



Director of Instruction: Christopher Wong
Principal: Harjinder Sandhu
Vice Principal: Scott Hughes
PAC Chairperson: Holly Flauto and Miriam Maxcy
School Liaison Trustee: Christopher Richardson



With deep gratitude and respect, we are honoured to be learning and unlearning on the ancestral and unceded lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) & səlilwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh Nation).

The final term of 2024-2025

Hello Henderson Community! We hope everyone had a safe, relaxing, and rejuvenating Spring Break. We know many in our school community have, are or will be observing and celebrating several holidays: Holi, Qingming, Ramadan, Chaitri Navratri, Theravada Buddhist New Year, Nowruz/Nauraz, Vaisakhi, Puthandu, Passover, and Easter. We wish you all the best as you reflect, gather, and celebrate.

As we head into the final three months of this school year, we look forward to the many learning activities and events that will take place. Divisions 19 and 22 are working with dance instructors from Arts Umbrella. Divisions 13, 14, 15 and 16 are working with the Artist in Residence program. Many classes have started to enjoy more neighbourhood walks and field trips. We look forward to hosting new Kindergarten families in June. The primary Grade 1 to 3 classes look forward to Mara Fun on June 13th. Division 5 looks forward to camping at school. The Grade Sevens look forward to camp, high school articulation and their Grade 7 Leaving Ceremony. All students look forward to Sports Day and our schoolwide Play Day. More information will be shared as we get closer to hosting these events.

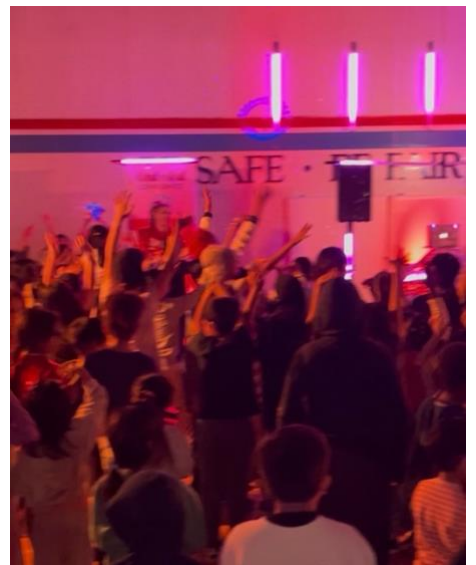
At this time, we have many school clubs being sponsored by staff during the lunch breaks and after school where students can practice their creativity: Dance Club, Schools Out CST, Drama Club, Garden Club, Ukulele Club, Dungeons and Dragons Club, and soon we will have Super Science Club.

Later this spring the school Track & Field Team for Grades 4 to 7 will begin meeting.

Thank you for continuing to model a caring, accepting, and inclusive environment where all can learn and thrive.



KIND MIND PROJECT



Thank you to all the families that participated in the Kind Mind Project. Students were enthusiastic participants in the lessons we observed at school. These lessons are designed to help teach students strategies to keeping a healthy mind. At the end of the month-long program the Kelty Centre hosted an EPIC Confi-dance party with leading kids DJ - Rock N'Beau! What a treat it was to end the second term celebrating with a fun afternoon of great music and dancing. We are so grateful to the Kelty Centre for bringing this opportunity to us.

Spring Celebrations Observed in Our Community

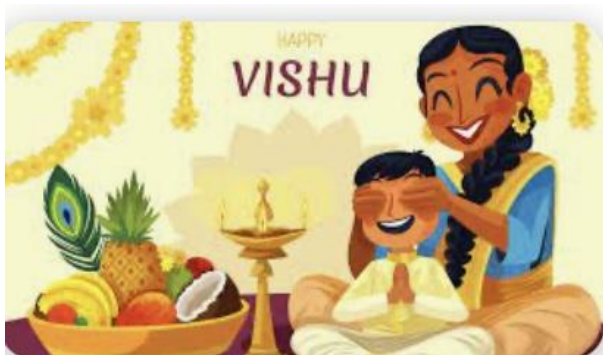
The more we learn about each other, the more we can build positive relationships and a stronger community. The students are very proud to share aspects of their identity, and we love learning from them! If there is a cultural event or celebration important to your family and you wish to share information with us, please contact us in the office. We will share with others in the newsletter!

