificant, and it’s really hard to make meaningful connections,” says Jamie Slade-Kerr. “I’ve gained so many friends and made so many connections that I never could have made without this program.” If you’re thinking of joining this program, anyone is able to audition. The 2022 musical auditions are being held early 2021, so keep a lookout!

And so, I walked into my A-Block that first day in September. I don’t really know what I expected. I thought that it would be a class like any other where you might remember most of the people’s names and maybe stay friends with a select few.

I did not expect that I would have the honour and the privilege of calling the people in this program a second family. Not only does the Musical Theatre cohort produce incredible productions on the stage, it builds a community of amazing people who have come to love and support each other in their ups and downs. The program has offered me so much more than most classes ever have. It has offered me people I can call my friends who help me and share my passions. We inspire and lift each other to realize potential beyond what we could have imagined we possessed. The commitment to the program, and to each other, is what truly makes every production such a special experience.

AN ECOSYSTEM OUT OF BALANCE

BY MOLLY CATHERINE CHESMAN

As the world enters a new decade, it does so veiled by overwhelming word of environmental distress. Earth's ecosystems teeter out of balance, as everyday more and more stories, studies, and articles are released sentencing Earth to an untimely demise. It seems with every ban on single-use plastic comes another corporation pum-ping glacier-blackening toxins into the air. With every new green passed comes news of another animal facing extinction. With every good, it seems, comes a greater



New Westminster students attending an information session in the NWSS library

bad. As major corporations, world leaders, and governments turn a blind eye to the ever-growing turmoil our world faces, the fate of planet Earth has been placed into the hands of the citizen: primarily, the world's youth.

The past year has been one of environmental uprising for the students of New Westminster and surrounding communities. It was just this past September that the Sustainabiliteens, an environmental activist group consisting of Vancouver youth, organized the biggest strike in the city's history. A mere month later, they went on to host Greta Thunberg, a 17-year-old environmental activist who has found a place in the world's collective eye within the last two years. More and more, local students have been taking action in lieu of their communities' adult officials, and that includes the students of NWSS' Environment Club.

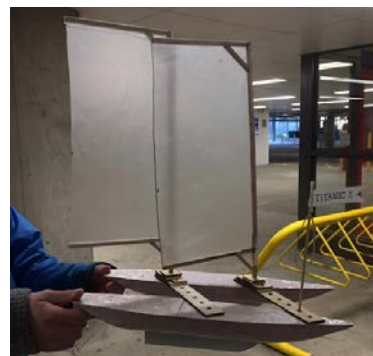
On October 15th, 2019, *SD40 for the Climate* spoke before the operations committee, urging them to call an official climate emergency. The idea for such a call came following the Victoria school district's declaration of a climate emergency, the first in Canada, on June 28th of 2019. Alongside the students' requests came recommendations on how our community can take more serious action in combatting the environmental crisis. Suggestions included: the recommendation to form an indelible long-term strategy of environmental preservation by September of 2020, the request to apply climate literacy to school curriculums spanning from Kindergarten to grade 12, and to write to the ministers of environment and education in order to advocate for said curriculum addition, as well as providing support for districts aiming to decrease their greenhouse gas emissions. Two of those recommendations, listed first and fourth, moved on to the school board for evaluation, having the recommendations listed second and third postponed until November in order to gather more information.

We've hardly grazed the surface of 2020, and already there are plans in place to further our environmental impact. The NWSS Environment Club hosts meetings every Monday at lunch in Room 220, and within every meeting are teens eager and passionate to better the world around them. They are always accepting and encouraging of new members and any new students the new year brings would be more than appreciated.

CLUB FEATURES

SCIENCE CLUB BY ELENA MASSING

This group focuses on making science exciting and engaging for everyone. A typical meeting for the group consists of tests and assessments on various scientific topics (but cool tests, I assure you). They represent New West in local competitions against other Lower Mainland clubs and consistently do well. The junior team, led by Sam Killawee and Thomas Yemane (deputy team leader), placed sixth overall out of the 24 teams that competed at KPU in November. One of their projects, a boat made of balsa wood, aprons, and styrofoam (right), was third in its category.



