



# JOHN HENDERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

451 East 53<sup>rd</sup> Avenue  
Vancouver, B.C. V5X 1J3

Telephone: 604-713-4837 – Fax: 604-713-4839 – email: [Henderson@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:Henderson@vsb.bc.ca)

**Director of Instruction:** Christopher Wong  
**Principal:** Harjinder Sandhu  
**Vice Principal:** Scott Hughes  
**PAC Chairpersons:** TBA  
**School Liaison Trustee:** Preeti Faridkot



## Looking Forward to a Memorable Year of Learning Together in 2024-2025!

After an enjoyable and restful summer, it is wonderful to see all the students and families return to Henderson. We are enthusiastic and eager to begin our exploration of learning this year. We especially welcome new families to the Henderson School community. The staff is looking forward to working together with parents and the community to continue to provide great learning opportunities that enable Henderson students to thrive emotionally, socially, intellectually, and to build strong relationships. We want the students' learning to nurture their natural curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking.

Over the first two weeks of school students continue to work on Social Emotional Learning (SEL) skills and reviewing school routines and expectations. As we transition into our new classes, students will learn their new entry and exit locations. Having students lined up and distributed around the school has helped us begin each day smoothly and efficiently. All eating of snacks and lunches will be done in the classroom or the activity room, where we can continue to practice good hygiene and eat lunch with fewer distractions. **Students need to arrive each day with their snack and lunch.** Please **try to avoid coming** to the school during the day with the intent to drop off lunch, as it is disruptive. If you must, please drop the lunch off at the office and we will ensure it is delivered to your child. We thank you for your support.

This year our school inquiry question is: **What educational practices, strategies, programs and school-wide common language might we implement to increase students' skill development in Social Emotional Learning (SEL) to better self-regulate and thus be more equipped to engage in learning?** Also, we will continue our work on the district goal: **To increase knowledge, acceptance, empathy, awareness and appreciation of Aboriginal histories, traditions, cultures and contributions among all students.** We will explore how can we make First Peoples teaching and learning more authentic.

All our classes will be working hard on these goals in addition to all the other areas of the curriculum and core competencies.

Each month, a Newsletter will be prepared to highlight students' achievements, informing parents and caregivers of the latest educational developments and announcing upcoming events. A lot of time and energy goes into the composition of the monthly school newsletter, and we greatly appreciate the effort it takes to read it. It is often emphasized in research that student success in education is dependent on their parents' strong commitment and involvement. Parents being informed of the school's year-round activities and projects is one way of showing interest in their children's school life. This year we are continuing to be environmentally responsible by posting newsletters, calendars and important updates on our website. We will also be emailing out the links to all parents/caregivers/guardians that have provided an email address. Please continue to keep involved by reading our newsletters and checking out our website at: <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/john-henderson/Pages/default.aspx>. Information will also be posted internally for students to share on our school TEAMS Channel so that students can also look back at some of our community events.

We as a staff are rejuvenated and excited about the many new learning opportunities, we will experience alongside students this year! We can hardly wait to see where our collective curiosity and passions will take us!

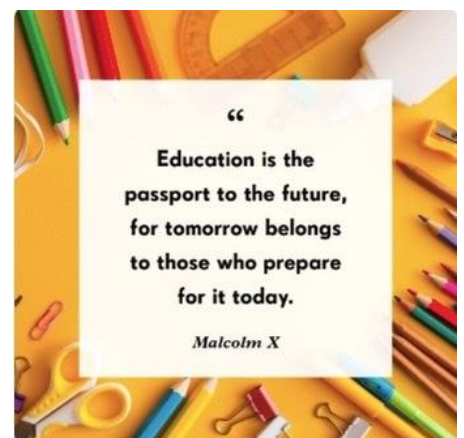
This year we will be bringing back the "Meet the Teacher Event". We will be hosting an open house from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm on Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. We hope to see many of you then.

Thank you for your support of Henderson School.

Sincerely,

Harjinder Sandhu  
Principal

Scott Hughes  
Vice Principal



# Staff Updates

We would like to welcome the following new staff members to the Henderson community: Cher Farnham (Resource/Prep Teacher), Robyn Craigie (Grade 4/5 teacher), Katie Muller (Grade 4 teacher), Baylee Wilkinson (Counsellor), Lina Bauer (SLP) Lina Bauer, Scott Hughes (vice-principal), Harleen Sandhu (SSA), Daniel Urbina (SSA), Monika Sidhu (SSA), James Irving (SSA), and Syed Mustahdi (SSA).