Last Newsletter we missed a Spring event that is celebrated in our community. Thank you to the family that reached out. Please see below.



Puthandu or Varusha Pirappu - Tamil New Year (April 14th)

Tamil Puthandu, the Tamil New Year typically falls on April 14 of the Gregorian calendar, coinciding with the spring equinox and is celebrated in the state of Tamil Nadu in India and by Tamil communities in Canada, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Singapore, Mauritius, and beyond. This day marks the beginning of Chithirai, the first month of the Tamil solar calendar, based on the movement of the Sun into the Aries zodiac sign (Mesha Rasi). Families prepare festive meals, visit temples, and create elaborate kolam (rangoli) at their doorsteps. A special dish called mangai pachadi symbolizing life's blend of emotions is prepared. In many parts of South Tamil Nadu, families begin the day with 'Kanni'— a viewing auspicious items like the three fruits (mango, banana and jack fruit), betel leaves and arecanut, gold/silver jewellery, coins/money, flowers and a mirror, pre-arranged on the eve of the Puthandu in a tray.



Vishu – The Festival of Prosperity & New Beginnings (April 14th)

Vishu is a major festival celebrated by Malayali communities from Kerala, India, and across the world, including in Canada. It falls on April 14 and marks the Sun's transition into Aries (Mesha Rasi). While it is considered the astronomical new year, in Kerala, the official new year is in the Malayalam month of Chingam (August-September). However, for many, Vishu represents a spiritual and cultural new beginning. Vishu in Sanskrit is equal. It celebrates the vernal equinox, when day and night are roughly the same length.

A key tradition is Vishukkani, where families arrange auspicious items such as rice, fruits, gold, flowers, and a mirror, which are viewed first thing in the morning for good luck. The festival is also marked by temple visits, elders giving Vishukkaineetam (money) to younger members, and a festive meal called Vishu Sadhya, featuring Kerala's traditional vegetarian dishes.

EARTH DAY – APRIL 22ND

Earth Day is an annual event, celebrated worldwide with various activities to demonstrate support for environmental protection. The first celebration took place in 1970. As part of our celebration of Earth Day, classes will participate in various activities in their classrooms, a theme day and community clean-up efforts. Students will learn about what is happening to the earth and its natural resources, because of human use. Students will learn interesting facts, what difficulties are arising and what we can do as individuals to protect the earth and its resources. Messages of reduce, reuse, and recycle will continue to be shared.

Hopefully students and families will be able to take into consideration the following suggestions:

- Try to produce less waste/garbage.
- Use a refillable water bottle instead of buying bottled water.
- Turn off the water when you are brushing your teeth.
- Turn off the lights when you leave a room.
- Unplug your electronics when you are not using them.
- Take shorter showers.
- Eat less foods that are prepackaged.
- Use recycling bins whenever possible.
- Travel by walking or bike riding when you can instead of by car
- When out in the community, bring home garbage for recycling/composting.



10 WAYS TO MAKE EVERY DAY EARTH DAY

Earth Day is an important event that takes place on April 22 every year, where we do our best to show our appreciation for our planet. However, just because Earth Day is one day a year doesn't mean you take the other 364 days off. Here are 10 ways you can make every day Earth Day.