INTERACT CLUB BY GRACE HODGES

On most Thursdays, a student passing through the Pearson foyer at lunch time will be greeted with the enticing smell of fresh popcorn. Once a month, on Fridays, a crowd will be gathered around a group of dedicated individuals selling Krispy Kreme Donuts. As one of, if not the largest club in the school, Interact has found a place within the NWSS community as a fundraising club comprised of incredibly dedicated students.

Co-Presidents Sophia Sun and Michelle Pern have poured time and effort into the organization and it shows with the club's constant volunteer work. The members fundraise for the global eradication of polio and a local women's shelter through various events throughout the year. Whether it is on a smaller scale like the Krispy Kreme sales or larger events like their annual Valentine's Day Rose Sale, the Interact club puts in the time for the charities they support.

While the club's work ethic consistently shines through, the club itself can offer opportunities outside of school for its members. As Interact is deeply connected to Rotary, club members can go on exchange programs or trips that provide insight into Canadian industries all over BC. Interact members can also apply for scholarships and build a strong network of individuals as dedicated to service as the club itself is through the connection to Rotary.

Interact Club is shown to be consistently adapting to the different situations each year presents. For example, to adjust to their growing numbers, Co-President Sophia explains the system they use to delegate tasks. She writes over email, "There is a committee for each type of event we do, namely Krispy Kreme, Popcorn, Holidays as well as other "special" events like the Charity Basketball Tournament, which we do every year. Within each committee, there are teams responsible for each part of the fundraiser and project leaders to manage the teams."

The club always welcomes students seeking leadership and volunteering opportunities. There is no doubt that Interact Club's consistent evolution, dedication, and leadership has allowed them to become the well-rounded and versatile club that has existed for years and that will continue to exist for many years to come.

SPORTS FEATURE: SENIOR GIRLS BASKETBALL

BY ISABELLA MCDONELL



Photographs by **Teddy Kadonoff.**

Head coaches Roger Hamerton, Chelsie Goodchild, and Traci Cave have nurtured an impressive team this year with an overall final record of 14 wins and 14 losses. The ladies, led by captains Anya Tjernagel and Kanon Imachi, have definitely had an eventful year. Prior to playoffs, the girls practiced up to five times a week; the close knit group had fantastic chemistry on and off the court. Comprised of seven grade 12 students, four grade 11, and five grade 10 players, these teammates fought hard throughout the season. They placed 5th overall in the John Oliver Tournament, 6th at Collingwood, and 4th overall in the Burnaby/New West league where Anja Tjernagel was named Playoff All-Star. The Fraser North Zones saw them finish the season in 8th. Playing at home for our annual Bob Gair Tournament, the players were able to turn on the heat and secure a second place finish on our home court.

Upcoming spring events include the Annual Manure Sale and the facilitation of a district-wide basketball tournament for grade 5 students.



MENSTRUAL EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS

BY VERONICA POPOVA

For those of us using the girls' bathrooms at school, it is hard to miss the fact that pads and tampons are now free. How did this come to be, and what is menstrual hygiene like in other schools and in other countries? To understand the significance of providing these necessities for free, we must discuss period poverty.

Period poverty refers to when people who menstruate have inadequate access to menstrual products as a result of their financial situation; this can result in missing school or other activities. Not only that, but the stigma around periods can make asking for supplies from peers or teachers daunting.

Period poverty is a bigger issue than what meets the eye and doesn't only affect women; anybody who menstruates can be affected. For transgender individuals, attaining menstrual products can be even more difficult.

Although women have been able to access products in public bathrooms for some time, they usually cost 10 or 25 cents a piece. However, there is no guarantee that people will have change on them and if they do, the dispensers either jam or have nothing in them to begin with. Menstrual products are necessities, but unlike toilet paper and soap, they were often overlooked completely in terms of making them easy to access.

