



School Liaison Trustee: Ms. Preeti Faridkot
PAC Chairperson: Melissa Hayward-Cheung and Monica Singh
Director of Instruction: Mr. Chris Wong
Principal: Ms. Harjinder Sandhu
Vice Principal: Ms. Amber Logie



We acknowledge that Henderson is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm/Musqueam, Skwxwú7mesh/Squamish and səliłwətał/Tsleil-Waututh Nations.

Learning Updates

As we shared last year the report card format has changed. During the summer of 2022, a development team of teachers, school leaders, and families supported the Ministry in developing materials to support teachers school leader and families in the upcoming shifts to student reporting. We are attaching a brochure that we shared last year that outlines the changes: [Student Reporting Brochure for Families](#).

Today, December 1st, students received their first written learning update of this school year, and it will be with this new format. All students are making progress in their own way. We hope you enjoy going over these updates with your children and sharing their excitement for learning.

Please have a look at some of the learning that goes on each day at Henderson. We look forward to continuing with exciting learning inquiries this month and the many opportunities to connect, not only to the learning, but with each other in community.





Staffing Changes for the 2024

The end of this calendar year also means the departure of two of our teachers. Leaving us, in Division 7, at the end of the month, are Ms. Marie Underwood and Ms. Margaret Givens. We want to thank them both for their contributions to our school community. Returning to our staff and taking over Division 7 is Ms. Sonia Jagpal. We also say goodbye to SSA Lalli Parmar as he pursues his studies. And a big Congratulations to Ms. Lillie Rowell who will be retiring in the New Year. She will be with us for a couple of weeks in January, but we want to make sure everyone has enough time to say goodbye. Ms. Lillie has worked with many Henderson families over the years.

Winter Concert



Please save the date, Thursday, December 21st @ 1:15 pm in the gym. Please **do not** arrive before 1:05 pm as this makes it difficult for us to move students back into classes after lunch and we worry about staff not being able to identify all the parents in the community. So, we ask for the safety and logistics that you please honour our request and arrive at 1:05pm. We appreciate your cooperation and support.

Winter Celebrations

December is a time that most families celebrate togetherness, hope, peace, and light. This is done in many ways and with many different days of significance. There are many traditions from across the globe celebrated in our community. No matter what you are celebrating this winter season, we want to wish you all the best for safe and happy celebrating. How fortunate we are to be able to experience and learn from each other about the different ways we experience things. We love to learn about and share different cultural knowledge. If your family celebrates something special in December, please let us know and we will be happy to include it in our updates. At Henderson we like to have an opportunity to learn a little about the cultures that make up our diverse community. This information helps us get to know each other better and build stronger relationships.



Hanukkah

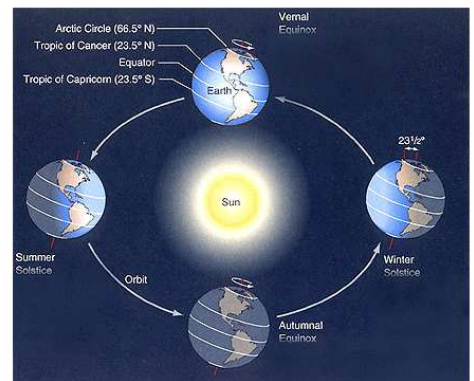


Hanukkah which is Hebrew for “dedication”, is the Festival of Lights. Hanukkah begins four days before the new moon, which is the darkest night of the month. The celebration will start on the Hebrew calendar date of 25 Kislev and last for eight days, this year on Thursday, December 7th at sundown and ends on the evening of Friday, December 15th. The first night usually includes a big family dinner with foods such as potato latkes and jelly doughnuts. After dinner, the family gathers to light the menorah candles—a new candle is lit each night for 8 nights. Blessings and songs are part of the ceremony. Children get to open gifts from family and friends. They play games with toys such as the traditional dreidel and eat chocolate coins, called gelt. The Meaning of Hanukkah -The holiday celebrates a miracle that took place after the Maccabees liberated the Temple of Jerusalem from the Greeks led by a brave man named Judah. After their victory Judah restored the sacred menorah. But there was almost no oil left, only enough for one day. The lamp was filled with the oil and lit. Instead of lasting only one day, it burned brighter and brighter, lasting eight days—a miracle!

