



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) & səliłwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh Nation).*

# ADST PROJECTS – SUPPORT OUR GRADE 7s

The grade 7 classes of John Henderson school have a message for you:

“We are doing an ADST project to raise money for our graduation celebrations and camp. The purpose of the project is to learn the applied design process of defining the problem, creating ideas, designing prototypes, testing the design, making items and then sharing them with others. In this project so far, we have learned how to work as a team, to design, create, and to market as a team. We have learned that making money is not an easy task, but we are determined to raise money for our special events. Some of the designs are even digitally drawn by some 6/7 students and then printed onto items. We also want to be really good role models for the kids that are younger than us and create items people are excited to wear. We really want to go to camp this year so we can continue this legacy and so we can have fun in our last year in John Henderson.”

Keep a lookout for an order form going home in the next few weeks where you can buy your very own Henderson gear and support a good cause. Although not all of the items will be available for pre-order, some will, and the other items will be available during the market we will hold in the coming months.

We look forward to filling your orders!



# PINK SHIRT DAY - KINDNESS



On Wednesday, February 26th Henderson will join other schools across Canada by participating in Pink Shirt Day to help build a kind and caring community.

Pink Shirt Day started when David Shepherd and Travis Price, students at Central Kings Rural High School in Nova Scotia, saw a student being bullied because he wore

a pink shirt to school. They decided to support the student, so they went and purchased pink shirts and handed them out to everyone the next day at school. Now, Pink Shirt Day is a national event celebrated every year. This year's campaign encourages kindness. We all have the capacity to be kind and compassionate. No matter what our differences, recognizing each other's gifts and worth goes a long way to build positive relationships. So, on Wednesday, February 26th, we at Henderson will do our best to wear pink and "Let Kindness Grow". This year's campaign is all about cultivating a community of kindness. Just like tending to a garden, together we can each help nurture a sense of belonging where we live, work, and go to school. It all starts with small gestures— a kind word, an offer of support or understanding. If we plant enough kindness, soon, more will be sprouting up all around us! By sprinkling these seeds of empathy and compassion, we can work towards a world without bullying. We will continue to work at our school to support teachings and programs that encourage healthy self-esteem and practice the skills of empathy, compassion, and kindness.



## KIND MIND MONTH



Kind Mind Month is here! The Kelty Foundation is excited to bring the Kind Mind School Tour to our school! This month-long mental health initiative will help students build resilience and practice kindness through engaging social-emotional challenges. Parents will also receive helpful resources to support their child's mental health at home. The month will culminate in the Kind Mind Confi-DANCE, an exciting dance party with a purpose, where students will celebrate everything, they've learned. We're looking forward to a month of learning, connection, and promoting mental well-being for students and families alike!

## STUDENT LEARNING SURVEY

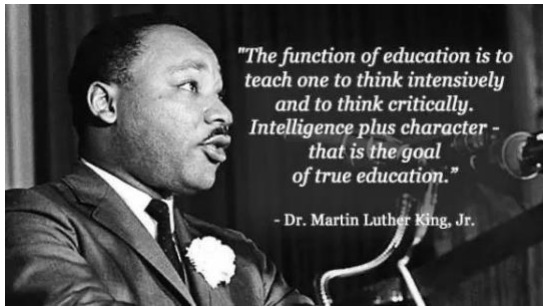
The Provincial Student Learning Survey is unique in its scope, size and usefulness to schools. It gathers information from parents/guardians/caregivers, teachers, and students on topics related to school environment, safety, and achievement. The information is used for planning in individual schools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

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH



**February is Black History Month**, a time to reflect on the stories, experiences, and accomplishments of Canada's black community. Just like last year we will be

looking at the contributions of several prominent black contemporary and historical figures that have contributed to getting equal rights and freedoms, so that all people could be treated equally. We continue to discuss how people of

different skin colours have been treated differently over the course of our history. We are learning that in early, black history in America, many blacks were brought over to North America, from Africa and made slaves, losing the ability to

make decisions for themselves. We are learning that as time went on 'white people' and 'people of colour' were treated differently. We continue to learn that some people had to stand up to help change laws to stop segregation. We are happy we are living now, where we can live together joyfully, learning in our diverse community. We recognize that people need to stand up for what is right and just for all. We know that a lot of the people who did this made personal sacrifices, some going to jail or facing death. We know that now people see these individuals as brave and as heroes.

