



# Message from the Administration

Mr. Kal Russell  
Principal

Mr. David Mark  
Vice-Principal

NORTH SAANICH MIDDLE SCHOOL

## School Goals 2013-2014

Goal #1—  
To improve student achievement in Mathematics.

Goal #2—  
To improve student social responsibility.

## The Hawk Eye

### Report Cards; What is important?

First term report cards arrive home on December 16, 2013. Report cards can be stressful for students, parents and teachers, because grade 6 is the first year of letter grades. Creating anxiety and stress is not the objective. Report cards and accompanying letter grades are required by the provincial legislation, so that schools communicate with parents about their child's performance level as it relates to the learning outcomes of each subject. As a staff we make sure that we regularly communicate to you about your child's achievements, so that you are not surprised when these report cards come home. Report cards are more than just a legal document on a child's progress, they are also a valuable tool for improving student learning.

In order to help us all at NSMS continue to be successful with our learning we are using the Growth Mindset language. An open growth mindset believes that we can all improve through effort and engagement in our learning. When we are looking at report cards we encourage you to use this language with your child, because the newest brain research has shown that it helps students under-

stand their learning and motivates them to challenge themselves.

Many articles have been written about Growth Mindset and how it can help students grow as learners. At NSMS, we believe report cards can be one of those opportunities for students to learn about what helps them become successful students and people.

Please take a few minutes to look at your child's report card with them and talk about their grades and effort. Be specific with your praise about their report card or school work. Praising them for their effort sends the message that they have the power to improve and change. Reinforce with your child that their brain is a muscle that can be strengthened with practice. Young people need to know that they can directly affect their intelligence by engaging in their learning, working hard, and learning from their mistakes.

Finally, we can use the report card as a starting point to open up the Growth Mindset conversation with our children and help them understand the importance of challenging ourselves and learning for both our successes and struggles.

***It does not matter how slowly you go, as long as you do not stop. Confucius***

### Dates to Remember

At <http://northsaanich.sd63.bc.ca/> for current information on these activities.

December 2013	
PAC Meeting	10
Winter Band Concert	12
Book Fair	12-16
Report Card #1 goes home	16
Dance/Social (Last day of school)	20
January 2014	
First Day Back after break	6
FAAS #3 begins	6
Duffle Bag Theatre presentation	17

*Mindset is a simple idea discovered by world-renowned Stanford University psychologist Carol Dweck in decades of research on achievement and success—a simple idea that makes all the difference.*

*In a fixed mindset, people believe their basic qualities, like their intelligence or talent, are simply fixed traits. They spend their time documenting their intelligence or talent instead of developing them. They also believe that talent alone creates success—without effort. They're wrong.*

*In a growth mindset, people believe that their most basic abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work—brains and talent are just the starting point. This view creates a love of learning and a resilience that is essential for great accomplishment. Virtually all great people have had these qualities.*

Find out more about Growth Mindset by going to  
<http://mindsetonline.com/whatisit/about/index.html>