We are thankful to have three temporary staff members with us currently: Jennifer Thodeson (SSA), Kajal Soni (SSA) and Glory Borines (SSA).

Introducing Henderson Hawks staff...

## Office Staff

Ms. Harjinder Sandhu, Principal  
 Mr. Scott Hughes, Vice Principal  
 Ms. Jane Fether, Office Admin Assistant  
 Ms. Thalia Kroll, Office Admin Assistant

<u>Classroom Teacher</u>	<u>Div.</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Room No.</u>	<u>SSA TEAM</u>
Mr. Kevan Chao	1	7	206	
Ms. Emily Griffiths	2	7	209	Jennifer Thodeson/Frances Levere
Mr. Daniel Wong	3	6/7	204	
Mr. Greg Alstad	4	6	113	
Ms. Ineke Lievens	5	6	114	Parm Sagal/Ken Batty
Ms. Katie Smith	6	5	117	David Knight/Glory Borines
Ms. Mahima Pamar	7	5	203	Sahiba Kang
Mr. Robyn Craigie	8	4/5	210	
Ms. Katie Muller	9	4	116	
Mrs. Joan Jung	10	3/4	115	
Mr. Ian Poole	11	3	176	Sonia Gautam/Sarb Pannu
Mr. Rod Ratzlaff	12	3	181	Ken Batty/Parm Sagal
Ms. Jasvinder Grewal	13	2/3	173	
Ms. Elaine Li	14	2	174	Sarb Pannu/ Sonia Gautam
Ms. Marnie Candido	15	2	101	Kajal Soni/ David Knight
Mr. Darion Lung	16	1/2	205	Madeline Michaels/Nusrat Sharmin
Ms. Sheri Hawksworth	17	1/2	106	Frances Levere/Madeline Michaels
Ms. Marguerite Leahy	18	1	104	Harleen Sandhu
Ms. Juliene Marqueda	19	1	180	Nusrat Sharmin/ Sahiba Kang
Ms. Jennifer Marsland-Root	20	K	103	Jane Tymos/ Daniel Urbina
Ms. Megan Guenter	21	K	102	James Irving/ Monika Sidhu
Ms. Amanda Bonetti	22	K	105	Brandi Breen/ Syed Mustahdi

<u>Resource Teacher</u>	<u>Div.</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Room No.</u>
Mr. Scott Hughes		K	Office
Ms. Vicky Edmonds		1-2	120
Ms. Andrea Shelford (Tu-Thu)		K	120
Ms. Cher Farnham		2-3	127
Ms. Leslie Roosa		2-5	208
Ms. Kim Seto		4-6	128
Ms. Teresa Tomsics		6-7	208

<u>Prep Teachers</u>	<u>Room No.</u>
Ms. Teala Mackowetsky	ADST 108 Maker Space
Ms. Sarah Walker (Tu, W)	ADST 112 FuturePlay Lab
Ms. Aubyn McTaggart (W)	PE Gym
Ms. Kimberly Matterson (Tu, Th)	Librarian 111 Library
Ms. Cher Farnham	

<u>Enhanced Services Team</u>	<u>Room No.</u>
Ms. Birgid Lehmann (Tu, Fri) Literacy Teacher	128
Ms. Nusrat Sharmin	School and Student Assistant
Mr. Dave Fuller	Youth & Family Worker

## Supervision Aides

Ms. Elizabeth Roller, Ms. Jas Uppal, TBA

<u>Other Staff</u>	<u>Room No.</u>
Ms. Baylee Wilkinson (M, W, Th)	Area Counsellor 116
Ms. Lina Bauer	Speech and Language Pathologist 128
Ms. Evelyn Chan	Psychologist
Ms. Carmen Helin (Thurs)	Indigenous Education Worker 127
Ms. Zabeen Hussain	Strong Start 179