Over the last couple of years, we widely shared in our school the stories of three strong black women: Viola Desmond, Harriet Tubman, and Mary Ann Shadd Cary. We also learned about professional hockey player Willie O'Ree. These stories, and the story of the Underground Railroad have been shared. We continue to share stories of prominent black people who were the 'first' to break the colour barrier in different fields and contributed to gaining rights and pursuing equality here in Canada.

**Honourable Lincoln MacCauley Alexander (First Black Canadian to be elected to the House of Commons and serve as a Cabinet minister, Minister of Labour, and the first in a viceregal position in Canada, Ontario's 24<sup>th</sup> Lieutenant Governor)**



Lincoln was born in Toronto and spent some of his youth living in New York. He returned to Canada in 1939 after Canada entered World War II and joined the Canadian Royal Air Force. After the war Lincoln went on to university and eventually become a lawyer. He spent his life advocating for social justice and serving the community with the various prestigious positions he held. For his many contributions to Canadian society, Lincoln was honoured in 2015. The House of Commons and Senate passed Bill C-563 proclaiming January 21<sup>st</sup> as Lincoln Alexander Day!

**Jean Augustine (First Black Woman to be elected to the House of Commons)**

Jean Augustine immigrated to Canada in 1960 from Grenada to pursue her education and went on to have a career in the Toronto public school district, first as a teacher and later becoming a principal. Jean also volunteered her time advocating for both women and immigrants. This led to Jean being the first Black women to be elected to the House of Commons 1993. During her time in parliament, Jean was responsible for getting February designated as Black History Month!



**Anne Clare Cools (First Black Canadian to be named to the Senate)**



Anne Clare Cools immigrated to Canada in 1957 from Barbados. She loved learning and was also a social activist. Anne founded one of Canada's first shelters for female victims of violence. She later served on the Parole Board of Canada. In 1984, Anne became the first Black Canadian to be named to the Senate and devoted 34 years to that position.

## Isaac Phills (First Black Canadian to receive the Order of Canada)

Isaac Phills came to Canada from St. Vincent in 1916. Although he wanted to work in agriculture/farming, he ended up working in a steel plant until he joined the army during the First World War. He served in the No. 2 Construction Battalion, also known as the Black Battalion. It was Canada's only all-Black segregated military unit. When he was discharged from service, he went back to work at the steel plant, and he

volunteered in the community. In 1967, Isaac Phills became the first Black Canadian to be honoured with the Order of Canada for his service to the country, his community, and his family.

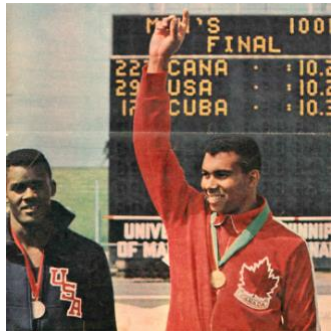


## John 'Army' Howard (First Black Olympian to represent Canada)

'Army' first represented Canada in the Stockholm 1912. During this time, he was treated differently than his white teammates and was forbidden from staying in the same hotel. Unfortunately, he did not earn a medal, but later in 1919 during the Inter-Allied Games, while serving with the Canadian Expeditionary Force in World War I, Army made it to the podium, winning the 100m bronze.

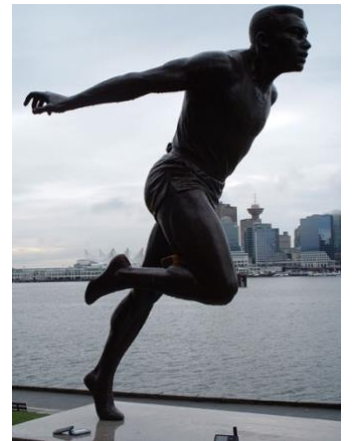


## Harry Jerome (First Black Olympian to win a medal for Canada)



Harry is the grandson of Army Howard. He was born in Prince Alberta, Saskatchewan, but grew up in North Vancouver. He proved to be a gifted athlete growing up. At the age of 18, Harry began breaking records. He broke the Canadian record for the 220-yard sprint and a year later, in 1959, he was credited with matching the world record in the 100 metre of 10 seconds flat. Harry would go on to win one Olympic

