



JOHN HENDERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

451 East 53rd Avenue
Vancouver, B.C. V5X 1J3

Telephone: 604-713-4837 – Fax: 604-713-4839 – email: Henderson@vsb.bc.ca

Director of Instruction: Christopher Wong
Principal: Harjinder Sandhu
Vice Principal: Donna Emeno
PAC Chairpersons: Miriam Maxcy
School Liaison Trustee: Christopher Richardson



All Set to Continue Learning Together in 2025-2026!

It is wonderful to see all the students and families return to Henderson. We are looking forward to learning with you. If you are new to our community, we welcome you and hope you enjoy it here as much as we do. 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 to better self-regulate and thus be more equipped to engage in learning in literacy, numeracy, and well-being?** 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 we can 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 which are emailed home each month and checking out our website at: <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/john-henderson> . 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!

You will have an opportunity to tour the school and meet the teaching staff during the "Meet the Teacher Event". We will be hosting an open house from 3:15 pm to 4:15 pm on Thursday, September 18th. We hope to see many of you then.

Thank you for your support of Henderson School.

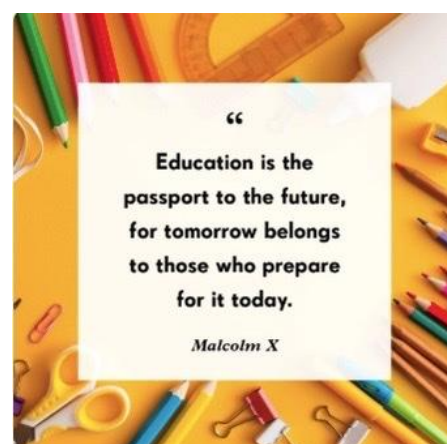
Sincerely,

Harjinder Sandhu

Principal

Donna Emeno

Vice Principal



Staff Updates

Introducing Henderson Hawks staff...

Office Staff

Ms. Harjinder Sandhu, Principal
Mr. Donna Emeno, Vice Principal
Ms. Jane Fether, Office Admin Assistant
Ms. Thalia Kroll, Office Admin Assistant

Classroom Teacher	Div.	Grade	Room No.	SSA TEAM
Mr. Kevan Chao	1	7	206	David Knight/Brandi Breen
Ms. Emily Griffiths	2	7	209	In Hwa Yu/Parm Sagal
Mr. Daniel Wong	3	6/7	204	
Mr. Greg Alstad	4	6	113	Jane Tymos/Sonia Gautam/
Ms. Ineke Lievens	5	6	114	Sahiba Kang/David Knight
Ms. Katie Smith	6	5	117	
Mr. Robyn Craigie	7	4/5	210	Jane Tymos/Jennifer Thodsen
Ms. Mahima Parmar	8	4	203	Parm Sagal/Harleen Virk
Ms. Katie Muller	9	4	116	Frances Levere/ Sarb Pannu
Mrs. Joan Jung	10	3/4	115	Jennifer Thodsen/Nusrat Sharmin
Mr. Ian Poole	11	3	176	Harleen Virk/ In Hwa Yu
Mr. Rod Ratzlaff	12	3	181	Nusrat Sharmin/Frances Levere
Ms. Elaine Li	13	2	174	
Ms. Marnie Candido	14	2	101	Jane Tymos/Sonia Gautam
Mr. Darion Lung	15	1/2	205	Brandi Breen/ Sonia Gautam
Ms. Sheri Hawksworth	16	1/2	106	Sarb Pannu/Monika Sidhu
Ms. Marguerite Leahy	17	1	104	Monika Sidhu/Sahiba Kang
Ms. Juliene Marqueda	18	1	180	
Ms. Jennifer Marsland-Root	19	K	103	Daniel Urbina/ Kajal Soni (Sabrina Shing)
Ms. Megan Guenter	20	K	102	James Irving/ Harleen Sandhu
Ms. Amanda Bonetti	21	K	105	Glory Borines/Maiko Hsieh
Resource Teacher	Div.	Grade	Room No.	
Ms. Jas Grewal		K	120	
Ms. Meena Manhas (Tu/Th)		K-1	120	
Ms. Leslie Roosa		1-2	208	
Mr. Derek Herridge		2-3	127	
Ms. Donna Emeno		3-4	office	
Ms. Kit Itakura		4-6	208	
Ms. Kim Seto		6-7	128	

Prep Teachers	Room No.
Ms. Emily Niblock	ADST 108 Maker Space
Ms. Sarah Walker (Tu, W), Th)	ADST 112 FuturePlay Lab
Ms. Kimberly Matterson (Tu, Th)	Librarian 111 Library

Enhanced Services Team	Room No.
Ms. Birgid Lehmann (Tu, Fri) Literacy Teacher	128
Ms. Nusrat Sharmin	School and Student Assistant
Ms. Miriam Go	Youth & Family Worker

Supervision Aides
Ms. Elizabeth Roller, Ms. Jas Uppal, TBA

Other Staff	Room No.
Ms. Baylee Wilkinson (M, W, Th)	Area Counsellor 116
Ms. Megan Bamburack	Speech & Language Pathologist 128
Ms. Evelyn Chan	Psychologist
Ms. Zabeen Hussain	Strong Start 179