Winter Solstice

The Winter Solstice marks the first day of winter. For us in the Northern Hemisphere this will occur on Thursday, December 21, 2023, this year. The winter solstice is the day with the fewest hours of sunlight in the entire year, making it the “shortest day” of the year. The days of sunlight grow longer after the winter solstice. The lengthening of our days of sunlight grows until we reach the summer solstice, the “longest day” of sunlight or the brightest day in the year, the first day of summer.

This year the summer solstice for us will be Thursday, June 20, 2024. The solstice occurs when one of the Earth’s poles has its maximum tilt away from the sun. During the winter solstice there is continuous darkness or twilight around the North Pole. The word solstice come from the Latin sol “sun” and sister “to stand still.” During the days before and after the solstice, the Sun’s path across the sky appears to freeze as there is little visible movement. The solstice has been celebrated since ancient times by many cultures and is marked by festivals and rituals. It marks the symbolic death and rebirth of the Sun. The importance of sunlight/daylight or seasons is significant in certain places because it heavily impacts people’s activity. Some of the festivals observed are: Dies Natalis Solis



The solstices and equinoxes from the perspective of the Northern Hemisphere. Credit: NASA

Invicti (Roman cult of Sol), Yule (German), Makar Sankranti (Indian), Yalda Night (Iranian), Dongzhi (Asian), Korochun (Slavic).

For Indigenous people across the world, the natural world is a source of teachings. An Indigenous world view recognizes the interconnectedness of all things, recognizing that the cosmos: the sun, moon, stars, and planets, affect us and are connected to us.

Christmas

The origin of Christmas is a Christian holiday celebrating the advent of Christ and giving to the poor and needy without expectations of receiving anything in return. Christmas day is celebrated by most Christians on December 25th. Many of the Christmas customs we have or see around us today are based on the religious practice around the birth of Jesus Christ and others have evolved over time and include customs that are observed by people who are not Christian. There are many popular customs associated with Christmas such as gift giving, caroling, exchanging Christmas cards, going to church, having special meals, visiting Santa, and hanging up stockings. There are decorations put up too, such as: Christmas trees, lights, garlands, wreaths, mistletoe, and holly.



Karenga, center, with wife Tiamoyo at left, celebrating Kwanzaa at the Rochester Institute of Technology on December 12, 2003.

Kwanzaa

Kwanzaa has its origins as an American holiday created in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga to celebrate Black people, their history and culture. The name Kwanzaa is based off the Swahili phrase “mutunda ya kwanza” meaning “first fruits of the harvest”. There are seven principles of Kwanzaa or seven principles of Black Heritage to be celebrated:

1. *Umoja* (Unity): To strive for and to maintain unity in the family, community, nation, and race.
2. *Kujichagulia* (Self-Determination): To define and name ourselves, as well as to create and speak for ourselves.
3. *Ujima* (Collective Work and Responsibility): To build and maintain our community together and make our brothers' and sisters' problems our problems and to solve them together.
4. *Ujamaa* (Cooperative economics): To build and maintain our own stores, shops, and other businesses and to profit from them together.
5. *Nia* (Purpose): To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.
6. *Kuumba* (Creativity): To do always as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.
7. *Imani* (Faith): To believe with all our hearts in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders, and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

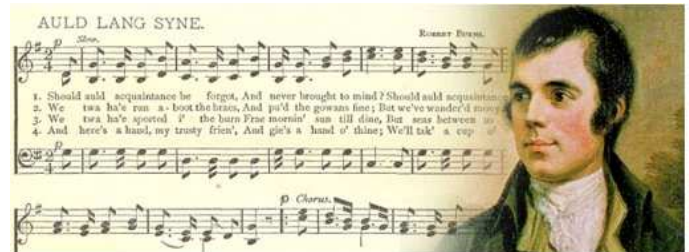


Kwanzaa celebrations begin on December 26th and last until January 1st and include a communal feast called Karamu that is usually held on December 31st.