bronze medal and set 7 world records. After he hung up his cleats, with his Master of Science degree in physical education, Harry worked as a teacher in Richmond and later with the Vancouver School Board! Harry played a crucial role in promoting sport and fitness to youth. Harry was given the Order of Canada, inducted into the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame, and was named B.C.'s Athlete of the Century in 1970. Today, a statue of Harry Jerome can be found in Stanley Park. And every June a track meet bearing his name, the Harry Jerome International Track Classic, draws worldclass athletes to Vancouver to compete at Swangard Stadium.



# RAMADAN



For Muslims, the followers of the religion Islam, the holy month of Ramadan marks the time when the prophet Muhammad received the words of the Koran, their holy book.

Muslims observe Ramadan by praying, reading the Koran, and fasting. Muslims believe their past sins will be forgiven if they participate in Ramadan.

During Ramadan, most Muslims must fast by refusing to eat or drink anything during daylight hours. Usually small children, very old people, and people with illnesses do not fast. After sunset, Muslims break their fast with prayer and festive nighttime meals called *iftar* which are often shared with extended family and friends. The *iftar* traditionally begins with dates or apricots and water or sweetened milk, and continues through many courses of vegetables, breads, and some meats. After meals, people usually visit other friends and relatives.

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. Since the Islamic calendar is based on the moon, Ramadan may occur in any season of the year. The 27th night of Ramadan is celebrated as the Night of Power, or Lailat al Kadr. On that night, it is said, God revealed the Koran, and Muslims spend extra hours in prayer. Ramadan officially ends when religious officials first see the new moon. The festival of 'Id al-Fitr', the Feast of Fast-Breaking, marks the end of the month of Ramadan. This year Ramadan begins on February 28<sup>th</sup> and end March 28<sup>th</sup>.



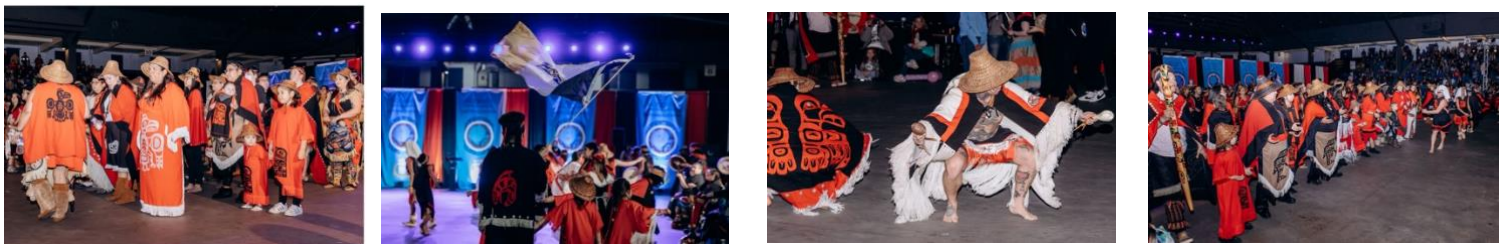
# HOوبيEE



The Nisga'a Nation is located in northwestern BC near the Alaskan Panhandle. Hoobiye (ho-bee-yeah) is an event celebrating the Nisga'a New year. On February 28<sup>th</sup> and March 1<sup>st</sup> community members will gather to celebrate at the Vancouver PNE Forum. There will be singing, drumming, dancing, food, art, and many Indigenous vendors. Go and check it out and there is a good chance you will see some familiar faces from Henderson!

Indigenous groups from across the province have attend the festivities in recent years including groups from the Gitksan Nation (in the Skeena region of Northern BC), the Skwxwu7mesh (Squamish), Ts'msyen (from northern coastal BC), Lil'wat (from just north of Whistler) and Xaadas (from Haida Gwaii).

