



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



Humbly acknowledging that Henderson is located on the ancestral, and unceded territories of the hənqəminəmi speaking people of xʷməθkʷəy̓əm/Musqueam, Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw /Squamish and səliwətał/Tsleil-Waututh Nations.

WELCOME 2024!

Happy New Year and best wishes for 2024! Our transition back from winter break has been relatively smooth. Winter is certainly upon us as we experienced extreme temperature drops this week and have had our first snow of the winter. The students seem to be adjusting to the cold and are enjoying this first fall of snow. Meanwhile, teachers are busy planning, collaborating, and implementing a variety of learning activities for students. The start of the new calendar year is also a busy time for us in the office as we have already started thinking about the next school year. Our grade seven students and families are in the process of making decisions about high school. Registration for choice programs is in full swing and we are starting to look at the school organization for the next year. If you have a child starting kindergarten next year, you should have registered them by now to receive sibling priority. If you have not yet registered for kindergarten, please do so now. The deadline for sibling priority kindergarten registration is **January 31st, 2024**.

This term, classrooms are buzzing with learning, goal setting, and integrating calendar events that contribute to classroom learning. There are so many exciting activities happening that each month we will try to highlight the learning we see all around us. Please remember to check out the Henderson Hawks Channel on TEAMS with your child, the school website www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/john-henderson/Pages/default.aspx, and classroom communication to keep up to date. If you can't find the information you are looking for, please call us in the office and we will be happy to help. We really think it's important that you get to see and know about all the wonderful experiences that are occurring in our school inside and outside of the classrooms!



January is Tamil Canadian Heritage Month. It is an occasion to recognize and celebrate the many achievements and contributions of Tamil Canadians to Canada, and an occasion to acknowledge and enjoy the narratives and wisdom of the Tamil culture.

From many centuries to the present day, Tamils have contributed greatly to the economy of the world through food, and the restaurant industry. Many Tamil-Canadians, being new to the country, have had to give up their occupations that they did in their homeland as their qualifications and education was not recognized in Canada. The majority of them went into owning businesses and preparing food. Food is an integral part of bringing together everyone and Tamil food has a special taste and spice that a lot of people love. The theme will focus on different elements of Tamil Cuisine such as food preparation, presentation, and the hospitality industry. Throughout Tamil Heritage Month, we will be paying tribute to all workers and entrepreneurs engaged in all food related professions and industries.

January 14th is Tamil New Year and Pongal.

For more information check out the Thamil Cultural Society of BC website. <https://tcsbc.com>