Hogmanay

Hogmanay is the Scottish New Year's Eve, and it has many important customs and traditions that have been passed down through generations. It is believed the roots of this holiday lie in the Norse and Gaelic traditions. Here are some of the most significant rituals followed:

- Preparing for the new year - Before celebrating the new year, every attempt is made to end the old when well by cleaning your home top to bottom. Emphasis was placed on sweeping out the fireplace, to rid the house and its residence of any unwanted burdens and clearing any financial debts before midnight.
- First-footing for friends and family – The moment the clock strikes midnight, lads, and lassies head to the homes of their loved ones all over Scotland to be the first-footers, the first person to cross the threshold of the home in the new year. The first visitor sets the tone for the new year and comes bearing a gift for good luck and in return for the visit the host shows hospitality by offering their guest a wee dram of whisky. Traditional gifts consist of food/drink: whisky, black bun (traditional type of fruit cake), and authentic Scottish shortbread, as well as gifts of coal representing warmth, and salt for health.
- Joining hands and singing Auld Lang Syne – A song written by Scotsman Robert Burns is sung at midnight.
- Saining the house- the Highland custom of blessing the house and livestock with special water that is drunken and sprinkled in the house. Next juniper branches are burned to fill the house with smoke to cleanse it and then the windows are opened to let in the new fresh air.



There are many other many other celebrations and many other cultural practices to learn about. We share what we know from our experiences and what we have previously learned. If you celebrate events or cultural practices we might not be as familiar with or you would like to share a little more about your culture with the rest of us please contact Ms. Sandhu, hsandhu@vsb.bc.ca .

WINTER WEATHER-SNOW CLOSURES

As the temperatures are getting much colder this time of year, please make sure children are dressed to stay warm while outside. Students, if possible, should dress in layers, wearing warm coats, boots, mittens, and toques.

Winter is upon us and in the event of unsafe weather conditions (ex. excessive snow and ice), there may be a decision made to close schools. A CLEAR ANNOUNCEMENT stating that schools are closed will be provided by 7:00 a.m. to local radio stations.

CKNW (980 AM)

CKWX (NEWS 1130 AM)

CBC RADIO (690 AM, 105.7 FM)

BCTV/Global (cable channel 11)

FAIRCHILD Radio (CJVB AM

1470/CKHG FM 96.1)

CITY TV (cable channel 13)

If there is no announcement made, this means school sites are open and welcoming students.



In Addition, Information on snow closures will be available online at www.vsb.bc.ca

Respiratory Illness

Community rates of respiratory illness, particularly among children and youth, are going up as expected at this time of year. COVID-19 and several common seasonal respiratory viruses such as influenza, enterovirus, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) are circulating in BC. There are many tools to get people through respiratory illness season. The most important is to maximize protection through vaccination. People are also encouraged to check daily for symptoms of respiratory illness, wash their hands regularly and practice respiratory etiquette. This includes wearing a mask, as a personal choice, covering coughs and disposing of tissues appropriately.

It is still important for people with symptoms to stay home when feeling unwell to reduce the spread of illness. Staff and students may return to work/school when their fever has resolved, and they are able to participate in their usual activities. As public health measures are lifted, it is important to remember that we have many tools, such as vaccines, treatments and our own actions that can protect us from the impacts of respiratory illnesses.

Remember these personal hygiene habits to help you keep healthy!



WINTER SPORTS SAFETY

How can we be safe when tobogganing, skating, skiing, and snowboarding?

- ❖ Wear an approved helmet.
- ❖ Use equipment that fits properly and is well maintained.
- ❖ Use a neck warmer instead of a scarf to prevent strangulation.
- ❖ Use sun protection (sun block and sunglasses) even on a cloudy day.
- ❖ Know your ability and experience.
- ❖ Go inside to get warm if shivering.

Staying Healthy Over the Holiday Season

- ❖ Get enough sleep.
- ❖ Eat well balanced meals.
- ❖ Take time to relax.
- ❖ Do things you enjoy.
- ❖ Enjoy your family, friends, and traditions.

Please take care of yourself. Some individuals/families experience loneliness, increased stress, or depression over the holiday season. Find more information on healthlinkbc.ca.

Kindergarten Registration is Open

Children attend Kindergarten in the same year that they turn **five years old**.

The first step for everyone is to register with your neighbourhood **English catchment school**– regardless of whether you plan to send your child there.

Key Dates

- **November 1 to the last weekday of January** is the deadline for priority enrolment for children attending Kindergarten for the following September.
 - **Note:** Sibling Priority for Kindergarten admission is only provided to students who register between November 1 - January 31. Sibling priority is not provided after January 31.
- **January 10 to February 3** is the [Choice Application](#) process.
- **February 1 - February 28** is the period for [Cross Boundary Application](#).