Facilities Team	Room No.
Jimmie Le, Head Building Engineer	
Mark Salabao, Assistant Building Engineer	

<u>Multicultural Workers</u>		
Vandana Nagpal (T)	South Asian	vnagpal@vsb.bc.ca
Audrie Leung	Chinese	aaleung@vsb.bc.ca
Chung Tran	Vietnamese	ctran@vsb.bc.ca
Divine Garcia	Filipino	dggarcia@vsb.bc.ca
Claudia Sandoval	Spanish	csandoval@vsb.bc.ca
Niloofer Shafaeizadeh	Farsi	nshafaeizadeh@vsb.bc.ca
Rachel Oh	Korean	roh@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**

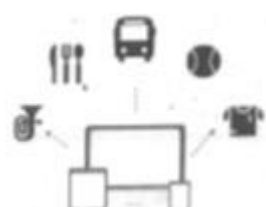
These guidelines reflect the school's philosophy. Henderson is a safe and caring place, where everyone tries their best, treats others kindly, respectfully, and behaves safely. It is a place where students, staff, families and the community work together to share ideas and create a wonderful place to 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**. For 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. Please make sure all of the emergency phone numbers are correct. 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. 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 School Cash Online.

School Cash Online is a secure system that allows parents and community members to pay school-related fees safely, quickly and easily online. The system puts all of the school fees available to your student online for purchase, keeping you informed of your child's activities and needs. We will post items through the system and assign the relevant fees to your student. You can then choose to purchase these fees online with one of three different methods, including credit cards. You can also stay informed and keep track of which school fees require your attention. The system strictly adheres to Canada's privacy and anti-spam legislation and meets the latest industry standards for payment security. You are now able to register – a simple process that takes only a few minutes – by visiting <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/page/5030/online-payment> or visiting our website at <https://vsb.schoolcashionline.com> and following directions to the School Cash Online page. You will need your child's usual first name, last name and birth date to register.

Lunch Time



Our lunch break time this year is 12:10 pm to 12:55 pm. Division 1 to 9 and 15 to 21 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 10 to 14 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 in past years.

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!

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 eggs. 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. ParticipACTION reports that Canadian kids need to sit less and move more! With this information in mind, we are continuing to ask students to head outdoors at recess and lunch so they can run,



play and be active during their breaks! Please make sure that your children are dressed for all types of weather as they will be going outside on most days. For more information please visit [the ParticipACTION site](#). 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!**



Student Supervision

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 Safety and Traffic

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.



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.

Safe Arrival

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 before to 9 am on the first day of the absence.

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.

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 45th 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 one million dollars 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 make on a community. He aimed high and in the end what he 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.

In 1980, Terry had a dream of a world without cancer. Forty-five years later, Terry's Marathon of Hope lives on. If we work together, we can make such a difference in the lives of so many. Please help fund critical cancer research in Canada by supporting our participation in the 2025 Terry Fox School Run. Crossing the finish line means hope for everyone with cancer. Together, we can **FINISH IT**. During this year's campaign, our goal is to collect donations for this cause [online](#) and raise \$1000. Please help us reach this goal. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

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 product 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:

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 5 th	Mawlid-al-Nabi
September 21 st	International Day of Peace
September 21 st – 27 th	Gender Equity Week
September 22 nd -24 th	Rosh Hashanah
September 23 rd	International Day of Sign Language
September 23 rd – 29 th	International Week of Deaf People
Sept. 28 th – Oct, 2 nd	Durga Puja / Navratri
September 29 th	Orange Shirt Day
September 30 th	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
October 1 st – 2 nd	Yom Kippur
October 5 th	World Teacher Day
October 7 th – 13 th	Sukkot
October 11 th	International Day of the Girl Child
October 13 th	Thanksgiving
October 18 th	Person's Day
October 20 th	Diwali
October 21 st	Bandi Chhor Divas
October 31 st	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

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 15th. Child minding will be provided. Look for more details coming to you shortly from the PAC.

Mark Your Calendars



- **September 15th** **PAC Meeting @ 6:30pm** in the library
- **September 18th** **Meet the Teacher – 3:15pm to 4:15pm**
- **September 19th** Professional Day – **No School for Students**
- **September 25th** School Terry Fox Run
- **September 29th** **Orange Shirt Day (honouring those who attended Residential School)**
- **September 30th** **No School - National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**
- **October 13th** Thanksgiving—**No school** 
- **October 15th** **Early Dismissal 2:00pm** – Goal Setting Conferences
- **October 16th** **Early Dismissal 2:00pm** – Goal Setting Conferences
- **October 16th** Great Shake Out - Earthquake preparedness drill
- **October 20th** Diwali
- **October 21st** **District Cross Country Meet @ Trout Lake**
- **October 24th** Professional Day – **No School** 
- **October 31st** Hallowe'en Dress Up
- **November 2nd** **Daylight Saving Time Ends**
(fall back one hour)