With all of these issues in mind, the Board of Trustees for New Westminster Schools unanimously voted on free period products in schools on February 26th, 2019, being the first district in Canada to do so. This motion worked towards providing students with free menstrual products in female and gender-neutral bathrooms by September that same year.

The same initiative was also acknowledged on a larger scale; the BC government implemented the same practice in all 60 school districts in the province. This, however, does not include private schools or post-secondary schools.

BC is not the only place making this change. Waterloo, Toronto, and Manitoba have all considered following the same path as BC.

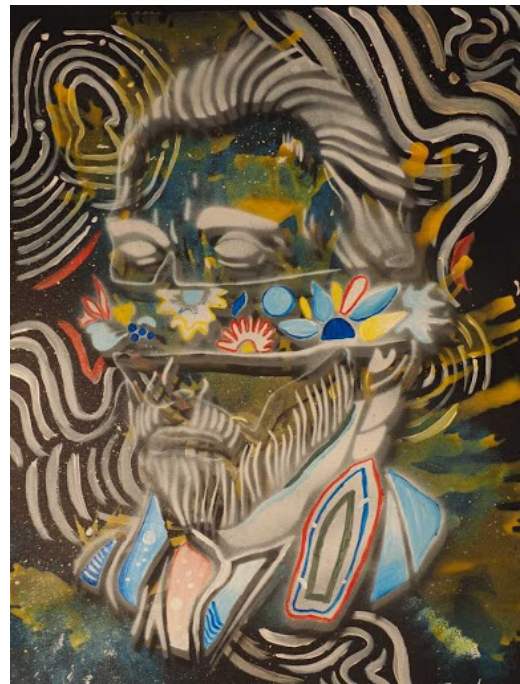
This isn't exclusive to Canada. Back in 2018, Scotland made pads and tampons free for all students, including college and university students, making it the first nation to do so.

There is still work to do in regards to period poverty and the stigma around menstruation, but this motion is a great start to ending both. This motion makes periods a little less stressful and helps people continue daily tasks as best they can as well as removing the barrier people face when trying to attain basic necessities.

ARTIST SHOWCASE



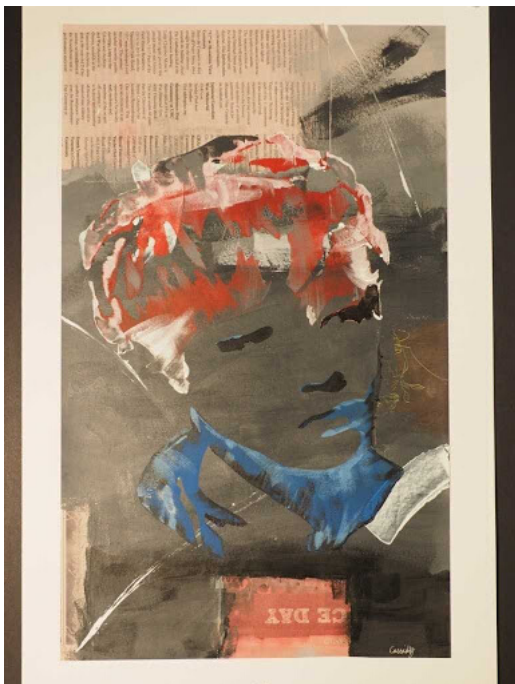
Julianna Platts: "E-scape" Mixed materials



Janet Qiu: "Dream" Acrylic



Chantelle Bethell: "Value" Mixed medium



Cassidy Scott: "Day" Mixed materials - Acrylic



Anika: "Duality" Mixed materials

GLOBAL CRISIS

BY JUNO AVILA-CLARK

As a young person, I am terrified. At this very moment, we are witnessing the most daunting crisis humanity has ever faced. If we do not prevent two degrees of warming, our entire way of life will collapse around us. Rising temperatures and sea levels will mean the death of crops, the destruction of homes, and the loss of many lives. But even while the media constantly shows me news about floods and fires and fear, I'm told the solution is to recycle, stop using plastic straws, and take public transit. Isn't there more I can do to fight for my future and the future of those I love? Individual change is vital to combating the climate crisis, but it will not work without systematic change on a global level.