Robbie Burns Day – January 25th

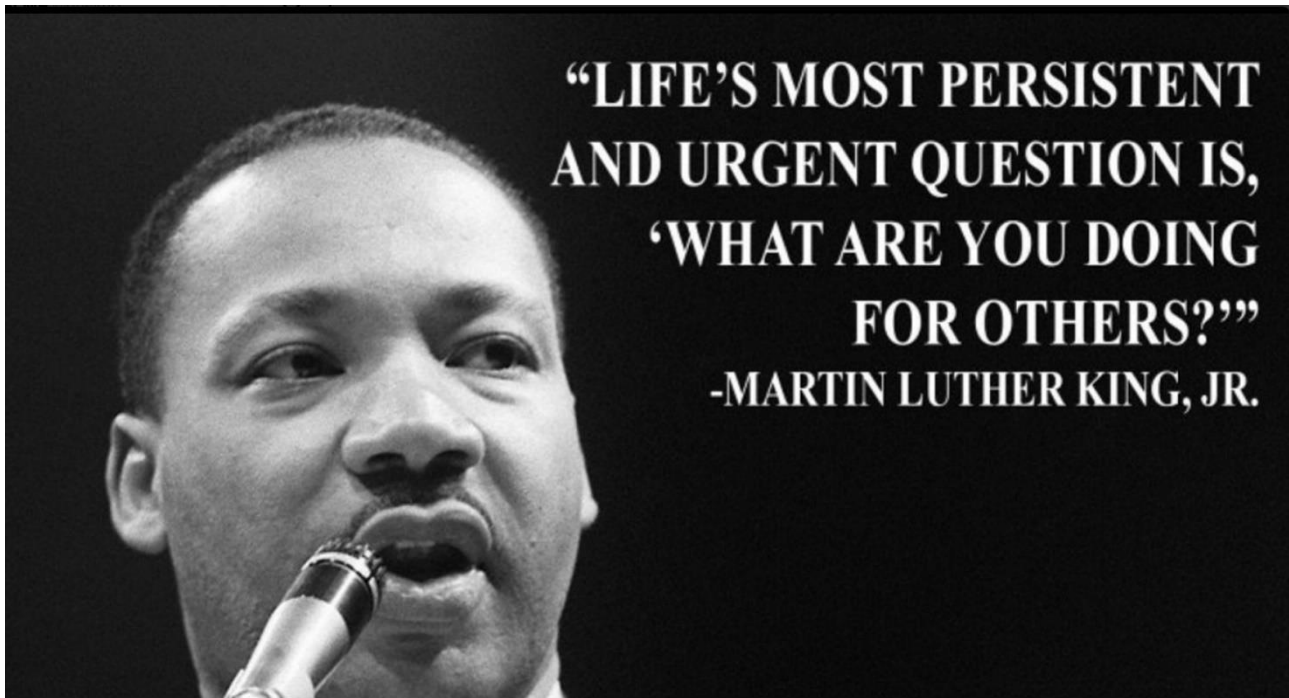
Robbie Burns Day (or Rabbie Burns Day) is named after a Scottish poet who was born on January 25th in 1759. The day celebrates Burns's contribution to Scottish culture. His best-known work is Auld Lang Syne. The day is celebrated by the reading of his poetry, toasting him and hosting Burns Suppers on or near the date of his birthday.

The traditional Burns Supper begins with a soup course. This is usually a classic Scottish soup like Scotch broth, potato soup, Cullen skink (a thick Scottish soup made of smoked haddock, potatoes and onions) or cock-a-leekie (a soup dish consisting of leeks and peppered chicken stock). The highlight of the dinner is the serving of the haggis—a traditional Scottish pudding comprised of the heart, liver and lungs of a sheep diced with onions, oatmeal, suet, spices and salt, which has been cooked in a sheep's stomach.



Check out this list of events to celebrate Robbie Burns Day all around town this year!
<https://vancouverbestplaces.com/events-calendar/january/robbie-burns-day-vancouver/>

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 contact Ms. Sandhu at hsandhu@vsb.bc.ca.



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Over the last couple of years, social justice movements have brought equity issues back to our attention. I bring this up now as many schools in the Lower Mainland, Henderson included, will observe Black Excellence Day this week. Martin Luther King Jr. Day is celebrated in the United States this month on January 15th, and we are approaching Black History Month. January 27th is the International Holocaust Remembrance Day and January 29th is the National Day of Remembrance of the Quebec City Mosque Attack and Action Against Islamophobia.

These events highlight the importance of ongoing work and intentional focus on the issues of racism and discrimination within our schools and our broader communities. At the Board level, several important actions have been taken to further racial awareness and redress issues of colonialism and systemic racism that exist within our larger society.

As a District, we have an intentional focus on equity within our work. As a District we have an equity statement:

The VSB will create an equitable learning environment where every child can experience a deep sense of belonging and is free to pursue pathways of learning in ways that are authentic to themselves. The VSB will achieve this by:

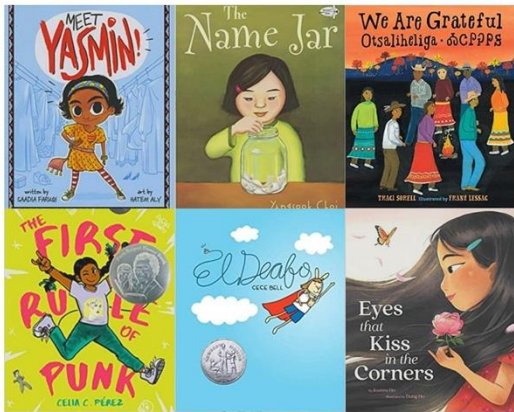
- having students see themselves and their communities in the curriculum and in the staff throughout the District;

- prioritizing student needs by making informed decisions and engaging in open communication with rightsholders and stakeholders; and
- actively fighting systems of oppression through relationship building, ongoing communication and transparency.