- 01 Go outside more!**
Stepping outside occasionally can help you appreciate nature in all its glory.
- 02 Get reusable bags.**
Cut out the plastic and take reusable bags with you when you go shopping to cut down on waste.
- 03 Recycle.**
Take the time to sort your trash; Mother Earth will thank you.
- 04 Buy organic food and products.**
When you buy organic, you're contributing to a positive approach toward agriculture without harmful pesticides.
- 05 Stop eating meat.**
This may be easier said than done, but cutting meat out of your diet and solely eating plants would reduce food-related emissions by 70%.
- 06 Start composting.**
Don't throw away your organic trash. You can turn it into fertile soil that can help feed plant life.
- 07 Start gardening.**
You can grow a produce section in your backyard, and it'll add more oxygen to the atmosphere while providing you with delicious vegetables.
- 08 Use glass bottles over plastic.**
Using glass bottles instead of plastic yields a purer taste and a reduction in plastic recycling.
- 09 Make your own cleaning products.**
Most cleaning products have harmful chemicals. Instead, use vinegar and orange peels for a non-toxic cleaning experience.
- 10 Plant a tree.**
You don't need to wait for Arbor Day to plant a tree. Not only do trees produce oxygen and absorb carbon monoxide, but they're also a shelter for birds and other animals.

These little steps are extremely beneficial to the environment, and they're also a good way of saying thanks to the Earth!

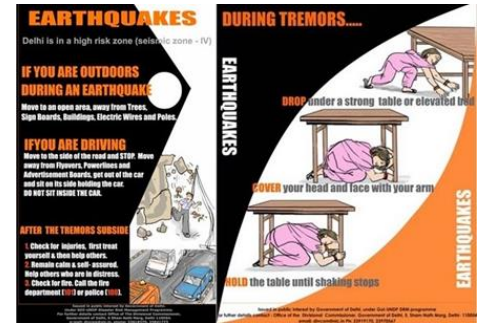
Earthquake Preparedness

The Big One at 2:00 pm is our annual VSB Emergency Preparedness Earthquake Simulation Drill, which will be held on Thursday, May 8th. At Henderson, we have a school emergency plan which all staff have familiarized themselves with. This plan provides staff and students an opportunity to practice what to do when an earthquake occurs. This year we will try to incorporate a “Student Release” component of our emergency evacuation. We will be sending out a notice later this month to ask for volunteer parents/caregivers who are available and can help us practice releasing students for home during the drill. It is helpful for us to go through this drill so that we are prepared in case a real emergency should arise. This might also be a good time for you as a family to review what your home plan is, should an emergency happen. There are many great resources out there to support you. Here are a few web-based ones:

<http://www.earthquakecountry.org/sevensteps/>

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/preparedbc/know-the-risks/earthquakes>

http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/public-safety-and-emergency-services/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/embc/preparedbc/eparedbc_household_preparedness_guide_web_final_2015.pdf



STUDENT LEARNING SURVEY

The Provincial Student Learning Survey is unique in its scope, size and usefulness to schools. It gathers information from parents/guardians/caregivers, teachers, and students on topics related to school environment, safety, and achievement. The information is used for planning in individual schools and provides a district and provincial perspective.

Early in **2025** the Student Learning Survey will be administered to students in grades 4 and 7, their parents/guardians/caregivers, and all school staff. We encourage parents/guardians/caregivers to participate in this survey, as the results are important in identifying and celebrating current strengths, as well as determining where the school needs to focus improvement. The surveys contain standard questions for the province – in addition, questions from the school and/or district that focus on local conditions or issues may be included.

The survey can be completed electronically and can be accessed on the Internet at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/support/student-learning-survey>. Any computer or mobile device with an Internet connection can be used, and access to the e-survey is simple and secure. The survey can be accessed through the link and by clicking on Take the Survey. On the login page, click on the Parents icon, and then select the school district and school name where your child attends school. Provincial, District and School Reports for previous years can be viewed at the same site under the *Results* section.

The e-survey site will be open until May 2, 2025.
If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Sandhu or Mr. Hughes at 604-713-4837.

After the Bell



The [podcast, After the Bell](#), the learning series is designed to be accessible and informative, featuring education subject matter experts and practical takeaways for families.