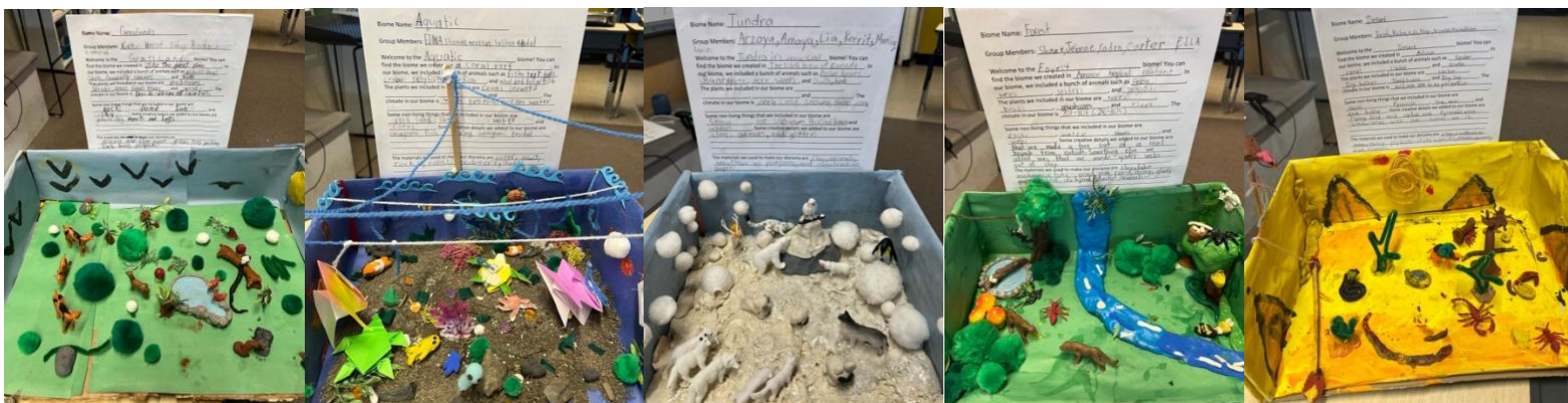
All are welcome to attend this event, and it is a great opportunity to experience and learn more about Indigenous culture. For more information check out <https://tsamiks.com/hoobiye>



There are 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 just contact Ms. Sandhu, [hsandhu@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:hsandhu@vsb.bc.ca).

## DIVISION 7'S WORK ON BIOMES

As a final project to a biomes unit, Ms. Muller's grade 4 class split into groups and created dioramas for each of the five major biomes: aquatic, grassland, desert, tundra, and forest. Students researched what animals, plants, and nonliving things live in their biomes and used various materials and creativity to create their projects.



# STATES OF MATTER

Division 8 studied states of matter, how the particles interact in each state of matter, and what happens to heat when matter changes states.



# COMMUNITY WEALTH



Division 8 studied the idea of community wealth in Musqueam culture using the Musqueam Teaching Kit, where wealth is described as teachings about kinship and responsibilities, ceremonies, and culture. The students then brought in teachings from their own cultures/families and created a poster showing our community wealth as a class.

## VSB Podcast: After the Bell



On the last Thursday of the month a new VSB podcast episode of [VSB: After the Bell](#) is released! In After the Bell Episode 28 they look at a modern approach to learning. Specifically, Universal Design for Learning, or UDL. On the show to discuss all things UDL are David Nicks, district principal of inclusion for secondary schools at VSB and Katie Novak, an internationally renowned education consultant, author and former assistant superintendent of schools

in Massachusetts.

Have a listen to this discussion and if you enjoy this episode, please subscribe to the VSB podcast.

# Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

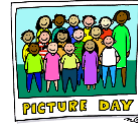
Parents and Caregivers play an important role in the school and we encourage them to participate as much as they can. Henderson School is well supported by our PAC. The PAC provides wonderful support in many areas of the school— planning and organizing special events, fundraising for field trips and 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](mailto: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: March 3<sup>rd</sup>, April 7<sup>th</sup>, May 5<sup>th</sup> and June 2<sup>nd</sup>