## Facilities Team

## Room No.

TBA, Head Building Engineer

TBA, Assistant Building Engineer

## Multicultural Workers

Vandana Nagpal (T) South Asian [vnagpal@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:vnagpal@vsb.bc.ca)

Audrie Leung Chinese [aaleung@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:aaleung@vsb.bc.ca)

Yung Quach Vietnamese [dquach@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:dquach@vsb.bc.ca)

Joy Jose Filipino [jjose@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:jjose@vsb.bc.ca)

Claudia Sandoval Spanish [csandoval@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:csandoval@vsb.bc.ca)

# Henderson Code of Conduct

Henderson has a set of guidelines for conduct, and these are the expectations for all our school community. It is based on our motto and our mission statement: to encourage students to respect themselves and others and to strive to do their personal best in all ways.

And our Code of Conduct is: **Be Safe. Be Fair. Be Kind**

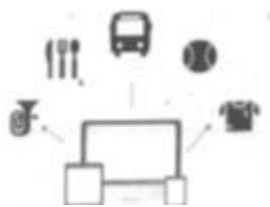
These guidelines reflect the school's philosophy. Henderson is a safe and caring place, where everyone tries their best, treats others kindly, respectfully, and behaves safely. It is a place where students, staff, families and the community work together to share ideas and create a wonderful place to learn. There is a rising expectation that as students develop with age, they will show increasing maturity, self-responsibility, decision-making ability, and leadership.

We are also working on our online skills to be responsible **Digital Citizens**. More information regarding Henderson's Code of Conduct please find a copy here: [Code of Conduct](#)

## Henderson Before and After School Care

If you are looking for Childcare spaces for before and after school at Henderson School, please make enquiries by contacting the South Slope YMCA at 604-939-9622. After-school care is also provided by Sunset Community Centre. They can be contacted at 604-718-6512.

# School Forms and Fees



There will be several important forms sent home in September, these include forms that request emergency contact numbers, pertinent health issues, neighbourhood field trip permission and media permission. These forms need to be returned to your child's classroom. If information changes throughout the year, please update the school immediately by calling the office. The school must be able to always contact parents. We sent out information on school fees and how to pay them online in June. School fees for all ages are \$35.00, agendas for Grades 2 to 7 students are \$8.00 and Math workbooks for participating classes will be between \$25 and \$32, the applied skills and technology fee is \$25. You will be able to access and pay fees online shortly. Please be on the lookout for more information in the following days.

**Please do not send money to school. We will be collecting fees through cash online.**

# Lunch Time



Our lunch break time this year is 12:10 pm to 12:55 pm. Division 1 to 10 and 16 to 22 will be eating first and then going out to play. Intermediate classes will eat in their classrooms and primary classes will eat in the Activity Room. Divisions 11 to 15 will play first and then eat in the Activity Room once the first group is finished. This will help prevent overcrowding in the Activity Room. This plan worked well for us last year.

Please send a packed lunch with your child. Students will eat their lunch in their classrooms or the activity room. If students would like to go home for lunch, it can provide a pleasant break in their school day. Students who are going home for lunch should be picked up at 12:10 from the office and are to be back at school, and report to the office by 12:55. Please make sure your child's teacher knows at drop off if this is going to happen. If older students are going home unaccompanied by an adult, we request a note of permission on the day they are going home and the student is expected to sign out and in at the office, going directly home and coming back directly to school.



When packing lunch, we want you and your child to think about your child's health: Is the lunch nutritious? And we want you to think about the environment: Is this lunch going to provide a lot of waste for the landfill or recycling? This year we want to cut down on our waste and spend less time having to pick up the waste that is littered on our school grounds!

A registration form for the Food4School program. The form includes fields for student name, grade, and parent/guardian information. It also has a section for "OTHER INFORMATION AND SPECIAL REQUESTS" and a logo for VSB Food Services.

The Food4School Program is available to help children who require nutrition services at school. The program does not provide for special diets. If you would like to learn more about this program, please contact us in the office.