Registration Process

If your child was born in Canada, complete the online form, before bringing in your supporting documents.

Step 1: [Complete an online application form](#)

Step 2: Verifying Documentation

• **Contact** your English Catchment School Office to set up an appointment to bring your supporting documentation.

- **Bring supporting documentation** to your English catchment school office during your scheduled appointment.

The following original documents must be presented at your catchment school to complete your application:

- Proof of British Columbia residency
- The original birth certificate of the child
- Applicable Immigration/Citizenship/Permanent Resident Documentation if applicable
- Immunization Records if available
- Court orders/documents if applicable

[Note: Some schools may request additional identification as proof of residency.]

If your child was born outside of Canada, you will need to go to the [VSB District - Newcomer Welcome Centre](#) and complete the initial registration there.

NOTE: Some English catchment schools do not have space for all catchment students even if you apply before the January 31 deadline. In these cases, there will be a draw for student placement in the first several months of the new year and the school will contact you.



For more information about the following, please click the appropriate link.



- [Sibling Priority](#)
- [Annex and Main School Catchments](#)
- [School Draws and Waitlists](#)
- [Kindergarten Enrolment Timelines](#)

Find out more by reading our [frequently asked questions](#)

Please refer to [Administrative Procedure 300](#) (Admission of Students to School and School Choice) for more details about enrolment procedures.

I want to apply for a choice program:

Parents **must** register at their neighbourhood English catchment school from November to end of January before applying for Kindergarten Choice programs.

Please visit the [Kindergarten Choice Programs](#) page for more information.



Where can I get more information or help if I run into any difficulties?

If you have any questions or need additional information about the application processes, you can check out our [frequently asked questions](#).

As always, for assistance with the application process, or the online choice program application process, you can contact your neighbourhood English catchment school. They will be happy to assist you.

How do I prepare my child for kindergarten?

View our brochure, [Preparing for Kindergarten, Building Confident Learners](#)



HAWKS Volleyball



A big thank you to Ms. Hawksworth, Ms. Logie, Ms. Sandhu, Mr. Lung, and Mr. Chao for a wonderful volleyball season. Both senior teams played in the championship tournament this week. Unfortunately, neither team was able to advance to the city final tournament. However, all players demonstrated a growth in their development of fundamental skills, strategy, and love for the game. It was amazing to see the players develop, and we were proud to watch them take care of each other on and off the court. Well done team! And thank you to all the parents and staff who volunteered their time to support the teams by driving, cheering, and providing treats!

MANAGING SCREEN TIME

Many families are worried about their screen time and want some guidelines and parameters. There is a lot of valuable information out there and with the holidays around the corner and children having more time on their hands, we are sharing a 'Live 5-2-1-0'. The recommendations in the Live 5-2-1-0 message are evidence-based, originating from the Childhood Obesity: Assessment, Prevention and Treatment Expert Committee, and endorsed by the Canadian Paediatric Society. 'Live 5-2-1-0' is the BC- specific version of the message, developed by a team at BC Children's Hospital in partnership with several BC communities.

For more information: [Live5210 - Resources](#).



Mark Your Calendars

- **December 13th** - Pizza Day -Hot Lunch
- **December 13th** - Grade 7 Fundraiser - Plant Pick-up
- **December 15th**- Theme Day - Pajama and Stuffy Day
- **December 21st** - Winter Concert for families in the afternoon at 1:15pm
- **December 22nd** - PAC sponsored Santa Visit with Classes TBA
- **December 22nd** - Last day of School before the Winter Break
- **December 25th to January 8th** - **Winter Break—No School**
- **January 8th** - School Opens
- **January 17th** - Pro-D Day - **No School for Students**
- **January 22nd** - PAC Meeting @ 6:30 pm in the Library
- **February week of 5-9th** TBA - **Scholastic Book Fair**
- **February 7th** - **Early Dismissal 2:00pm** - Communicating Learning Conferences
- **February 8th** - **Early Dismissal 2:00pm** - Communicating Learning Conference
- **February 10th** - Lunar New Year
- **February 16th** - Pro-D Day - **No School for students**
- **February 19th** - Family Day - **No School** - Enjoy the day with your family!
- **February 26th** - PAC Meeting @ 6:30 pm in the Library





Henderson Elementary School

451 East 53rd Avenue
Vancouver BC, V5K 1J3
W: henderson.vsb.bc.ca
P: 604.713.4837

Support Our Class Camp Fundraiser!