The VSB commitment to equity will be informed by humility and accountability.

More details about the goals and objectives can be found here:

<https://www.vsb.bc.ca/page/4996/education-plan-2026>



At Henderson we work to ensure all staff and students feel safe, valued, and included. As a school community we strive to not only embrace and celebrate our diversity but work towards equity. We know that representation is important, and we are fortunate to live and work in a diverse community with a diverse staff. We know that representation matters. Students want to see role models with whom they connect and see themselves represented. We have made a conscious effort to share books with diverse characters, written by diverse authors, that act as windows, mirrors and sliding doors. Through diverse stories students gain a better understanding of themselves and others. They see different ways of being

and not just one perspective, the dominant culture, as the 'normal or right way' they need to strive to be. Students learn there are many ways of being and all of them are acceptable, normal and of value. When we don't have the opportunity to learn about each other, fear, misunderstanding, and hate can take root. But the more we learn about each other, the more familiar we are with each other's stories, we are more understanding, empathetic, and supportive of each other. The more we all support each and every one of us, the better equipped we are to dismantle racism, oppression, and discrimination in our society.



Thank you for all you do and will continue to do to support and nurture the children in our care to value all human life. We will need to continue to work together to uplift each other, to obtain true equality, and heal as a society.



As we look to instill the skills of critical thinking, empathy, and compassion in our children, we want to be able to talk to them about topics that might be difficult for us or complex, to say the least. It is important that our discussions include first-hand accounts and stories from Black, Indigenous, and people of colour. We need to read these books by diverse authors from their perspectives to deepen our understanding and empathy for their experiences and histories. We want to make sure that we are not unintentionally perpetuating stereotypes and tokenism. Part of our discussion should also include questions about how we see people of colour portrayed in the media. We also need to acknowledge that we all have our own biases, based on our own lived histories. Students need to know about their own family histories. We need to be able to discuss the contributions and challenges of not only the cultural groups we identify with, but also those that make up our community.

These discussions need to be conducted in age-appropriate ways and go deeper as our students grow older, but we also know these discussions need to start early. Below is a list of books you might want to consider reading and sharing (These books can be found in our school library, the VPL, and many of these titles have been shared in read-a-louds on YouTube!).

In January – in our community people observe: January 1st – Kwanzaa ends, Ochetookeskaw-Kissing Day-Hand Shaking Day (Metis), 2nd Mid-Winter Ceremony, 14 Sikhs – Maghi, 15th Blacke Excellence Day (MLK Day), 17th Raoul Wallenberg Day, 17th Sikhs – Guru Gobindh Singh's Prakash, 21st Lincoln Alexander Day, 24th World Day for African and Afro-descendant Culture, 25th Mahayana

New Year, 27th International Holocaust Remembrance Day, 29 National Day of Remembrance of the Quebec City Mosque Attack & Action Against Islamophobia.

Communicating Student Learning

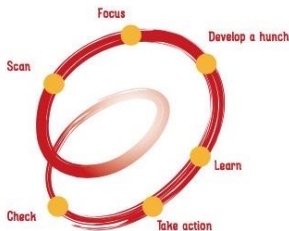
The first formal Learning Update was sent home in December, informing you on how your child's learning is progressing. Hopefully you are staying engaged with what is happening in the classroom through family discussions, samples of learning sent home, and visits to the class and school TEAMS channels. Thank you again for continuing to support your child's learning by monitoring studies at home (home reading, writing programs, math, and projects).

On February 7th and 8th, students will be dismissed at 2:00pm so that families can again meet in person or on TEAMS with their child's teachers to review progress and goals. Teachers value the home/school partnership; working together benefits student learning.

Children learn best when the significant adults in their lives -- parents, caregivers, teachers, and other family and community members -- work together to encourage and support them. Schools alone cannot address all of a child's developmental needs: The meaningful involvement of caregivers, families and support from the community are essential. You will receive a Conference request form during the week of January 15th-19th. If you do not receive one then, please check with your child's teacher or call us in the office.