# IMPORTANT SAFETY ALERT



## Please do not send tree nuts to school. Please avoid all nut products in your child's lunches.

*This year we have students in our school with severe and life-threatening allergies to peanuts and/or tree nuts, shellfish and egg products. Because of the seriousness of these allergies, we are asking you to refrain from sending food including these products to school for snacks or class parties. We are asking that our lunchrooms and classrooms be a **nut allergy - awareness zone**. Due to shared tables, computer equipment and art supplies in the classroom, as well as the ease with which food residue is transferred from one student to the other, we would like to keep our classrooms "allergy aware." Our goal is to make school a safe place for all our students. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding. If you have any questions, please contact the school.*

## Student Valuables at School



Parents are reminded that there is **no VSB insurance coverage** for student belongings. Students who bring iPods, cell phones and other devices do so at their **own risk**. These items are to be kept off and in back packs during the school day, unless being used under supervision of a staff member for lessons. When personal items are brought to school, they can easily get lost, broken or misplaced. Please keep this in mind, especially with collector cards and electronics.



## IT is TIME to PLAY!



Studies show that students who are engaged in regular physical activity perform better in class. We have two scheduled breaks in our day for students to eat and exercise. Please make sure your child has healthy food each day and is dressed to play outside.



**We expect all students to be outside every day. If it is cold or raining out, they should be wearing a jacket.** During rainy days we have many puddles and mud around the school. It would be a good idea for students to have rain gear for playing outside (rain jacket, rain boots and even rain pants!) You might also want to send an extra pair of sweats and even runners to keep in their classrooms "just in case" for those muddy, wet days.



**We will only call for 'Inside Days' when the weather is extremely bad. Students should be dressed for going outside every day, rain or shine!**





## **Bell Schedule**

- 08:55 a.m. Warning Bell
- 09:00 a.m. Class
- 10:30 a.m. 10:50 a.m. Recess
- 12:10 p.m. 12:55 p.m. Lunch break
- 12:55 p.m. 2:58p.m. Class
- 2:58 p.m. Dismissal
- **We will only call for 'Inside Days' when the weather is extremely bad. Students should be dressed for going outside every day, rain or shine!**

**Please make sure your child arrives to school on time each day. We find when students are frequently late, it takes them longer to settle into the class routines and they miss important messages at the start of the day.**

## **Student Supervision**

Please do not send your children to school before 8:45am and please pick them up at 2:57 as we have limited supervision from 8:45 to 8:55 am and from 3:00 to 3:15 pm. You are responsible for your child after you pick them up. If a student wishes to play on the school grounds at 3:30, they must be accompanied by an adult or have gone home and received permission from a parent/guardian before returning. It is the parents'/guardians' responsibility to supervise play after 3:15 pm.



## **Student Safety and Traffic**

We encourage families to walk or bike to school to reduce automobile congestion. Students can bring a lock and secure their bikes in the bike storage area. Please go over the traffic safety rules with your children. With the "back to school" excitement, children can forget these important pedestrian rules. If you are dropping children off, please make sure that it is on the school side of the street as it is safest. If walking to school, please do not walk through the staff parking lot/ driveway—use the path.

**The staff parking lot is only for VSB employees and school deliveries. Do not enter or drop off your child in this area. The staff parking lot is not open to the public and only staff are allowed into the lot.**

It can be dangerous as vehicles back up and small children are difficult to see. If you or your child is riding an electric scooter or bike, please make sure you dismount when you arrive at the school grounds and walk your scooter/bike to keep all the other pedestrians safe.

# ELECTRIC MOBILITY DEVICES

"Electric mobility devices" includes bikes, scooters, skateboards, unicycles, and hoverboards that are **powered by batteries**.

## These batteries can be a FIRE risk when:

- Damaged (including scratches, dents, bulges, and cracks)
- Used on a device that has been modified (disabled limiter/governor)
- Plugged in, especially after the battery is already full
- Stored improperly (too cold, too hot, or too wet)



## How can YOU help?

- 1** Avoid charging your electric mobility devices at school, especially indoors.
- 2** Avoid bringing any modified or damaged electric mobility devices to school.
- 3** Only use electric mobility devices and chargers with an Underwriters Laboratories (UL or ULC) safety certification.

### More Tips:



**OUR VSB**

*Note: This does not apply to students and staff that use e-mobility devices as part of their accessibility plans.*

## Reporting Student Absences:

Student safety is of paramount importance in the Vancouver School District. Ensuring student safety is a shared responsibility. In order to assist schools, we ask parents to notify the school of student absences. If your child will be absent from school, please phone the school to report this absence as early as possible. Parents should leave a message on the dedicated answering service by calling 604-713-5159 ext. 36. Messages will be received before the office is open. School offices are busy places; consistently notifying the school in advance of your child's absence will significantly improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Safe Arrival Morning Routine.