Changing the world seems impossible, but it's not. It's what Greta Thunberg and youth in over 125 countries have been doing for over a year now, and they have had a substantial impact on people everywhere. The climate strike movement has spread awareness among the public and helped highlight the climate crisis as a key issue in politics.

I only realized how serious this issue was when I attended the Vancouver climate strike on May third of last year, and decided I had to take action to fight for a full and happy life for myself, my loved ones, and future generations. Since then, I joined Sustainabiliteens, a Vancouver group of students planning climate strikes, and became an organizer. Imagine what we could accomplish if everyone made an individual choice to help create systematic change.



Big changes, however, can start small. Talking to someone you know about the climate crisis, going vegan, and taking public transit are all great ways to practice individual change. Additionally, advocating for climate justice in your local community is vital, as individual change is most effective when it spreads and inspires others to make similar choices in their own lives. When individual choices like this spread, movements begin.

Take for example the recent increase in the use of reusable straws. It began with one environmental group, the Surfrider Foundation, announcing 2018 as "the year we say goodbye to plastic straws." This action made by an individual organization quickly became widespread. Now, most of my friends consistently carry reusable straws in their backpacks for when they go to Tim Hortons at lunchtime.

Small changes are just that: small changes. However, they prove that we have the power to make larger systemic change.

This is where we need government support, acknowledgement and action. For example, according to the carbon majors database report published in 2017, “over half of global industrial emissions since human-induced climate change was officially recognized can be traced to just 25 corporate and state producing entities.” Our government can no longer let our economy rest on the shoulders of the destructive fossil fuel industry that spends all of its energy in defence of its own wealth. We need renewable energy, not new pipelines. According to a climate inequality report published by Oxfam in 2015, “The poorest half of the global population are responsible for only around 10% of global emissions yet live overwhelmingly in the countries most vulnerable to climate change – while the richest 10% of people in the world are responsible for around 50% of global emissions.” Wealthy groups must use their privilege to fight this crisis, as climate justice cannot be separated from economic equity. These are people who have the ability to invest in clean energy and reduce emissions on a global scale. Sadly, they aren’t stepping up to the plate, so we have to use our collective power to change the system.

This is a call to action. Not just for youth, but for everyone. Use your influence to change the system that is sending us on a path of destruction. Put pressure on people in power to create real systemic change addressing the climate crisis.

Sustainabiliteens, as part of Climate Strike Canada, is striking for climate justice on April 3rd, and we need you. To create systemic change we need everyone to join us! We invite anyone who can to strike from work or school and come join us to take part in this global movement for a livable future. On April 3rd, make your voice heard. Together, we can change the world.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

I would like to begin this message by thanking and congratulating the students and teachers of NDUB Student Press for their hard work and dedication in producing this, the first student newsletter for New Westminster Secondary School. I am excited to read and enjoy our students' perspectives on local and global issues and events.

It is hard to believe that we have finished semester 1 and have now settled into the start of semester 2. Report cards for semester 1 were published to the MyEdBC portal on Thursday, January 30. Students and parents can access the portal online at www.myeducation.gov.bc.ca/aspen/logon.do . If you are having difficulty accessing the portal, please contact the office for further support.

I would like to congratulate our students who completed the literacy and numeracy assessments during semester turn around. A big thank you to all our teachers who took time to invigilate these assessments and another big thank you to Vice-Principal Ms. Quan for all her efforts in coordinating these assessments.

I would like to inform students and parents that the course selection process for the 2020/21 school year is now complete. Hopefully, students made wise decisions when they selected their courses. Our timetable for the next school year will be based on the decisions and choices students made. Therefore, once the timetable is created, there will be little opportunity to change courses in September; so if you have any questions or concerns, please contact your counsellor as soon as possible.

Finally, I would like to wish all the students at NWSS great success moving forward this semester!

Mr. McLeod
Principal

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