School Plan 2021 to 2024



We have been working on a Social Emotional Learning goal this school planning cycle. Our 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? How can we make First Peoples teaching and learning more authentic?

Social Emotional Learning

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? How can we make First Peoples teaching and learning more authentic?**

But What is SEL?

- It's a **PROCESS**
- It's a series of **competencies** (skills)
 - Recognize and **manage emotions**
 - Developing caring and **concern for others**
 - Establish positive **relationships**
 - Make responsible **decisions**
 - Handle **challenging situations**



Please check out the following link for parents/caregivers: [Aperture Education Parent Portal](#)

Healthy Habits



The Cold and Flu season continues to be upon us so thank you in advance for keeping your children home if they show signs of illness.

Continue to reinforce good personal hygiene: hand washing, along with covering coughs, sneezing into the inside of elbows, and using a tissue to clear noses properly.



Also make sure students are dressed appropriately for playing outside in the cold and wet weather.

We encourage everyone to dress for the weather each day so they can enjoy their time in the fresh air outside. For snowy days students should dress in layers, wearing boots, hats and gloves. It is often cold, but

students tend to warm up as they are quite active, excited and engaged building, and playing outside in the snow. No one complains about being cold or wet when dressed for the weather. Our goal is to do the same for every other day. It would be great if everyone was dressed appropriately to go out in the rain. Children have fun playing in puddles if they are wearing rain gear.



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. All PAC information can be found on the PAC website: www.hendersonpac.com

Upcoming meetings:

The PAC welcomes all parents and caregivers to monthly meetings throughout the school year. No RSVP is needed to attend. Meetings are on Mondays in the Nest (school library). Doors open at 6:30 and childminding is provided.

Social time: 6:30pm

Meeting agenda: 6:45pm

- January 22, 2024
- February 26, 2024
- March - no meeting
- April 15, 2024
- May 13, 2024
- June 17, 2024 (AGM and elections)

Kindergarten Registration

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 11 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.

1 Apply Online

Step 1: **Complete an online application form**

Step 2: **Verifying Documentation**



2 Visit your catchment school with necessary documents

•**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
- Immunization Records if available

[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](#)



Mark Your Calendars



- January 15th – Black Excellence Day
- January 17th – Pro-D Day – **No School** for students
- January 22nd – PAC Meeting in the library @6:30 pm social time 6:45pm start
- January 25th – Robbie Burns Day
- January 27th – International Holocaust Remembrance Day
- January 29th – National Day of Remembrance and Action to End Islamophobia
- February 7th – Global Play Day
- February 7th – **Early Dismissal 2:00pm** - Communicating Learning Conferences
- February 8th – **Early Dismissal 2:00pm** - Communicating Learning Conferences
- 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 in the library @6:30 pm social time 6:45pm start
- February 28th – Pink Shirt Day
- March 13^h to 24th – Spring Break – **No School**



2024 Winter Program

EcoCooks Club is an after school program consisting of 8 fun-filled workshops. Youth (grades 4-7) are immersed in this science-based environmental cooking program which creates a strong foundation to develop lifelong healthy and planet-positive eating habits.

Mondays | Jan 15- March 11
(no workshop on Family Day - Feb 19)
Time | 3:45pm to 6pm
Location | South Vancouver
Neighbourhood House



To register, please contact:

Kathy at kathy.do@southvan.org or by phone at 604-324-6212 ext 121



John Oliver Secondary School Family Information Night January 24, 2024 6:30pm

The John Oliver Secondary School community would like to welcome our Grade 7 families to come learn about our school.

During the Family Night, you'll have a chance to meet members of our school community.

Who is invited? All families of Grade 7 students who want more information about John Oliver.

When? January 24, 2024 at 6:30pm

Where? John Oliver Secondary School Auditorium
530 East 41 Avenue, Vancouver

This event is a great opportunity to learn about high school life and about the amazing opportunities available for young people at John Oliver. There will be time available to ask questions and engage in conversations about the supportive, welcoming, and inclusive community that is John Oliver.

RSVPs are not needed. If you have any questions, please contact the Vice-Principal Mr. Mark at 604-713-8983.

We hope to see you there!