**To Report Your Child's Absence – Please Call 604-713-5159 ext. 36 prior to 9 am on the first day of the absence.**

## Student Sign In/ Sign Out Procedure

It is important that your child arrives on time to start school each morning with his/her peers. The morning routine helps your child stay connected to his/her classmates and sets a positive tone for the day. Currently, it also helps maintain our Health and Safety protocols. When your child is late for school, it not only disrupts his/her learning, but also the learning of his/her classmates. Please do your best to ensure your child arrives to school on time each day. If you are going to be late, please contact the Safe Arrival number and let us know.

**When your child arrives at school, please ensure he/she/they signs in at the office.** Any time you are bringing your child in after 9:00 am we need you to check in at the office. Your child will need to enter the east side of the school.

When you pick up your child during the school day, please ensure that you have contacted the school in advance, and that you sign them out in the school office with either Ms. Fether or Ms. Kroll. If you do not sign out your child, they will be unaccounted for, the school will identify your child as a 'missing' student and will commence a search of school grounds. If the school staff do not locate the child, and are unable to reach a parent promptly, the school will call the Vancouver Police Department. Therefore, clear communication is essential for ensuring the safety of your child and to prevent unnecessary searches.

*Thanks for your help in keeping our students safe.*

# Remembering Terry Fox-Keeping His Dream Alive



This year marks the 44th year that the Terry Fox Run has been held in communities across the country. For those of us who followed Terry's journey or had the good fortune of meeting him, we could not help but be inspired by this remarkable individual. He is a Canadian Hero, for in him and through his actions, we saw courage, a sense of purpose, empathy, persistence, resilience, compassion, determination, imagination and positivity. Terry exemplified the values we want our children to exhibit. When he was challenged in his life, he could have felt sorry for himself, but instead he thought of helping children who faced the same disease that he faced. He could not bear to see their pain and so he wanted to help find a cure for them. He inspired us to take on his Marathon of Hope. He wanted to raise \$1 million for cancer research and in his name that

goal was passed. Each year more money is added to that total and researchers continue to make advances in treatments. One day soon we hope researchers will find a cure. It is for these reasons we continue to share Terry Fox's story and dream with our children each year. Terry was a remarkable young man, and his story showcases the positive impact that one individual can have to a community. He aimed high and in the end what he has achieved is remarkable. By remembering Terry and raising money for cancer research, may we also inspire our children to persist, aim high and strive to change the world for the better. During this year's campaign, our goal is to collect donations for this cause [online](#). Thank you in advance for your consideration.

We will launch this year's campaign, #NO MATTER WHAT, in the coming days, and we will host our runs around the school on September 19<sup>th</sup>. More information will be sent out later this week.

## Bedtime Routines A Part of School Readiness

Learning is hard work and requires a lot of energy. Children who are more rested are better prepared and ready to learn at school. Some children will need extra sleep to adjust to the new routines and demands of school. Although some children need less sleep and others need more, most feel and act better when they go to sleep at a regular bedtime. Most children need between 10 and 12 hours of sleep per night. Children often become cranky, impatient or have a shorter attention span when they are not getting enough sleep. A routine bedtime helps to set regular sleep patterns and good sleep habits. Please help support your child's learning by establishing a bedtime routine that consists of 8 pm or 9 pm bedtime.



## Student Accident Insurance

New this year the VSB is offering parents access to two voluntary student accident plans which offer coverage for students and their families against accidental injury, unexpected medical/dental expenses and critical illness. The two companies that are offering this produce are the IA Family Accident Reimbursement Plan (FARP) and Study Insured. Families can register online to purchase and participate in either of these plans by using the URL's provided below:

<https://www.solutionsinsurance.com/aonbc>

[www.studyinsuredstudentaccident.com](http://www.studyinsuredstudentaccident.com)



# Respectful Workplace Posters

The Vancouver School Board is committed to fostering safe schools that promote mutual respect, cooperation and social responsibility. There is zero-tolerance for violence, harassment, or disrespectful behaviour in the school community. We strive to make our schools and sites welcoming places for everyone in our community.