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Supporters,

I hope this message finds you in good spirits. We are thrilled to announce an exciting opportunity for our students that we need your help to make possible!

This year, our Grade 7s are planning an unforgettable outdoor educational experience at Evans Lake! This camp will be an incredible opportunity for our students to learn, bond, and create lasting memories together.

To ensure that every student can participate and make the most of this experience, we're launching a fundraiser. Your support will directly contribute to covering the costs of transportation, accommodation, meals, and educational activities for all our students.

Your generosity and support mean everything to us. By contributing to this fundraiser, you're not just supporting a trip—you're investing in our students' growth, education, and cherished memories.

Name:	Division #
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Plant	Price	Quantity
6.5" Premium Poinsettia Red	13.00	
6.5" Premium Poinsettia White	13.00	
Tropical Planter	35.00	
Holiday Wreath	35.00	
Succulent Bowl	35.00	
Hanging Greenery Wreath	35.00	
Outdoor Greenery Arrangement	45.00	

Cash

School Cash Online

Cheque



Deadline: Tuesday Dec 5th 9:00am

Delivery Date to School: Dec 13th

Your generosity and support mean everything to us. By contributing to this fundraiser, you're not just supporting our trip—you're investing in our students' growth, education, and cherished memories.





ART CLASSES IN HENDERSON ELEMENTARY

Neighborhood Art Studios is offering hands on Art Classes in your school. Eight weeks of learning, creating and experiencing ART! These Art Classes will spark the creativity and Imagination of students with fun Art Projects. The set of eight sessions will introduce them to many new mediums, tools and techniques. Students will learn how to draw from our illustrated step by step instruction starting from drawing animals from simple shapes, adding details and shading in different mediums such as Graphite, Oil pastels and Pencil crayons. **PAINTING** gives an amazing opportunity for children to express their perception, feelings and interests. Students will be introduced to new techniques in Acrylic Painting on canvas, learning how to mix and blend different colours, creating special effects and texture. They will be bringing paintings home done in Acrylics and Watercolours.

School: Henderson Elementary
Dates: Jan. 17 - Mar. 06/2024

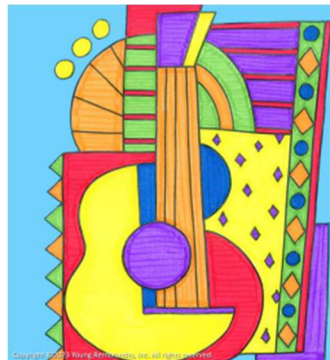
Session: Wednesday 3:15 - 4:30 PM (Grade 1-6)
Location: Classroom #117

Spaces are limited so register early; \$160.00 (Plus GST) Art supplies are included in the fee.


REGISTER ONLINE



www.neighborhoodartstudios.com



Drawing
Classes for Kids



Young Rembrandts

Henderson Elementary

Grades 1st to 6th

This winter, Young Rembrandts artists are in for a treat with an amazing lineup of drawing lessons. From a vibrant pop art dog to fascinating art history and a powerful unicorn, there's so much to learn and love. We prioritize proper technique and excellent colour selection in every lesson. Your child will not only enhance their skills but will also have a blast personalizing cool drawings like soccer players, and robots. Waste no time and enroll your child today to unleash their artistic potential!



classes
Mondays
3:05 PM - 4:15 PM
01/29/2024 - 04/15/2024
No lesson 02/19, 03/18, 03/25, 04/01



tuition
\$ 176.00 (tax included)
8 lessons



enrollment
ENROLL ONLINE at
www.youngrembrandts.com/metrovancouver/

ALL NEW LESSONS EVERY SESSION!

YOUNG REMBRANDTS provides all classroom supplies and a trained instructor. Classes are held immediately after school inside the school. Parents are responsible for transportation at class end.

Young Rembrandts is an independent afterschool program and is not affiliated to the School Board

www.youngrembrandts.com/metrovancouver/ - 604-345-9053 - metrovancover@youngrembrandts.com