Have you heard of the term *School-Based Team*? One listener did and asked us to cover this topic on

After the Bell. It's a great question, because as a parent/guardian you may know what it is, but then again, not really?

Episode 32 features, Maiky Ma and Sheryl Morris, both District Case Managers who work with school-based teams. If you enjoy this episode, please subscribe to our podcast and leave a review. Your feedback helps us improve and create more content you'll like.

SUMMER LEARNING

It's time to get ready for summer learning! VSB Summer Learning registration opens on **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23 at 12:00 noon** for **ELEMENTARY STUDENTS** and **will close on Wednesday, May 21st at 11:59 pm**. Registration for **SECONDARY STUDENTS** opens on **Wednesday, April 30th at 12:00 pm** and **will close on Wednesday, June 11th at 11:59pm**. Just a reminder that all Summer Learning registration is **ONLINE ONLY** at <https://summerreg.vsb.bc.ca>.

Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

Parents and Caregivers play an important role in the school and we encourage them to participate as much as they can. Henderson School is well supported by our PAC. The PAC provides wonderful support in many areas of the school— planning and organizing special events, fundraising for field trips and school needs, and communicating with parents, caregivers, and the school. They are always open to new members and welcome both new families and returning families to become involved. For more information you can contact the PAC Executive at johnhendersonpac@gmail.com

Upcoming meetings (no RSVP needed to attend):

Meetings are on Mondays in the Nest (school library). Doors open at 6:00 pm and childminding is provided. The meeting dates for the remainder of the year are April 7th, May 5th and June 2nd.

Mark Your Calendars



- **April 7th** - PAC Meeting @ 6:00 pm library
- **April 9th** - Theme Day - Backwards and Inside/Out Day
- **April 9th** - PAC hot lunch BitterSweet
- **April 18th-21st** - **No School** - Good Friday and Easter Monday
- **April 23rd** - Theme Day - Nature Day
- **April 23rd** - PAC hot lunch Pizza
- **April 23rd** - Fine Arts Club Showcase
- **April 28th** - Pro-D Day - **No School for students**
- **April 30th** - Scholastic Book Fair
- **April 30th** - **Learning Conferences Early Dismissal @ 2:00pm**
- **May 1st** - **Learning Conferences Early Dismissal @ 2:00pm**
- **May 5th** - PAC Meeting @ 6:00 pm library
- **May 7th** - Theme Day - Soccer and Basketball Day
- **May 7th** - Immunization Clinic - Gr. 6 and Kindergarten
- **May 7th** - PAC Meeting @ 6:00 pm library
- **May 8th** - Earthquake Drill - Big One @ 2pm (volunteer release of students)
- **May 8th** - PAC Meeting @ 6:00 pm library
- **May 9th** - Musical - "Rock" Directed by Ms. Leahy Grade (Div. 18 and Grades 2-5)
- **May 15th** - Sports Day
- **May 16th** - Pro-D Day - **No School for students**
- **May 19th** - **No School** - Victoria Day
- **May 21st** - Theme Day - Beach Day
- **May 29th** - PAC Family Dance
- **June 2nd** - PAC Meeting @ 6:00 pm library
- **June 11th** - Theme Day - Rainbow Day
- **June 13th** - Mara Fun 2025
- **June 20th** - Theme Day - Fancy Friday
- **June 20th** - Grade 7 Leaving Ceremony
- **June 25th** - Learning Summaries go home for the last term
- **June 26th** - Last day of School for Students

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS



Free Spring Program for Families!

Learn about healthy eating, smarter screen time management, physical activity, and building long-lasting healthy habits as a family in Generation Health Community.

This 10-week program for families with children ages 8 to 12 is **fun** & interactive!

- ✓ Delivered through YMCA BC starting April 2025 on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday evenings and Sunday afternoons.
- ✓ Families who join this program will receive a complimentary YMCA membership.

Register today!



To learn more, visit gv.ymca.ca/generation-health-community or email at generationhealth@bc.ymca.ca