As we begin a new school year, we ask that you pause and remember VSB staff are valued community members. Be considerate, and ask, will my actions or words hurt someone?

It is our shared responsibility to ensure interactions are conducted calmly, safely and respectfully. Students learn here, and together we can be models for those that are watching.



## Building Community and Sharing Our Stories

We continue to learn about each other and our community through our individual, family, and collective stories. We are richer for the experience. If there are festivals and customs coming up that you celebrate as a family, we would love to learn from you. Please contact us and we will share information in an upcoming newsletter.

Here are some of the observances coming up for members of our community. If you are interested in more information to learn together, please click on the day and it will take you to a link with more information:

- September 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> [Mawlid-al-Nabi](#)
- September 21<sup>st</sup> [International Day of Peace](#)
- September 22<sup>nd</sup> [Navratri](#)
- September 22<sup>nd</sup> -28<sup>th</sup> [Gender Equity Week](#)
- September 23<sup>rd</sup> [International Day of Sign Language](#)
- September 23<sup>rd</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> International Week of Deaf People
- September 29<sup>th</sup> [Orange Shirt Day](#)
- September 30<sup>th</sup> [National Day for Truth and Reconciliation](#)
- October 5<sup>th</sup> [World Teacher Day](#)
- October 14<sup>h</sup> [Thanksgiving](#)
- October 11<sup>th</sup> [International Day of the Girl Child](#)
- October 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> [Yom Kippur](#)
- October 18<sup>th</sup> [Person's Day](#)
- October 31<sup>st</sup> [Hallowe'en](#)

In Canada, we also observe the following in the month of October:

- [Canadian Islamic History Month](#)
- [German Heritage Month](#)
- Latin American Heritage Month
- LGBTQ2+ History Month
- [Women's History Month](#)



# StrongStart

StrongStart Centres offer our families with children aged zero to five years old, quality, play-based learning experiences. Our centre provides a welcoming space for families and care givers to connect and interact with others. Children have access to a rich, high-quality learning environment. Adults who accompany them learn new ways to support learning both in the home and during the program. Our qualified early childhood educator, Zabeen Hussain, leads learning activities, including stories, music, and art to help children get ready for success in school by preparing them for kindergarten. If you are interested in learning more about the program at our Centre, please contact Zabeen. Our StrongStart Centre is located in the new wing, Room 179. There is no cost to families but if you are interested in participating you must register. To register please bring with you the following documentation: proof of child's birthdate (i.e., Canadian Birth Certificate) and Proof of Residency (i.e., BC Driver's License, showing parent's name). For more information about StrongStart Centres, please visit the following website:

<https://www.vsb.bc.ca/page/5281/strongstart>





## Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

Parents play an important role in the school and we encourage parents 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, communicating with parents and the school. They are always open to new members and welcome both new families and returning families to become involved. PAC meetings are held 7 or 9 times per year. During the first meeting this year a new PAC Executive will be elected. The first PAC meeting will be held in person on Monday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Child minding will be provided. Look for more details coming to you shortly from the PAC.



## Mark Your Calendars



- **September 21<sup>st</sup>** Meet the Teacher – 4:45pm to 5:45pm
- **September 20<sup>th</sup>** Professional Day – **No School for Students**
- **September 23<sup>rd</sup>** **PAC Meeting @ 6:30pm** in the library
- **September 27<sup>th</sup>** School Terry Fox Run
- **September 27<sup>th</sup>** **Orange Shirt Day (honouring those who attended Residential School)**
- **September 30<sup>th</sup>** **No School - National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**
- **October 14<sup>th</sup>** Thanksgiving—**No school** 
- **October 22<sup>nd</sup>** **Early Dismissal 2:00pm** – Goal Setting Conferences
- **October 23<sup>rd</sup>** **Early Dismissal 2:00pm** – Goal Setting Conferences
- **October 24<sup>th</sup>** Great Shake Out - Earthquake preparedness drill
- **October 25<sup>th</sup>** Professional Day – **No School**
- **October 31<sup>st</sup>** Hallowe'en Dress Up 
- **November 1<sup>st</sup>** Diwali