# Mark Your Calendars

- February 7<sup>th</sup> - Kind Mind Month
- February 12<sup>th</sup> - PAC Hot lunch BitterSweet
- February 12<sup>th</sup> - PAC Hockey Night at Henderson @5pm Canada vs. Sweden
- February 13<sup>th</sup> - Theme Day - Red and White Day
- February 14<sup>th</sup> - Pro-D Day - **No School for students**
- February 17<sup>th</sup> - Family Day - **No School** - Enjoy the day with your family!
- February 26<sup>th</sup> - Pink Shirt Day
- February 26<sup>th</sup> - PAC Hot lunch Pizza
- March 3<sup>rd</sup> - PAC Meeting @ 6:00 pm library
- March 6<sup>th</sup> - Class photos
- March 7<sup>th</sup> - Guest performers: Metaphor Music
- March 10<sup>th</sup> - Learning Updates go home
- March 11<sup>th</sup> - Theme Day - Culture Day
- March 11<sup>th</sup> - Safer Space Workshop for Parents Gr. 4-7 @ 6:00pm in the library
- March 12<sup>th</sup> - Play Day (details to follow)
- March 13<sup>th</sup> - ConfiDance - afternoon celebration of Kind Mind Program
- March 14<sup>th</sup> - Last Day before Spring Break
- March 17<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup> - SPING BREAK
- March 31<sup>ST</sup> - School re-opens
- April 7<sup>th</sup> - PAC Meeting @ 6:00 pm library
- April 9<sup>th</sup> - PAC hot lunch BitterSweet
- April 18<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> - No School Good Friday and Easter Monday
- April 23<sup>rd</sup> - PAC hot lunch Pizza
- April 23<sup>rd</sup> - Fine Arts Club Showcase
- April 28<sup>th</sup> - Pro-D Day - **No School for students**



## Kindergarten Registration for Children Born in 2020

All kindergarten applicants are required to apply to their English catchment elementary school. This includes families who wish to apply for choice programs (Early French Immersion, Montessori, Indigenous Focus School, Early Mandarin Bilingual, Nootka Fine Arts) and/or a cross-boundary placement.

The **priority** registration period for kindergarten is now closed. It opened on **November 1, 2024, and closed at 4 pm on January 31, 2025.** Students who applied within this priority period will be accommodated before late applicants.

**Applying for kindergarten is a 2-step process:**

Step 1: Completion of 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.

Supporting documents needed:

1. Proof of residence in Vancouver
2. Child's birth certificate
3. Immigration documentation (if applicable)
4. Immunization records
5. Court orders/documents (if applicable)

If you want to apply for a District program or cross-boundary, you must first apply to your English catchment elementary school. Applications for District programs and cross boundary placements will begin to be accepted in early 2025.



In the event there are more in-catchment applicants than available space\* at the school, the following process will be used to prioritize enrolment:

**Kindergarten Applications Received Between November 1 and January 31**

1. **In-catchment** kindergarten applicants with siblings in attendance at the school (and who will be attending next year) will be placed first.
2. The names of all other in-catchment registrants will be entered into a **random draw** for the remaining kindergarten spaces.
3. Students who cannot be accommodated will be placed on a waitlist in the order in which their name was drawn.
4. Between January 31 and the second Friday in June students on the ordered waitlist will be accommodated as space becomes available.

**Kindergarten Registrations Received AFTER January 31<sup>st</sup>.**

In-catchment kindergarten students who apply **after** January 31 will be accommodated if there is space. If there is no space their names will be added to the bottom of the existing waitlist.

**Note:** There will be **no priority** given to registrants with siblings if they register after January 31.

**Applications for Choice Programs is now closed**

The district offers a variety of choice programs including French Immersion, Mandarin Immersion, Fine Arts, Aboriginal Focus School, International Baccalaureate and Montessori. Further information on Choice programs can be found [here](#).

If you are planning to apply for Choice Program(s) you still need to register for kindergarten at your Neighbourhood catchment school first. The online application process for Choice Programs opens on January 7th, 2025, and closes on February 5, 2025, at 4:00 pm.

There will be a district supervised draw to select applicants for the available program space. Offers for program spaces will be made by late February. You will be given a formal offer of a space in a Kindergarten choice program or an indication of where you sit on the waitlist.

**Applications for Cross Boundary Enrollment**

Families who wish to apply to a school outside of their catchment area, known as cross-boundary, will **must** register their child at their neighbourhood catchment school first.

Applying for cross-boundary is a separate online process and runs from February 1-28. Cross boundary applications will only be considered after all in-catchment students have been accommodated. More information can be found on the district website, under [cross boundary registration](#).